

Who's been the most valuable Red Sox so far this year?

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ORIOLES RAKE RED SOX, BUCHHOLZ: View the gallery at projosports.com/redsox

The Fishing Report

Get the first look at Tom Meade's roundup of what's biting and where, today at projosports.com/outdoors

Walking tall

Red Sox pitcher Daisuke Matsuzaka has the 2nd best winning pct. in the majors (.882), despite allowing the most walks in the A.L.: Other walk leaders who haven't fared as well:

PITCHER	WALKS	REC.
Daisuke Matsuzaka	77	15-2
Daniel Cabrera	76	8-8
A.J. Burnett	70	16-9
Miguel Batista	69	4-12
Greg Smith	67	5-12

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LIGHT'S OUT?

ORIOLES 11, RED SOX 6

Buchholz stumbles once again

The rookie starting pitcher yields five runs in 2 1/2 innings — his shortest outing of the season — and is then sent to Double-A Portland to try to regain his form.

BY JOE McDONALD
JOURNAL SPORTS WRITER

BALTIMORE — Someday this season will be just a blur. It will be a brief moment in the career of Clay Buchholz that will be forgotten. His statistics will be forgotten.

At least that's what the Red Sox are hoping for — maybe even praying for.

The rookie right-hander has struggled mightily this season, and just when management felt like Buchholz might have figured it out, he had an outing like last night in which he imploded once again.

The Orioles raked him for five runs on three hits in 2 1/2 innings of work en route to an 11-6 victory at Oriole Park at Camden Yards. Baltimore prevented a sweep of the three-game series with the win.

As a result of his struggles, Buchholz was optioned to Double-A Portland after last night's game to work with Sea Dogs pitching coach

SEE RED SOX, C5



THE PROVIDENCE JOURNAL / MARY MURPHY

If the injured Matt Light, blocking for quarterback Tom Brady during the Patriots' victory over the Eagles in Super Bowl XXXIX in Jacksonville, Fla., is not ready on Sept. 7, Wesley Britt will take his place at left tackle in the season-opener against Kansas City.

Britt is in wings if All-Pro tackle Light can't go

BY SHALISE MANZA YOUNG
JOURNAL SPORTS WRITER

FOXBORO — In his induction speech during the Pro Football Hall of Fame ceremonies earlier this month, former tackle Gary Zimmerman said of his fellow offensive linemen, "We are an inconspicuous group who defend our quarterbacks as if they were our mothers."

For Zimmerman, that meant protecting another Hall of Famer, the Broncos' John Elway.

For Wesley Britt, it means protecting a future Hall of Famer, Tom Brady.

With Opening Day for the Patriots just 17 days away, there's a possibility Britt could be the starting left tackle against the Kansas City Chiefs. Matt Light, an All-Pro for the first time last year while also playing in his second Pro Bowl, has not been on the practice field since July 26, a mere three days into training camp, as he recovers from an undisclosed injury.

Yesterday, New England coach

Wesley Britt, left, works against Pete McMahon during a blocking drill at training camp in Foxboro earlier this month.

THE JOURNAL / GLENN OSMUNDSON



Bill Belichick said Light is "getting better every day," but no timetable has been given for his return.

Thus, it could be Britt protecting the blindside of The Franchise against the Chiefs.

A soft-spoken giant, Britt is every bit the 6-foot-8, 320-pounder the Patriots list him at. A stalwart on the line at Alabama, where he was a three-time first-team All-SEC pick,

Britt couldn't stick with the Chargers, who drafted him in the fifth round in 2005 and cut him just before the regular-season opener. A day later, he was signed to the Patriots' practice squad.

That's where he spent his entire first year, but Britt played in 10 games in 2006. His first career start, at right tackle, was against the Bengals, when the Patriots rushed for

238 yards and three touchdowns.

Last year, he played in just four games, mostly because of the health of the tackles. Light played in all 16 games and Nick Kaczur started 15.

But to Belichick, Britt has improved from Day One under the tutelage of offensive line coach Dante Scarnecchia.

"He has developed a lot, and is one of the hardest-working guys on the team," Belichick said. "He has played both left and right tackle for us; he has swing ability. He works hard and is a tough kid. He has done nothing but improve since he has been here. His hard work, determination and ability to take coaching have enabled him to do that."

Britt smiled when he heard of Belichick's praise, but he knows he's nowhere near a finished product.

"I can't rest on anything or take those (comments) in; I just have to continue to make improvement,"

SEE PATRIOTS, C3



AP / NICK WASS

Boston manager Terry Francona pulls Clay Buchholz in the third inning last night after another poor outing by the rookie starter.

Yaz's splendid '67 fueled fervor for Boston baseball

When I think of Carl Yastrzemski, two things come to mind.

One is the season for the ages he had in 1967.

The other is how, in 1979, the year I began working at The Journal, he would sit in front of his locker in the clubhouse at Fenway Park and conduct postgame interviews with a can of beer in one hand and a cigarette in the other.

Which, in turn, makes me think — not so much of how those habits may have led to the triple-bypass surgery he underwent Tuesday — but of how much things have changed since then.

SEE DONALDSON, C5

2008 SUMMER OLYMPICS

James' all-around play towers above Bryant's game on global stage

The Cavaliers' superstar's ability to mesh with his fellow NBA superstars is leading the U.S. team's drive in its quest for a gold medal in Beijing.

BY PETE THAMEL
THE NEW YORK TIMES

BEIJING — Heading into these Olympic Games, as American men's basketball began its great image overhaul, two questions lingered over the group that has become known as the Redeem Team.

The first was whether the United States could win the gold medal. And while that will not be answered until Sunday, one does not have to be an oracle to figure it out.

The second was how the alpha-dog dynamic between the planet's two brightest stars, Kobe Bryant and LeBron James, would play out. That answer, too, has been as clear as the U.S. dominance in this tournament.

From his persistent vocal leadership to his rugged rebounding to his ability to drive to the hoop at will, James has outplayed Bryant. He has played multiple

positions, emerged as the vocal leader and has better statistics.

And while Bryant has not played poorly, he has continued to play like he is on his NBA team instead of adapting and adjusting to his more talented Olympic teammates. James has stood out precisely because he has blended in so well.

"I knew it had to come from someone," James said of his leadership role. "It doesn't matter how good individuals are, if you don't have a leader, it's not going to be right. I took that responsibility from Day one, saying I'm going to be the vocal leader and I'm going to be the lead-

er of this team."

Bryant, meanwhile, has looked a bit lost. He has seemingly yet to realize that although taking 16-foot fadeaways or pull-up 3-pointers in transition instead of passing to Luke Walton or Trevor Ariza may be a smart play in the NBA taking those shots rather than pass to Dwyane Wade or Carmelo Anthony with Team USA is not always wise.

Bryant had his best game of the Olympics yesterday, scoring 25 points as the United States beat Australia, 116-85. He had his best half of the games, too, scoring nine points during the Americans'

14-0 run to start the second half. In tomorrow's semifinal round, the United States will play Manu Ginobili and Argentina, which beat Greece, 80-78, in

SEE BASKETBALL, C6

INSIDE

■ Usain Bolt shattered the world record in the 200 meters, just like he did in the 100 meters. **Page C6.**
■ Sprinter Shawn Crawford will receive a silver medal today, but he insists he doesn't deserve it. **Page C6.**