

Is the Red Sox' starting pitching championship caliber?

Tell us what you think at [projosports.com/redsox](http://projosports.com/redsox)



A SALUTE TO THE WINTER CHAMPIONS: View the gallery at [HSGameTime.com/rhodeisland](http://HSGameTime.com/rhodeisland)

McAdam's SoxTalk

Sean's latest audio report, from Los Angeles, will be posted this afternoon at [projosports.com/redsox](http://projosports.com/redsox)

Green Machine

The Boston Celtics have beaten every team in the NBA this year with the exception of tonight's opponent, the New Orleans Hornets.

VS. EAST	VS. WEST
32-10	24-5

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

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# Search for PC coach seems like a slow-motion process

PROVIDENCE — Time is money in business, and in sports, and right now the clock is ticking on Bob Driscoll and Providence College.

**KEVIN McNAMARA** Driscoll's search for Tim Welsh's replacement will be two weeks old tomorrow. His time frame to fill the position is as gray as the storm clouds hovering over Rhode Island. Next week? Sometime during the Final Four? By the time David Ortiz

takes his first swing at Fenway Park (April 8)? Who knows?

"As quickly as I can," was Driscoll's response a few days ago about his plans for hiring a new men's hoop coach. "I want to make sure I have all of the information I need to make the right decision. I won't rush."

This weekend, Driscoll will be in Madison, Wis., watching the NCAA Midwest hockey playoffs. He's on the committee that oversees that competi-

tion, which is all well and good, but that puts PC's basketball coaching search on ice. Then again, maybe Driscoll is outsmarting all of us. Maybe he's going to huddle with some hotshot behind a Zamboni. Perhaps he'll hold clandestine talks late at night in the darkness of the Kohl Center's penalty boxes.

While the pucks fly, so do rumors about the Friars' job. Driscoll has reportedly contacted the athletic director

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**What do you think?** Is PC acting too slowly in choosing a new coach? Cast your vote today at: [projosports.com/pc](http://projosports.com/pc)

at George Mason and asked for permission to speak with its coach, PC alum Jim Larranaga. No sit-down with the Patriots' coach has occurred, but at

least the ball is moving with someone. Reached by phone this week, the athletic directors of two other rumored candidates say they haven't heard a thing from PC.

"No one at Providence has called me," said Saint Joseph's AD Don DiJulia. "No one has called Phil (Martelli)." Martelli has seen his name linked to the PC job and doesn't know why. "I

SEE McNAMARA, C5

## MARCH MADNESS



AP / MARK J. TERRILL

West Virginia's Darris Nichols, right, tries to get around Xavier's Drew Lavender during the first half of their NCAA West Regional semifinal in Phoenix last night.

### XAVIER WINS IN OVERTIME

B.J. Raymond sinks two 3-pointers in the last 1:18 of overtime and Xavier advances to the West Regional final with a 79-75 victory over West Virginia. The third-seeded Musketeers (30-6) will seek their first Final Four appearance when they play UCLA tomorrow.



AP / CHUCK BURTON

Louisville's Terrence Williams, right, drives to the basket against Tennessee's Josh Tabb during the first half of their NCAA East Regional semifinal last night at Charlotte, N.C.

### LOUISVILLE IN ELITE EIGHT

Louisville's suffocating defense has Rick Pitino a step away from a sixth trip to the Final Four. Earl Clark scored 13 of his 17 points in the second half and added 12 rebounds, and Pitino's mix of defenses made life miserable for Tennessee in a 79-60 win last night that put Louisville in the East Regional final against North Carolina.

### N. CAROLINA, UCLA ADVANCE

In the other games, Tyler Hansbrough scores 16 of his 18 points in the second half and the top-seeded Tar Heels hold Washington State to 32-percent shooting in a 68-47 win in the East Regional semifinals. Also, Kevin Love scores a career-high 29 points to help UCLA, which nearly frittered away a 21-point halftime lead, to hang on and defeat Western Kentucky, 88-78, in the West Regional.

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# GROWING PAINS



PROVIDENCE JOURNAL / BOB BREIDENBACH

The Red Sox say they will allow rookie starting pitcher Clay Buchholz to hone his skills in the major leagues this season, but expect him to approach his job with maturity and keep his right arm in tiptop shape.

## Buchholz, Ellsbury get a shot to shine with Sox

BY JOE McDONALD  
JOURNAL SPORTS WRITER

Early-season hiccups and lineup changes don't bother the Boston Red Sox.

Just because rookie sensations Jacoby Ellsbury and Clay Buchholz haven't exploded onto the scene in the very early stages of this season like they did for the Red Sox late last season doesn't mean management is worried.

Sure, expectations are extremely high for both since they made significant contributions last fall. And, Red Sox management is expecting both to experience their share of lumps, which is only natural.

"We're trying to manage those expectations a little bit," said Red Sox

general manager Theo Epstein. "And our expectations internally might not be quite as high as people externally. It's something we'll have to deal with."

If, for some reason, that doesn't seem realistic coming from a major-league GM, all anyone would have to do is look back to April of last season. Then-rookie Dustin Pedroia had a horrendous first month after he earned the starting job at second base. He hit a lowly .182, and most were calling for management to make a change.

The Red Sox didn't. Time and again manager Terry

Francona said Pedroia would be fine, and he was. He was a big reason why the Red Sox enjoyed a World Series title in 2007, while earning the Rookie of the Year award in the process.

The Red Sox will have that same sort of patience with Ellsbury and Buchholz.

Boston doesn't want to be the type of organization to worry about making the tough decision. If something needs to be done, management does it. Case

"We don't want to have any more talks with Clay about not being able to finish the season."

THEO EPSTEIN,

Boston GM on pitching prospect Clay Buchholz

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