

Which NBA Draft pick will go on to be the biggest star?

Tell us what you think at projosports.com/celtics



RED SOX WRAP UP HOMESTAND: View the gallery at Projosports.com/redsox

The NBA Draft
See scouting reports of prospects at all positions, follow the live Draft tracker tonight, at projosports.com/celtics

Relying on Lance a lot
Houston Astros Lance Berkman has hit at least 20 homers in each of the last nine years, putting him in good company among switch-hitters that have the most consecutive 20-plus homer seasons in MLB history:

PLAYER	STREAK	YEARS
Chipper Jones	13	1995-07
Mickey Mantle	11	1952-62
Lance Berkman	9	2000-08
Eddie Murray	9	1977-85

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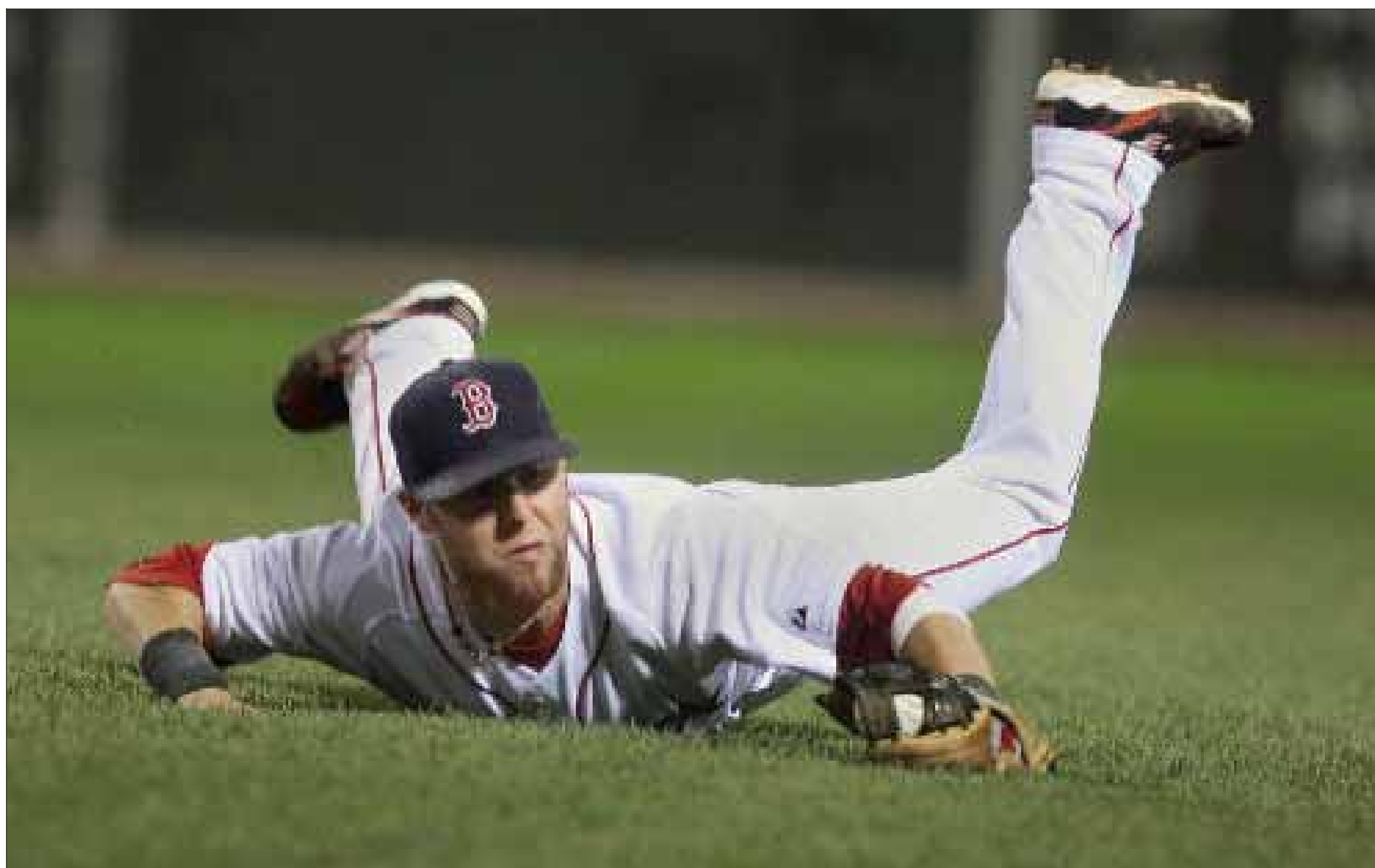
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RED SOX 5, D'BACKS 0

SOX ARE CASHING IN



THE PROVIDENCE JOURNAL / KRIS CRAIG

Red Sox second baseman Dustin Pedroia makes a diving stop of a line drive hit by the Diamondbacks' Stephen Drew in the seventh inning of last night's interleague game at Fenway Park.

Wakefield knuckles down and Cash belts 3-run homer

HALFWAY HOME

The Red Sox have hit the 81-game halfway mark of the season with their third-best record of the last 11 years:

Year	Record
2007	50-31
2006	50-31
2008	49-32
2001	48-33
1998	48-33

JOE McDONALD
JOURNAL SPORTS WRITER

BOSTON — Doug is just a memory. When Red Sox management made the decision to release Doug Mirabelli during spring training, no doubt it was a difficult day for Tim Wakefield. The two were battery mates for eight seasons. Wakefield threw his vintage knuckleball and Mirabelli would catch it. It was that simple.

