

**Are the Jaguars capable of upsetting the Patriots?**

Tell us what you think at [projosports.com/patriots](http://projosports.com/patriots)



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**College hoops chat**

Paul Kenyon answers your questions about URI Rams basketball today at noon, at [projosports.com/chat](http://projosports.com/chat)

**History lesson**

The Patriots' prolific offense shattered several team and NFL records:

	TEAM	NFL	NFL
Points scored	589	1st	1st
Point differential	315	1st	1st
TDs	75	1st	1st
Points per game	36.8	1st	2nd
Differential	19.7	1st	4th

For up-to-the-second stats and scores: [projosports.com/patriots](http://projosports.com/patriots)



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## Rice may still lack the clout to enter Hall

BY ART MARTONE  
JOURNAL SPORTS EDITOR

Rumor is he's not going to make it. According to people who've glimpsed at (a few of) the ballots, Jim Rice is probably going to fall just short of the 75 percent of the vote required for election to baseball's Hall of Fame.



RICE

And if that's true — we'll find out today at 2 p.m., when the results of this year's voting are announced — some people are going to be upset. "I think if you're the dominant player of your time, you should be in the Hall of Fame," Rick Miller, one of Rice's former Red Sox teammates, told the Associated Press last week. "And he was."

"In my mind," Red Sox broadcaster (and former Sox second baseman) Jerry Remy said in the same story, "he always has been a Hall of Fame player."

But in the years since his retirement, Rice has had trouble convincing enough of the voters. His percentage of the vote, which didn't pass the 50-percent mark until his sixth year of eligibility, peaked at 64.8 percent in 2006; last year he slipped a bit to 63.5 percent. This, his 14th and next-to-last year on

SEE RICE, C4

## Angry Rocket claims truth is his target

Roger Clemens, the seven-time Cy Young Award winner, plays a recording of a phone conversation with Brian McNamee for reporters.

BY JAIME ARON  
ASSOCIATED PRESS

HOUSTON — "What do you want me to do?"

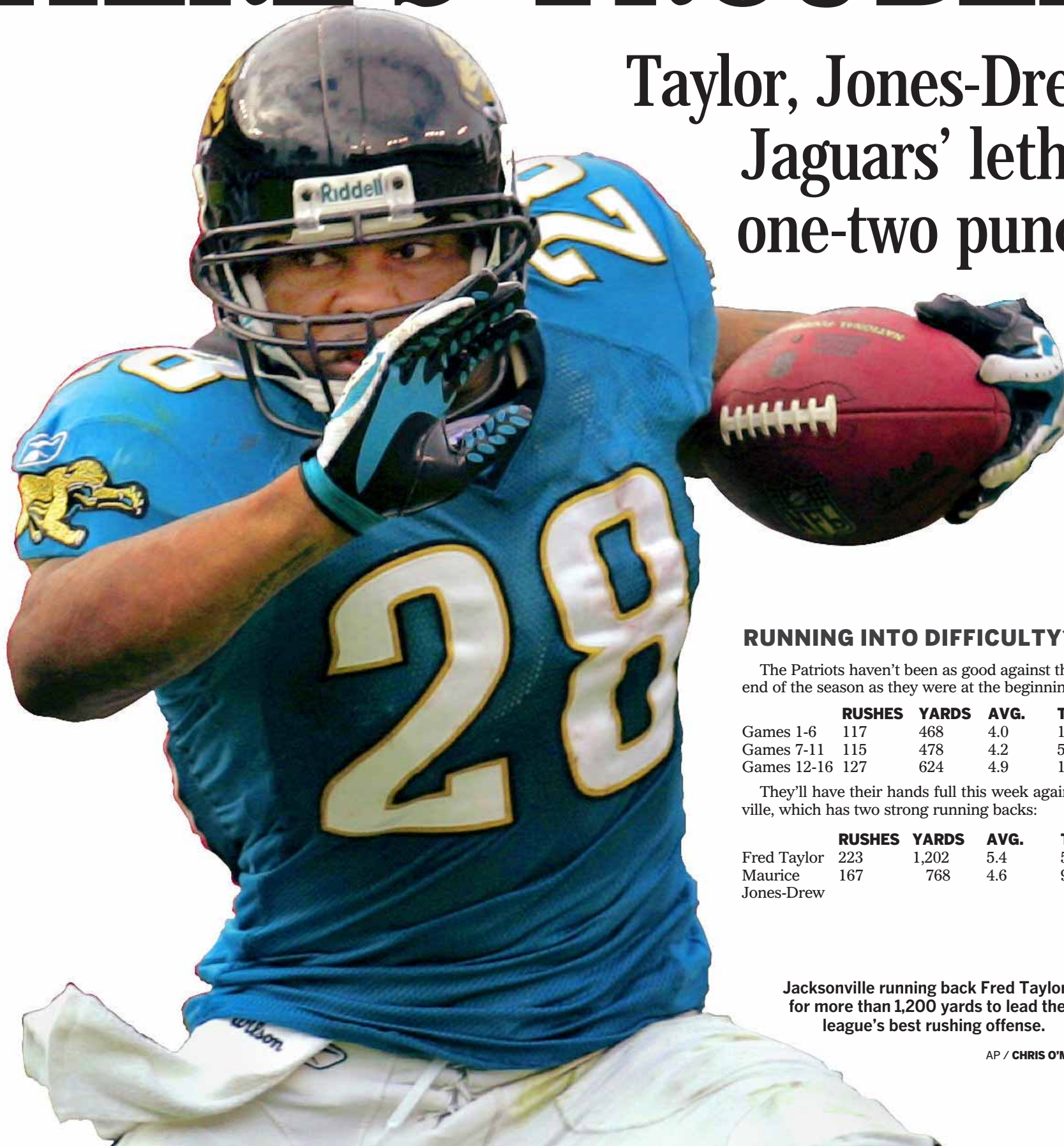
Brian McNamee asked Roger Clemens that question — or variations of it — 21 times during a 17-minute taped conversation.

