

Which Chargers player should Patriots fans be worried about?

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Through their eyes

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Playoff Bolts

The San Diego Chargers have an all-time postseason record of 9-13, which includes one AFL title and one AFC title:

	W	L
Wild-card	3	2
Semifinals	4	4
Championship	2	6
Super Bowl	0	1

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SECTION C



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Phone: 401-277-7340 Fax: 401-277-7444 E-mail: pjsports@projo.com

Sox' top 'rookie' bulks up for '08

Pitcher Clay Buchholz, shut down last fall with a tired arm, says he's gained strength under a conditioning program.

BY JOE McDONALD
JOURNAL SPORTS WRITER

NEWTON, Mass. — Red Sox pitcher Clay Buchholz is clearly bigger and stronger than the last time we saw him in Boston.

The 23-year-old right-hander is taking part in the annual two-week Red Sox offseason rookie workout program at Boston College, along with 11 other prospects in the organization, in order to fully prepare for spring training.

Buchholz struggled with strength in his shoulder last September and the Red Sox do not want a repeat performance this season. The talented pitcher gained 10 pounds during the off-season and now tips the scale at 191, which, he says, is a lot better than the 178 pounds he weighed when he left Boston last September.

The Red Sox project great things from their third pick in the

SEE **BUCHHOLZ, C3**

Baseball officials testify

Commissioner Bud Selig and union leader Donald Fehr accept responsibility for the game's drug scandal.

BY HOWARD FENDRICH
AND JOSEPH WHITE
ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON — Taking on baseball's steroids problem once again, Congress kept the finger-pointing and tough questioning to a minimum. Maybe that's because the people under the most scrutiny this time — Miguel Tejada, Barry Bonds, Roger Clemens — were nowhere to be seen.

Commissioner Bud Selig and union leader Donald Fehr accepted responsibility for the sport's drug boom and the author of the Mitchell Report defended his findings in the same wood-paneled House hearing room that host-

SEE **CONGRESS, C3**

HANDOFF



AP / JEFF ROBERSON

The Chargers' offense didn't miss a beat last Sunday with backup quarterback Billy Volek (7) and reserve running back Michael Turner, right, playing key roles.

Chargers can replace good players with good players

BY SHALISE MANZA YOUNG
JOURNAL SPORTS WRITER

FOXBORO — Pop quiz: Which team is being discussed in the following quote: "I think when you look at their football team, they're a team with a lot of depth. They can do a lot of different things. If a guy goes down, they have another guy that can step in and keep the train rolling."

The Patriots have enjoyed relatively good health this season.
Story, C5.

As the hallmarks of the Patriots' recent run of success has been their depth and ability to plug holes, the above was said yesterday by New England defensive lineman Richard Seymour when asked about his team's opponent in Sunday's AFC Championship Game.

As the ramp-up to the conference title game began in earnest yesterday, the Patriots proved they are mindful of the talent San Diego has, not just in its starters, but in its reserves as well.

"They have a very experienced group of players, as well as some young guys in



AP / TONY AVELAR

Quarterback Philip Rivers missed the fourth quarter, during which the Chargers scored the winning TD.

there, some great depth on both sides of the ball in all areas — linemen, linebackers, tight ends, running backs, skill players, special teams," said Pats coach Bill Belichick.

Since the season began, San Diego has had 35 different starters, some of which were because of injury — defensive end Luis Castillo and center Nick Hardwick



THE PROVIDENCE JOURNAL / BOB BREIDENBACH

Running back LaDainian Tomlinson missed all of the second half, and San Diego still had a ground game.

each missed a few weeks — and others were performance-based.

Corner Antonio Cromartie began the year behind Drayton Florence on the depth chart, but started his first game in Week 10 against the Colts and responded with three interceptions. He finished the regular season with 10 picks and his first Pro Bowl berth.



AP / JEFF ROBERSON

Running back Michael Turner filled in for Tomlinson and helped lead San Diego to victory.

San Diego pulled off an upset in Indianapolis last weekend with star running back LaDainian Tomlinson on the bench for the entire second half and quarterback Philip Rivers knocked out of the game at the end of the third quarter. Backup QB Billy Volek and back Michael

SEE **DEPTH, C5**

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