

Is it too early to be worried about the Red Sox' pitching woes?

Tell us what you think at projosports.com/redsox



CENTRAL NINE SWEEPS CLASSICAL: View the gallery at HSGameTime.com/rhodeisland

PC hoops chat

Kevin McNamara will take your questions about the future of Friars basketball from noon to 1 today at projosports.com/chat

What's up Doc?

Celtics coach Doc Rivers enters this year's playoffs with the hopes of putting to rest the talk of him being unable to push the right buttons during the playoffs. Rivers' coaching record in the playoffs:

YEAR	TEAM	ELIMINATED
2000	Orlando	1st round
2001	Orlando	1st round
2002	Orlando	1st round
2004	Boston	1st round

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SECTION D
FRIDAY, APRIL 18, 2008

projo SPORTS

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RED SOX 7, YANKEES 5

MANNY BASHING



Manny Ramirez flips his bat aside as he watches his two-run home run — his second of the game — sail over the left-field wall during the third inning. The blast gave the Red Sox a 5-0 lead.

Sox slugger hits 2 homers, and drives in 3 runs

BY JOE McDONALD
JOURNAL SPORTS WRITER

NEW YORK — The Yankees obviously took exception to Manny Ramirez tearing into them last night.

The Red Sox slugger showcased his offensive prowess and dealt New York's pitching staff a huge blow with a pair of home runs, a single, three RBI and three runs scored to lead Boston to a 7-5 victory at Yankee Stadium.

New York's disgust was evident in the top of the seventh inning, when Yankees reliever Kyle Farnsworth threw his first offering to Ramirez high and tight, which made home-plate umpire Larry Vanover issue warnings to both dugouts. Maybe it was the two homers that caused Farnsworth to throw a fastball near Ramirez's head, or maybe it was a little retribution for the Yankees' Alex Rodriguez getting drilled Wednesday.

Either way, it didn't seem to bother Ramirez. "We hit one of the best players here (Wednesday) night, so I guess they just want to send a

SEE RED SOX, D7

Just like playoffs, Beckett steps up big for the Sox

NEW YORK — Reputations are earned in October, not April, and frankly, Josh Beckett has already done enough in his last two postseasons to secure his standing as baseball's best under-30 big-game pitcher.

But sometimes, aces are called upon during the season, too, and asked to win big games, asked to come forward when a team is in need.

Last night was such a night. It should come as little surprise that Josh Beckett was ready when called upon.

The Red Sox' bullpen had been overused and abused the previous four nights. That three of those games resulted in Red Sox wins was secondary. Three weeks into the season, the pitching staff was wobbly, spent on both ends.

The last time through the Red Sox' rotation, after Beckett's last outing Saturday, only Tim Lincecum had been able to get past the fifth inning.

Thanks to the early exits from the starters, the

SEE MCADAM, D7

On NFL draft day, Wilfork sets sights on a fundraiser

Embraced by fans as a player who doesn't put on airs, the Pro Bowler has made battling diabetes, which claimed his father, one of his life's causes.

BY SHALISE MANZA YOUNG
JOURNAL SPORTS WRITER

FOXBORO — With his portly frame, Vince Wilfork is more Everyman than Adonis, and his ample belly coupled with his wide smile are probably part of the reason why he has been so embraced by New England Patriots fans.

His Pro Bowl-caliber play at nose tackle probably doesn't hurt, either.

Wilfork wants to make it clear, however, that while he may be a professional football player, he really is just a regular guy. He's a doting dad who



THE PROVIDENCE JOURNAL / GLENN OSMUNDSON

Patriots nose tackle Vince Wilfork is a regular guy and someone who knows the damage diabetes can cause.

gardens and proudly grows his own herbs, has endured more than his share of difficulties, and worries about how his life will be after retirement.

SEE WILFORK, D5

Freshmen exodus to NBA bilks colleges

Michael Beasley, Kansas State — one and done.

Derrick Rose, Memphis — one and done.

JIM DONALDSON O.J. Mayo, Southern Cal — one and done.

Eric Gordon, Indiana — one and done.

Jerryd Bayless, Arizona — one and done.

Anthony Randolph, LSU — one and done.

DeAndre Jordan, Texas A&M — one and done.

Kevin Love, UCLA — one and done.

All of them are freshmen. All of them are stars in the college game. All of them will be entering the NBA Draft after just one year in college.

Beasley and Rose are expected to be the first two players

drafted. Mayo is likely to be the third pick. Chances are good that all eight will be selected among top 12 — perhaps even the top 10.

So why wouldn't they leave college? If they've learned anything in their brief time in the halls of academe, it ought to be to take the money.

That is, after all, what the colleges that make use of their services for a season are doing.

Once upon a time, most college basketball players actually spent four years at their chosen institution of higher learning. They may not have graduated, but at least they bore some resemblance, however remote in some cases, to student-athletes.

Not anymore. These days, the top young players in college basketball are

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Photographer Kris Craig's multimedia show, Who's Your Favorite Celtic. Coming later today, photo galleries of all five starters, plus test your own knowledge with editor Ken Hamwey's Celtics quiz.

athletes first, and students a distant second. They are in college only because they are banned from being drafted by the NBA until they are 19 years old. They have to do something for a year after graduating from high school, so why not play a little college ball?

Here's why not, related in a conversation I'd love to hear,

SEE DONALDSON, D2