

Select the high school athlete of the year for Rhode Island

Make your pick at hsgametime.com



RED SOX AND PHILS SQUARE OFF: View the gallery at Projosports.com/redsox

SoxTalk, CeltsTalk

McAdam's Red Sox audio report at projosports.com/redsox
Reynolds and McNamara on the C's at projosports.com/celtics

Extra special

When Kevin Youkilis and Coco Crisp hit back-to-back HRs in the 10th Saturday vs. Cincinnati, it was only the fourth time in team history.

DATE	PLAYERS	OPP.
4/27/03	David Ortiz Jason Varitek	Blue Jays
9/25/85	Glenn Hoffman Dwight Evans	Tigers
6/11/63	Frank Malzone Dick Stuart	Angels

(Source: SABR)



TUESDAY, JUNE 17, 2008

projo SPORTS

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



Rocco Mediate, left, jokes with Tiger Woods after Woods' sudden-death playoff victory in the U.S. Open yesterday.

U.S. OPEN

All of a sudden, it's the tale of Tiger

Tiger Woods' knee gave him problems, his driver gave him fits and Rocco Mediate gave him the fight of his life.

BY GARY D'AMATO
MILWAUKEE JOURNAL SENTINEL

SAN DIEGO — It took 72 holes of regulation, an 18-hole playoff and one hole of sudden death to arrive at the foregone conclusion.

Yes, Tiger Woods, the overwhelming favorite going into the 108th U.S. Open, delivered at Tor-

rey Pines. He won his third Open title and his 14th major championship on a course that should be renamed Tiger Pines, for all the trophies he has hoisted on this scrubby mesa overlooking the Pacific.

But it wasn't easy. In fact, it couldn't have been any tougher. Woods' surgically repaired left knee gave him problems. His driver gave him fits. And Rocco Mediate gave him the fight of his life.

Pushed to the brink by Mediate, a 45-year-old journeyman with a quick smile, a bad back and nothing to lose, Woods finally

ended the affair with a par on the 91st hole yesterday.

It was the culmination of a magical week in which Woods: a) eagled the 18th hole Saturday to take a one-shot lead into the final round; b) birdied the 72nd hole Sunday to tie Mediate at 1-under-par 283 and force an 18-hole playoff; and c) birdied the 18th hole in the playoff to tie Mediate at even-par 71 and extend the marathon into sudden death.

"This is probably," Woods said, "the greatest tournament I've ever had."

It probably ranks among the greatest ever played, not because the golf was so exquisite — it wasn't — but because of the number of times Woods got up off the canvas to outlast a lesser opponent who refused to buckle.

"I can't wait five more years until he's off our Tour," said an admiring Woods, referring to Mediate's eligibility for the Champions Tour. "It was an unbelievable, gutsy performance. He put so much pressure on me today."

SEE U.S. OPEN, C3

NBA FINALS 2008



RESULTS

GAME	SCORE
ONE	Celtics 98, Lakers 88
TWO	Celtics 108, Lakers 102
THREE	Lakers 87, Celtics 81
FOUR	Celtics 97, Lakers 91
FIVE	Lakers 103, Celtics 98

SCHEDULE

GAME	DATE	SITE
SIX	Tonight	at Boston
xSEVEN	Thursday	at Boston

x — if necessary
All games begin at 9 p.m. Eastern.

WATCH AND LISTEN

- Television: ABC (over-the-air Channel 6, Cox Channel 6, Cox HD Channel 702, Verizon FIOS Channel 6, Verizon FIOS HD Channel 806)
- Television announcers: Mike Breen, Mark Jackson, Jeff Van Gundy and Michelle Tafoya
- Celtics Radio: WEEI-FM (103.7) and WSAR AM (1480)
- Celtics announcers: Sean Grande and Cedric Maxwell

TONIGHT ON PROJO.COM

- A complete pre- and postgame report, including:
 - News and notes before the game from Kevin McNamara and Rob Lee.
 - Play-by-play updates and live box score.
 - News updates during the game.
 - Game recap from Kevin McNamara, with locker-room reaction.
 - Postgame column from Bill Reynolds.
 - Additional stories from Rob Lee.
 - A slide show from the game.

TOMORROW ON PROJO.COM

- Audio report from Kevin McNamara
- Updates and reports as they become available.

ALWAYS ON PROJO.COM

- Audio blogs from Journal writers.
- Video from Journal photographer Kris Craig.
- "The Bandwagon," featuring quizzes, Q-and-A's, and everything you need to know about the Celtics.

