

Does it bother you that Manny did not make the trip to the White House?

Tell us what you think at projosports.com/redsox



SCITUATE TRIUMPHS OVER NARRAGANSETT: View the gallery at HSGameTime.com/rhodeisland

Mitchell resources

See an interactive gallery of players named, read the text of Clemens' congressional deposition, at projosports.com/redsox

His numbers don't lie

Roger Clemens' statistics during his days with the Red Sox and in his career.

	W	L	ERA	SO
Boston	192	111	3.06	2590
Total	354	184	3.12	4672

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

SECTION C



FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 29, 2008

projo SPORTS

Phone: 401-277-7340 Fax: 401-277-7444 E-mail: pjsports@projo.com



PLAYOFF TIME



PROVIDENCE JOURNAL / RUBEN W. PEREZ

Narragansett's Dana Sarubbi, right, closes in on the Spartans' Madison Clarke in last night's game at Scituate.

HIGHLIGHTS

Top-seeded Scituate survived a scare from 16th-seeded Narragansett last night in the Division II girls basketball playoffs as the Spartans rallied for a 50-38 victory. The score was tied, 30-30, with 1:18 to play when Scituate turned to a man-to-man defense that resulted in a 16-0 run. Scituate will play eighth-seeded Prout in the quarterfinals on Sunday. For a complete game report, turn to C6.

BOYS DIVISION I BASKETBALL

QUARTERFINALS

Games Tonight
Hendricken vs. St. Raphael, 4:30 p.m.
Mount Pleasant vs. Central, 6 p.m.
Exeter/West Greenwich vs. North Kingstown, 7:30 p.m.
Cranston East vs. Woonsocket, 9 p.m.
All games at CCRI-Warwick

GIRLS DIVISION I HOCKEY

SEMIFINALS

Games Tonight
Lincoln vs. Mount St. Charles, 6:30 p.m.
Barrington vs. Bay View, 8 p.m.
Both games at Levy Rink

GIRLS DIVISION II HOCKEY

SEMIFINALS

Games Tonight
La Salle vs. Toll Gate, 6:30 p.m.
Cranston vs. North Smithfield, 8 p.m.
Both games at Thayer Arena

FREE TO LAUNCH

Lucchino pleased Red Sox aren't tied down by Rocket

BY SEAN McADAM
JOURNAL STAFF WRITER

FORT MYERS, Fla. — Every day, it seems, things get worse for Roger Clemens.

On Wednesday, Houston Astros owner Drayton McLane said he was "re-thinking" whether to honor the 10-year personal services contract Clemens has with his hometown team.

Yesterday, the FBI announced it was launching investigation into whether Clemens perjured himself in testimony to

Congress earlier this week.

A national poll conducted earlier this week showed that about two-thirds of the American public believes Clemens wasn't telling the truth about his involvement with performance enhancing drugs.

Once an icon in the game, Clemens is now a baseball pariah. Now comes evidence that the Red Sox may be backing off their efforts at rapprochement.

While the organization had spoken in broad terms about holding a special day to honor

to Clemens and perhaps even retire his number, those plans are now on hold.

"I seemed to remember some talk about that," confirmed Red Sox president and CEO Larry Lucchino yesterday, noting that former vice president of public affairs Charles Steinberg spearheaded the discussions. "But since that time, there's been nothing further. I know there are no plans at this point (to do anything)."

"Certainly, when we look at last year and the (minimal) contributions he made to the Yankees pitching staff, and the ultimate success we had, I guess we were lucky."

LARRY LUCCHINO

Red Sox president and CEO



SEE RED SOX, C3



AP PHOTO / PABLO MARTINEZ MONSIVAIS

Former Yankee pitcher Roger Clemens, with his wife Debbie seated behind him, testifies before Congress earlier this month in Washington, D.C.

FBI begins probe to determine whether Rocket lied

Despite sworn testimony otherwise, Roger Clemens insisted before Congress that he has never taken steroids.

BY LARA JAKES JORDAN
ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITER

WASHINGTON — The FBI has begun investigating whether Roger Clemens lied to Congress when he denied taking steroids, officials said yesterday in the case of another baseball star snared in a long-running inquiry into

drug use by professional athletes.

Clemens, the All-Star pitcher and seven-time Cy Young Award winner, maintains he has never used steroids or other performance-enhancing drugs. His former personal trainer, Brian McNamee, claims otherwise, testifying that he injected Clemens with human growth hormones and steroids at least 16 to 21 times from 1998 to 2001.

FBI agents in Washington opened the case a little more than two weeks after both Clemens and McNamee appeared at the same House hearing on Feb. 13,

each accusing the other of lying.

"The request to open an investigation on the congressional testimony of Roger Clemens has been turned over to the FBI and will receive appropriate investigative action by the Washington Field Office," said FBI spokeswoman Debra Weierman.

The inquiry came on the heels of a request Wednesday from the House Oversight Committee, could result in perjury or obstruction of justice charges against Clemens. Lawmakers did not ask for a similar investigation of McNamee.

Clemens was first identified as taking steroids in a December report by former Senate Democratic Leader George Mitchell, who looked at drug use in baseball. The Mitchell Report was the first public accounting of McNamee's allegations that he injected Clemens with HGH and steroids.

Two of Clemens' former New York Yankees teammates, Andy Pettitte and Chuck Knoblauch, have both acknowledged that McNamee was correct when

SEE CLEMENS, C3



THE PROVIDENCE JOURNAL / BOB BREIDENBACH

Instead of visiting veterans at Walter Reed Army Medical Center in Washington, D.C., Manny Ramirez decided to remain in Florida.

This time, Manny being Manny wasn't funny

JIM DONALDSON



Manny being Manny means Manny doesn't have to be at the White House with rest of his teammates if he doesn't want to be.

Obviously, he didn't. Ramirez was conspicuously absent when the Red Sox flew from their spring training site in Fort Myers to Washington, D.C., for a ceremony Wednesday on the South Lawn of the White House, at which President Bush honored the 2007 World Series champions.

Team captain Jason Varitek was there. World Series MVP Mike Lowell was there. David "Big Papi" Ortiz was there, carrying the World Series championship trophy. Pitching ace Josh Beckett was there, along with the fireballing and riverdancing Jonathan Papelbon, the Sox' colorful — and highly effective — closer.

Curt Schilling was there, and so were, among others, Jacoby Ellsbury, Jon Lester, Kevin Youkilis, Hideki Okajima, Clay Buchholz, Bobby Kielty and Daisuke "Dice-K" Matsuzaka, whose presence prompted President Bush to quip that he and the Japanese pitcher had

something in common: "We both have trouble answering questions in English."

Manny, as was also the case after the Red Sox won the World Series in 2004, was not there, which elicited another joke from the President.

"I'm sorry Manny isn't here," Bush said. "I guess his grandmother died again."

"Just kidding," the smiling President quickly added. "Tell Manny I didn't mean it."

Bush was zipping off oneliners the way Ellsbury zips around the bases, poking fun at Papelbon by saying: "The guy pitches almost as well as he dances. And I appreciate the dress code. Thanks for wearing pants."

But the President also had some serious things to say — in particular when he thanked the Red Sox for taking the time, during their quick visit to the capital, to visit wounded veterans at Walter Reed Army Medical Center.

"These champs," Bush said, "have got a chance to bring some joy in somebody's

SEE DONALDSON, C3