

Comment on Joe Mazzulla's NCAA Tournament performance

Tell us what you think at projosports.com



A FESTIVE FINALE IN JAPAN: View the gallery at projosports.com/redsox

Next stop: L.A.

Look for Sean McAdam's breaking news reports as the Red Sox leave Tokyo for California, at projosports.com/soxblog

Bringing their A game

Of the first five players listed alphabetically in the Baseball Encyclopedia, three have played for the Red Sox:

PLAYER	YEARS
David Aardsma *	2004-
Hank Aaron	1954-1976
Tommie Aaron	1962-1971
Don Aase*	1977-1990
Andy Abad*	2001-1990

* Played for the Red Sox

projosports.com/redsox

SECTION C
The Providence Journal
projosports.com
THURSDAY, MARCH 27, 2008

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

Robinson is the coach PC should target

OK, here's the question: Would Providence College have hired John Thompson III four years ago if it had a coaching vacancy?



BILL REYNOLDS
And the answer is no. An Ivy League coach. No cachet. Not someone who was going to excite the fan base back then, right? But would they hire him now if they could? Of course, since Thompson has quickly taken Georgetown out of its slumber and turned them into one

of the top programs in the country, and emerged as one of the most successful coaches in the country.

Well, guess what? The next John Thompson III is right here in Providence.

It's Brown's Craig Robinson, and you don't have to know an X from an O to see the parallels.

They both played at Princeton for Pete Carril, one of the most storied figures in college basketball coaching history, the originator of the so-called Princeton offense. They both are black men in a game that's dominated by black players. And they both can flat-out coach.

What Robinson did this year at Brown almost borders on the unbelievable. Not only did he win 19 games, the most in school history, he did it with a team that had virtually no inside offense, and whose only two real

SEE REYNOLDS, C5

CELTICS 117, SUNS 97
Many hands chip in and tip the balance

All five Boston starters score in double figures and the reserves do their share in a victory over Western power Phoenix.

BY KEVIN McNAMARA
JOURNAL SPORTS WRITER

BOSTON — Thoughts of spring flowers, steamy June afternoons and a spot in The Finals were in the air last night at the Garden. It all sounded pretty good to the Boston Celtics.

The surging Celts say they're ready for a sprint to the finish line in the final few weeks of the regular season and they clearly own an eye for the upcoming playoffs. While navigating the Eastern Conference won't be easy, the Celtics continued their recent mastery of the best in the West with a 117-97 thumping of the Phoenix Suns last night.

The Suns came to town with the requisite star power that's reserved for marquee NBA playoff nights. Steve Nash. Amare Stoudamire. The newly acquired Shaquille O'Neal. Few teams in basketball own luminaries like those.

But the Suns could not match up with the Celtics. The East's top team struggled only in the second quarter and blitzed the Suns the rest of the way for a win that left the visitors impressed.

"Against a team like this in this building you can't make a lot of mistakes," said the O'Neal.

SEE CELTICS, C4

DOWN FOR COUNT



LESTER'S LINE

Boston	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
Lester 1, 0-1	4	5	4	4	3	4	83	9.00

Lester falling behind hitters is his and Sox' undoing

BY SEAN McADAM
JOURNAL SPORTS WRITER

TOKYO — For all of its complexities, baseball can be a simple game, really. Especially for a pitcher.

Throw strikes. Be aggressive. Work ahead in the count. Reams of evidence show that when a pitcher does those things, his chances for success increase exponentially.

In his young major-league career, Jon Lester sometimes has had problems mastering those simple concepts, as he did yesterday in The Tokyo Dome against the Oakland Athletics.

"The game changes when you get ahead of hitters. ... When you get ahead, you can dictate. When you're behind, they dictate."

JON LESTER

And the outcome — four runs allowed in four innings, leading to a 5-1 Red Sox loss — was predictable.

"I felt like I threw the ball well," said Lester, who allowed five hits and walked three in his four-inning stint. "I just didn't like the results."

Nor did his manager. "I think what happens to Jon is that he doesn't always allow himself to get into a groove that his stuff should allow," said Terry Francona. "We want him to try to pick up the pace and work quicker. When he does that, he has a lot of good weapons to attack hitters."

Like Daisuke Matsuzaka in the season-opener the night before, Lester struggled with his command and drove up his pitch count early in the game.

"The game changes when you get ahead of hitters," Lester said. "It doesn't matter if it's spring training or the last start of the year. When you get ahead, you can dictate. When you're behind, they dictate. They can take pitches and swing at what they want."

"Jon had good stuff. He used all his pitches," said Francona. "But he worked himself into some deep counts ... threw a lot of pitches."

The A's took a 1-0 lead in the second inning on a one-out double by Bobby Crosby, a two-out walk to Kurt Suzuki and a single by former Wheaton College standout Chris Denorfia. Lester limited the damage by catching Travis Buck looking at a called third strike.

The night got away from Lester, and the Sox, in the third. A leadoff walk to Mark Ellis and a one-out single by Mike Sweeney set the stage for Emil Brown, who ran into an out while representing

SEE SOX, C3

And now, back to spring training

		LOS ANGELES	PROVIDENCE
TODAY	Workout	1 p.m.	4 p.m.
TOMORROW	Exhibition vs. Dodgers at Dodger Stadium	7:40 p.m.	10:40 p.m.
SATURDAY	Exhibition vs. Dodgers at L.A. Coliseum	7:10 p.m.	10:10 p.m.
SUNDAY	Exhibition vs. Dodgers at Dodger Stadium	1:10 p.m.	4:10 p.m.

Red Sox starter Jon Lester wasn't happy after serving up a three-run homer to Oakland's Emil Brown in the third inning, giving the A's a 4-0 lead in the second game of the season in Tokyo.

THE PROVIDENCE JOURNAL / BOB BREIDENBACH

New Channel Lineup as of March 27, 2008

Effective March 27, 2008, nine sports channels on the Cox Digital Cable lineup will have a new channel location. You will still receive the same great programming.

Please note: No channels are being removed from our lineup as a result of these changes.

As always, you can find the most up-to-date Cox Channel Lineup online at: www.cox.com/NewEngland.

*Formerly CSTV

PREVIOUS CHANNEL LOCATION	NEW CHANNEL LINEUP AS OF 3/27/08
Golf Channel 130	Go!TV 130
Fox Soccer 131	Fox Soccer 131
ESPN Classic 132	ESPN Classic 132
ESPNNews 133	ESPNNews 133
Versus 134	ESPNU 134
Speed Channel 135	CBS College Sports Net* 135
NBA TV 136	NBA TV 136
NFL Network 137	NFL Network 137
Fuel 138	NHL Network 138
Fit TV 139	Versus 139
Go!TV 140	Fuel 140
ESPNU 141	Speed Channel 141
NHL Network 142	Golf Channel 142
CBS College Sports Net* 143	Fit TV 143



your friend in the digital age®

www.cox.com/NewEngland

