

McAdam's SoxTalk

Sean talks about his first day in Japan in an audio report posted by noon at projosports.com/redsox



CLIPPERS, BRONCOS GAIN THE UPPER HAND: View the gallery at HSGameTime.com/rhodeisland

Japan primer

A Tokyo-bound Sox fan gets some baseball tips from a friend in Japan. See the exchange at projosports.com/redsox

Same ol', same ol'

The five men's college basketball teams with the most NCAA tournament titles all have a chance to add to their total this year:

TEAMS	TITLES
UCLA	11
Kentucky	7
Indiana	5
North Carolina	4
Duke	3

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



SECTION D
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projo SPORTS

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Dateline Tokyo

A long flight, good food, then a safe arrival

TOKYO — Some highlights from the Red Sox' long day journey into night, then day, then night again ...

■ A police motorcade escorted the team through Fort Myers, with traffic stopped at intersections to allow the four busloads of personnel and equipment through. It was astounding to see the ease with which the team got from City of Palms Park to Southwest Florida International Airport.

Ordinarily, most beat writers — myself included — make our own travel arrangements and fly commercially, dealing with the same airport, traffic and security issues that everyone else experiences. This was a completely different — and more convenient — way of travel.

Traffic actually came to a standstill on Interstate 75 as the Sox' motorcade got on the highway, creating a snarl of backed-up cars.

At the airport, the buses went directly onto the tarmac, where we exited the buses, went through an ad hoc security checkpoint

SEE **MCADAM, D5**

The Providence Journal in Japan

Sports writer Sean McAdam and photographer Bob Breidenbach are with the Red Sox in Japan. They'll be filing constant updates to projosports.com/redsox and projosports.com/soxblog throughout the trip.

Part Q&A, part cultural exchange: A Japanese baseball fan answers our questions about the game as he sees it in his country, at projo.com



