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RED SOX ROLL PAST ATHLETICS: View the gallery at projosports.com/redsox

Baseball Today

Art Martone is back with his daily report of news from around the majors, this morning at 9 at projosports.com/soxblog

A kick going fourth

According to the 2008 Atlantic 10 preseason coaches poll, the URI women's soccer team was picked to finish fourth in the 14-team league:

RANK	TEAM	2007 RECORD
1	Charlotte	16/5/1
2	Dayton	13/4/4
3	Saint Louis	10/6/2
4	URI	12/6/2

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

SECTION B



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NEW ENGLAND PATRIOTS TRAINING CAMP



THE PROVIDENCE JOURNAL / BOB THAYER

Kevin Faulk, taking a break at camp, has been a mainstay of the Patriots' offense.

Love of game is a driving force for Faulk

BY SHALISE MANZA YOUNG
JOURNAL SPORTS WRITER

FOXBORO — When New England Patriots co-captain Kevin Faulk was cited for marijuana possession during the offseason, he readily admitted that it was an embarrassing situation for himself and his family.

But having a young fan in his home state of Louisiana question Faulk about the incident was probably the most uncomfortable aspect surrounding the event.

Today's camp schedule

First session: 9-10:30 a.m.
Second session: 6:30-8:30 p.m.
In-stadium practice.
Ticketed event for season-ticket holders only.

"I had an embarrassing moment when I had a kid that came up to me and asked me how it happened, what happened, and that really kind of made me more embarrassed than anything," Faulk said yesterday.

And his response to the young fan?

"I just gave him the answer that sometimes in life things happen, that you don't want it to happen but it happens in order for you to learn a lesson or in order for you to understand where you are in life and what you need to do to move forward."

Moving forward is something Faulk does well. Now five months removed from the late-February incident in which he was found to have four joints on him during a security check at a Lil' Wayne concert (he pleaded no-contest to the charges last month and received a year of probation), Faulk has put it behind him.

One of just two players who was in New England pre-Bill Belichick — Tedy Bruschi is the other — Faulk is beginning his 10th season.

And it's something he never expected. "No. Never. Not at all," he said. "You try to make yourself a goal that you want to play as long as maybe eight, 10 years, but you never see yourself doing that, especially at the running back position. When I came out (of LSU), they were telling me that the span of a running back is 2½, three years, and here I am seven years after that. So I'm just blessed and I'm happy to be in the situation that I am."

Voted a captain for the first time last year, Faulk enjoyed a stellar season. He played in every game for just the second time, and his 47 receptions were four off his career high, set in his second season. He was even better in the

SEE PATRIOTS, B6



THE PROVIDENCE JOURNAL / BOB BREIDENBACH

Boston rookie Jed Lowrie's two-run triple to deep center field gave the Red Sox a 3-0 lead in the fourth inning yesterday. Lowrie has driven in at least two runs in three straight games, totaling seven RBI.

Surging

Lowrie's two-run triple propels Sox as they sweep the Athletics

BY JOE McDONALD
JOURNAL SPORTS WRITER

BOSTON — Three games may not necessarily make a season, but the last few for the Boston Red Sox have been crucial.

With yesterday's 5-2 victory over the Oakland Athletics at Fenway Park, the Red Sox completed a three-game sweep and will now play the next seven games on the road against Kansas City and Chicago. Boston is hoping these last three games will set the tone for the rest of the season now that the trade deadline has passed.

"One of the things that we talked about was not looking back or looking forward," said Red Sox manager Terry Francona. "We're just kind of attacking what's at hand and we did that very well. We played with energy and it was a good day."

The tension (aka Manny Ramirez) has been removed from the clubhouse. The club now knows exactly what it has moving forward. It has set its goal to defend its World Series championship and the last couple of days have helped the Sox move in the right direction.

"I've only been here for a month in April and for a couple of weeks before the trade deadline, and when you're that new to a team you can feel the tension," said rookie shortstop Jed Lowrie, who has been a major contributor of late. "That just says that a lot of these other guys had to be feeling it a lot more than I did."

