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Late URI report

For a complete postgame report, plus photos and a box score of last night's NIT game, go to projosports.com/uri

Casey at the bat

The Red Sox are hopeful that newcomer Sean Casey will supply some hitting production from their bench this year:

Team	HR	RBI	BA
Cleveland	0	1	.200
Cincinnati	118	604	.305
Pittsburgh	3	29	.296
Detroit	9	84	.281
Career	130	718	.301

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

SECTION C



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CELTICS 94, ROCKETS 74



AP / DAVID J. PHILLIP

The Celtics' Kevin Garnett, right, battles the Rockets' Luis Scola for a loose ball during the first quarter last night. The Celtics ended the Rockets 22-game winning streak.

Celtics send Rockets back to earth

Kevin Garnett scores 22 points and Paul Pierce adds 20 as Boston ends Houston's winning streak at 22 games.

ASSOCIATED PRESS

HOUSTON — The shots stopped falling, Boston's stars took over, and just like that the Houston Rockets' 22-game winning streak was history.

Kevin Garnett scored 22 points and Paul Pierce added 20 as the Celtics beat the Rockets, 94-74, last night, stopping Houston's remarkable victory run.

The Rockets hadn't lost since a 97-89 defeat to Utah on Jan. 27, and put together the NBA's second-longest winning streak. It ended 11 victories shy of the 1971-

72 Los Angeles Lakers, who won 33 in a row.

It was only Houston's second loss in 28 games and its fourth since a 97-93 loss in Boston on Jan. 2, a game Tracy McGrady sat out with a knee injury. The Rockets also lost for the first time in 11 games since Yao Ming went out with a season-ending foot injury on Feb. 26.

Luis Scola scored 15 for Houston, which had a 15-game home streak snapped. Only the 1985-86 Rockets, who won 20 straight at The Summit, had a longer home-court streak in franchise history. McGrady had eight assists and seven rebounds, but only eight points, on 4-for-11 shooting.

Reserve Leon Powe added 21 points for the Celtics, who have won 13 of their last 14 games, the

last three without All-Star guard Ray Allen, who is out with a sore left ankle.

The Rockets still have one more streak to protect — they'll go for their 13th straight road win in New Orleans tonight.

Houston beat the Lakers on Sunday to take over sole possession of first place in the Western Conference and set up last night's showdown between conference leaders.

They were tied at 40 at half-time, but Boston took control in the third quarter, led by its All-Star duo.

Garnett swished a jumper from the top of the key 15 seconds out of the break and Pierce sank a 3-pointer on Boston's next trip down, the start of an 18-5 spurt. The Rockets missed eight of their

first 10 shots out of the break and stopped getting the bounces that had always gone their way throughout the streak.

Even when Houston got aggressive, it backfired.

With 3:18 left in the third quarter, Tony Allen drove the baseline and McGrady and Scola both jumped to block him. McGrady blocked the ball, but Scola hit Allen and sent him hard to the court. Referee Scott Foster called a flagrant foul on Scola as Allen lay on the floor for several minutes. He finally got up and hit two free throws to put Boston up, 64-52.

McGrady missed a jumper in the final seconds of the third quarter and Shane Battier was

SEE **CELTICS, C4**

CREIGHTON 74, URI 73

Same old story: URI falters in final ticks

Rams squander a 17-point lead and fall in a fashion similar to their collapse in the A-10 Tournament.

BY PAUL KENYON
JOURNAL SPORTS WRITER

OMAHA, Neb. — The NIT ended the same way the Atlantic 10 Tournament did for the URI basketball team. And the same as much of the final month of the regular season did, as well.

That is, the Rams played well. They led much of the way. But they could not hold on as their opponents drilled one 3-pointer after another.

This time, it was a bitter 74-73 loss to Creighton in an opening-round NIT game at the Qwest Center. URI led by 12 with 3:08 remaining. But Creighton made four 3-point shots in the final minutes to win it.

The winner came from the left wing by Cavel Whitter with three seconds left. It was the only time Creighton led in the final 38 minutes.

