

**Keno Davis is the man: Is he a good choice to lead the Friars?**

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**BARRINGTON GOLFERS TAKE CONTROL:** View the gallery at [HSGameTime.com/rhodeisland](http://HSGameTime.com/rhodeisland)

**PC hoops chat**

Kevin McNamara will take your questions about the Friars' new coach from noon to 1 p.m. Friday, at [projosports.com/chat](http://projosports.com/chat)

**Celtics prey on Hawks**

The Atlanta Hawks will be facing the Boston Celtics in the playoffs for the fifth time since the franchise moved from St. Louis to Atlanta in 1968:

YEAR	WINNER	RECORD
1988	Celtics	4-3
1986	Celtics	4-1
1973	Celtics	4-2
1972	Celtics	4-2

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



SECTION C  
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**PC LANDS ITS COACH**

# 'The answer to a prayer'



THE PROVIDENCE JOURNAL / RUBEN W. PEREZ

**Keno Davis, Providence College's new basketball coach, discusses his philosophy during a news conference yesterday at Mullaney Gymnasium in Alumni Hall on the Providence College campus.**

## Drake's Davis agrees to a multiyear deal to lead Friars

BY KEVIN McNAMARA  
JOURNAL SPORTS WRITER

PROVIDENCE — When it came time for Keno Davis to make the biggest basketball decision of his life, he did what he normally does. He called his father.

Davis received a call last Saturday from Providence College athletic director Bob Driscoll. Would the 36-year-old, newly minted consensus national coach of the year consider leaving Drake University for the Big East? Dr. Tom Davis, a coach who won nearly 600 games in a career that included a successful run at Boston College, had a quick answer.

"When I said Providence is interested, he said, 'You've got to go. You've got to go and take a look, at least. It's great basketball. They're going to know their basketball up there,'" said Keno Davis.

On Sunday, Davis presided over a team banquet and then he and his wife, Krista, hopped on a plane to Providence Monday morning. After a day of touring the East Side, Newport and Rhode Island's other hot spots, Davis returned to a hotel in Boston. He spoke with Drake officials several times yesterday morning and the Iowa school offered to sweeten his contract, but he ultimately chose to make the jump to the East.

"Last night I was leaning towards coming here. But it wasn't done, contrary to what everyone thought. I really didn't decide until around 11 or 12 o'clock (yesterday)."

When Davis shook hands with Driscoll and PC president the Rev. Brian Shanley, a mini-celebration erupted at the intersection of Eaton Street and River Avenue. PC's month-long search to replace Tim Welsh was over and the job is now filled by one of the top young coaches in the country.

"I've been walking around today with a huge smile on my face," said Father Shanley. "I told Keno this morning that he is an answer to a prayer. I really believe that."

After being turned down by two other candidates in very public fashion

SEE PC, C5

■ More stories on Pages C4 and C5.  
■ For complete coverage go to: [projosports.com/pc](http://projosports.com/pc)

**KENO DAVIS**

- **Age:** 36
- **Place of Birth:** Easton, Pa.
- **Coaching Career:** 1991-95 — Iowa (asst.); 1995-97 — Southern Indiana (asst.); 1997-03 — Southeast Missouri; 2003-07 — Drake (asst.); 2007-08 — Drake (head coach).
- **Head Coaching Record:** 25-8 (2007-08, Drake).
- **Championships:** Missouri Valley Conference Regular Season Championship (2008); Missouri Valley Conference Tournament Championship (2008).
- **Awards:** AP National Coach of the Year (2008); The Sporting News Coach of the Year (2008); Henry Iba Coach of the Year (2008); Hugh Durham Mid-Major Coach of the Year (2008); Basketball Times Coach of the Year (2008); Missouri Valley Conference Coach of the Year (2008).
- **Personal:** Married (Krista) with one son (Brady). His father, Thomas Davis, was head coach at 6 colleges, including Boston College.

## Keno Davis: Good roots and a great name

PROVIDENCE — Keno? What kind of a name is Keno? "I was named for one of my father's old high school players," he said.

**BILL REYNOLDS**



Seems his father wanted a first name that was going to be distinctive, something to play off a common-place last name like Davis. So Keno it became. Which is only fitting, for both his father and basketball runs

through Keno Davis' life like a beam of light, illuminating everything.

