

What position should the Patriots target with their first-round pick?

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SCARLET KNIGHTS CRUISE IN BASEBALL: View the gallery at HSGameTime.com/rhodeisland

McAdam's SoxTalk

Sean discusses the latest Red Sox news in our daily multimedia audio feature at projosports.com/redsox

Springing ahead

From 1953 to 2000 the Red Sox have started 14-7 or better just five times. In this decade alone, the Sox have won at least 14 of their first 21 games six times:

YEAR	AFTER 21	YEAR	AFTER 21
2008	14-7	2003	14-7
2007	14-7	2002	15-6
2004	15-6	2001	14-7

For up-to-the-second stats and scores: projosports.com/redsox



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Phone: 401-277-7340 Fax: 401-277-7444 E-mail: pjsports@projo.com

Goodell, ex-Pats' aide to huddle

Coventry native Matt Walsh will finally discuss alleged videotaping violations by New England with the NFL chief.

BY BARRY WILNER
ASSOCIATED PRESS

NEW YORK — Matt Walsh will get his day with the commissioner. What he has to offer is anyone's guess.

The former Patriots assistant and Coventry native will meet with NFL commissioner Roger Goodell on May 13 about New England's videotaping of opposing teams. It took a couple of months, but the league reached an agreement with Walsh yesterday.

"Commissioner Goodell will meet with Mr. Walsh ... on May 13, the earliest date that Mr. Walsh, who lives in Hawaii, will be available on the East Coast," the NFL statement said. "The agreement also requires Mr. Walsh to return any tapes and other items in his possession that belong to the Patriots. In return, the NFL and the Patriots have promised not to sue Mr. Walsh. They also will indemnify him for any expenses, including legal fees that he incurs in connection with the interview."

During Super Bowl week, and nearly five months after the Patriots were sanctioned for illegal

SEE **WALSH, D7**



Now on projosports.com/patriots: Reports on each NFL team's draft day needs, plus scouting reports on all the prospects.

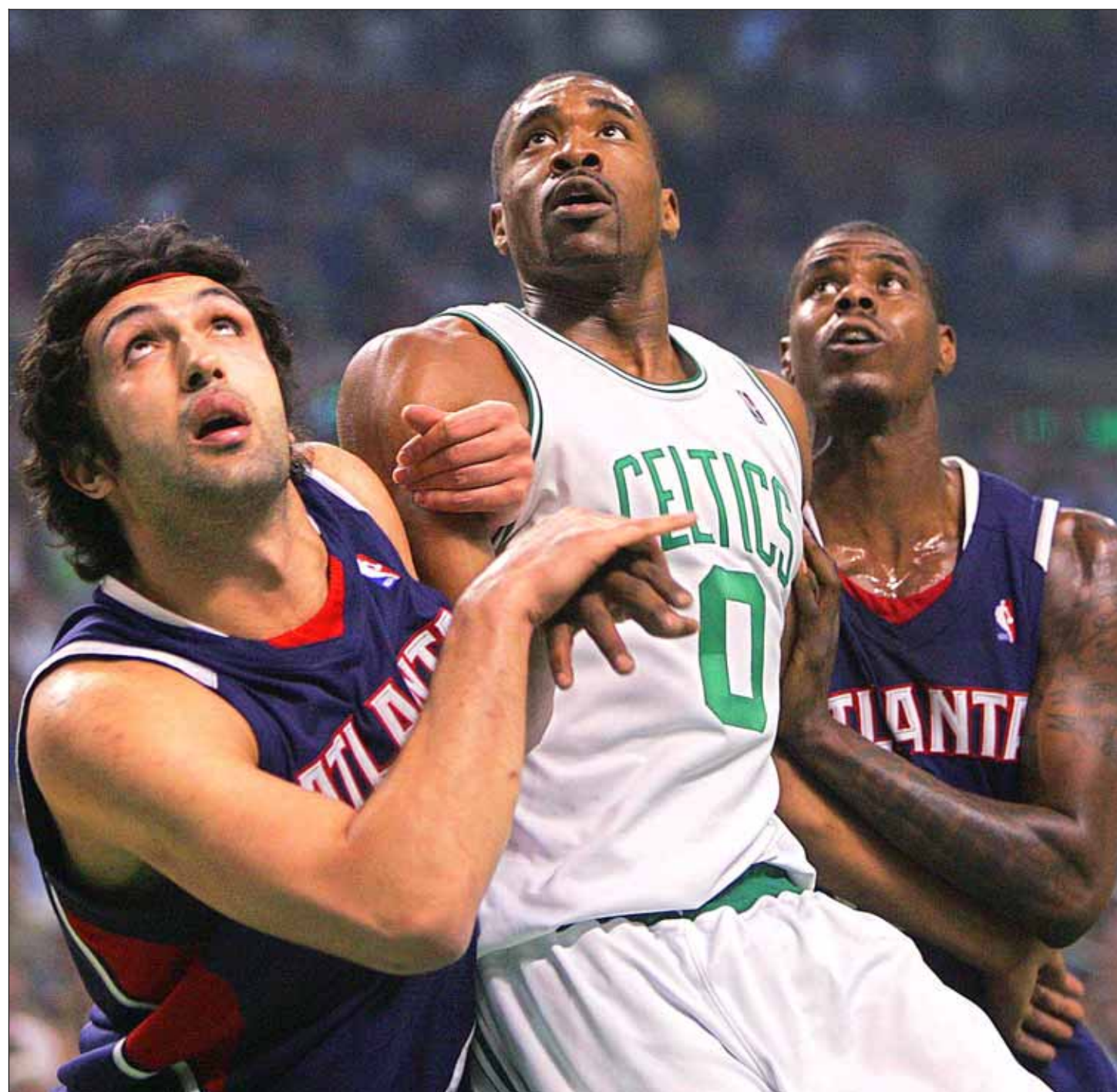


THE JOURNAL / **CONNIE GROSCH**

Matt Walsh must return any items that belong to the Patriots to NFL commissioner Roger Goodell by May 8.

