

Would Jim Larranaga be a good choice for the PC job?

Tell us what you think at projsports.com/pc



SCITUATE ROLLS PAST LINCOLN: View the gallery at HSGameTime.com/rhodeisland

Sox back on

Sean McAdam's audio report, statistical features and news to get ready for the first pitch at projsports.com/redsox

Manny hitting many

Red Sox slugger Manny Ramirez is only nine homers short of joining MLB's 500 Home Run Club:

	GAMES	HR
Eddie Murray	3,026	504
Lou Gehrig	2,164	493
Fred McGriff	2,460	493
Manny Ramirez	1,952	491

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



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Encore?

■ All three of our baseball writers — **Sean McAdam**, **Joe McDonald** and **Steven Krasner** — pick the Red Sox to repeat as A.L. East champions.
 ■ McAdam and McDonald both pick the Sox to repeat as World Series champions.

■ Both Krasner and McDonald pick the Yankees as the A.L. wild-card winner, but McAdam thinks they'll miss the playoffs.
 ■ See the full list of predictions — which includes award winners, first managers fired, and more — on **C5**.



Red Sox fans are hoping they can look forward to celebrating another World Series championship. THE PROVIDENCE JOURNAL / BOB BREIDENBACH

THE SEASON RESUMES: RED SOX vs. A's 10:07 P.M.



Red Sox pitcher Daisuke Matsuzaka walks across the outfield at McAfee Coliseum in Oakland where he will start tonight against the Athletics. THE PROVIDENCE JOURNAL / BOB BREIDENBACH

Sox find semblance of normalcy

For the first time since last fall, Boston will play a game of consequence in the continental United States.

BY SEAN MCADAM
JOURNAL SPORTS WRITER

OAKLAND — We now return you to your regularly scheduled season.

After the earliest — to say nothing of the most far-flung — season-opener in their history and the interruption caused by a weekend's worth of exhibition games — one of which took place on a makeshift field before the largest crowd to ever watch a baseball game — the Red Sox get back to a sense of normalcy tonight.

For the first time since last fall, they'll play a game of consequence in the continental

SEE RED SOX, C5

Book on Sox: Francona is the prototype

Blame the manager. It's as old as baseball, and here in Boston it's long been an art form.

For it's always the manager's fault, right? Jimmy Williams is too concerned with a frog

bumping his booty, or some such ridiculous thing. Grady left Pedro in too long, an unpardonable sin. Terry "Francoma".

On and on it goes, a never-ending lament, as much a part of summer as traffic jams going to the beach.

Blame the manager. Until the manager goes out and wins two World Series in four years.

Until "Francoma" becomes someone you can't blame, and Michael Holley writes *Red*



BILL REYNOLDS

SEE REYNOLDS, C5

Ex-Friar Larranaga faces a difficult decision as he eyes two coaching paths

George Mason's Jim Larranaga has met with PC officials in the last two days, and the ball is in his court.

BY KEVIN McNAMARA
JOURNAL SPORTS WRITER

PROVIDENCE — In a perfect world, Jim Larranaga could return to his alma mater and enjoy a welcome home to Providence College with trumpets blaring

sometime this week. But it won't be that easy.

Larranaga, the current coach at George Mason University, has emerged as the favorite to become PC's next basketball coach. He has met with PC officials dur-

ing the last two days but was in Virginia yesterday, and the proverbial ball is now in his court. But this is no easy decision.

Larranaga, 58, is facing two very different career paths. The one on the left offers an aggressive road where he can rise to the top of his profession, regularly compete against the premier

coaches in the country on national television and work with the security of a five- or six-year contract that could pay upwards of \$900,000 per year.

The route on his right is much safer. He can continue to live in the same community that he's called home for the last 11 years and look to build on a legacy

where he's already Mason's all-time winningest coach. Doing so in the Colonial Athletic Association will certainly prove much easier than life in the Big East.

Larranaga is already very well compensated. His current contract runs through 2012 and pays him roughly \$600,000 per season.

Thanks largely to Mason's run to the Final Four in 2006, Larranaga is a big name at the large public school in Fairfax, Va. That two-week run was the greatest Cinderella story in the last 30 years of the NCAA Tournament, one that not only shined a spot-

SEE PC, C3