

Is it important to you that pro athletes also be good role models?

Tell us what you think at projosports.com/redsox



PATRIOTS CLOSE IN ON FIRST EXHIBITION: View the gallery at projoSPORTS.com/patriots

Projo PatsTalk

Shalise Manza Young discusses André Tippett's enshrinement and the Pats' offensive line, at projosports.com/patriots

Sacks appeal

It was no coincidence that the top five teams to lead the NFL in sacks in 2007 combined for a 60-20 regular-season record. All five advanced to the postseason:

TEAM	SACKS	RECORD
N.Y. Giants	53	10-6
N.E. Patriots	47	16-0
Dallas Cowboys	46	13-3
Seattle Seahawks	45	10-6
S.D. Chargers	42	11-5

SECTION C



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FLAILING AWAY AGAIN



AP / ED ZURGA

Clay Buchholz squanders a two-run lead, and the Red Sox strand 12 runners in losing their opener against the Royals.

BY SEAN McADAM
JOURNAL SPORTS WRITER

KANSAS CITY, Mo. — Clay Buchholz couldn't figure out how to get a big out in the third inning. For most of the night, his teammates couldn't deliver a big hit. Taken together, those two failings provided a rather predictable result.

Stranding an even dozen — including three in the ninth inning — the Red Sox saw two modest three-game winning streaks come to end: one overall and another on the road as they dropped a frustrating 4-3 decision to the Kansas City Royals.

The Sox had their chances against closer Joakim Soria. A bizarre collision between Kansas City third baseman Alex Gordon and shortstop Tony Pena Jr. enabled Jason Bay to reach on a run-scoring infield hit and bring the Sox to within a run.

Sean Casey then lashed a liner that looked for a minute to have a chance to fall in. But right fielder Mark Teahen gloved it, and the Sox and extended their futility with runners on base (3-for-16 after the first inning) for the night. "I really thought like I hit into the corner," said Casey, "but [Teahen] was right where I hit it."

"We gave ourselves a chance," lamented manager Terry Francona. "Even 0-and-2, Casey took a great swing. But we had dug ourselves too big a hole."

It was that kind of night for the Sox, who have yet to win more than three in a row away from Fenway all season.

The Sox' offense was silent between the first and last innings. A walk to J.D. Drew, a double by Dustin Pedroia, an infield out by David Ortiz and a run-scoring double by Kevin Youkilis jump-started the Sox in the first to a 2-0 edge over Kansas City starter Gil Meche.

But though Meche labored, needing 109 pitches to get through six, they couldn't use his five walks to their advantage.

In the eighth, after singles from Casey and Jed Lowrie gave the Sox runners at the cor-

ROYALS
4
RED SOX
3

NEXT GAME

Tonight
At Royals
8:10 p.m.

Red Sox starting pitcher Clay Buchholz tosses a pitch during the first inning of last night's game against Kansas City.

SEE **RED SOX, C5**

Manny Ramirez, walking through the dugout after a news conference before the Dodgers' game against Arizona in Los Angeles last Friday night, has made entitlement an art form.

AP / CHRIS CARLSON



There is plenty of 'quit' in Manny

So Manny is gone, baby, gone, and everyone seems to have an opinion on whether that's good or bad.

But one thing's sure, whether you thought he was quirkily lovable or a clown in cleats: He sent out just about every bad message there is.

BILL REYNOLDS
Call him the anti-role model. In a perfect world, kids in New England would not have been allowed to watch him, for in his time in Boston he was a walking advertisement for everything that's wrong with professional sports.

He was paid a ludicrous amount of money to play a child's game, an amount that made him think he was immune to life's realities. He had an exaggerated sense of his own importance. He came to believe that he was

somehow exempt from both the rules of the Red Sox and the unofficial rules of the game, that everything revolved around him, entitlement as an art form.

And worst of all? He quit on his team.

Is there anything worse you can say about an athlete? But this is what Manny did, whatever his reasons.

Whether it was part of his strategy to get out of Boston or he simply is a child in a man's body is ultimately irrelevant.

He also quit on the game. For something's very wrong when some aging guy in a weekend softball league tries harder than Ramirez

SEE **REYNOLDS, C5**

Lineman Smith aims for world of improvement

The third-year defensive lineman has worked hard in the offseason to reshape his body and increase his speed.

BY SHALISE MANZA YOUNG
JOURNAL SPORTS WRITER

FOXBORO — Le Kevin Smith put in his work during the offseason, as the third-year defensive lineman worked to reshape his body and increase his speed.

But he also found a way to enjoy himself, taking two trips to Europe: the first to fulfill a dream to see the Colosseum in Rome, and the second to Finland, where he visited the family of a college teammate and taught American football to children there.

A construction management major at Nebraska, Smith has always had an interest in architecture and is fascinated by the Colosseum: its age, craftsmanship, and even the

acoustics, the way that people even at the top could hear words spoken on the arena floor.

Smith enjoyed every part of his trip to Italy, recalling the hand-carved marble and the beauty of the buildings there.

The food wasn't bad, either: Smith's traveling companion was a friend with grandparents in the country, and upon their arrival, he was greeted with a plate of homemade pasta that was the best he's ever tasted.

Later he went to Finland, where one of his best friends from his college days, Seppo Ewvaraye, was born. Ewvaraye hails from Vaasa, on the western coast, and Smith visited Helsinki as well.

The architectural style there, Smith said, is more modern and clean, and he was taken by the friendliness of the people and the beauty of the land. They're law-abiding, too

— Ewvaraye warned him that Finnish people don't even do something so rebellious much as jaywalking.

Though as a reserve on a line that features Pro-Bowl players Richard Seymour and Vince Wilfork as well as standout Ty Warren, Smith isn't yet a household name. Still, he met several die-hard New England Patriots fans in Finland, and a few knew who he was as well. Smith joked with Ewvaraye that he's "international" now.

Soccer, of course, is a huge sport in the Scandinavian country, so the children at the clinic knew the basic rules of football, but when it came to showing them moves, Smith had to get pretty specific.

"They didn't know football technique and hand placement and things like that," he



THE PROVIDENCE JOURNAL / GRETCHEN ERTL

Le Kevin Smith, after an offseason of traveling, has his feet on the ground.

SEE **PATRIOTS, C3**

NEW ENGLAND PATRIOTS TRAINING CAMP

Today's camp schedule
Single session:
2:30-4:30 p.m