

How many wins do you predict for the URI men's hoop team?

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**The closing act**

Follow today's Sox-Yanks finale at the Stadium with pregame and postgame reports at [projsports.com/soxblog](http://projsports.com/soxblog)

**Moose on the loose**

Yankees pitcher Mike Mussina, who looks for his 17th win of 2008 vs. the Red Sox today, has more wins without a 20-win season than any pitcher in MLB history:

PITCHER	W-L	PCT.
Mike Mussina*	266-151	.638
Dennis Martinez	245-193	.559
Frank Tanana	240-236	.504
Jerry Reuss	220-191	.535
Kenny Rogers*	219-154	.587

\* Still active  
For up-to-the-second stats and scores: [projsports.com/redsox](http://projsports.com/redsox)

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# Yankees get Byrd-brained

Paul Byrd pitches six strong innings and Jason Bay leads the Sox' offensive onslaught

BY JOE McDONALD  
JOURNAL SPORTS WRITER

NEW YORK — The newcomers are coming through for the Red Sox.

Jason Bay has become a statistical machine for Boston. Paul Byrd has brought stability to the rotation. Now Mark Kotsay will attempt to become a contributor.

"It's been great," said Byrd. "Mike Lowell, the World Series MVP, goes down. J.D. is hurting a little bit and the pitching staff is hurt a little bit. I come over and help out, and now we've got Kotsay. This is just a great group of guys with great chemistry in this clubhouse. I've been here two weeks and I already feel like I fit in. It's a credit to these guys already here and the guys they brought it."

The only thing that went wrong for the Red Sox in their 11-3 pounding of the Yankees was when Byrd was hit on the head by a foul ball even before he threw his first pitch last night at Yankee Stadium.

Boston's newest addition to the rotation was sitting in the visitors' dug-out when Kevin Youkilis turned on a pitch and lined it into the bench area. The ball ricocheted around before hitting Byrd in the back of the head. The veteran right-hander was holding the back of his skull and was briefly checked out by team trainer Paul Lessard.

But that was the only bad thing that happened to the Red Sox.

"I got hit in the back of the head, and it's the first time I've been thinking clearly all week," Byrd said. "It hurt. It smacked me right in the back of the head. I was walking around and somebody came over and said, 'All that did was make you mad, right? You're ready to go.' I just smiled."

The fact is the Red Sox have been a major headache for the Yankees the last couple of days in the Bronx, and they are now one victory from a three-game sweep.

While Byrd earned his second victory (three starts) after working six solid innings, allowing two runs on five hits with two walks and five strikeouts, new Red Sox outfielder Bay has wreaked havoc on the Yankees.

Bay went 2-for-4 with four RBI, and now has recorded two or more hits for the 10th time in his 23 games for the



Red Sox starter Paul Byrd, delivering a pitch during the first inning of last night's game against the Yankees in New York, allowed only two runs and struck out five en route to the victory.

## Kotsay deal reaffirms team's goal

NEW YORK — When the pitching got thin — Tim Wakefield went to the disabled list and Clay Buchholz suffered a crisis of confidence — the Red Sox' front office made a post-waiver deadline deal to land veteran Paul Byrd, last night's starter.



SEAN MCADAM

When the Sox sensed that they could use another bat off the bench, they arranged a trade for San Diego's Brian Giles, only to have Giles negate the deal by refusing to waive his no-trade clause.

And finally, when J.D. Drew was placed on the DL with a herniated disc, the Sox immediately responded by dealing outfield prospect Luis Sumoza for Atlanta's Mark Kotsay, who arrived midway through batting practice yesterday.

The significance of the moves has not been lost inside the Red Sox' clubhouse, where the message from the front office has been made loud and clear: if you need something, we will try to get it for you.

That's an affirmation for the players. "We all know that [the front office] wants to win as much as we do," said second baseman Dustin Pedroia.

"We're all a team here. It says a lot about the organization's commitment. Everyone here is all about winning; that's the first priority.

"They're not shy about making deals if it's going to make our team better."

Late-season deals can benefit a team in two ways. In addition to providing reinforcements, they also send a signal to the remaining players.

The message: We support you. We're behind you. We're trying to do everything we can to help you do everything you can.

