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Baseball Today

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March sadness

Neither PC nor URI have fared particularly well in their respective conference tournaments through the years:

	W	L	TITLES
PC in Big East	15	26	1
URI in A-10	16	25	1

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SECTION B



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projo SPORTS

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



HOLY MOSES!

URI, PC need elixir to fend off their woes

Familiar foes await the slumping Rams and Friars in the opening rounds of the Big East and Atlantic 10 tourneys.

BY KEVIN McNAMARA
JOURNAL SPORTS WRITER

While neither the University of Rhode Island nor the Providence College men's basketball team is packing much-needed momentum for their conference tournaments this week, both coaching staffs will be sporting fresh scouting reports.

URI and PC will face familiar opponents when postseason play begins for both teams on Wednesday. The Rams will square off

"They've held strong and that's why I'm proud of them."

COACH TIM WELSH

of his PC men's basketball team

with the Charlotte 49ers, the team that just ended Rhody's regular season on a down note in a 74-64 loss Saturday at the Ryan Center. The teams will hold their rematch Wednesday night at around 9 o'clock at Boardwalk Hall in Atlantic City, N.J.

Providence backed its way into the Big East tourney at Madison Square Garden thanks to a strong effort by the Pittsburgh Panthers. Pitt jumped out to a 13-2 lead and never looked back in beating DePaul, 98-79. The Blue Demons needed to win to knock PC out of the 12th spot in the conference but they ended their season with a loss, the 10th in the last 12 games.

That sets up a first-round tournament game between the Friars and West Virginia on Wednesday at 2:30 p.m. The Friars lost at WVU two weeks ago, 80-53. PC fans are certainly used to seeing the Mountaineers in the Big East Tournament. The two schools have played four times in the event, including PC's last two appearances in 2007 and '05. West Virginia won both of those games. PC's last win in the tournament — back in 2003 — came against the Mountaineers. The PC-WVU winner will face fourth-seeded Connecticut on Thursday afternoon.

PC needed the extra help from Pittsburgh after dropping a 73-63 contest to Villanova on Saturday night. After the game, Friars coach Tim Welsh said he had no interest in watching DePaul try to end his team's season. He did watch St. John's nearly stun West Virginia on Saturday afternoon in another game that could've damaged his team's postseason chances and that didn't go too well.

"I watched St. John's and I almost got sick," said Welsh. "I found myself trying to coach watching that game. I watched the last 15 minutes. (Sunday) I may go to three Masses and then have a nice brunch with my mother and father and

SEE URI/PC, B2



THE PROVIDENCE JOURNAL / GLENN OSMUNDSON

Moses Brown School players celebrate their victory over Central Falls in yesterday's Division III boys basketball championship game at URI's Ryan Center. The Quakers held the Warriors scoreless for an eight-minute stretch of the second half and won the title in their first season of RIIL competition.

Billy Cosmopulos lifts Moses Brown to Div. III title

BY JOHN GILLOOLY
JOURNAL SPORTS WRITER

SOUTH KINGSTOWN — He had experienced the agony of defeat a few months ago, so Moses Brown's Billy Cosmopulos was determined that yesterday he and his basketball teammates would discover the thrill of victory in a state title game.

"The Super Bowl loss was tough, but there are a bunch of the same guys in here. Today we came out and played hard," Cosmopulos said after the Quakers posted a 57-48 victory over Central Falls in the Boys Division III title game of the Credit Union High School Bas-

ketball Championships at the Ryan Center.

It was just three months ago that Cosmopulos and some of his basketball teammates, who also were members of the Moses Brown football team, felt the agony of a seven-point loss to Ponaganset in the Division III football Super Bowl.

Cosmopulos might not have been able to lead the Quakers to a state football title with his play at quarterback that day, but yesterday he played a big role in a second-half surge that took Moses Brown to a state title in its first year of R.I. Interscholastic League bas-

ketball competition.

It was Cosmopulos' domination of the defensive boards, combined with a Moses Brown defensive effort that kept Central Falls from getting its fast-offense in gear, that kept Central Falls scoreless for an eight-plus minute stretch in the second half.

Trailing 32-31 with 12:45 to play in the second half, Central Falls didn't score another point until there was only 4:22 left to play. By that time the Warriors had fallen 16 points off the pace.

Central Falls, the regular-season Di-

SEE QUAKERS, B6

CREDIT UNION CHAMPIONSHIPS

BOYS BASKETBALL Results yesterday

- Division I**
Hendricken 67, Woonsocket 64
- Division II**
Classical 71, West Warwick 62
- Division III**
Moses Brown 57, Central Falls 48



THE PROVIDENCE JOURNAL / BOB BREIDENBACH

J.D. Drew, shown at Sox' camp, says, "Last year was tough, but I felt I had a real solid September, a huge hit in the LCS and then a solid World Series."

Sox' Drew hopes to pick up where he left off

Late last season, J.D. Drew showed what type of player he can be, and he hopes to continue that success this year.

BY JOE McDONALD
JOURNAL SPORTS WRITER

VERO BEACH, Fla. — Last October was special for the Red Sox and their fans as the team won its second World Series in four seasons. The party began in Denver after a four-game sweep of the Rockies and continued into the offseason.

The winter was exactly what anyone would expect from a championship team, with the players being pulled in a million directions for different obligations. Set in the background of all the hoopla was Sox right fielder J.D. Drew. He had just completed his first season

with the Red Sox, the team that gave him a five-year deal worth \$70 million. He was able to breathe a sigh of relief, knowing he ended the year in a positive manner.

During his struggles early in 2007 he heard the boos, and quickly realized that playing in Boston would be like no other experience he has had as a major-leaguer. He was almost considered a bust, an overpaid mistake by management. Finally, in the last few weeks of the season, Drew showed what type of player he could be. He hopes to continue that success this year.

"The second year is always more comfortable because you know your environment," he said yesterday after the Red Sox' 4-0 loss to the Dodgers. "Last year was a tough year, but I felt I had a real solid September and went into the post-season with a huge hit in the LCS and

then a solid World Series. You ultimately want to peak when you get to the playoffs, and I felt like, down the stretch, I came through with some big hits in some clutch situations."

He was vindicated in the postseason, when the boos turned into standing ovations at Fenway Park.

In Game Six of the ALCS against Cleveland, he crushed a grand slam in the first inning that set the tone for the last two games of the series. He finished that contest with three hits and five RBI, giving him the distinction he had been seeking all season.

In the last two months of the 2007 season, Drew hit .342 with four homers and 18 RBI, and it was clear he finally was comfortable in his new surroundings.

"I felt good at the end of the year," he

SEE RED SOX, B3