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The Yanks are coming

Despite the Red Sox winning two World Series in the last four years, the Yankees still have the edge in head-to-head battles:

YEAR	RED SOX	YANKEES
2004	11	9
2005	9	10
2006	8	11
2007	8	10

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SECTION C



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RED SOX 12, TIGERS 6



THE PROVIDENCE JOURNAL / BOB BREIDENBACH

The Red Sox' J.D. Drew strokes a hit in the fourth that drove in Manny Ramirez. Boston scored four runs in the inning.

Boston takes good care of its business

The Sox' J.D. Drew, Sean Casey, Manny Ramirez and Kevin Youkilis come through with timely hits against Detroit.

BY JOE McDONALD
JOURNAL SPORTS WRITER

BOSTON — It's only natural that the talk around Fenway Park yesterday was about the Red Sox' and Yankees' first regular-season series of 2008.

And, it's only natural that the Red Sox pooh-poohed this weekend's meeting with their archrivals because Boston still had a game remaining against the Detroit Tigers last night. Red Sox manager Terry Francona was even asked about the Yankees before last night's 12-6 victory over the Tigers, and he gently dismissed the question.

Boston later dismissed Detroit. The Sox' J.D. Drew, Sean Casey, Manny Ramirez and Kevin Youkilis all came through with timely hits to help Boston to victory. In fact, the Red Sox banged out 13 hits, and only David Ortiz went hitless. The Red Sox slugger is now 1-for-his-last-22 at-bats.

Early yesterday afternoon, Ortiz came hobbling down the tunnel leading to the Red Sox' dugout with a huge ice pack on his surgically repaired right knee. He said he was fine, but still struggled during his at-bats. Fortu-

SEE **SOX, C5**

REJECTED AGAIN



AP / DAVID GARD

Travis Ford's intensity will remain on the UMass sideline after he became the latest coach to turn down an opportunity to coach the Providence Friars.

Friars' quest to land Ford falls short

BY KEVIN McNAMARA
JOURNAL SPORTS WRITER

AMHERST, Mass. — That's two kicks in the teeth for the Providence College basketball program. The question is how many more can Friar fans take.

For the second time in a little more than a week, PC was rejected by a leading candidate for its vacant coaching position. On April 2' it was George Mason's Jim Larranaga, a noted alumnus, who rejected a contract offer that was said to be at least five years and as much as \$1 million per season. Yesterday, after a courtship that included a campus tour and tour of the Renaissance City that the candidate termed "very impressive," University of Massachusetts coach Travis Ford said no to PC.

So that's coaches from the Colonial Athletic Association and the Atlantic 10 turning PC and the Big East down. Who's up next?

PC and its athletic director, Bob Driscoll, weren't talking last night and haven't said much through the four-week search to replace Tim Welsh. Driscoll has insisted that the time his search takes is irrelevant. It's the end result that counts. While true, the Friars also must weigh their hunt for a new coach with the fact that the process is growing more uncomfortable by the day.

"It's disappointing. To be turned down like this is disappointing," said Joe Buckley, a PC alumnus and long-

SEE **FRIARS, C2**

Ford's 'no thank you' takes shine off the PC job

BILL REYNOLDS



Want to coach a college basketball team? Want to coach a team that plays in one of the glamour conferences in the country, a job that pays almost a million dollars a year?

Send your resumé to Bob Driscoll at Providence College.

Because the Friars' job is still open. Say it ain't so, Travis Ford.

For just when you thought this coaching search couldn't get any more drawn out

comes the news that Ford has turned this job down and decided to stay at the University of Massachusetts. Just when you thought this couldn't get any more drawn out comes the news that Ford has become the second person that's now turned this job down in a very public way.

First was Jim Larranaga, the first choice, the former Friar who was going to come back and be the first ex-player to coach the Friars. No matter that he would have been

59 by the time next season started, close to the end of the coaching trail. It was going to be the kind of hire that would be welcomed by most of the fan base, the kind of hire that would have played well at a press conference.

It was set. Until he said no at the last minute. Call it a mini-embarrassment.

SEE **REYNOLDS, C2**

THE MASTERS

■ **NEWS OF THE DAY:** Justin Rose shot a 4-under-par 68 to grab a share of the opening-round lead for the second straight year. Rose, 27, was 2-over-par through the first four holes at Augusta National before making six birdies, from the sixth to the 13th holes. **Trevor Immelman** also opened with a 68.

■ **HIGHLIGHT OF THE DAY:** **Ian Poulter** walked off the course with a rare souvenir: a hole-in-one

ball that helped put him high on the leaderboard. The 32-year-old Englishman aced the par-3 16th hole.

■ **WHERE'S TIGER?** The man who owns four green jackets has a word of advice for anyone — including himself — who wants to add one to his wardrobe on Sunday. "Patience," said **Tiger Woods** after shooting an even-par 72 in yesterday's first round. "You've got to have patience."

■ **LEADER BOARD:**

Justin Rose	34-34-68
Trevor Immelman	34-34-68
Brian Bateman	35-34-69
Brandt Snedeker	35-34-69
Lee Westwood	35-34-69
Ian Poulter	35-35-70
Robert Karlsson	36-34-70
Zach Johnson	35-35-70
Stephen Ames	34-36-70
Jim Furyk	34-36-70
Heath Slocum	34-37-71
Mark O'Meara	37-34-71
Peter Lonard	36-35-71

Aron Oberholser	36-35-71
Jeev Milkha Singh	36-35-71
Paul Casey	35-36-71
Retief Goosen	36-35-71
Phil Mickelson	35-36-71

■ **TODAY ON PROJO.COM:** Follow the tournament live at projo.com/golf

■ **THE MASTERS REPORT:** Turn to Page C2



Justin Rose, of England, assesses the second hole during yesterday's opening round of The Masters at Augusta National.

AP / ELISE AMENDOLA



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