It got to a point, however, that the back-up catching role in Boston was hurting and something needed to be done. So the Red Sox did it.

Enter Kevin Cash. He had impressed management during his call-up in 2007 when Mirabelli was injured and proved very quickly that he could handle the knuckleball-catching duties. Not only could he receive the Dancing Dandy, but his game preparation also caught the eye of management.

NEXT GAME
Tomorrow at Houston 8:05 p.m.

Cash arrived at spring training primed and ready, and it wasn't long before he was given the job to replace Mirabelli. Wakefield, a very close friend of Mirabelli's, never held anything against Cash. That new relationship quickly matured and it has been very evident over Wakefield's last six starts that the two are on the same page. Wakefield improved to 5-5 with an out-

standing performance against the Arizona Diamondbacks last night at Fenway Park. He worked seven scoreless innings and allowed only two hits with one walk and six strikeouts to lead Boston to a 5-0 victory. "Even from spring training I knew Cash would do a good job," said Wakefield. "Dougie and I worked together for eight years and it was sad to see him leave. On the other hand, I knew Cash would do a

SEE RED SOX, D3

An inside track on how NBA Draft might unfold

You say you've been looking for an NBA Draft preview? You're in luck, courtesy of

BILL REYNOLDS

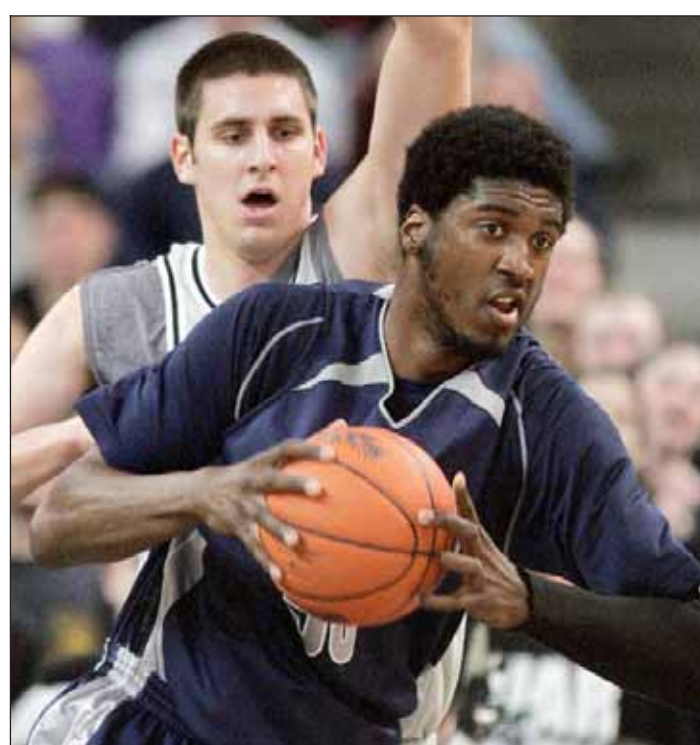


two draftniks, people who make their living working out both NBA players and potential players. One is Rob McClanaghan, a one-time Hendricken star, who works for uber-agent Arne Tellem in Los Angeles. The other is Mike Procopio, known in the basketball world as "Sweet Chuck," who used to work for the Celtics and now works in Chicago for the Attack Athletic Training Center, which is owned by Michael Jordan's former trainer.

The facility includes four full-length courts, a 10,000-square-foot weight room, a state-of-the-art locker room, trainers and masseuses and whirlpools, three beds for naps, and just about anything else a big-time player could want, except maybe dollar bills hanging from the ceiling.

Or as Sweet Chuck says, "It's a basketball country club." Last spring, Attack has had six players working out who all figure to be first-round draft picks tonight, a list that includes O.J. Mayo, Eric Gordon, Donte Green and Brandon Rush. They all work out and play against the likes of NBA players Dwayne Wade, Eddie Curry and Devon Harris, who are forever are breezing in and out.

SEE REYNOLDS, D6



AP / MICHAEL DWYER

The draft stock of Georgetown center Roy Hibbert, front, shown working against PC's Randall Hanke, has dropped.

It's likely that Celtics will have to wait, hope

Danny Ainge, Boston's director of operations, has a list of 23 players on his board who could fit into pick No. 30.

BY KEVIN McNAMARA
JOURNAL SPORTS WRITER

BOSTON — After holding the weight of the world on his shoulders last June, Boston Celtics general manager Danny Ainge can breathe a bit easier when he guides the world champions through the annual NBA Draft.

A year ago, the Celtics owned the fifth pick and oodles of expectations on draft night. Ainge selected Georgetown's Jeff Green with the pick but shuttled him off to Seattle in a five-player deal that brought Ray Allen to town. That trade started a series of events that

ultimately led to Kevin Garnett, James Posey, 66 regular-season wins and world title No. 17.

Ainge's options are much more limited this time around. While he admits to looking to move up in the draft, the newly crowned NBA champions are most likely going to pick 30th, and last, in the first round. Then they'll close the proceedings by picking 60th.

"We were up until two in the morning (yesterday) and we still feel under the gun to make the right decisions," said Ainge, "but it's just not a team-altering thing. We have fewer options. It's a simpler process."

Ainge said he has a list of 23 players on his board who could fit into pick No. 30. While he didn't mention any names, it's clear the

SEE CELTICS, D6