Go to: projosports.com/celtics

THERE'S A SIXTH SENSE



MCT / MICHAEL GOULDING

A fired-up crowd at TD Banknorth Garden tonight should fire up Celtics' forward Paul Pierce as he hopes to continue his stellar play in the NBA Finals and deliver Boston its first NBA title in 22 years.

Celtics like chances to clinch tonight

BY KEVIN McNAMARA
JOURNAL SPORTS WRITER

It's time to see if the home-court crutch is enough to save the Boston Celtics.

All season long, the Celtics firmly established themselves as the NBA's premier team. A league-high 66 wins guaranteed that all of the most critical playoff games would tip off inside TD Banknorth Garden. Tonight Celtics' fans will witness one of those games.

The Celts hold a 3-2 lead in the NBA Finals and have two shots at home of knocking out the Los Angeles Lakers and winning the franchise's first championship in 22 years.

"Hey, we're up one game with two games to go at home so it feels like we have the advantage in the series and I do feel like we're the better team," said Paul Pierce.

SEE HOME COURT, C2

It's shaping up as a Celtabration when all is said and done

There are many reasons why Boston will be celebrating an NBA championship this week.

BY MIKE SZOSTAK
JOURNAL SPORTS WRITER

Had Kevin Garnett made those three free throws instead of clanging the rim, and had Paul Pierce been one step farther from Kobe Bryant before the steal of the series, the Celtics would be get-

ting a duck tour of Boston's Championship Trail — Boylston Street to Tremont Street to City Hall Plaza — today instead of preparing for Game Six of the NBA Finals.

But Garnett did miss one with 3:54 remaining and the Celtics down by a point, and two with 2:31 to go and the Celtics down by two. And Pierce was within Bryant's long reach from behind with 40 seconds to play and the Celtics

down by two. Which is why the Lakers escaped the Staples Center with a 103-98 victory on Sunday night.

And that's exactly what it was for Los Angeles. An escape. Boston could have won its 17th NBA championship Sunday night, even with another horrendous (43-24) start, but the Lakers, not the Celtics, made the plays in the last three minutes, sending the series back to the East Coast, where it will end to-

night, or, worst case scenario, Thursday night.

Either way, it will end with a Celtabration. Why? Let us count the ways:

- The Celtics had to win a game out West and they did, with their record-smashing comeback from a 24-point deficit in Game Four. And, despite several concerns — injuries to

SEE CELTICS, C3

PHILLIES 8, RED SOX 2

Long ball puts the hurt on Colon and Boston

Starter Bartolo Colon gives up three homers before leaving after four innings because of a sore back caused by swinging a bat.

BY STEVEN KRASNER
JOURNAL SPORTS WRITER

PHILADELPHIA — At the time, it was humorous, almost fall-off-the-bench funny.

That was the reaction in the Red Sox' dugout when starting pitcher Bartolo Colon took some big hacks in his first at-bat of the season, courtesy of an interleague game in a National League park, where the designated hitter is not used.

Colon loaded up and took a mighty cut,

ostensibly operating under the theory that he was going to swing as hard as he could just in case the ball hit his bat.

As he swung and missed three times in his first at-bat, teammates Coco Crisp, Mike Lowell and Justin Masterson were caught on camera smiling and laughing at the futility of Colon's actions in the batter's box.

A short time later, it wasn't so funny. Nor were there many laughs by the end of the night with Boston falling to the Philadelphia Phillies, 8-2, in front of a crowd of 45,026 at

NEXT GAME
Tonight
at Philadelphia
7:05 p.m.

Daisuke Matsuzaka
excels in rehab
outing. **Page C5**

Citizens Bank Park.

What turned the smiles into frowns wasn't just the loss of the game, but also the loss of Colon.

The rotund veteran right-hander had to leave after four innings — and two wildly swinging strikeouts of his own — because of a sore back.

When he exited, the Red Sox were on the short end of the Home Run Derby in the hitter-friendly ballpark, 4-2. After Mike Timlin poured some gasoline on the fire, raked for four runs in the sixth, the Sox pretty much had to kiss the game goodbye against the Phillies' ace left-hander, Cole Hamels, whose

SEE RED SOX, C5



AP / TOM MIHALEK

Red Sox starter Bartolo Colon wipes his brow after giving up three runs in the first inning of last night's game in Philadelphia.