It was the 10th loss in single digits for URI and it was eerily similar to the 75-73 heartbreaker to Charlotte in the Atlantic 10 Tournament last week.

After leading by 15 at the half, the

SEE **URI, C2**

OHIO U. 80, BROWN 74

Huffman's 39 can't save Bears

BY JARROD ULREY
SPECIAL TO THE JOURNAL

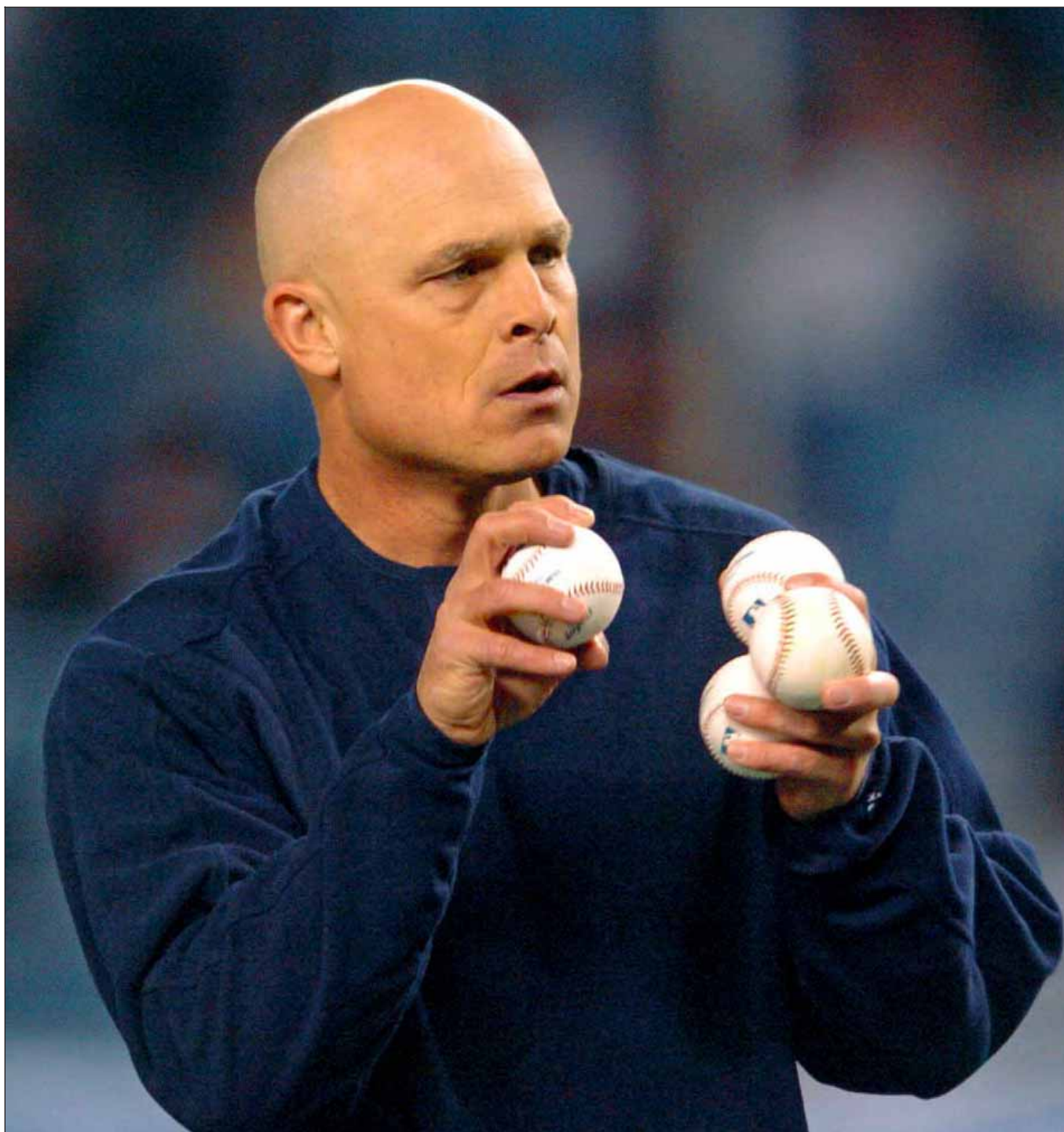
ATHENS, Ohio — Students at Brown are in the midst of mid-term exams, but men's basketball coach Craig Robinson said the team would have played Sunday night if the first College Basketball Invitational had scheduled them to do so.