MCADAM



BREIDENBACH

Japan at a glance

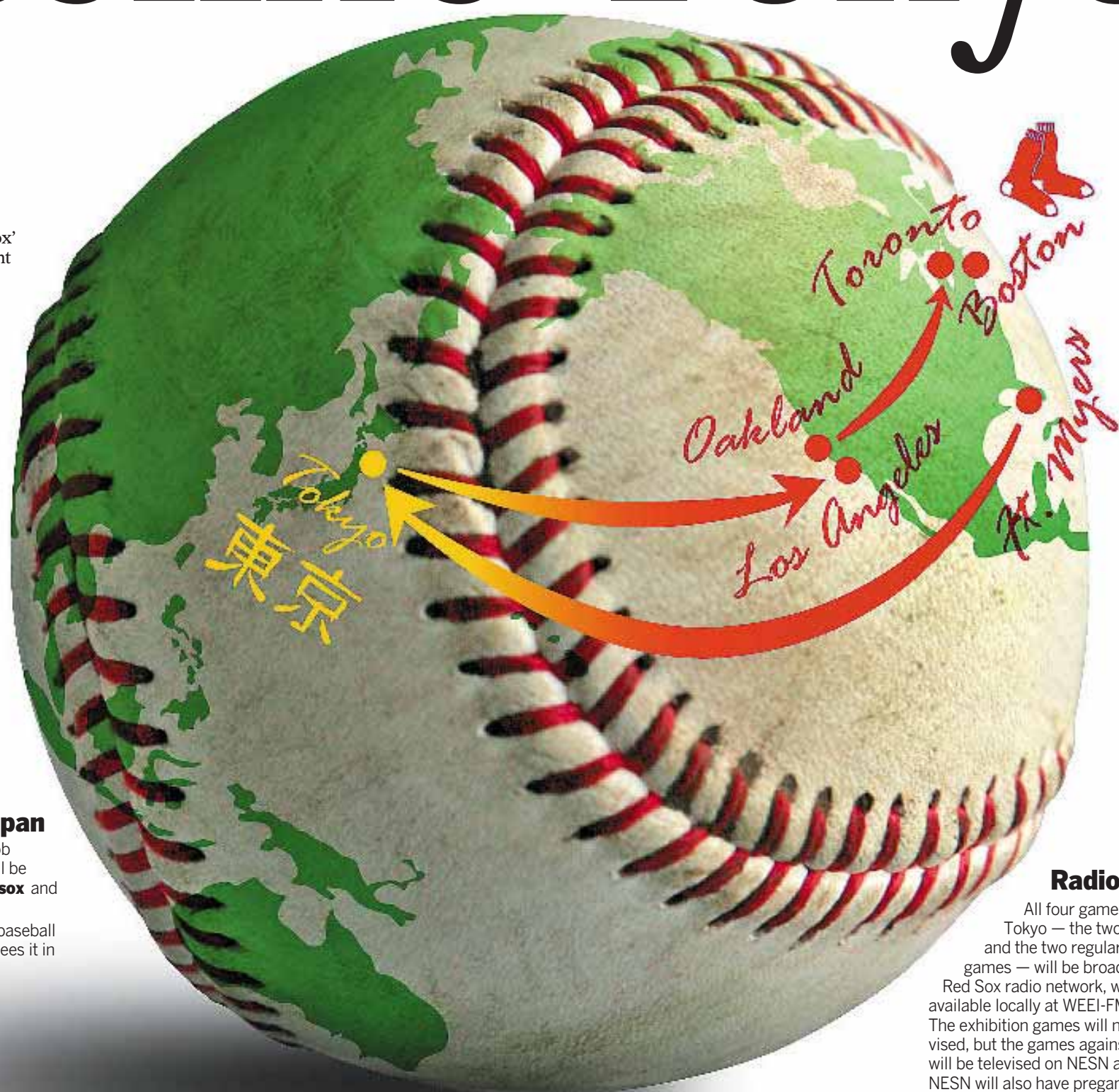
Population: Approximately 128 million

Capital: Tokyo

Currency: Yen

Religion: 84% Shinto and Buddhist, 16% others (0.7% Christian)

Professional baseball: Japan has two major leagues, the Pacific and Central, each of which plays a 140-game, March-to-October regular season. The postseason culminates in a best-of-seven Japan Series. The Pacific League has the designated hitter, and games end in a tie after 12 innings. Interleague play began in 2005. Teams are allowed to have up to four gaijins — or foreigners — on the roster, two position players and two pitchers. Each team has one minor-league affiliate, in either the Eastern or the Western League, with an unlimited number of gaijins.



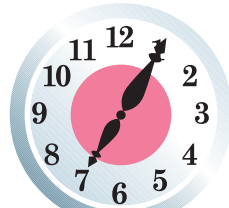
THE PROVIDENCE JOURNAL / TOM MURPHY

Red Sox schedule

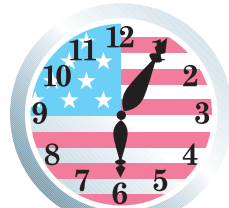
		JAPAN	PROVIDENCE
TODAY	Workout	3:30-5:30 p.m.	2:30-4:30 a.m.
TOMORROW	Exhibition vs. Hanshin	12:05 p.m.	11:05 p.m. tonight
SUNDAY	Exhibition vs. Yomiuri	7:05 p.m.	6:05 a.m.
MONDAY	Workout	2-4 p.m.	1-3 a.m.
TUESDAY	Game vs. A's	7:05 p.m.	6:05 a.m.
WEDNESDAY	Game vs. A's Flight to L.A.	7:05 p.m. 1 a.m. Thursday	6:05 a.m. Noon
THURSDAY	Arrive in L.A.	9 p.m. Wednesday (L.A. time)	Midnight Thursday

The time difference

Japan is 13 hours ahead of the East Coast of the United States. When it is 7:05 p.m. in Tokyo, which is the normal starting time for night games, it is 6:05 a.m. in Providence.



7:05 PM in Tokyo



6:05 AM in Providence

The trip

This is the beginning of a 19-day, three-country, two-continent road trip for the Red Sox that won't end until they touch down in Boston on Sunday evening, April 6. The details:

■ **JAPAN, March 20-26:** The Sox arrived yesterday and will be in Tokyo until Wednesday night. After the second game against the A's, they will board a charter and fly across the Pacific to Los Angeles ... where, because they cross the International Date Line, they will be arriving at the same time (or slightly earlier) as when they left.

■ **LOS ANGELES, March 27-30:** The Sox will spend Thursday recuperating from the flight, then play a three-game exhibition series against the Dodgers over the weekend. They will play at Dodger Stadium on Friday night and Sunday afternoon, and at the Los Angeles Coliseum — before a crowd expected to reach 115,000, the largest ever to see a baseball game — on Saturday night.