He never really got an answer. A recording of last Friday's telephone call between Clemens' former trainer and the seven-time Cy Young Award winner was played at Clemens' long-awaited news conference yesterday, the first time he faced a group of reporters since McNamee's accusations were made public in the Mitchell Report on Dec. 13.

SEE CLEMENS, C4

# HERE'S TROUBLE

## Taylor, Jones-Drew Jaguars' lethal one-two punch



**RUNNING INTO DIFFICULTY?**

The Patriots haven't been as good against the run at the end of the season as they were at the beginning:

	RUSHES	YARDS	AVG.	TDs
Games 1-6	117	468	4.0	1
Games 7-11	115	478	4.2	5
Games 12-16	127	624	4.9	1

They'll have their hands full this week against Jacksonville, which has two strong running backs:

	RUSHES	YARDS	AVG.	TDs
Fred Taylor	223	1,202	5.4	5
Maurice Jones-Drew	167	768	4.6	9

Jacksonville running back Fred Taylor ran for more than 1,200 yards to lead the league's best rushing offense.

AP / CHRIS O'MEARA

BY ROBERT LEE  
JOURNAL SPORTS WRITER

FOXBORO — If there has been one chink in the Patriots' armor this season, it has been their inability to stop the run.

The defense has allowed only 98.2 rushing yards per game, but that stat is a bit deceiving. Most of the Patriots' opponents were forced to play catch-up after New England jumped out to early leads. Opponents rushed a league-low 360 times against the Patriots.

But when opponents did run the ball they were successful. Opposing teams are averaging 4.4 yards per carry against the Patriots. That ties the Pats' defense with two others for the fifth-worst average in the NFL.

When Jacksonville visits Gillette Stadium Saturday night for the AFC Divisional Playoff game, the Jaguars will bring with them the best running offense in the AFC and the second-best offense in the NFL.

The Jaguars, with their two-headed monster backfield — Pro Bowl selection Fred Taylor and speedster Maurice Jones-Drew — averaged 149.4 rushing yards per game during the regular season.

So New England's plan on Saturday will most likely be to stuff Jacksonville's running game and force the Jaguars to rely on quarterback David Garrard to win.

"We have to make them one-dimensional — not allow them to be spread out all over the field, where

you don't know what's coming," Patriots defensive back Ellis Hobbs said. "Making them one-dimensional will definitely give us the advantage."

The Patriots expect Jacksonville to run the ball to control the clock and keep New England's high-powered offense off the field.

"Obviously, that's their motto — run the football," Hobbs said. "That's a lot of teams' motto in the NFL. I think by establishing the run that speaks a lot about your team as far as being a physical and overpowering team. We have given up some big runs on defense and things like that. I think it's going to take a total

SEE PATRIOTS, C5

## BCS CHAMPIONSHIP GAME

LSU cornerback Jonathan Zenon (19) tries to haul down Ohio State wide receiver Brian Robiskie during first-half action in college football's title game last night at the Louisiana Superdome in New Orleans. The Tigers won, 38-24. Story on C3.

AP / KEITH SRAKOCIC



## Team effort clears TV spot for URI-Dayton showdown

Agreements between the Atlantic-10 Conference, cable networks and both schools will allow fans nationwide to catch two teams off to red-hot starts.

BY PAUL KENYON  
JOURNAL SPORTS WRITER

It is interesting what can happen when groups with similar interests decide to work together to help each other rather than compete against each other.

For sure, it is rare to see a college athletic conference, a television network, two individual television companies and two rival college basketball teams join to pull off a project that ultimately benefits everyone, especially college basketball

fans. In the case of tomorrow's top-25 showdown when No. 22 Rhode Island visits No. 17 Dayton at the UD Arena, that's exactly what has happened. Fans of both schools, and fans around the country for that matter, will get to see the game on television because of a rare joint effort by everyone involved over the last five days.

The Rams and Flyers are both off to sensational starts, Dayton at 12-1, the best at the school in 51 years, Rhode Island 14-1, the best in 61 years. The A-10 schedule-maker just happened to pair the two for the conference opener, the first time in A-10 history two ranked

SEE URI, C3