His earliest basketball memories were of old Roberts Center on the Boston College campus. It was the late '70s and early '80s, Tom Davis was the coach, or Dr. Tom as he often was referred to, and Keno Davis came of age in that small gym.

The family lived on Commonwealth Avenue in Newton, a couple of miles from the campus, and he remembers his father walking to work. And sometimes he would tag along, when the names at BC were John Bagley and Jay Murphy, back in the early days of the Big East, when

his father was making his basketball name.

Those were the roots, his first basketball memories.

He was a coach's kid, and that defined everything.

When he was 11 he moved to California where his father became the coach at Stanford, and then it was to Iowa City when Tom Davis became the coach at the University of Iowa.

And it was there, as a high school senior, that he crossed some kind of personal Maginot Line, one of those decisions from which there was no turning back.

He was a high school senior

SEE REYNOLDS, C5

**BOSTON RED SOX**

## Varitek's 9th-inning homer lifts Sox to comeback win

Just like on the previous night, Boston comes up with a big hit in the final frame to complete a two-game sweep of Cleveland.

BY SEAN McADAM  
JOURNAL SPORTS WRITER

CLEVELAND — Something about the Cleveland Indians, evidently, brings out the dramatic best in the Red Sox.

Last October, the Sox stormed back against the Indians and won the ALCS after trailing three games to one.

Last night, for the second time in as many nights, the Sox used a ninth-inning homer to edge the Indians. Jason Varitek supplied a solo shot off the bench to snap a 3-3 tie and send the Sox on to a 5-3 victory. Kevin Youkilis later added a run-scoring single to provide the extra cushion for the Sox, who won their fourth in a row.

RED SOX  
**5**  
INDIANS  
**3**

**NEXT GAME**  
Tonight at New York  
7:05

Hideki Okajima pitched a perfect ninth for his first save. Jacoby Ellsbury, playing right field, made the final out when he reached into the stands to grab a popup.

On Monday night in the series opener, Manny Ramirez had provided the winning margin with a ninth-inning homer of his own.

Varitek was hitting for Kevin Cash. It was the first pinch-hit homer by a Red Sox player since Doug Mirabelli hit one Oct. 2, 2005 and the third pinch-hit homer of Varitek's career.

Until the ninth, all three Red Sox runs had been knocked in by third baseman Jed Lowrie, making his ma-

SEE RED SOX, C7



AP / MARK DUNCAN

**Red Sox rookie Jed Lowrie hits a two-run single off pitcher Rafael Perez during the seventh inning last night.**

**NEW ENGLAND PATRIOTS**

## Travel could be tougher than their foes this year

The Pats appear to have a relatively easy schedule, but four of their games will be played out West.

BY SHALISE MANZA YOUNG  
JOURNAL SPORTS WRITER

In terms of their opponents, the New England Patriots have an easy schedule this year.

But in terms of travel and timing, the slate has gotten significantly more difficult.

The NFL released its 2008 regular-season schedule yesterday, and while the Patriots' opponents, at this point, appear to be easy competition, the travel and timing of the games won't be.

New England opens its season on Sept. 7 with a 1 p.m. home

**2008 Schedule**

- Sept. 7,** Kansas City, 1 p.m.
- Sept. 14,** at N.Y. Jets, 4:15 p.m.
- Sept. 21,** Miami, 1 p.m.
- Sept. 28,** BYE
- Oct. 5,** at San Francisco, 4:15 p.m.
- Oct. 12,** at San Diego, 8:15 p.m.
- Oct. 20,** Denver, 8:30 p.m.
- Oct. 26,** St. Louis, 1 p.m.
- Nov. 2,** at Indianapolis, 8:15 p.m.
- Nov. 9,** Buffalo, 1 p.m.
- Nov. 13,** N.Y. Jets, 8:15 p.m.
- Nov. 23,** at Miami, 1 p.m.
- Nov. 30,** Pittsburgh, 4:15 p.m.
- Dec. 7,** at Seattle, 8:15 p.m.
- Dec. 14,** at Oakland, 4:15 p.m.
- Dec. 21,** Arizona, 1 p.m.

SEE PATRIOTS, C3