

**Opening in Japan:
Is it a good
decision for the
Red Sox?**

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TRACK STARS SHINE AT R.I. CHAMPIONSHIPS: View the gallery at HSGameTime.com/rhodeisland

Hoops night

Paul Kenyon previews URI-Xavier at projosports.com/uri
Kevin McNamara previews PC-G'town at projosports.com/pc

Growing into his role

Will Daniels' numbers have gotten better in each of his seasons at URI.

	PPG	RPG	FG%
Freshman	6.4	3.7	40.5
Sophomore	11.0	5.6	44.7
Junior	17.4	5.6	49.0
Senior	18.4	6.9	49.4

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

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WILL POWER

It's time for Rams to make their mark

Their game with Xavier could make the difference for URI in its bid to reach the NCAA Tournament.

BY PAUL KENYON
JOURNAL SPORTS WRITER

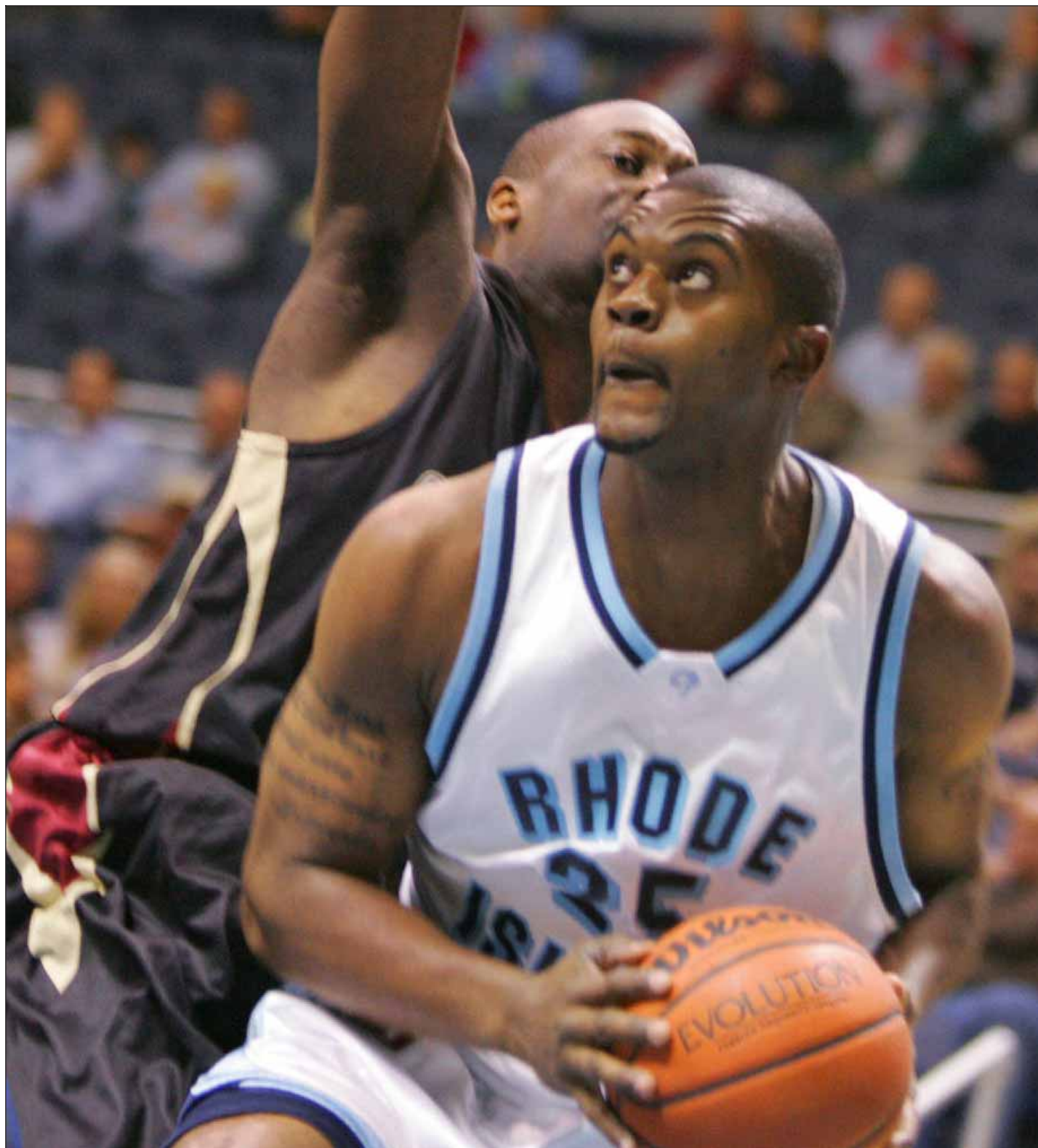
SOUTH KINGSTOWN — In a season filled with important weeks, the most critical one of all has arrived for the University of Rhode Island's basketball team.

Three games in seven days, all against strong teams. After losing two of three on the road, all thrillers that went down to the wire, the home-stand becomes more vital than ever. And it starts tonight with the biggest game of all.

Xavier, the Atlantic 10 leader and 12th-ranked team in the country, visits the Ryan Center for a 7 p.m. game against URI. The Musketeers come in 21-4 overall and 9-1 in the conference. They are winners of seven in a row and have one of the most balanced teams in the country.