"Anytime you feel like the front office is doing everything possible to get us as prepared as possible to make a playoff run and do well in the playoffs," added Mike Lowell, "you do appreciate it. Because there are a lot of organizations, I would say, that send the exact opposite message. We actually feel like we're all on the same page."

It's not easy to make deals after July 31. Players have to clear waivers at a time when competing teams frequently play defense by claiming players as a means of scuttling potential deals that could help opposing clubs.

Then, general managers must be careful not to disturb the delicate clubhouse vibe by injecting unknown personalities.

"It's a balancing act," said manager

SEE **MCADAM, C5**

## Lap of luxury comes with a price

With the Friars set to enjoy the \$80-million face-lift at the Dunkin' Donuts Center, they are asking their best fans for additional financial support this year.

BY KEVIN McNAMARA  
JOURNAL SPORTS WRITER

PROVIDENCE — Providence College basketball fans are about to learn that progress comes with a cost.

With the Friars set to enjoy the now-completed \$80-million face-lift at the Dunkin' Donuts Center this season, they are asking their best fans for additional financial support. For the first time in six years, the school is requiring most season-ticket holders to pay an increase in their seat-license donations to the "Friars Forever" Athletic Fund. The new guidelines will also expand the number of sections where a seat-license payment is necessary to secure season tickets.

Ticket renewal forms are being sent out to the approximately 7,000 season-ticket holders early next week. PC officials stress that there is no increase in the price of tickets, only an expansion of the Friars Forever program that has been a smashing success for the athletic department for the last six



The installation of new seats, which have cup holders, at the Dunkin' Donuts Center is part of the arena's face-lift, which will cost PC's best basketball fans more this season.

THE PROVIDENCE JOURNAL  
SANDOR BODO

years. Proceeds from the seat licenses have been poured back into the program and helped pay for a new fitness center, sports medicine facility, a new weight room, team charter flights to road games, scholarships, coaches' salaries and other improvements that have become mandatory at virtually every other Big East school.

"Over the last six years, more than \$30 million has all been put back into the program," said PC athletic director Bob Driscoll. "When you combine that with the \$80 million that the state has spent at The Dunk, you're talking about a significant invest-

ment into our program, and we're very fortunate that our fans have given us that type of support."

Now the Friars are asking for even more support. In the past, licenses for most seats were priced at \$100, \$250 and \$500 for the 15 premier sections at The Dunk. Those figures will now range anywhere from \$750 to \$75 and cover 35 sections. All seat-license contributions are 80-percent tax deductible. As an example, choice center-court seats in section 122 will now require a dona-

SEE **TICKETS, C5**

## It's last call for reserves as Pats, Giants collide

BY SHALISE MANZA YOUNG  
JOURNAL SPORTS WRITER

For the fourth straight season, the New England Patriots and New York Giants will close out their exhibition schedules by facing each other.

Tonight's game at Giants Stadium is the 18th time the teams have met during the exhibition season, which is the same number of times the Patriots have faced the Philadelphia Eagles in the exhibition season and New England's second-most-frequent pre-season opponent. The Pats have faced another NFC East team, the Washington Redskins, 19 times.

With the latest Pats-Giants meetings coming at the end of the preseason, however, fans are treated to what amounts to a last tryout for many second- and third-string players.

Though he said on the radio this week that he wanted to get a few snaps in against New York, the chances of Tom Brady being on the field are slim. Aside from it being unnecessary for him to get on the field before

**Pats vs. Giants**

- **TIME:** 7 p.m.
- **SITE:** Giants Stadium, in East Rutherford, N.J.
- **TV:** Channel 64 in Providence (over-the-air Channel 64, Cox Channel 11, Cox HD Channel 704, Verizon FiOS Channel 11, Verizon FiOS HD Channel 801), Channel 5 in Boston (over-the-air Channel 5; not offered on most Rhode Island cable systems).
- **TV ANNOUNCERS:** Don Criqui, Randy Cross and Mike Lynch.
- **RADIO:** WPRO-AM (630) and WEAN-FM (99.7).
- **RADIO ANNOUNCERS:** Gil Santos and Gino Cappelletti.
- **TEAM RECORDS:** Patriots 0-3, Giants 1-2.
- **WEATHER FORECAST:** Mostly cloudy with a 30-percent chance of showers. Lows around 60.

SEE **PATRIOTS, C2**