■ **OAKLAND, March 31-April 2:** The Sox will arrive in the Bay Area Sunday night, work out Monday, and then play regular-season games against the A's on Tuesday night and Wednesday afternoon.

■ **TORONTO, April 3-6:** The Sox will fly out of Oakland immediately after Wednesday's game and land in Toronto, where they'll have an off-day Thursday and then begin a three-game series against the Blue Jays on Friday night. That game will be the Jays' home opener.

■ **BOSTON, April 6:** After Sunday afternoon's game, the Sox will finally return home. After a day off on Monday, they'll open their home season — and receive their World Series championship rings — on Tuesday, April 8.

Radio / TV

All four games from Tokyo — the two exhibitions and the two regular-season games — will be broadcast on the Red Sox radio network, which is available locally at WEEI-FM (103.7). The exhibition games will not be televised, but the games against the A's will be televised on NESN and ESPN2. NESN will also have pregame shows beginning at 5 a.m., and a one-hour postgame show immediately after the game ends.

MARCH MADNESS

EAST REGIONAL RESULTS YESTERDAY

Washington State 71, Winthrop 40
Notre Dame 68, George Mason 50
GAMES TODAY
Tennessee vs. American at Birmingham, Ala., 12:15 p.m.
Butler vs. South Alabama at Birmingham, Ala., approximately 2:55 p.m.
North Carolina vs. Mount St. Mary's at Denver, 7:10 p.m.
Oklahoma vs. Saint Joseph's at Birmingham, Ala., 7:10 p.m.
Louisville vs. Boise State at

Birmingham, Ala., approximately 9:50 p.m.
Indiana vs. Arkansas at Denver, approximately 9:50 p.m.

WEST REGIONAL RESULTS YESTERDAY

Xavier 73, Georgia 61
Purdue 90, Baylor 79
Duke 71, Belmont 70
Texas A&M 67, BYU 62
West Virginia 75, Arizona 65
UCLA 70, Mississippi Valley St. 29
GAMES TODAY
Drake vs. Western Kentucky at Tampa, Fla., 12:30 p.m.
Connecticut vs. San Diego at Tampa, Fla., approx. 3:10 p.m.

MIDWEST REGIONAL RESULTS YESTERDAY

Kansas 85, Portland State 61
UNLV 71, Kent State 58
Kansas St. 80, Southern Cal 67
Wis. 71, Cal State-Fullerton 56
GAMES TODAY
Gonzaga vs. Davidson at Raleigh, N.C., 12:25 p.m.
Georgetown vs. Baltimore-Maryland County at Raleigh, N.C., approximately 3:05 p.m.
Vanderbilt vs. Siena at Tampa, Fla., 7:20 p.m.
Clemson vs. Villanova at Tampa, Fla., approximately 10 p.m.

SOUTH REGIONAL RESULTS YESTERDAY

Michigan State 72, Temple 61
Marquette 74, Kentucky 66
Pittsburgh 82, Oral Roberts 63
Stanford 77, Cornell 53
GAMES TODAY
Miami vs. Saint Mary's, Calif., at North Little Rock, Ark., 12:30 p.m.
Texas vs. Austin Peay at North Little Rock, Ark., approximately 3:10 p.m.
Mississippi State vs. Oregon at North Little Rock, Ark., 7:25 p.m.
Memphis vs. Texas-Arlington at North Little Rock, Ark., approximately 10:05 p.m.

CELTICS 94, MAVERICKS 90

Ray Allen to rescue as Celtics outlast Mavs for Texas sweep

BY JAMIE ARON
ASSOCIATED PRESS

DALLAS — Ray Allen returned from a three-game injury absence and a long time on the bench in the fourth quarter to nail a go-ahead 3-pointer with 31.7 seconds left, lifting the Boston Celtics past the Dallas Mavericks, 94-90, last night to complete an impressive sweep in the Lone Star State.

The Celtics completed an im-

pressive sweep in the Lone Star State, becoming the first team to go 3-0 in San Antonio, Houston and Dallas since the Sacramento Kings in November 2001. Boston gave the Spurs their first home loss in six weeks, ended Houston's 22-game winning streak, then gave the Mavericks just their sixth home loss.

Allen, recovering from a jam-

SEE **CELTICS, D4**