

How much do the Red Sox need Curt Schilling to pitch in 2008?

Tell us what you think at projosports.com/redsox



BAY VIEW RALLIES PAST STONINGTON: View the gallery at HSGameTime.com/rhodeisland

URI-UMass gallery

See photos of the game from the Journal's John Freidah, and galleries of earlier Rams games at projosports.com/uri

Mr. October

True to his reputation, Curt Schilling was better in the postseason with the Red Sox than he was in the regular season:

	W	L	ERA
Regular season	53	29	3.99
Postseason	6	1	3.28

For up-to-the-second stats and scores: projosports.com/redsox

SECTION C

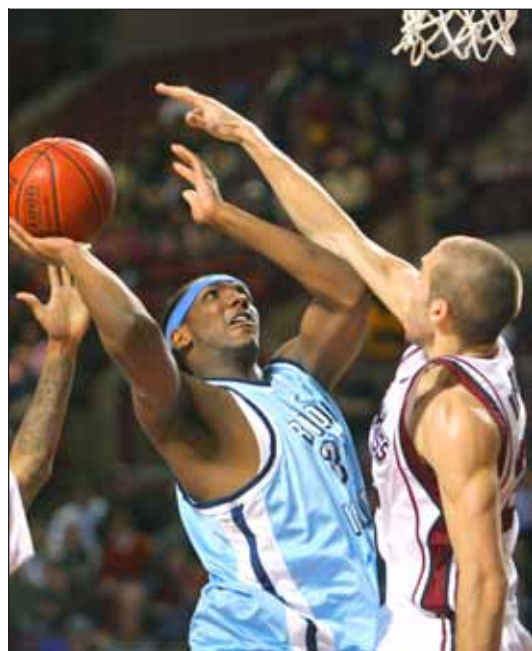


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UMASS 78, URI 76



THE PROVIDENCE JOURNAL / JOHN FREIDAH

URI's Kahiem Seawright takes it to the basket against Etienne Brower during the first half last night at the Mullins Center.

Rams lose a wild and woolly one

Chris Lowe and Gary Forbes put on a terrific display of one-on-one moves as the Minutemen outlast Rhody.

BY PAUL KENYON
JOURNAL SPORTS WRITER

AMHERST, Mass. — When basketball games are held in a playground, it is usually the side that takes the ball to the rack, the team that shows off the better one-on-one moves, that prevails.

The URI and UMass teams did not go at each other at a playground last night, it just looked like that way. The two, both among the top 15 scoring teams in the country, went toe-to-toe in a wild and at times out-of-control show at the Mullins Center. There were bodies flying all over the place, shots going up as quickly as possible and all kinds of twists and turns.

It ended like playground games normally do. UMass, most notably point guard Chris Lowe and forward Gary Forbes, put on a terrific display of one-on-one moves, taking it to the hoop enough to prevail, 78-76.

PROJOSPORTS.COM

URI guard Jimmy Baron will answer projo.com readers' questions in a live chat from 1 to 2 p.m. on Thursday, Feb. 14. For more details, go to projosports.com/hoopsblog, and for a slide show of last night's game, go to: projosports.com/uri

play of one-on-one moves, taking it to the hoop enough to prevail, 78-76.

"Coach told us he didn't want us to play tentative or scared the rest of the season," said Lowe, who finished with 23 points and 6 assists. "He said, 'I just want you to go out there and play hard.' I think that got everyone to relax."

In the UMass run-and-gun style, playing hard means running and driving to the hoop whenever possible. If that is blocked, then throw it out to a wing and let someone else heave up a 3-pointer. UMass had very few perimeter jumpers. Everything was either taking it to the hoop or firing away from 3-point land.

"All their plays are one-on-one," said URI

SEE **URI, C5**

OVER & OUT?



THE PROVIDENCE JOURNAL / BOB BREIDENBACH

An arm injury leaves Red Sox veteran pitcher Curt Schilling's status up in the air and his contract in dispute for the upcoming season.

Arm injury threatens Schilling's future with Sox

BY JOE McDONALD
AND SEAN MCADAM
JOURNAL SPORTS WRITERS

Red Sox pitcher Curt Schilling has a significant, unspecified arm injury that could threaten his season, and possibly his career.

Schilling and the Red Sox are now at odds on how to treat this issue, and the team is also questioning the one-year, \$8-million contract he signed last November.

Schilling declined comment yesterday. Red Sox officials did not return calls for comment, but issued a statement that said: "Curt

Schilling was examined by Red Sox doctors in January after he reported feeling right shoulder discomfort. Curt has started a program of rest, rehabilitation and shoulder strengthening in an attempt to return to pitching."

The veteran right-hander did receive multiple cortisone shots in the arm last season, including one in October that enabled him to pitch in the playoffs. Prior to signing his contract in November, Schilling passed all the necessary physicals required by the team.

The 41-year-old recently met

with Dr. Craig Morgan, the physician who performed Schilling's shoulder surgery in 1995 while a member of the Philadelphia Phillies. It's believed Morgan wants the pitcher to have surgery, while the Red Sox want to look at other options.

The dispute over Schilling's treatment went far enough to lead Schilling to consult with the players' union over his rights. According to a side letter to the collective bargaining agreement, the player has the right to seek a second opinion from his own doctor, but it's in

dispute what happens when the team's doctor and the player's disagree on the treatment.

"I have been consulted by Curt and his representative," said Michael Weiner, a lawyer for the players association. "The Red Sox have no basis to take any action against Curt."

Schilling was limited to 24 starts in 2007 because of tendonitis in his right shoulder and spent seven weeks on the disabled list (June 22 to Aug. 6). When he returned to

SEE **RED SOX, C2**

Pats ready to go on offense to rebuild defense

Free agency, aging players and contract demands are expected to cause several changes in the team's defense for next season.

BY ROBERT LEE
JOURNAL SPORTS WRITER

FOXBORO — The pursuit of perfection is over.

The Patriots assembled what was thought to be one of the greatest teams in NFL history this season, but after beating every team they faced this year, the Patriots couldn't win the big one — Super Bowl XLII.

Now they have some decisions to make on the defensive side of the ball. Those decisions will be key to the success of the Patriots next year.

After all, it was the Patriots' defense that allowed the Giants to eat up more than 10 minutes of the clock on New York's 16-play opening drive that set the tone for the Super Bowl.

And it was the defense that allowed the Giants to go 83 yards in 12 minutes and 7 seconds with 2:42 remaining to win the game, allowing a team to end their season for the second consecutive year with a long drive in the final

minutes of the game.

The biggest decisions that Bill Belichick and Scott Pioli will have to make in revamping the Patriots defense will be at the linebacker position and in the secondary.

Here's why. With defensive end Richard Seymour, a five-time Pro Bowler, nose tackle Vince Wilfork, who made the Pro Bowl this season, and Ty Warren up front, along with talented backup defensive end Jarvis Green all signed to play next season, the Patriots are solid on the defensive line and will have, once again, one of the

most dominant defensive lines in the NFL next season.

The Patriots linebackers, however, are aging, and several members of the secondary probably

SEE **DEFENSE, C3**

LOOKING AHEAD

TOMORROW:

What free agents will the Pats try to retain?

SUNDAY:

And which free agents will they pursue?



THE PRESS-ENTERPRISE / DAVID BAUMAN

Because the Patriots will probably balk at free agent defensive back Asante Samuel's contract demands, it's likely the standout won't be in a New England uniform next season.