Coach Sean Miller has six — count em, six — players averaging in double figures. It is the 11th time in the last 12 seasons that Xavier has won at least 20 games. Add victories over Kansas State, Indiana, Cincinnati, Kent State and Virginia to what they have done in the conference, and the

SEE **URI, B11**



Will Daniels living up to his potential

SOUTH KINGSTOWN — He arrived here at the University of Rhode Island in September 2004, a skinny kid who didn't know how college basketball worked.

He is leaving as one of the elite players in the school's long history, only the sixth player to score 1,500 points and grab 600 rebounds, and already is the 12th all-time highest scorer.

This is about the journey. This is about the long road that has taken Will Daniels so very far from when he first started playing basketball as a little kid in Poughkeepsie, N.Y., the child of two parents who once played college basketball, to where he has become a big-time college player. About the long road that now has Will Daniels being talked about as a future professional player.

Basketball always was the family game, and from the beginning Daniels had an affinity for it. By the ninth grade he was 6-foot-5, already becoming a commodity. He had been playing AAU basketball since he was 12, was known locally, the kind of kid who gets attention.

"People were always telling me about my potential," he said, "but I really didn't know any of that."

For this is how a basketball journey starts, a kid who starts to get

SEE **REYNOLDS, B11**

Will Daniels, who has matured as a player and a person at URI, looks for an open shot in an exhibition game against Concordia.

THE PROVIDENCE JOURNAL / **CONNIE GROSCH**

Shaking off Headache Sunday is the biggest problem for Hoyas and Friars

Georgetown and PC both have to regroup after stinging losses to Big East rivals Saturday.

BY KEVIN McNAMARA
JOURNAL SPORTS WRITER

PROVIDENCE — In a perfect world, both John Thompson III and Tim Welsh wouldn't be forced to have their teams ready to square off this afternoon at the Dunkin' Donuts Center.

Thompson's Hoyas are coming off a bitter 77-70 loss at Syracuse on Saturday for their second loss in three games.

Welsh and his Providence Friars lost to 23rd-ranked Louisville on Saturday, 80-72. More than one day would be nice to prepare for another Big East war, but life in the conference says otherwise.

Thanks in large part to the Big East's ground-breaking TV contract with ESPN, all 16 teams in the league are playing on short notice this season. Every Big East game — all 288 — is shown this season on one of the ESPN networks, ESPN-Plus or its Web site platform, espn360.com. To fit the schedule and meet ESPN's broadcast windows, the

Big East demands plenty of flexibility from its teams.

This season, ESPN and the Big East agreed on the creation of a marquee game on several Thursday nights. Last Friday, Pittsburgh traveled to Marquette. Big East games were almost never scheduled for Thursdays or Fridays in previous years.

The most prominent ESPN-Big East marriage is the Big Monday series, which has run for more than 25 years. But to hold a Big Monday, coaches need to survive Headache Sunday. That's cer-

tainly what Thompson, Welsh and their staffs endured yesterday. This afternoon's game will be carried by ESPN2.

"This is the third or fourth time where we've had the one-day turnaround. It's extremely difficult," said Thompson. "We've all talked about the inequity in our schedules, but this time it's even more difficult because both games are on the road. And it's a four o'clock game."

The Saturday-Monday turnarounds are difficult on many fronts. Not only do the players have little time to rest their

TODAY
Georgetown at PC
4 p.m.

bodies and heal their wounds, but the coaching staffs lack the time to grind out scouting reports and properly prepare their teams. Providence lost Tuesday in Pittsburgh and then the coaching staff divided scouting duties for both the Louisville and Georgetown games.

SEE **PC, B11**

TRANQUILITY BASE



THE PROVIDENCE JOURNAL / **BOB BREIDENBACH**

Spring in Fort Myers so far is quiet and serene for the Red Sox as they ready themselves for the upcoming season. Boston first baseman Kevin Youkilis takes a few cuts during batting practice yesterday.

In Florida, for the Red Sox, life is good

FORT MYERS, Fla. — In Tampa — some 140 or so miles to the north on Interstate 75, but in some ways, a million miles away — the circus comes to town today.

SEAN McADAM
Andy Pettitte is scheduled to report to camp with the New York Yankees and waiting for him will be several hundred reporters. They will want to know about his acknowledged use of human growth hormone (HGH) and his sworn depositions and affidavits regarding former teammate Roger Clemens.

They will ask about how often he used HGH, and whether he saw Clemens do the same. They will ask whether he and Clemens are still friends. They will ask what he thought of Clemens' congressional testimony and what he thought when Clemens said that Pettitte "misremembered" things.

The rest of the Yankees will be asked all of this and more. How do you like the new job so far, Joe Girardi?

At the Red Sox minor-league complex at the far end of Edison Avenue, meanwhile, Red Sox pitchers will throw their second bullpen sessions, and the handful of position players who reported early will take some light batting practice. By 1 p.m., aside from the occasional thwack of the bat inside the batting cage, the place will be virtually empty and silent.

While the Yankees deal with the distractions and the fallout from the Mitchell Report, the Red Sox merely go about the business of getting ready for another season.

This is Tranquility Base, where the only hint of discord in camp remains

SEE **RED SOX, B2**



AP / **ELISE AMENDOLA**

Things are far different in Tampa, where the Yankees' Andy Pettitte and teammates soon will be bombarded by questions of drug use.