

Will Randy Moss break Jerry Rice's touchdown record?

Tell us what you think at projosports.com/patriots



CRANSTON WEST MATMEN TOP JOHNSTON: View the gallery at HSGameTime.com/rhodeisland

Hoops chat

Kevin McNamara answers your questions about PC and URI today at noon. Enter the college hoops room at projo.com/chat

Home warriors

The Celtics have won their first 12 home games, their second-best home start to a season:

RECORD	SEASON	FINAL HOME REC.
17-0	1957-58	25-4
12-0	2007-08	---
12-0	1984-85	35-6

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

SECTION C



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ATTACK FORCE



THE PROVIDENCE JOURNAL / GLENN OSMUNDSON

The return to top form by Patriots defensive lineman Richard Seymour (93), shown pressuring Eagles quarterback A.J. Feeley during their game at Gillette Stadium last month, is a big plus with the playoffs right around the corner.

Seymour is regaining peak form

BY SHALISE MANZA YOUNG
JOURNAL SPORTS WRITER

FOXBORO — It was a little more than a week ago that Richard Seymour stood in the New England Patriots' locker room after the team's win over Pittsburgh and said his knee, which kept him out of the first seven games of the season, was not yet 100 percent.

But after his play against the Jets on Sunday, Seymour was either at 98 percent at the time or he made a big leap forward in seven days.

The five-time Pro Bowl selection didn't put up big numbers, but he was the force many have come to expect over the years. Seymour was credited with a solo tackle and an assist, split a sack with Jarvis Green at the end of the first half, had three quarterback hits and a pass defensed.

"He played tremendous," teammate Rodney Harrison said of Seymour. "He's a consummate pro, a guy that's working his butt off to get back and trying to get back to form. He's a guy that you're happy for because you've seen his progress and coming off the knee injury, which I understand. It's tough."

Seymour had offseason knee surgery, which landed him on the physically unable to perform list at the start of training camp. He was activated off the PUP in Week Eight, when New England hosted the Redskins, and played 22 snaps against Washington to get



SEYMOUR

SEE SEYMOUR, C5

14-0 certainly is nice, but a Super Bowl title is the ultimate goal

The Patriots are happy with their perfect record, but the players maintain they have their sights set on winning another NFL title.

BY ROBERT LEE
JOURNAL SPORTS WRITER

FOXBORO — What the New England Patriots have done so far this season is simply amazing. What is just as impressive is that the

Patriots are taking it all in stride.

The Patriots are the second team in the NFL's 88-year history to begin a season with a 14-0 record. The only other team to do that was the 1972 Dolphins — the only team in NFL history to achieve a perfect season.

But for the Patriots, that impressive feat doesn't mean that much to them. At least not now.

Patriots safety Rodney Harrison summed it up best.

"It's pretty nice as we look at it, but

we're not getting overly excited about it because that's just one more step on the path of where we're trying to go," Harrison said.

If the Patriots have their way, that path will end with a Super Bowl victory.

"[There's] a lot of football to be played," Harrison said. "We're excited about it, but at the same time, we have a lot of improvements to make and a lot of areas where we could do better."

The Patriots have locked up home-

field advantage in the playoffs, but they don't want to settle for that.

"It's just another one of stepping-stones that we are going to take," Patriots linebacker Junior Seau said. "...I think our journey is a lot bigger than this obviously."

"I think, as a team, we're just playing," Patriots receiver Kelley Washington said. "We're going out day-in and day-out, trying to improve in practice and on Sundays. One thing about this team is that guys never talk about

it. We hear in the media and from other people, but as a corps, as a team, the Patriots and the organization, we take it game-by-game. I think that's what's special."

The Patriots have the opportunity to do things this season that the NFL has never seen. The 1972 Dolphins played a 14-game regular season. No team has gone 16-0 in the regular season and the Patriots have an excellent

SEE RECORDS, C5

URI's new grid coach could be ex-Ram Rizzi

Darren Rizzi, 37, appears to be the choice over Stonehill's Robert Talley.

BY MIKE SZOSTAK
JOURNAL SPORTS WRITER

The University of Rhode Island may be turning to one of its own to lead the football program.

The Rams have called a news conference for 3 p.m. today to announce their new coach. Darren Rizzi, an All-American tight end at URI in 1991 and 1992 and the fourth-leading receiver in school history, may be the choice. Rizzi is currently associate head coach at Rutgers.

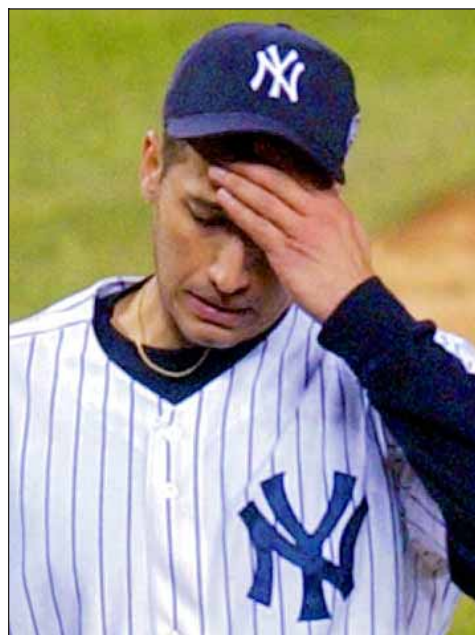
Rizzi will probably divide his time between Rutgers and URI until the Scarlet Knights wrap up

their appearance in the International Bowl on Jan. 5 in Toronto against Ball State.

Rizzi visited the URI campus a week ago. Pete Adrian, a URI assistant from 1976 to 1985 and head coach at Norfolk State; Jack Cosgrove, head coach at Maine, and Robert Talley, head coach at Division II Stonehill, also were in Kingston. Adrian withdrew from consideration last Thursday to remain at Norfolk, where he was 8-3 and MEAC coach of the year. Cosgrove, whose contract at Maine expires on June 30, withdrew yesterday, leaving Rizzi and Talley in the running.

Rizzi, 37, would appear to have

SEE URI, C3



AP / ELISE AMENDOLA

The Yankees' Andy Pettitte said he used HGH, and that's the kind of admission baseball needs right now.

Players should follow the lead of Pettitte and admit their guilt

Three mini-columns for the price of one:

■ **ANDY PETTITTE**

Yes, he is one of the new poster boys for substance abuse in baseball, but Pettitte should be given kudos for admitting over the weekend that he took HGH for two days in 2002.

It couldn't have been easy. It couldn't have been easy to see yourself in the Mitchell Report, to be in the center of what's arguably been the biggest scandal in baseball history, your reputation tarnished, your name sullied. It can't be easy to see yourself in the middle of the firestorm.

And no one would have been surprised if he had denied it, because that's human nature. Especially in something like this,

which happened a while ago, and in which there are no records, no real smoking gun. The Mitchell Report is not a court of law, and George Mitchell had no subpoena power, and it is very easy to deny, deny, deny and hope it all goes away.

Pettitte admitted it. He also put it in a certain context, saying he did it to try to recover faster from an elbow injury, to try to come back to help his team, not to gain a competitive advantage. This may be splitting hairs, but at least it's an explanation, makes Pettitte more human, not so much some millionaire athlete who acts like he's immune from life's realities, but a man who made a bad decision.

This is what baseball needs now. It needs everyone involved to admit

SEE REYNOLDS, C2