

**How much will Joe Torre's departure hurt the Yankees, if at all?**

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DIVISION III HOOP FINALS SET: View the gallery at [HSGameTime.com/rhodeisland](http://HSGameTime.com/rhodeisland)

**High school hoops**

Multimedia previews of the boys and girls Division I championships posted this afternoon at [hsgametime.com](http://hsgametime.com)

**N.Y. State of Mind?**

Joe Torre found little success as a major league manager until the Yankees came calling in 1996:

Team	Years	W	L	Titles
Mets	1977-81	286	420	0
Braves	1982-84	257	229	0
Cards	1990-95	351	354	0
Yanks	1996-07	1173	767	4

For up-to-the-second stats and scores: [projosports.com/redsox](http://projosports.com/redsox)



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Phone: 401-277-7340 Fax: 401-277-7444 E-mail: [pjsports@projo.com](mailto:pjsports@projo.com)

**NBA scouts put Daniels on the radar**

The URI star's statistics are on par with Kansas State super freshman Michael Beasley and Rams coach Jim Baron expects Will Daniels to play in the NBA.

BY PAUL KENYON  
JOURNAL SPORTS WRITER

SOUTH KINGSTOWN — Statistics sometime can be used to tell a story. That is exactly what Mike Laprey is trying to do with Will Daniels.

Laprey, the school's assistant athletic director for sports communications, has done the research to show how special Daniels' season has been with the URI basketball team this year, how versatile Daniels is as a player.

There are only two players in the country, the research shows, who have averaged at least 18.5 points, 6.5 rebounds, shot better than .500 from the floor, better than 35 percent on 3-pointers and piled up more than 30 assists, 30 steals and 25 blocks.

Daniels is one of them.

The other is Kansas State super freshman Michael Beasley, a leading candidate for national player of the year and the expected first pick in this year's NBA Draft if he leaves school, as expected. Here are the numbers:

	Pts.	Rebs	FG %	3-pt. %	Asts	Stls	Blks
Daniels	19.1	6.7	51.2	36.8	33	30	30
Beasley	26.9	12.6	54.0	39.8	36	39	48

"Will has had a great year for us," URI coach Jim Baron said of his co-captain. "He's done everything we've asked of him."

NBA scouts have taken notice, with as many as six at a recent Rams game.

"Will's going to get a chance [at the next level]," Baron said. "I know. I've spoken to people. They know about him."

Pro scouts have spoken about how the versa-

SEE DANIELS, C2

**Pinstripes gone, Francona can embrace Torre**

Joe Torre is experiencing a renewal. Freed from the stress of the Bronx, baseball is fun again as manager of the Dodgers, and now he can visit with the Red Sox' Terry Francona.

BY SEAN McADAM  
JOURNAL SPORTS WRITER

FORT MYERS, Fla. — The moment he turned the corner, emerging from the clubhouse runway into the visitors' dugout at City of Palms, the image was jarring.



TORRE

There was Joe Torre, in uniform, wearing not the familiar — and famed — New York Yankee pinstripes, but rather the royal blue of the Los Angeles Dodgers.

Torre left the Yankees last October following a contract dispute and weeks later, in a bizarre bit of symmetry only a Red Sox fan could truly appreciate, replaced Grady Little as manager of the Dodgers.

In some ways, the dramatic change may not have crystallized for Torre until yesterday, when, managing his eighth spring-training game for the Dodgers, he found himself across the dia-

SEE RED SOX, C5

PC 85, UCONN 76

**PC BITES BACK**



PC's Brian McKenzie goes up for a shot while he is closely guarded by UConn's Hasheem Thabeet in the first half of last night's game at the Dunkin' Donuts Center.

**Friars upset 13th-ranked Huskies**

BY KEVIN McNAMARA  
JOURNAL SPORTS WRITER

PROVIDENCE — After a season filled with near-miss critical wins, the Providence College Friars finally celebrated last night at the Dunkin' Donuts Center.

The last time Friars fans saw their team, they left with frustration rippling through their bones after tough losses to Big East leaders Louisville and Georgetown. Last night, it was No. 13 Connecticut's turn, but the Friars refused to fold and ran away with an impressive 85-76 upset win that brought the student section onto the floor en masse for the first time this season.

"It's satisfying, but we can't really celebrate. We have to win a lot of games to get to the tournament," said Friars forward-turned-point guard Geoff McDermott.

McDermott was not speaking of the Big East tourney, which begins next week in New York City. Last night's win doesn't clinch a spot for PC (15-14, 6-11), but it does set up a scenario in which the Friars would lock up a trip with a win over Villanova tomorrow night.

SEE FRIARS, C2

**Big-time win doesn't erase the letdowns**

PROVIDENCE — Can you salvage a season?

Can you breathe some life into a season that's been dead for a month?



BILL REYNOLDS

Can you try to save it after all the preseason dreams long ago turned into dust, this trail of tears this Providence College basketball season has become?

Can you salvage a season when here it is March and so much of it is gone?

That was the question after last night, in another big night in the Dunk, one of the big nights of this Friar season, this season that turned ugly a month ago, Tim Welsh under siege, the team sinking through the Big East schedule like a rock thrown into a placid pond, a season that got poisoned a month ago.

Can you salvage a season that's already gone?

Call it a basketball version of a zen

SEE REYNOLDS, C2

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