About the only thing that took away from the Bears' excitement of making their fourth postseason appearance was that Ohio University managed to spoil one of the greatest performances in Brown history.

Senior guard Damon Huffman tied the school's single-game record with nine 3-pointers and finished with a career-high 39 points, but the Bobcats rallied for an 80-74 victory last night in the first round of the inaugural CBI.

SEE **BROWN, C3**

THE STEAL SIGN



THE PROVIDENCE JOURNAL / GLENN OSMUNDSON

Red Sox bench coach Brad Mills and the rest of the Boston coaching staff learned yesterday they won't be compensated the same \$50,000 that Sox players and manager Terry Francona are getting for the Japan trip.

Sox coaches upset over Japan pay

BY JOE McDONALD
AND SEAN MCADAM
JOURNAL SPORTS WRITERS

FORT MYERS, Fla. — As the Red Sox players and management made final arrangements for today's departure for its 12-day trek to Japan, a monkey wrench has been thrown into the mix in the 11th hour.

"If [MLB and MLBPA] knew about it all along and they kept it from us, then that would be really disheartening."

BRAD MILLS

Red Sox bench coach

Yesterday morning, Red Sox manager Terry Francona learned that the coaching staffs from both Boston and Oakland will not be given additional compensation. Managers and players will be given \$50,000 each as compensation for the extended trip, but it appears the coaching staff will not.

Francona was quite upset with the news, and now there's confusion as to which organization is responsible — Major League Baseball or the Major League Baseball Players' Association.

"The only reaction I have is one of bewilderment," said Brad Mills, the Red Sox bench coach. "I was kind of surprised by the whole thing. Everyone was under the impression we would be taken care of and kind of lumped in with the players. No one had heard or thought any different. Even when the PA came around [during spring training] they said if we hear different, we'll get back to you."

It was first brought to the Red Sox' at-

SEE **RED SOX, C5**

Ex-Townie Silva shows scouts he has the tools to do the job

While the Boston College standout's speed wasn't special, his other football talents were during the school's Pro Day workout session leading up to the NFL Draft.

BY SHALISE MANZA YOUNG
JOURNAL SPORTS WRITER

NEWTON, Mass. — Jamie Silva is relieved that the worst of it is over.

As he has said several times during the course of his extended job-interview process, Silva is a football player, not a

sprinter or track star. So when he ran the second of his two 40-yard dashes as part of Boston College's Pro Day yesterday, Silva could breathe a sigh of relief.

With quarterback Matt Ryan, the potential top pick in the draft and arguably the top signal-caller available, in the mix, the number of team officials and media in attendance at the Eagles' workout was high — 22 teams sent representatives, with the Kansas City Chiefs, who own the fifth pick in next month's draft, sending five officials.

But Ryan wasn't the only player working out — in all, there were 37 pro-

spects under the bubble constructed over the Alumni Stadium field, including former East Providence All-Stater Silva and Eagles offensive tackle Gosder Cherilus, who could be a first-round pick. There were also 17 players from New England schools Harvard, UMass, Northeastern, Bentley and Holy Cross, as well as former BC star and first-round draft pick William Green, who has been out of football for two years.

After turning in disappointing 40-yard dash times at the NFL Combine last month in Indianapolis, Silva was hoping for improvement yesterday. But

the slow field led to his times being much the same as they were at the Combine — one AFC scout had Silva clocked at 4.80 and 4.86 seconds.

Silva redeemed himself, though, in the other drills. He flashed his hands, catching nearly every ball thrown his way, and showing his improved backpedaling skills. He even fielded a few punts toward the end of the workout.

He will continue to work out in Pennsylvania leading up to the draft five

SEE **SILVA, C6**