

**David Tyree wants to 'name' his Super Bowl catch. Suggest one.**

Send your suggestions to [projsports.com/patriots](http://projsports.com/patriots)



**NARRAGANSETT ROLLS PAST WARWICK:** View the gallery at [HSGameTime.com/rhodeisland](http://HSGameTime.com/rhodeisland)

**URI-GW coverage**

Paul Kenyon's multimedia preview today; live scoreboard and in-game blog reports tonight, at [projsports.com/uri](http://projsports.com/uri)

**Batters up?**

The Red Sox 2008 batting lineup will be trying to surpass the numbers it put up the last three seasons:

	R	HR	BA	OBP
2007	867	166	.279	.362
2006	820	192	.269	.351
2005	910	199	.281	.357

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



SECTION C  
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**PLAYOFF TIME**



PROVIDENCE JOURNAL / RUBEN W. PEREZ  
**Narragansett's Dana Sarubbi helps her team to a 47-27 win over Warwick Vets last night.**

**HIGHLIGHTS**

It didn't take long for the first major upset of the Division I girls basketball playoffs. Exeter/West Greenwich, the No. 11 seed, picked the perfect time to avenge its 13-point, regular-season loss to Cranston West as the Scarlet Knights stunned the No. 6 seeded Falcons, 51-49. Melissa Murphy led Exeter/West Greenwich with 15 points.

In the other Division I girls preliminary round game, Ponaganset got 23 points from Melanie Cline as the Chieftains defeated Cumberland, 49-44. For a complete report on last night's girls basketball playoff games, turn to **C6**.

**BOYS DIVISION I**

**PRELIMINARY ROUND Games tonight**

South Kingstown at St. Raphael, 7 p.m.  
Hope at Central, 7 p.m.  
Cranston West at Exeter/West Greenwich, 7 p.m.  
Cranston East at East Providence, 7 p.m.

**BOYS DIVISION II**

**PRELIMINARY ROUND Games tonight**

Portsmouth at Narragansett, 7 p.m.  
Pilgrim at Rogers, 7 p.m.  
North Providence at Scituate, 7 p.m.  
Ponaganset at West Warwick, 7 p.m.  
Shea at Feinstein, 7 p.m.  
Lincoln at Tiverton, 7 p.m.

**GIRLS DIVISION I**

**PRELIMINARY ROUND Results last night**

EWG 51, Cranston West 49  
Ponaganset 49, Cumb. 44  
**Games tonight**  
North Kingstown at Lincoln High, 7 p.m.  
Classical at East Greenwich, 7 p.m.

**GIRLS DIVISION II**

**PRELIMINARY ROUND Results last night**

Prout 46, Johnston 18  
Westerly 51, Mt. Hope 43  
East Providence at Tiverton  
**Games tonight**  
Pilgrim at North Providence, 7 p.m.  
Chariho at Barrington, 7 p.m.  
Smithfield at Woonsocket, 7 p.m.  
Portsmouth at Mount St. Charles, 7 p.m.

# RUNNING START



The Red Sox' Jacoby Ellsbury, racing down the first-base line during a game against the Yankees last September, is likely to replace Coco Crisp as the team's center fielder — and sooner rather than later this season.

## Ellsbury is key to batting order for Red Sox

BY SEAN McADAM  
JOURNAL SPORTS WRITER

FORT MYERS, Fla. — Even before the Red Sox begin their exhibition schedule tomorrow afternoon, the composition of their roster hardly qualifies as much of a mystery.

For some time now, the "who" has been a rather forgone conclusion. Sometime between now and March 25, when they open their regular season in Japan, the Sox must essentially determine whether they're going to trade Coco Crisp and settle on the seventh and final spot in the bullpen.

But the "where" aspect — or the make-up of the team's batting order — is a little less settled.

Yesterday, the Sox unveiled not one but two lineups for the start of the exhibi-

tion schedule — the team hosts a day-night doubleheader with college teams tomorrow — and the regulars are fairly split between the two, giving the fans in attendance for the separate-admission games a chance to see a representative sampling of the major-league club.

