

Is Belichick telling the truth, or will there be more Spygate surprises?

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	TEAM	FF
Roy Williams	UNC	3
John Calipari	Memphis	1
Ben Howland	UCLA	1
Bill Self	Kansas	0

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WEDNESDAY, APRIL 2, 2008

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# 'We're moving on'



AP / ELISE AMENDOLA

Patriots head coach Bill Belichick says he had been interviewed again by the NFL on spying allegations concerning Super Bowl XXXVI.

## Belichick says spying scandal is behind the Pats

BY SHALISE MANZA YOUNG  
JOURNAL SPORTS WRITER

Though there are still some details to be worked out, NFL coaches yesterday approved the use of headset communication on the defensive side of the ball at the league's annual meeting in Palm Beach, Fla.

Perhaps spurred by the Spygate scandal — in which the New England Patriots were found to be illegally videotaping the New York Jets' defensive signals last September — the proposal, which had previously been voted down twice, passed by a 25-7 count. Twenty-four "yes" votes were required for approval of the measure.

It was revealed yesterday that NFL officials re-interviewed Patriots head coach Bill Belichick and other Pats staffers after Super Bowl XLII in Feb-

ruary, in the wake of allegations that the team had videotaped the St. Louis Rams' walkthrough prior to Super Bowl XXXVI six years ago. The Patriots won that Super Bowl.

But regarding the allegations, Belichick yesterday said, "We're moving on."

Last year, the defensive communication vote fell two tallies shy of the three-quarters majority needed to pass. In a change from last year, Belichick voted in favor of the move.

Belichick still wonders about the logistics of making sure only one defensive player with a helmet radio is on the field.

"The concept of it is fine, but the logistics of it are a different story," Belichick said. "You don't always have a quarterback in the game on

defense like you do on offense. It's a bit of a different setup. There is a substitution issue. Even the way it's proposed now, if you have a middle linebacker like [Chicago's] Brian Urlacher or [Baltimore's] Ray Lewis, or somebody like that who played on every single play on defense as kind of the equivalent of the offensive quarterback, then that's one thing. A lot of teams don't have that, and I'd say we would fall into that category."

New England's defense often changes from play to play; linebacker Mike Vrabel and safeties Rodney Harrison and James Sanders would be the players who came close to playing every defensive snap during a Pats' game last season.

As of now, teams will designate two defensive players before the start

of each game, submitted with the day's inactives, as the designated radio-wearing players and they will have a visual signifier, similar to the green dot on the back of quarterbacks' helmets. Only one such player can be on the field at any time, and if the players substitute in and out, they must check in with the umpire; failure to do so will result in a five-yard penalty for illegal substitution.

Tennessee head coach Jeff Fisher, a member of the NFL's Competition Committee, said that hand signals, like those New England was accused of trying to steal, will still be necessary.

"The defense will still have need to signal in a 'hurry-up' situation, where

SEE PATRIOTS, C3

## Matsuzaka's A game too much for Athletics

Boston starter Daisuke Matsuzaka strikes out nine and holds Oakland to two hits over 6½ innings.

BY SEAN MCADAM  
JOURNAL SPORTS WRITER

OAKLAND — In the season-opener last week, Daisuke Matsuzaka fell into a familiar and infuriating pattern — too many pitches, too few strikes.

Last night, in Take Two, Matsuzaka showed how good he can be when he economizes and pitches with a purpose.

Limiting the Oakland A's to a single run on just two hits over 6½ innings, Matsuzaka was more efficient, and by extension, more successful, picking up the win in a 2-1 Red Sox victory.

Freed, perhaps, from the scrutiny of pitching in his homeland, Matsuzaka needed only 96 pitches, or one more than he needed to get a no-decision in five innings a week ago in Tokyo.

Matsuzaka fanned nine and didn't walk a single batter. It was only the fourth time in 34 major-league starts that he didn't issue a walk and the first time since last May 30.

With his pitch count climbing toward 100 in the seventh and the lefthanded Jack Cust — who had homered in the second — due at the plate, manager Terry Francona summoned Hideki Okajima from the bullpen.

Okajima walked Cust, but got Emil Brown, the next hitter, on an inning-ending popup to second.

Closer Jonathan Papelbon, brought in to get pinch-hitter Mike Sweeney with two out and the potential tying run on base, registered a four-out save. He finished by striking out the side in the ninth.

Oakland managed only three hits in the game. Brilliant as he was, Matsuzaka had no offensive

SEE RED SOX, C5

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FOR A COMPLETE REPORT of last night's Red Sox-Athletics game, go to: [projosports.com/redsox](http://projosports.com/redsox)



THE PROVIDENCE JOURNAL / BOB BREIDENBACH

Sox starter Daisuke Matsuzaka unleashes a pitch in the first inning against the A's last night.

## Mondor's return to Pawtucket is harbinger of spring

PAWTUCKET — There's only one thing that could bring Ben Mondor back from sunny south Florida to raw and rainy Rhode Island at this time of year — baseball.

Wax poetic, if you will, about the swallows returning to Capistrano, or seeing the first red robin go bob, bob, bobbin' along. But, for local baseball fans, the surest — and most heartening — sign of spring is when Mondor returns

to his office overlooking the third-base line at McCoy Stadium where, tomorrow night, his Pawtucket Red Sox will play their 32nd opener since he rescued the franchise from financial ruin in 1977.

"I hate the weather this time of year," he said Monday afternoon. "I'm too old for cold weather."

But then that warm, grandfatherly smile crosses his face, the twinkle re-

turns to his eyes, and Mondor quickly adds: "But, what the heck, baseball starts Thursday. I got no complaints. Life is good."

No matter what the weather, life is always good at McCoy where Mondor and the best organization — not just in minor-league baseball, nor even all of professional sports — makes every day special.

Tomorrow night's opener against Indianapolis certainly promises to be.

In a tradition started in 2002, following the tragic events of Sept. 11 the previous year, the PawSox will stage their annual tribute to firefighters and police from Rhode Island, Massachusetts and Connecticut. More than 50 departmental color guards will be on hand, including bagpipers from the R.I. Professional Firefighters who are a particular favorite of Mondor's.

There'll be a flyover by R.I. Army

SEE DONALDSON, C5

JIM DONALDSON



THE PROVIDENCE JOURNAL / ANDREW DICKERMAN

PawSox pitcher David Pauley, center, and his teammates are in good spirits as Opening Day approaches for Pawtucket tomorrow night.

## Celtics continue run to top

BY ANDREW SELIGMAN  
ASSOCIATED PRESS

CHICAGO — Never mind the record.

Ray Allen insisted the Boston Celtics are not the favorites in the Eastern Conference, even if they're closing in on the top seed.

"It's not like we won last year," he said. "We're all pretty much new to

SEE CELTICS, C3