

**The Garnett trade:
Will it go down as
the best in Celtics
history?**

Tell us what you think at
projosports.com/celtics



CUMBERLAND UPENDS CRANSTON WEST: View the gallery at HSGameTime.com/rhodeisland

Will Daniels chats

The URI star will answer projo.com readers' questions in a live chat Tuesday at noon. Find details at projosports.com/uri

Winners' circle

The Patriots are heading to their sixth Super Bowl, the second-highest total in history:

	NO.	W	L
Cowboys	8	5	3
Steelers	6	5	1
Patriots*	6	3	2
Broncos	6	2	4

* — will play in their sixth on Feb. 3

projosports.com/patriots

SECTION C



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PC rendered defenseless

Seton Hall torches the Friars with a spectacular second-half effort, during which the Pirates shoot 57 percent en route to their victory.

BY KEVIN McNAMARA
JOURNAL SPORTS WRITER

PROVIDENCE — Remember the Defense First mantra preached all season long by the Providence Friars? Scrap that. Seton Hall torched every defense the Friars threw their way last night as a spectacular second-half effort led to an 88-75

victory before a dejected crowd of 9,147 at the Dunkin' Donuts Center. The Pirates shot a sizzling 57 percent in the second half to roll to their third straight Big East win and improve to 13-6 overall and 3-3 in the league. Providence lost for the first time at home this season and fell to 12-6 overall and 3-3 in the Big East. Up next are road games at Syracuse and Notre Dame.

"The defense broke down," said PC guard Jeff Xavier. "They made good ad-

JUSTMENTS IN THE SECOND HALF."
The main adjustment was a burst of energy that was actually provided by the Friars in the final minutes of the first half. After opening up leads of as many as 15 points early, PC was outscored, 17-7, over the final 6:50. When Eugene Harvey stole a Dwain Williams pass and scored on a layup with two seconds left to cut the PC lead at the break to 38-37, the Pi-

88
PC
75
NEXT GAME
Sunday
at Syracuse
2 p.m.

SEE FRIARS, C4



Seton Hall's Larry Davis, front, casts wary eyes as the Friars' Weynmi Efejuku approaches during the second half of last night's game at the Dunkin' Donuts Center.

THE PROVIDENCE JOURNAL / GLENN OSMUNDSON

WHAT DOESN'T KILL YOU . . .



THE PROVIDENCE JOURNAL / MARY MURPHY

Spygate

A fan wears his homemade video camera on his head to show support for coach Bill Belichick



THE PROVIDENCE JOURNAL / BOB BREIDENBACH

Above it all

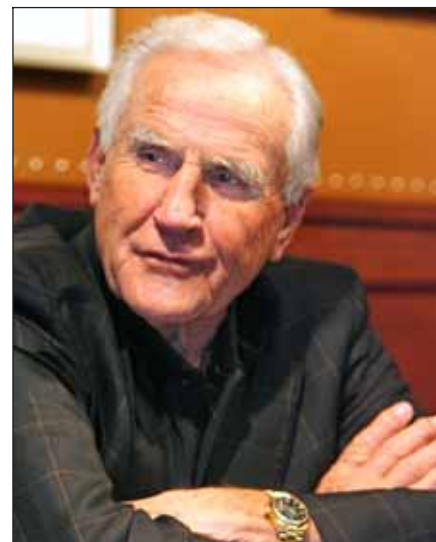
Patriots head coach Bill Belichick was under siege not only for Spygate, but also for allegedly running up the score on some early-season opponents.



THE PROVIDENCE JOURNAL / BOB BREIDENBACH

HGH

Rodney Harrison was suspended for four games early in the regular season for using an illegal substance.



THE PROVIDENCE JOURNAL / ANDREW DICKERMAN

Sour Grapes

Ex-Dolphins coach Don Shula questioned whether the Pats' record would be legitimate.

Distractions strengthened the Patriots

BY ROBERT LEE
JOURNAL SPORTS WRITER

FOXBORO — New England has faced a ton of distractions this season. Any one of them could have been enough to derail another team. But through it all, the Patriots have prevailed.

"I hate to say it, but we're sort of used to dealing with them," linebacker Tedy Bruschi said. "This year has been a year of distractions since the opening day, hasn't it? It's always week after week there's something different we have to deal with, and the way we do that is feed off it."

"We feed off the certain distractions we've had, and we become closer for it. We bond together, and whoever is being scrutinized or the target for any type of criticism, we rally around that person, whether it's our head coach or our all-star wide receiver or whoever it may be. We will rally around that person or situation and become stronger for it."

The distractions started before the season began, way back in April, when the Patriots signed future Hall of Famer Randy Moss.

As soon as he inked his deal, before Moss and his new teammates even stepped on the field, the Patriots had been upgraded to the favorites to win the Super Bowl by many NFL experts and Las Vegas oddsmakers.

The Patriots had also signed prime-time players Wes Welker, Donte Stallworth, Kelly Washington and lineback-

SEE PATRIOTS, C3



THE PROVIDENCE JOURNAL / BOB BREIDENBACH

Media storm

A Florida woman filed a restraining order last week against the Pats' Randy Moss.

Celts' Garnett is all about the present

Boston — like Minnesota, Kevin Garnett's former employer — is like a brand-new team thanks to trades Danny Ainge made.

BY MIKE SZOSTAK
JOURNAL SPORTS WRITER

WALTHAM, Mass. — Paul Pierce and Kendrick Perkins may feel a bit nostalgic tonight when they see former teammates Al

Jefferson, Ryan Gomes, Sebastian Telfair, Theo Ratliff and Gerald Green at the TD Banknorth Garden, but Kevin Garnett won't be humming Auld Lang Syne for the club with which he spent the first 12 years of his career.

"A lot of the guys I played with in Minnesota are not even on this team. It's like a brand-new team," Garnett said yesterday of the Minnesota Timberwolves, who will make their annual appear-

ance in Boston tonight. "The trainers, the people that are behind the scenes, are probably more important than some of the people that are on the court."

True enough. Only four players on the current roster — Mark Madsen, Craig Smith, Marko Jaric and Rashad McCants — were Garnett's teammates in Minnesota.

SEE CELTICS, C5

What a joy to have a giant in green

I knew Kevin Garnett was a great player. I just didn't know how great.

BILL REYNOLDS | Some of that, certainly, was that he played in Minnesota, a team that largely played in NBA irrelevancy — out of sight, out of mind. Some of it was that he was rarely on national TV, a career largely spent on the

dark side of the moon.

What I knew about Garnett was that he was the first to make the jump from high school to the NBA in 20 years, the advance guard of young wunderkinds who were changing the game. He was from South Carolina, but was arrested for being on the fringe of a racial incident after his junior year and jumped to Chicago for his senior year of

high school, where he went on to be named the national player of the year by USA Today. That spring he was the fifth pick in the 1995 NBA Draft.

Basketball was changing. Garnett was one of the pioneers.

Or why go take Western Civ when you can go make the big

SEE REYNOLDS, C5

you got something to say?