Eventually, though, the Sox will have to choose one, and much of that decision will pivot on who wins the center-field job.

Though the Red Sox continue to insist that no determination has been made at the position, and go to great pains to emphasize that Crisp is the incumbent, all of the evidence suggests Jacoby Ellsbury will be the team's center fielder — and sooner rather than later.

If Crisp is in the Opening Day lineup, it will be the result of one of two scenarios.

In one, the Sox, having not found a taker for Crisp in spring training, will not wish to drive Crisp's value down further by putting him on the bench. In the other, Ellsbury will struggle mightily in Grapefruit League games, highlighting the need for additional seasoning. The latter, by the way, is highly unlikely.

Should Ellsbury secure the spot, the Sox will have a second decision on him to make: Do they immediately entrust him to the leadoff position, or manage his introduction to life as an everyday player more carefully by placing him at the bottom of the order.

Last September and October, Ellsbury hardly looked overwhelmed by the lead-off assignment. He is a more patient and

SEE RED SOX, C5



**JACOBY ELLSBURY**  
.353 / 3 HR / 18 RBI



**DUSTIN PEDROIA**  
.317 / 8 HR / 50 RBI



**DAVID ORTIZ**  
.332 / 35 HR / 117 RBI



**MANNY RAMIREZ**  
.296 / 20 HR / 88 RBI



**J.D. DREW**  
.270 / 11 HR / 64 RBI



**MIKE LOWELL**  
.324 / 21 HR / 120 RBI



**KEVIN YOUKILIS**  
.288 / 16 HR / 83 RBI



**JASON VARITEK**  
.255 / 17 HR / 68 RBI



**JULIO LUGO**  
.237 / 8 HR / 73 RBI

(Figures are 2007 major-league stats)

## While he's no math major, his scenarios may add up

Thoughts while wondering if either PC or URI will win another basketball game this season . . .

**JIM DONALDSON**

The Journal, Jim Baron would be riding in a tumbrel alongside Tim Welsh on his way to the coaching guillotine.

"Off with their heads!" as the Queen of Hearts shouted in *Alice in Wonderland*.

I throw in those historical and literary references to point out that my academic strengths were in the liberal arts, not math —

**TONIGHT**  
URI at George Washington, 7:30 p.m.

hence my mistake in writing, after URI's loss to St. Joe's, that the Rams had dropped six of seven, when it actually was "only" five of six. Although, if Rhody doesn't start playing defense, it will be six of seven after tonight, when the slumping (plummeting? collapsing? imploding? self-destructing?) Rams take on struggling GW (4-8 in the A-10, 8-14 overall) in D.C.

SEE DONALDSON, C3

## Colvin released by the Patriots

Linebacker Rosevelt Colvin, 30, was in the last year of a six-year free-agent contract. Linebacker Oscar Lua also is let go.

BY SHALISE MANZA YOUNG  
JOURNAL SPORTS WRITER

The New England Patriots ensured that their linebacking corps will have a distinctly different look next season by releasing veteran Rosevelt Colvin.

Also let go was Oscar Lua, a linebacker drafted in the seventh round last year but who missed the season after suffering a right knee injury during

training camp.

The 30-year-old Colvin was in the final year of the six-year free-agent contract he signed with New England in 2003. He was due to count \$7.6 million against the salary cap. The Pats will save \$5.5 million against the cap (the amount of Colvin's base salary) with the move.

A call to Colvin's agent, Kenneth McGuire, was not returned. But McGuire is not known for renegotiating his clients' contracts. New England may have asked Colvin to rework his deal, and if he balked, cut him. But one league source said the Patriots may be eyeing a move to the 4-3 defense from the 3-4, uti-

lizing the team's strength on the defensive line. The team could choose an outside linebacker in the draft (they pick at number seven), use Adalius Thomas in the middle, as he was for much of the season last year, and keep Pro Bowl selection Mike Vrabel on the outside.

On Nov. 25 against the Eagles, Colvin suffered a season-ending foot injury. It was the second significant injury he suffered with New England. Just two games into his career with the Pats, he fractured his left hip, a difficult injury that involved a lengthy rehabilitation.

SEE PATRIOTS, C2