

Do you have more doubts about the Celtics' ability to win a title?

Tell us what you think at projosports.com/celtics



SCHOLARSHIP ATHLETES HEAD FOR DIVISION I: View the gallery at HSGameTime.com/rhodeisland

Game Five preview

Will order be restored? Listen to Kevin McNamara's Celtics audio feature this afternoon at projosports.com/celtics

Like fathers, like sons?

The selections of Chris Long and Matt Slater in this year's NFL Draft means that the sons of six Pro Football Hall of Famers have been drafted by NFL teams:

SON	FATHER
Chris Long	Howie Long
Matt Slater	Jackie Slater
Brian Griese	Bob Griese
Anthony Dorsett	Tony Dorsett
Mike Shula	Don Shula
Kellen Winslow Jr.	Kellen Winslow

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STABLE OF STARS



Scholarships go to three R.I. equestrians

BY MIKE SZOSTAK
JOURNAL SPORTS WRITER

Improbable (adj.): not probable; unlikely to be true or to happen.

How to describe three South County girls who have known each other since kindergarten receiving athletic scholarships to Texas A&M University and the University of Georgia in a sport that no Rhode Island high school sponsors?

You start with improbable. And even that might not describe it.



Katie Hagerty, left, and Jackie O'Connell, training at Grazing Field Farm in Buzzard's Bay, Mass. last month, have made their mark in equestrian.

Well, meet Lia Chafee and Katie Hagerty of Wakefield and Jackie O'Connell of Saunderson, three Rhode Island seniors you probably have not heard of but who have received athletic scholarships to big-time Division I universities. Water polo players? No. Team handball standouts? Not quite.

Chafee, Hagerty and O'Connell ride horses, and they are going to college on equestrian scholarships. Chafee, a senior at the Ethel Walker School in Simsbury, Conn., and O'Connell, a senior at Lincoln School in Providence, are bound for College Station to ride for the Aggies of Texas A&M. Hagerty, a senior at the Prout School in Wakefield, is heading to Athens to ride for the Georgia Bulldogs.

Equestrian? And three Rhode Island friends going off to college on riding scholarships at the same time? That has to be a first.

"I couldn't imagine not riding anymore," said

SEE EQUESTRIAN, C6

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READ MORE about Rhode Island high school athletes receiving scholarships on HS Gametime, projo.com's high school site. The expanded report includes a list of athletes who have received Division I scholarships this year, a closer look at girls' basketball recruiting, and a talk with URI coaches, who don't like to see local athletes get away. Go to: hsgametime.com/rhodeisland



Katie Hagerty, an equestrian standout at the Prout School in Wakefield, will showcase her riding skills at the University of Georgia in the fall.

RED SOX 1, BLUE JAYS 0



THE PROVIDENCE JOURNAL / GRETCHEN ERTL

The Red Sox' Kevin Youkilis is congratulated by teammates after his single scored David Ortiz with the winning run in the ninth inning.

Clutch plays tip balance on a night for pitchers

Boston's Jon Lester battles Toronto's Roy Halladay to a standoff, before Dustin Pedroia makes a superb defensive play and Kevin Youkilis drives in the winning run in the ninth.

BY PAUL KENYON
JOURNAL SPORTS WRITER

BOSTON — There was a return to old-fashioned baseball last night at Fenway Park, a dazzling pitching duel that was decided by both a great defensive play and a clutch hit in the ninth inning.

The pitching came from Boston's Jon Lester and Toronto's Roy Halladay. Both were superb. The defensive gem and game-winning hit were supplied by the Red Sox, with Dustin Pedroia and Kevin Youkilis doing the honors.

It all added up to a thrilling 1-0 Red Sox victory over the Blue Jays in a contest played in a rapid two hours and 18 minutes. The win also ended Boston's five-game losing streak.

It was not exactly the way the Red Sox usually break a bad streak, but it was a great show for baseball purists.

Halladay and Lester dominated so much early on that all but one of the game's first 23 outs were made in the infield or on strikeouts. The first outfield putout by either team came when Vernon Wells' caught a routine fly ball by Manny Ramirez for the final out in the bottom of the fourth.

The only other ball to leave the infield in the first four innings was a single to center by Youkilis in the second. Boston's first outfield putout came when Lyle Overbay's drive to right-center was hauled in by Brandon Moss. Neither team got a runner past first base until the ninth inning.

"Both guys on the mound, Lester and Doc (Halladay), did their thing," said Toronto manager John Gibbons. "Great pitching on both sides is basically what it came down to."

SEE RED SOX, C5

Celts see their lack of defense as the culprit

Boston's slip in Games Three and Four has allowed Atlanta to get back into the first-round playoff series.

BY MIKE SZOSTAK
JOURNAL SPORTS WRITER

WALTHAM, Mass. — Atlanta shot 38 percent in the first two games of this first-round playoff series with the Celtics and lost. The Hawks shot 47 percent in the next two games and won.

The difference? Boston's slip in defense in Games Three and Four.

The Celtics ran to a 16-3 lead in the first quarter Monday night but let the Hawks in the game by getting into foul trouble. Kevin Garnett, Paul Pierce and Rajon Rondo each picked up two in the first

quarter and went to the bench.

The Celtics led by 10 at the start of the fourth quarter and by four late in the game but failed to make a stop when most needed and again allowed Atlanta to take the lead. Twice down the stretch the Hawks grabbed key offensive rebounds.

"The ball bounces off, and they get it," Garnett said yesterday after a review of the game tape. "We needed a stop, and we would play defense for 22 or 23 seconds and the shot would go up and (Josh) Childress got a big rebound and (Al) Horford got another one. When you play defense you got to finish it off with rebounds. We didn't finish off our defense."

The Celtics didn't have an answer to Hawks guard Joe Johnson in the two

games at Philips Arena. He scored 23 points in Atlanta's 102-93 victory in Game Three and 35 in the 97-92 triumph in Game Four. Johnson buried 14 of his 24 field-goal attempts in Game Four.

"When he's in a zone like that, there's not too many people who can stop him," Kendrick Perkins said, adding that Johnson fed off the energy of the Atlanta crowd. "Before we went to Atlanta, Joe hit one jump shot. We get to Atlanta and he hits jump shots and threes and elbow jump shots," Perkins said.

So how do the Celtics stop him? "We got to make him play in a crowd," Perkins said. That means tighter defense on the perimeter and contesting layups

NEXT GAME

Tonight vs. Atlanta 8:30

SEE CELTICS, C3



Atlanta's Josh Smith takes the ball to the hoop as three Celtics converge on him during the second half of Saturday night's Game Three.

THE JOURNAL / GLENN OSMUNDSON