

Will you be able to see the Patriots-Giants game? Where?

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**PC, URI previews**

Hear Paul Kenyon talk about URI-Hofstra, and Kevin McNamara on PC-Florida State, at noon on [projsports.com](http://projsports.com)

**Seau's renaissance**

After three injury-plagued seasons, 17-year veteran Junior Seau is enjoying a fine 2007 campaign.

Tackles	50
Assists	13
Sacks	3
Interceptions	3 (career high)

For up-to-the-second stats and scores: [projsports.com/patriots](http://projsports.com/patriots)

SECTION C



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# projo SPORTS

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THE PROVIDENCE JOURNAL / GLENN OSMUNDSON

Patriots linebacker Junior Seau's passion for football remains after 17 years in the NFL.

## Seau's zest for winning still burns

The Patriots' linebacker is the oldest player on the team's roster, but coach Bill Belichick says Seau's energy level is better than most players.

BY ROBERT LEE  
JOURNAL SPORTS WRITER

FOXBORO — When Junior Seau broke his arm last season, his career, and his life, were in limbo.

He didn't know what was coming next.

He owns several businesses in California, but his real passion is playing football. He wasn't ready to retire. There was at least one more chapter that he wanted to write in his football career.

**SUNDAY**  
**Patriots vs. Dolphins**  
4:15 p.m.

But he didn't know if the Patriots wanted him back. When he got the call from the Patriots, the 38-year-old linebacker, who was selected to 12 consecutive Pro Bowls from 1991 through 2002 in 17 years in the NFL, decided to return for his 18th season because he is still searching for that elusive championship ring.

He knew that the Patriots would have a shot at winning Super Bowl XLII, but he never imagined that the Patriots would also have a chance to make history. They are trying to become the second team in NFL history to complete a perfect season.

The Patriots are five victories away from that, but no matter what happens, Seau hopes that he will be fitted for a Super Bowl ring at the end of the season.

"Whenever you have a chance to do great things, whether it's winning a championship ring or going out and being undefeated at this point in time, the fact here is that in our lives and in everyone's lives, all you want is a chance," Seau said. "That's what I was able to receive — is just a chance."

New England coach Bill Belichick gave Seau another chance because he believes that Seau has a lot of good football left in him.

"He's had, really, very few injuries in his career — I mean, over the course of his career, and considering the position he plays and the way he plays it and the amount of contact that he's involved in, I mean, it's past remarkable," Belichick said. "It's rare...It's hard to find examples where he's just not explosive, getting outrun, doesn't show quickness. He shows all of those things, and he shows them consistently."

SEE PATRIOTS, C3

# UNPLUGGED

## TV dispute could leave Pats fans in dark for Giants game



**THE ISSUE:** The Patriots final regular-season game against the New York Giants on Dec. 29 will be broadcast exclusively on the NFL Network.

- The NFL Network broadcast will be carried on free, over-the-air television on Boston's WCVB-Channel 5.
- Cox customers in Rhode Island who do not subscribe to the Sports and Information package do not receive the NFL Network and will be unable to watch the game at home on cable.
- The NFL Network also is available to subscribers to Verizon FiOS, AT&T U-Verse, DirecTV, and the Dish Network.

THE PROVIDENCE JOURNAL / GLENN OSMUNDSON

Thousands of Rhode Islanders could be tuned out when the Patriots clash with the Giants in New England's final game of the regular season next Saturday night on the NFL Network.

BY SHALISE MANZA YOUNG  
JOURNAL SPORTS WRITER

FOXBORO — Next Saturday night, when the New England Patriots play their final game of the regular season on the road against the New York Giants, there is the potential that they will be playing for history.

And more than a few Rhode Islanders may not be able to see it.

New England's regular-season finale will be

shown on cable-only NFL Network, which is available to Cox Communications customers. That is, it's available to Cox customers who subscribe to their digital service — and pay a \$9.95 monthly fee to get NFLN as part of a sports and information package. As with all league games shown on cable networks, the game will be broadcast on local television, within the league-set primary broadcast market.

But in this case, that means two ABC affil-

iates: Boston's WCVB and Manchester's WMUR of New Hampshire, will be able to air the contest. The dilemma has Capitol Hill taking notice — the Rhode Island congressional delegation yesterday sent a letter to NFL commissioner Roger Goodell on behalf of the state's Patriots fans. New England ownership sympathizes with their supporters' plight.

SEE TV, C3

## PCD's Sienkiewicz is hoping for a winning second act in his hoop odyssey

BILL REYNOLDS



EAST PROVIDENCE — As a player he was in three NBA camps, and he was a college coach for 16 years, so what exactly is Tom Sienkiewicz doing at Providence Country Day?

"Just trying to win a few games," he says with a rueful smile.

Sienkiewicz is one of the more interesting people to join the local high school coaching fraternity, and the other morning he was sitting in his small cinder-block office off the field house saying how PCD is trying to use sports to raise the school's profile, no insignificant thing in a Darwinian world where so many private and parochial schools are fighting for the same kids.

"We want a strong athletic program

across the board," said Sienkiewicz, who is the athletic director as well as the basketball coach. "The higher the athletic profile, the better."

The other goal is to try to play more schools in the R.I. Interscholastic League, which also raises the school's local profile, and that, too, requires teams to be better. Or, to put this in perspective: last year's record in boys basketball was 0-16.

Enter Sienkiewicz.



SIENKIEWICZ

Jersey was a basketball hotbed. One of those kids who fell in love with the

game early. One of those kids who would play in the afternoon, go home to eat, then go back to play some more. Over and over. Day after day. A way of life.

He was the ballboy for one of his brother's teams when he was about 8. And the coach of his brother's team then was none other than Dick Vitale.

This was the environment Sienkiewicz

SEE REYNOLDS, C5