Red Sox starter Daisuke Matsuzaka improved to 12-2 with a solid six-inning performance in which he allowed only two runs on four hits with two walks and eight strikeouts. Timely hitting was also key for Boston yesterday as Kevin Youkilis provided an RBI single, Lowrie added a two-run triple and Coco Crisp contributed a pair of sacrifice flies en route to victory.

"It's good to get back on the winning track," said Youkilis. "The team (Tampa) in front of us is picking up a lot of wins, so we have to play one day at a time. The biggest thing is we're playing good baseball."

The removal of Ramirez from the clubhouse isn't the only factor why the Red Sox have been winning of late. Lowrie's dynamic play has helped.

He was recalled from Pawtucket on July 12 when the Sox' starting shortstop Julio Lugo suffered a quadriceps strain. Since then, Lowrie has started 11 of 13 games and has hits in nine of those



Daisuke Matsuzaka allowed two runs and had eight strikeouts in six innings yesterday.

games, going 11-for-38. His triple yesterday was the first of his major-league career, and he also driven in at least two runs in three straight games, including seven RBI.

His triple came in the fourth inning with the Red Sox holding a 1-0 lead thanks to Youkilis' RBI in the first inning. With one out and two on, Lowrie drove a ball to deep center field that cruised over the head of Oakland's Carlos Gonzalez.

"I was thinking sac fly and then I saw the ball was carrying," said Lowrie. "It got over his head and I kept running. Once it gets into that corner you can run for days. I thought I'd done my job and it worked out better with the two RBI, and then I ended up scoring a run on Coco's sacrifice fly."

Boston had a 4-0 lead after four innings before the A's pushed across a pair of runs in the top of the fifth. Crisp added his second sacrifice fly of the game in the sixth inning for a 5-2 lead, one the Sox would not relinquish.

It's clear Lowrie is comfortable at the plate as he continues to come up with the timely hits and defensive plays. His approach is simple and he's proven that he can handle playing every day at this level.

"I've always been of the belief if you put in the

SEE RED SOX, B5

Ocean State's 1st gold medalist to shine spiritual light on Olympians

BARRINGTON — Thanks to a helping hand from her many friends, Janet Moreau Stone will be on hand to help America's Olympic athletes in Beijing.

JIM DONALDSON



doing what I hoped to do, and that's great."

"I'm excited," she said. "I didn't want to go just to watch. I'd have had kind of a guilty conscience if that's all I was doing. It's costing a lot of money to send me. Now I'm going to be doing what I hoped to do, and that's great."

What she'll be doing is acting as an

interfaith chaplain to the U.S. team.

It's hard to imagine anyone better suited for the role.

A former gold medal winner — for many years, she was Rhode Island's only gold medal winner, after running the third leg of the 4 x 100 relay in Helsinki in 1952 — Mrs. Stone had a career teaching physical education at Barrington Middle School.

She also became a Eucharistic minister after studying at the Ministry Institute of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Providence, and eventually took vows as a Third Order Dominican — a lay lifestyle that includes daily prayer and attendance at church services.

For 15 years, she volunteered as a chaplain at Roger Williams Hospital, where she spent most of her time with patients in the intensive-care unit. She had to stop after a hip replacement made it difficult for her to make her rounds. Instead, she began to visit the elderly in nursing homes.

"What I try to do," she said, "is listen. The people I see are often very sick, and they're groping for a relationship. They talk with me, tell me their feelings — things they can't tell their families."

"When you go to people who are in that condition, you get so close to them. They appreciate so much what you do for them."

What Mrs. Stone believes she can do for America's Olympic athletes is help them prepare, spiritually and mentally, to compete at their optimum level, physically and emotionally, in the Games.

"I'm going to be introduced to our athletes in the Olympic Village on August 15," she said. "Because I'm a former Olympian, and have a gold medal, I can relate to how they feel going into competition. I can understand the pressures they're under. I certainly was a bunch of nerves before I ran. Every morning, I'll report to the Olympic Village to see if anyone wants to talk."

SEE DONALDSON, B2



THE PROVIDENCE JOURNAL / CONNIE GROSCHE
Janet Moreau Stone believes she can help U.S. athletes spiritually and mentally in Beijing.