CELTICS 96, HAWKS 77

TAKING CONTROL



THE PROVIDENCE JOURNAL / **GLENN OSMUNDSON**

Leon Powe and the Celtics outmuscled Zaza Pachulia, left, and Marvin Williams, right, and the Hawks once again last night and put Atlanta in a 2-0 hole as the first-round playoff series gets set to head down South.

Celtics soar to 2-0 lead over Hawks

BY KEVIN McNAMARA
JOURNAL SPORTS WRITER

BOSTON — If it seemed as if the Boston Celtics were trying to send a loud, painful message to the Atlanta Hawks late in last night's NBA playoff game, you are paying attention.

With Game Two of their first round series against the Atlanta Hawks well in

hand, the Celts spent much of the Saturday quarter making one big play after another and then congratulating themselves for the effort.

Hard fouls, rebound battles and plenty of high-fives and chest-bumps thrilled the sellout (18, 624) Garden crowd and sent the Hawks slinking back home with a 96-77 loss. Boston leads the series, 2-0, with the third game set for Saturday night at Phillips Arena.

The lead intimidator was Kevin Garnett, the Celtics big man who accepted the league's Defensive Player of the Game award before the game and left the court pounding his chest with the Celts up by 23 points and 2:25 left on the clock. Garnett finished with 19 points and 10 rebounds.

Garnett was one of five Celtics in double figures, with Ray Allen adding 15 points, Paul Pierce 14 and Rajon Rondo ringing up 12 points, 8 assists and 6 rebounds. More importantly, the team's physical defense limited the Hawks to 38 percent shooting. Atlanta is averaging 79 points on 38 percent shooting in the

SEE **CELTICS, D2**

After much frustration, Pierce getting his rewards

BOSTON — We have watched Paul Pierce grow up.

We have watched him come to Boston, a California kid by way of the University of Kansas, who inexplicably fell to the Celtics with the 10th pick in the NBA Draft in 1998.

And from the beginning, he could score.

Oh, how he could score.

But over time it started to get more complicated for the kid who always could take the ball to the basket, a kid who in the parlance of the game always was a "difficult guard." He became a

BILL REYNOLDS



great talent on a team that too often seemed stuck on some treadmill to nowhere, the glory days as gone as the smell of one of Red's old cigars. So he kept putting up big numbers, and the years kept piling up on one another, until one day the perception started to change about him. Yeah, he could score. Yeah, he could always get to the

free-throw line.

Yeah, he was one of the most talented offensive players in the game.

But we started to hear whispers, too, the negatives that became part of the conversation, the negatives that started to follow him around like some afternoon shadow.

He takes too many bad shots.

He doesn't really guard anyone.

He doesn't make anyone around him better.

He's not a leader, even if he's supposed to be the captain.

These became the negatives, real or

imagined, especially after Antoine Walker left, and too often it seemed as if it was Pierce against the world, too many nights when the world won. As if it had become his fate to be a great player on a team going nowhere, a guy who wasn't playing in those big games in the spring, the games that mean everything.

Pierce was an NBA star, no question about that. He made All-Star teams. He had the money. He had the celebrity. He had the lifestyle. He even had the

SEE **REYNOLDS, D2**

ANGELS 6, RED SOX 4

Flu, injuries claim player after player

The Angels snap Boston's wining streak at six games as the Sox are forced to sit out their starting pitcher for the second consecutive game.

BY PAUL KENYON
JOURNAL SPORTS WRITER

BOSTON — Terry Francona often preaches patience. He speaks about how it is needed to get through the long baseball season.

Rarely has patience been more important for his team than it is right now, although not for the usual reasons.

Francona's Red Sox saw their winning streak end at six games when they were beaten, 6-4, by Los Angeles last night, but that is the least of their worries right now.

The crazy string of injuries and health issues brought on by the flu bug are the opponents the Sox have to worry about most.

The health situation, already serious, became even wilder last night, when the Sox had to pull their scheduled starting pitcher for the second straight game. This time, it was Daisuke Matsuzaka who was felled by the flu.

The Sox, who had brought up David Pauley Tuesday to replace the injured Josh Beckett, had no one available to start.

About 4:30 p.m., Jon Lester was working with pitching coach John Farrell when Francona came along and told the two of them that Matsuzaka was out.

"I said, 'I'll pitch if you need someone,'" Lester related. "He kind of laughed and threw it to the side. Fifteen minutes later,

he came back."

This time Francona wanted to know whether Lester, who had been scheduled to start today, really felt he could do it. Lester said yes, and suddenly he became the starting pitcher.

"It was different, no pain or soreness or anything like that," he said. "It didn't feel like the normal five days. That's not an excuse... It was just different."

Lester gave up nine hits and four runs in four innings, but did not get the loss. That went to Craig Hansen.

Oh yes, Hansen was brought up earlier in the day to replace Pauley and help the bullpen. Hansen actually pitched pretty well, but got too much of the plate on a

SEE **RED SOX, D5**

NEXT GAME

Today vs. Angels 1:35



THE PROVIDENCE JOURNAL / **BOB BREIDENBACH**

Los Angeles Angels first baseman Casey Kotchman is tagged out at the plate by Red Sox catcher Kevin Cash in the second inning.