

Should the NFL shorten preseason and lengthen the regular season?

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RED SOX, ORIOLES GET SEPTEMBER ROLLING : View the gallery at projosports.com/redsox

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Zink shows his mettle

Knuckleball pitcher Charlie Zink became the 6th PawSox player to earn the International League's Most Valuable Pitcher honor. The others:

PITCHER	YEAR
Bronson Arroyo	2003
Brian Rose	1997
Aaron Sele	1993
Bobby Ojeda	1981
Dick Pole	1973

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SECTION C



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DEUTSCHE BANK CHAMPIONSHIP



AP / STEW MILNE

Vijay Singh raises the trophy after winning the Deutsche Bank Championship yesterday with a 63 for a 262 total.

Singh putting his stamp on FedEx Cup

The 44-year-old from Fiji posts a five-stroke victory in Norton, and his total of 22-under 262 breaks the tournament record by two strokes.

BY PAUL KENYON
JOURNAL SPORTS WRITER

NORTON, Mass. — It was Sunday afternoon, in the middle of the third round of the Deutsche Bank Championship, when Vijay Singh began threatening to ruin the fun of the FedEx Cup playoffs.

A PGA Tour official was in the media center at the TPC of Boston, and he was explaining how the two-year-old system had been modified to create more excitement for both players and fans.

As he was doing so, the television was showing Singh lining up a putt in the middle of his round. When the putt went in, the tour guy cringed.

"Ooohhhh," he moaned. "Not now, Vijay." "He would mess up the system if he wins, wouldn't he?" the man was asked.

"It wouldn't be good," the tour guy shot back. "Nothing against Vijay. It's fine if he wins (the Cup title). But, no, it wouldn't be good (if he won the Deutsche Bank)."

SEE DEUTSCHE BANK, C6

FINAL RESULTS

Vijay Singh	64-66-69-63 — 262
Mike Weir	61-68-67-71 — 267
Ernie Els	66-65-69-70 — 270
Camilo Villegas	68-66-63-73 — 270
Tim Herron	72-67-67-65 — 271
Sergio Garcia	67-64-68-72 — 271
Chad Campbell	67-70-69-66 — 272
Justin Leonard	69-70-66-67 — 272
Jim Furyk	66-65-69-72 — 272
Steve Marino	66-66-71-70 — 273
Ken Duke	66-67-70-70 — 273
Ben Crane	72-65-63-73 — 273
Steve Stricker	69-67-70-68 — 274
Ryuji Imada	69-65-68-72 — 274

Singh's putter is like money in Deutsche Bank

NORTON, Mass. — This was the Deutsche Bank Championship, not the Bank of America Championship.

So it shouldn't be surprising that four foreigners topped the rest of the field over the holiday weekend at TPC Boston.

JIM DONALDSON America First? How about America tied for fifth? That was the best a native son could do, as Fiji's fabulous Vijay Singh led an international parade of players atop the leaderboard.

The good news for the Yanks is that none of those top four finishers will be playing in the Ryder Cup three weeks from now at Valhalla in Louisville, Ky.

That's a break for the struggling Americans, who clearly need one, given that they've been whupped in the last three Cups, absorbing embarrassing, 18½-9½ thumpings in each of the last two, and won't have the

SEE DONALDSON, C6

RED SOX 7, ORIOLES 4

ON THE MARK



THE PROVIDENCE JOURNAL / BOB BREIDENBACH

Red Sox second baseman Dustin Pedroia follows through on his two-run single during the sixth inning last night, helping propel Boston to a 7-4 triumph over the Orioles at Fenway Park. Pedroia also set the team record for hits by a second baseman in a season.

Pedroia gets the key hit; starter Byrd is efficient

BY SEAN MCDAM
JOURNAL SPORTS WRITER

BOSTON — On the field, Dustin Pedroia and Paul Byrd combined to beat back the Baltimore Orioles, 7-4, last night and send the Red Sox to their ninth win in the last 13 tries.

After the game, they unwittingly formed a mutual admiration society.

Byrd, though touched for three solo homers, got the Red Sox through seven innings to win for the third time in four starts since joining the team last month. Pedroia turned in a couple of sterling defensive plays, stole a base and collected two hits, including

a two-run single in the four-run sixth that opened up the game for the Sox and gave them their fifth straight series-opener win.

