

What position should the Patriots target with their first-round pick?

Tell us what you think at projosports.com/patriots



CENTRAL TRIUMPHS OVER HOPE: View the gallery at HSGameTime.com/rhodeisland

Fantasy draft prep

See early-bird player rankings, plus reports on rookies to watch and players in transition, at projosports.com/fantasyblog

Good Knights

Guard Pat Dame and forward Carl Lee lead the CCRI Knights men's basketball team in scoring:

	G	PTS	AVG
Pat Dame	29	485	16.7
Carl Lee	28	383	13.7

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

SECTION C



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PLAYOFF TIME

HIGHLIGHTS

A pair of Division I boys basketball thrillers highlighted last night's 16-game, preliminary-round playoff schedule. In East Providence, No. 10 Cranston East needed three overtimes to upset No. 7 East Providence, 82-79, as Kevin Cabrera scored 8 of the Bolt's 14 points in the third overtime. In Pawtucket, Jeff Holmes scored all nine of St. Raphael's points in overtime as the Saints advanced to the quarterfinals with a 62-57 victory over South Kingstown. In Division I girls basketball, Lincoln held North Kingstown to two points over the first nine minutes of the second half as the Lions turned a tight game into a 51-30 victory. For a complete report of last night's playoff action, turn to **C6**.

BOYS DIVISION I

PRELIMINARY ROUND Results Last Night

SRA 62, S. Kingstown 57, o.t. Central 80, Hope 71 EWG 76, Cranston West 69 Cran. East 82, EP 79, 3 o.t.

BOYS DIVISION II

PRELIMINARY ROUND Results Last Night

Narragansett 67, Ports. 64 Rogers 73, Pilgrim 46 Scituate 85, N. Providence 34 W. War. 72, Ponaganset 65 Feinstein 88, Shea 77 Tiverton 68, Lincoln 58

GIRLS DIVISION I

PRELIMINARY ROUND Results Last Night

Lincoln 51, N. Kingstown 30 E. Greenwich 40, Classical 34

GIRLS DIVISION II

PRELIMINARY ROUND Results Last Night

N. Providence 65, Pilgrim 44 Barrington 45, Chariho 30 Woonsocket 58, Smithfield 45 MSC 44, Portsmouth 35

HOUSE PARTY



AP / CHARLES DHARAPAK

Members of the Boston Red Sox laugh as President Bush jokes about the absence of outfielder Manny Ramirez during a ceremony honoring the 2007 World Series champions yesterday on the South Lawn of the White House in Washington, D.C.

President Bush honors the World Champion Red Sox

BY JOHN E. MULLIGAN
JOURNAL WASHINGTON BUREAU

WASHINGTON — A high-spirited President Bush and several hundred members of Red Sox Nation braved arctic winds on the White House South Lawn yesterday afternoon to welcome the 2007 World Series Champions.

"The Mighty Red Sox Nation has stormed the South Lawn," Mr. Bush said to cheers from a small sea of somber win-

ter coats brightened here and there by Sox warmup jackets and Sox ballcaps — the green variety as well as the red.

The First Fan — President Bush — clearly in his element among owners and players of the Sox — paid tribute to individual stars with several humorous jabs at them and at himself.

Mr. Bush welcomed "Dice-K" — Daisuke Matsuzaka — and told the crowd, which included a large contingent of Ja-

On projo.com/redsox:

A gallery of photos from the Red Sox appearance at the White House yesterday.

panese reporters. "His press corps is bigger than mine. And we both have trouble answering questions in English."

Noting the absence of slugger Manny Ramirez, sometimes a late arrival at

spring training, Mr. Bush said to laughter, "I guess his grandmother died again. Just kidding. Tell Manny I didn't mean it. But I do want to quote him. He said, 'When you don't feel good, and you still get hits, that's when you know you're a bad man.'"

"I don't know what that means," Mr. Bush continued. "But if bad man means good hitter, he's a really bad man, be-

SEE **RED SOX, C5**

Dame paying the price for being a 'throwback'

He wanted to play Division I basketball, wanted to play at URI, the school just down the road.

BILL REYNOLDS



That was the dream. And he did everything he could to make his dream come true. He played AAU basketball. He scored 1,200 points at Exeter/West Greenwich High School, helped lead his team to two Division II state titles. He made first-team All-State, his picture right here in The Journal. In short, he did just about everything a Rhode Island high school kid can do.

And you know what happened next?

Nothing happened.

There was some interest from Division III Rhode Island College. That was it.

"I couldn't understand it," Pat Dame says. "It was very frustrating. But I figured I'd do a year at

prep school and then sign somewhere."

For isn't that the dream, the one that's paraded in front of just about every kid who ever seriously bounced a ball in the driveway? The one that's shown on nightly TV games, big-time college basketball with all the pomp and circumstance, the one that all those kids on all those AAU programs are trying to get to, the one that sits out there like some basketball Valhalla?

Division III? No one wants to go to Division III, which, for the most part, is played to the sound of one hand clapping. They want the bright lights and the big crowds. They want the cachet of Division I.

Certainly Dame did. But he had discovered a painful truth, one that many Rhode Island kids invariably learn: what you do in a Rhode Island high school game is often insignificant when it comes to

SEE **REYNOLDS, C2**

GEORGE WASHINGTON 85, URI 68

Rams continue to plummet into abyss

George Washington's sharpshooting from 3-point land and strong rebounding leads to URI's fifth straight loss.

BY KEVIN McNAMARA
JOURNAL SPORTS WRITER

WASHINGTON, D.C. — Things didn't seem to have a chance to get even worse for the Rhode Island Rams in last night's visit to the nation's capital, but that's exactly what happened at George Washington's Smith Center.

The Rams can no longer say they're losing only to the Atlantic 10's upper crust after they were slapped around by the Colonials, 85-68. Rhody fell victim to a flurry of 3-point shots late in the first half to fall behind by 24 points at the break and the Colonials held off the Rams the rest of the way.

URI has now lost five in a row and six of seven, but this was the most puzzling loss in Rhody's free fall out of the top of the A-10. The Rams, now 20-9 overall and 6-8 in conference play, watched the Colonials get hot from outside and couldn't stem the tide as GW canned 13 threes. Noel Wilmore hit seven treys and finished with a team-high 24 points while Damian Hollis added three bombs on his way to 22 points.



AP / NICK WASS

The University of Rhode Island's Kaheim Seawright wards off George Washington's Xavier Alexander, left, during first-half action last night.

GW won for the fourth time in five games to improve to 9-14 overall and 5-8 in the league.

Asked if this was his team's best shooting

SEE **URI, C3**