

Is Manny Ramirez giving the Red Sox more effort this season?

Tell us what you think at projosports.com/redsox



NORTH KINGSTOWN WHIPS EAST GREENWICH: View the gallery at HSGameTime.com/rhodeisland

Patriots mini-camp

See what's going on in Foxboro, where Shalise Manza Young will be sending live blog reports to projosports.com/patsblog

Rays of Hope

The Tampa Bay Rays, tonight's Red Sox opponent, just had the best month of April in team history. In fact, the team has only had a better month three times in its 10-year existence:

YEAR	MONTH	RECORD
2004	June	20-6
2000	June	15-11
1999	August	16-12
2008	April	14-12

projosports.com/redsox



FRIDAY, MAY 2, 2008

projo SPORTS

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



THE PROVIDENCE JOURNAL / MARY MURPHY

Paul Pierce goes after a loose ball with Atlanta's Marvin Williams in Wednesday's win by the Celtics in Boston.

BLUE JAYS 3, RED SOX 0

IT'S NEVER EASY



THE PROVIDENCE JOURNAL / MARY MURPHY

Toronto manager John Gibbons argues with umpire Bruce Dreckman after Dreckman's balk call on the Blue Jays' B.J. Ryan in the ninth inning.

Jays sweat out precious win after belated balk call

The ball had settled into the glove of outfielder Alex Rios, and finally the Toronto Blue Jays had themselves a win.

SEAN MCADAM

Or did they? As the rest of the Blue Jays filed out of the dugout and prepared to celebrate, second-base umpire Bruce Dreckman had other ideas. Dreckman ruled that Toronto reliever B.J. Ryan hadn't come to a complete stop before delivering the

final pitch to the plate and charged him with a balk.

Brandon Moss, who had been at first, was awarded second base. Coco Crisp, who thought he had fled out to Rios to end the game, was given another chance at the plate.

And somewhere in the back of their minds, you know what most of the Blue Jays' had to be thinking, regardless of their 3-0 lead: Here we go again.

Sox game story, **Page C5**

Two times in two nights, the Jays had watched the Red Sox snatch a game with two outs in the bottom of the ninth, and now, thanks to Dreckman's "upon further review" balk call, it was going to happen again.

Dread filled the Jays, except for those who were filled with rage. "Crap call — c'mon," Blue Jays

manager John Gibbons would say later.

Gibbons, who thought he was leaving the dugout to congratulate his players on just their second win in the last 10 tries, instead found himself being ejected for arguing the balk call.

In the Toronto clubhouse, starter A.J. Burnett, who had blanked the Red Sox for 7 $\frac{1}{3}$ innings, saw Rios

SEE **MCADAM, C5**

Young Hawks will probably force Celts to prove mastery

Boston has looked invincible at home, but the Hawks' ability to run up the score in Atlanta is disconcerting.

BY KEVIN McNAMARA
JOURNAL SPORTS WRITER

BOSTON — At some point in this entertaining, if not strangely odd, first-round playoff series, the Boston Celtics have a few questions to ask themselves.

Are the Celtics as dominant as their 66 regular-season wins indicate? Were they simply caught off-guard by the youthful, energetic Atlanta Hawks last weekend, and was order restored in a 25-point Game Five beat-down?

TONIGHT
At Atlanta
8 p.m.

Maybe the Celtics tore through the regular season while on a mission, more focused than

the flotsam and jetsam of Bobcats, Knicks and Heat scattered around the NBA's Eastern Conference. Now that it's playoff time and every team is playing for its life, do the Celtics really merit a powerhouse label?

Answers to some of the above will come from the rafters of a sold-out Philips Arena tonight at 8 in Game Six of a series that Boston leads by 3-2. The Celtics can knock out the pesky Hawks with a win. Or the underdogs can keep nipping at the top-seeded team's heels and tie the series with a third consecutive home win.

"We just have to go into Atlanta and get it done. It's the biggest game of the year for us," said guard Rajon Rondo. "We have to go in and focus and get this Game Six."

The Celtics and their fans could very well see a ballgame at the Garden on Sunday. If the Celts and Cleveland Cavaliers (who play at Washington) both win tonight, LeBron James and his teammates come to Boston for the start of the next round of playoffs.

But the Celtics could also suit up Sunday for a Game Seven with the Hawks. No one — not the coaches, players or even the fans — think that's a very good idea.

SEE **CELTICS, C3**

Davis' transition to PC challenge from the start

New PC basketball coach Keno Davis has created a Des Moines-to-Providence shuttle that he'll wear out for the next month.

BY KEVIN McNAMARA
JOURNAL SPORTS WRITER

PROVIDENCE — To say that Keno Davis' life is a bit upside down right about now probably isn't being fair. It's worse.

Since Davis was hired as Providence College's new basketball coach on April 15, he has fought through a bundle of emotions. Elation with his new job is probably first. Then quickly come confusion, sadness, excitement

and uncertainty, all in no particular order.

"It's crazy," Davis said by phone this week from Iowa. "but it's exciting, too. The excitement of the people in Providence is great to see, but right now I have a lot of balls in the air."

Davis has created a Des Moines-to-Providence shuttle that he'll wear out for the next month. He'll spend the weekdays in Rhode Island settling into a new program and then fly to Iowa for the weekends, where he'll cut his ties to Drake University and prepare for a move to the Big East with his wife and young son. He

SEE **FRAIRS, C3**



AP / STEPHAN SAVOIA

Patriots chairman and CEO Robert Kraft, right, talks with the team's 2008 first-round draft choice, Jerod Mayo.

Mayo is eager to join Pats' linebacking corps

First-round pick Jerod Mayo meets the media and chats with CEO Robert Kraft.

BY SHALISE MANZA YOUNG
JOURNAL SPORTS WRITER

FOXBORO — He approached the small stage at the center of the Gillette Stadium field, his cornrows freshly plaited and wearing an ensemble similar to the two men who flanked him: a dark suit, pale blue shirt and red-patterned tie.

Jerod Mayo was ready for his close-up.

The New England Patriots' first-round draft pick last weekend, Mayo met with the media

yesterday, receiving his ceremonial number-one blue home jersey from Robert and Jonathan Kraft and answering a few questions about his thoughts and experiences since hearing his name called as the 10th overall pick in the 2008 draft.

"I'm just excited. I'm overwhelmed, really," Mayo said. "Just sitting in Mr. (Robert) Kraft's office, sitting there talking with the owner of the team really overwhelmed me. I'm ready to get my playbook and start learning this defense."

Mayo said he and Kraft talked about life in general, how the predraft process went for the for-

SEE **PATRIOTS, C3**