Pedroia's contributions motivated Byrd to join the growing chorus of those who believe the second baseman deserves A.L. MVP consideration.

"I can't say enough about my second baseman here," said Byrd. "This guy, in my opinion, is the MVP of the league. He's unbelievable. I didn't know he was that good when I came over here. He plays hard, he dives, he

plays great defense. He's up for every game. He gets the hit when it counts.

Clutch player. ... Seeing him day-in, day-out, and how much he means to his team ... I knew he was a good player, and I didn't like facing him because he was pesky. As he goes, we go."

Informed of Byrd's comments, Pedroia seemed humbled.

"He said that?" asked a smiling Pedroia. "Well, that's a great compliment. I definitely like playing behind

NEXT GAME
Tonight vs. Baltimore 7:05

SEE RED SOX, C5

A.L. RACES

EAST DIVISION				
	W	L	Pct	GB
Tampa Bay	84	51	.662	—
Red Sox	80	57	.584	5
New York	73	64	.533	12

Results Yesterday
Boston 7, Baltimore 4
N.Y. Yankees 13, Detroit 9

WILDCARD				
	W	L	Pct	GB
Boston	80	57	.584	—
Minnesota	77	60	.562	3
New York	73	64	.533	7

Results Yesterday
Boston 7, Baltimore 4
N.Y. Yankees 13, Detroit 9

Games Today
Baltimore at Boston, 7:05 p.m.
N.Y. Yankees at Tampa Bay, 7:10 p.m.
Minnesota at Toronto, 7:05 p.m.

Patriots sign veteran corner O'Neal

New England takes a chance on former Pro Bowler Deltha O'Neal to fill a fairly big void in its defensive backfield.

BY SHALISE MANZA YOUNG
JOURNAL SPORTS WRITER

FOXBORO — Jason Webster wasn't a good fit. Fernando Bryant didn't work out, either.

Could cornerback Deltha O'Neal be just right for the New England Patriots?

The Pats signed the nine-year veteran yesterday after reportedly working him out in the morning. The former first-round pick was released by Cincinnati as part of the Bengals' final cuts on Saturday.

O'Neal wasn't the cornerback most thought — or for some, hoped — New England would be signing yesterday, and Ty Law remains on the open market.

But clearly New England thinks O'Neal is a step up from Webster and Bryant, free agents the team signed in the offseason and ended up releasing in the last few days.

"He is a very athletic corner, good ball skills, pretty big guy that goes up (for the ball) and plays a lot of press coverage. He's done that in the past," Bill Belichick said. "He's a physical player, good tackler, good interceptor, (punt) returner."

Tom Brady knows full well that O'Neal can pull in picks. In Brady's fifth start, on Nov. 28, 2001 against the

Broncos, O'Neal had two of the first four interceptions Brady ever threw.

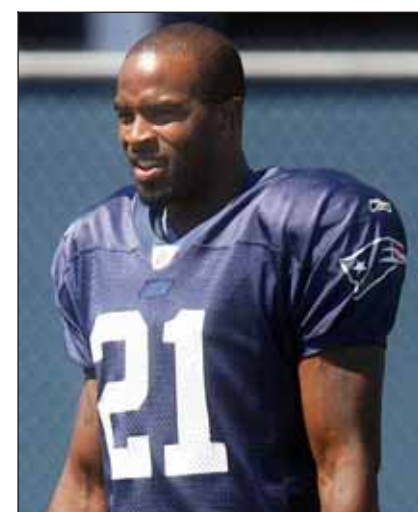
"I remember very well," Brady recalled yesterday. "There were four picks in the second half, actually in the fourth quarter. He made a diving catch that was pretty awesome. He has great ball skills. Hopefully he can add some of that play-making ability to our team."

That same season, 2001, Rodney Harrison and O'Neal were teammates on the AFC Pro Bowl team (O'Neal was also a Pro Bowler in 2005).

Harrison is glad to have him as a teammate again.

"I'm very excited. I played with him at the Pro Bowl and I've known him

SEE PATRIOTS, C3



AP / ROBERT E. KLEIN

Deltha O'Neal takes to the practice field for the first time with the Patriots yesterday.