

Is Travis Ford a good selection for the PC coaching job?

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Essential Bears

Only two members of this year's playoff-bound Boston Bruins have been a part of a winning Stanley Cup team:

PLAYER	TEAM	YEAR
Shawn Thornton	Anaheim	2007
Aaron Ward	Detroit	1997
	Detroit	1998
	Carolina	2006

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SECTION C



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Ford could be on board as Friars' next coach today

The UMass coach and Rick Pitino disciple is weighing contract offers on whether to man the sidelines for PC.

BY KEVIN McNAMARA
JOURNAL SPORTS WRITER

PROVIDENCE — Travis Ford and his wife, Heather, were wined and dined and given a grand tour of Providence College and the Dunkin' Donuts Center yesterday. Today, we'll see whether the University of Massachusetts coach

takes the bait.

Ford, 38, is PC's latest choice to fill its vacant men's basketball coaching position. He fits several of the parameters the Friars are looking for in a coach. He's a winner, a creative recruiter and possesses lots of drive.

Perhaps most importantly, he's a Rick Pitino disciple who lived his dream of playing for the former Friar coach at the University of Kentucky and followed Pitino's advice to take the reins at his alma mater in Amherst three years ago.



FORD

contract. The job is certainly his to turn down and the Friar community would clearly welcome this resolution to the

Pitino helped get Ford involved in the Providence search after the Friars' initial choice, George Mason's Jim Larranaga, turned down an offer April 2. As of late last night, PC and Ford had not reached a deal on a

four-week search to replace Tim Welsh. Interestingly, UMass has its season-ending team banquet scheduled for tonight. Ford would almost certainly have to carry a final decision with him back to Amherst.

Ford is 62-35 in three years at UMass, with 49 wins and NIT appearances in each of the last two seasons. Before moving to Western Massachusetts, the Madisonville, Ky., native coached for five seasons at Eastern Kentucky where he made the NCAA Tournament in

2005. The Minutemen finished 25-11 and reached the NIT final last week, losing to Ohio State.

Here are some of the issues Ford must be weighing. First, of course, is money. Last April he signed an extension at UMass through 2015 on a deal that offers a base salary of a reported \$400,000. He would clearly be able to double his money at Providence and would likely sign a

SEE PC, C3

TIGERS ROAR BACK



Red Sox shortstop Julio Lugo gets brushed back at the plate by Tigers' starter Jeremy Bonderman in the fourth inning last night at Fenway Park.

Lester, Sox blow lead to Detroit

BY CAROLYN THORNTON
JOURNAL SPORTS WRITER

BOSTON — BOSTON — It was really only a matter of time.

Dropping their first seven games after being tabbed by many in the pre-season to win the World Series, the Detroit Tigers had to win one eventually.

TIGERS	7
RED SOX	2

NEXT GAME

Tonight vs. Detroit last night at Fenway Park.

After generating only 15 runs combined over its first seven losses, Detroit finally ended its downward spiral with a 7-2 decision over the Sox.

"I thought we had a good approach," said Tigers manager Jim Leyland, whose club put together a 10-hit attack. I thought we laid off balls that some of the time we'd be swinging at early on. I thought we had a good approach. We finally got some timely hits — Edgar (Renteria's) had a couple big hits, (Bran-

SEE RED SOX, C5

It's about time for Henry and Co. to raze the big top at Fenway

BOSTON — Since taking over stewardship of the Red Sox prior to the 2002 season, the current Red Sox ownership has nicely refurbished and expanded Fenway Park, improved relations with players both past and present, and, not incidentally, won two championships.

SEAN MCADAM
JOURNAL SPORTS WRITER

In short, John Henry, Tom Werner and Larry Lucchino have accomplished in a half-

dozen years what Tom Yawkey could not in more than 50.

Coming as they did in the wake of the embarrassing John Harrington administration, an era marked by benign neglect and rampant nepotism, their arrival helped purge the Sox of their ugly past.

But lately, it would seem, ownership has, as the British like to say, lost the plot.

The latest case in point: Tuesday's Open-

ing Day ceremony.

Ring the field were flags, representing the numerous countries of mythical Red Sox Nation.

Once a throwaway phrase coined by a Boston sportswriter, "Red Sox Nation" has become an insufferable marketing gimmick, the point of which is to illustrate the team's vast popularity.

Of course, no one beyond Hank Steinbren-

ner would doubt the team's immense following. The Sox last year outdrew every team in baseball, their TV ratings dwarf those of other clubs and they have become pop cultural touchstones.

Expanding the brand is one thing; relentlessly harping on the team's appeal is quite another.

SEE MCADAM, C5

Barrington coaching giant maintains drive to guide

BARRINGTON — It started nine years ago.

His wife had died, he was in his mid-70s, and there were simply too many days stretching out with nothing to do, his days a blank canvas with not enough color to fill it up.

And maybe it was because he'd been a coach and a teacher all his life, one of those coaches that every small town seemed to have, the guy who coached year after year, as the kids came and went and the years fell off the calendar, and everything changed except him. Maybe it was because he al-

ways had kept getting invitations to visit people, and he decided to take them up on it. Maybe it was the realization that if he didn't do it now he would never do it.

But Frank Murgio decided to go visit some of his ex-players. "It was my way to handle grieving," he said.

So every winter he's gotten into his car and gone off on a month-long odyssey.

His first stop is usually Silver Spring, Md., where he stays with a guy he coached in North Kingstown for two years in the early '50s. Then it's on to Annapolis, Md., to see an-

SEE REYNOLDS, C3



MCT / JAMES LANG

The Wizards' Gilbert Arenas, left, ponders his next move while being guarded by the Celtics' Kevin Garnett during the first quarter of last night's game in Washington.

WIZARDS 109, CELTICS 95

Jamison's stellar return is bad news for Boston

Antawn Jamison scores 27 points as Washington halts the Celts' winning streak at seven.

BY JOSEPH WHITE
ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON — If the Boston Celtics face the Washington Wizards in the playoffs, everyone will remember that Kevin Garnett and the NBA's top club lost three straight to Antawn Jamison's team from the nation's capital.

And there's one highlight that will likely be recalled more than any other: Jamison's baseline

dunk over Garnett in last night's 109-95 victory.

"It's just letting the young fellows know I still got it," the 10th-year veteran said with a laugh. "I joke with them all the time. For me, it was an aggressive move going to the basket, and I was able to find it."

After sitting out two games with a sprained right shoulder, Jamison returned to score 27 points as the Wizards ended Boston's seven-game winning streak and became only the second team to win the season series against

SEE CELTICS, C2