

How worried do you think the Patriots are about Tom Brady's foot?

Tell us what you think at projosports.com/patriots



RED SOX FEAST ON THE BIRDS AGAIN: View the gallery at projosports.com/redsox

Projo Red Sox

Live, batter-by-batter scoring of MLB games, statistical leaderboards and lots of Sox photos, at projosports.com/redsox

Starter is best stopper

The Boston Red Sox are 8-0 in games after they were swept this season, and pitcher Jon Lester has played a big role in four of the wins:

| DATE | OPP. | SCORE | DEC. |
|------|-----------|-------|------|
| 8/18 | Orioles | 6-3 | W |
| 7/21 | Blue Jays | 1-0 | ND |
| 7/3 | Yankees | 7-0 | W |
| 4/29 | Mariners | 4-0 | W |

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

SECTION C



WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 20, 2008

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2008 SUMMER OLYMPICS

LIGHTNING IN A BOTTLE?

Between Games, track is an untapped market



AP / THOMAS KIENZLE

Jamaica's Usain Bolt, who turned in an electrifying performance in the 100 meters, competes in a 200-meter semifinal in Beijing yesterday.

BY GEORGE VECSEY
THE NEW YORK TIMES

BEIJING — Back in the States, every New Year's Day, decades of listeners enjoyed hearing Keith Jackson describe the Rose Bowl of college football as "the granddaddy of them all."

In the Summer Games, track and field is the granddaddy of them all. It roars to life every four years, filling stadiums as gymnastics and swimming shut down.

The people in the stands may not follow this sport from one Olympiad to another, but they know drama and athleticism when they see it. Last night, they roared for Usain Bolt of Jamaica even though he virtually jogged to a 20.09 victory in a 200-meter semifinal, and they cheered for Roqaya Al-Gassra of Bahrain, wearing the form-fitting hood and overshirt of hijab, the cover of Muslim piety, as she won her semifinal heat in the 200.

But track and field tends to vanish between Olympic Games, except for

hard-core fans. Now two progressive thinkers are wondering if the world could be attracted to phenomons like Bolt if they were presented in some rational pattern over four years, without the current blight of drugs.

"I've got family who want to know that what they are watching is legitimate," said Sebastian Coe, who won the 1,500 gold medal in 1980 and '84 and is now the chairman of the organizing committee for the 2012 London Games.

Coe dropped into Beijing recently to deliver a cheery update on Lon-

SEE TRACK, C6

INSIDE

Shawn Johnson's gold in the balance beam puts the finishing touches on a superb performance by American gymnasts. **Page C6**
Lolo Jones and Sanya Richards, who were favored to win gold in women's track, fall short. **Page C6**



MCT / JEFF SINER

Usain Bolt reaches out to fans to celebrate a gold medal and a world record in the 100 meters Saturday.

RED SOX 7, ORIOLES 2



AP / NICK WASS

Red Sox starter Daisuke Matsuzaka delivers a pitch against the Orioles during the third inning of last night's game.

Beat goes on for the Red Sox in Baltimore

BY JOE McDONALD
JOURNAL SPORTS WRITER

BALTIMORE — Red Sox manager Terry Francona doesn't like to talk about possible team MVPs.

With six weeks remaining in the regular season, Kevin Youkilis and Dustin Pedroia can make a case as to who has been more valuable to the club. But Francona and his players will leave that discussion for the fans, because the only thing the Red Sox are concerned about is winning.

Since arriving at Camden Yards, that's what Boston has done the last two games, including a 7-2 victory last night.

To say Youkilis and Pedroia had interesting nights is a huge understatement.

Youkilis went 3-for-5, including a two-run homer and an RBI single. The Gold Glove first baseman has been playing third base since Mike Lowell (oblique) went on the disabled list. But last night he played a total of three positions — sort of.

He started the game at third, then shifted to first when starter Sean Casey was removed in the seventh inning for defensive purposes. With Youkilis playing first, Jed Lowrie was inserted to play third, with Alex Cora at shortstop.

That infield configuration changed in the eighth inning when Pedroia was ejected for arguing a checked-swing call. So Jeff Bailey was inserted at first, Youkilis went back to third and Lowrie moved to second.

"Youk has been a huge player for us," said Francona. "Even defensively, and (last night) he was all over the diamond because of his versatility. He's been very productive at the plate, and we need him to be."

Before he was ejected, Pedroia went 1-for-4 with a double, a walk and two runs scored.

It's been the duo's play all season that has proved crucial.

"He's been great all year long," said Pedroia.

SEE RED SOX, C5

NEXT GAME

Tonight at Baltimore 7:05

Patriots' Cassel trying to keep it all positive

New England's backup quarterback has been off target in the preseason, but tells detractors he isn't ready to lose a grip on his job.

BY SHALISE MANZA YOUNG
JOURNAL SPORTS WRITER

FOXBORO — Matt Cassel has a few things in common with Tom Brady — they're both northern California natives, both were selected in the late rounds of the Major League Baseball draft, both are listed at 6-foot-4.

But when it comes to media attention, it's generally not even close. Brady wins that one in a landslide.

Except when Cassel is the starting

quarterback, as he's been for the New England Patriots' first two exhibition games. Then, the media descend on his locker en masse, just as they do when Brady is holding one of his weekly news conferences.

The career backup, who would seem to be fighting for his job as the number two to number 12, has struggled, both in the games against Baltimore and Tampa Bay, and on the practice field.

Against the Ravens and Buccaneers, Cassel is a combined 7-for-14 for 68 yards with an interception and a sack. He has

been under center for nine drives, and has yet to lead the offense into the end zone.

Despite all his difficulties, Cassel faced the music yesterday and handled it well.

"There's a lot of things going on. As the leader of the offense, you want to go out and you want to perform, but statistics aren't always the tale of the tape," he said. "You go and you watch the tape and you see what you did right, you see what you did wrong, but they [numbers] don't always tell the story."

"Everybody wants to go in and we want to put points on the board; we want to score. Of course we take it personally."

MATT CASSEL

SEE PATRIOTS, C2



THE PROVIDENCE JOURNAL / GRETCHEN ERTL

New England's Matt Cassel looks forward to silencing his critics and keeping his role as Tom Brady's backup.