

Are you concerned that the Moss story will distract the Patriots?

Let us know what you think at [projsports.com/patriots](http://projsports.com/patriots)



HENDRICKEN ROLLS PAST NORTH KINGSTOWN: View the gallery at [HSGameTime.com/rhodeisland](http://HSGameTime.com/rhodeisland)

**Hoops night**

Multimedia previews of PC-UConn and URI-Saint Louis posted this afternoon at [projsports.com/hoopsblog](http://projsports.com/hoopsblog)

**Elite matchup**

The Patriots and Chargers enter Sunday's game with a combined total of 30 victories so far this season, the second-highest total for any two opponents in an AFC title game:

|      | HOME TEAM     | AWAY TEAM     | TOTAL |
|------|---------------|---------------|-------|
| 2004 | Steelers 16-1 | Patriots 15-2 | 31-3  |
| 2007 | Patriots 17-0 | Chargers 13-5 | 30-5  |

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



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# BACK IN GEAR



THE PROVIDENCE JOURNAL / BOB BREIDENBACH

Running back Laurence Maroney, carrying the ball against the Buffalo Bills in September, has incorporated more patience in his carries, leading to increased yardage.

## Moss denies accusation he struck woman friend

The Patriots receiver claims the woman, who has filed a restraining order against him, had attempted to extort money to keep the matter from the public.

BY ROBERT LEE  
JOURNAL SPORTS WRITER

FOXBORO — Randy Moss' friend of at least a decade, Rachele Washington, has filed a restraining order against him in Florida for "protection against dating violence."

Moss yesterday denied any wrongdoing, said that her claim was false, and stressed that Washington was trying to extort money from him.

"I want to make something clear, in my whole entire life of living, 30 years, I've never put my hand on one

woman, physically or in an angry manner," Moss said. "So this battery that they're talking about, I guess from a legal standpoint, there has to be something said."

"I don't really know all the facts," Moss continued. "I really don't know all that's going on as far as everything, being alleged; all I know is that it's a friend of mine, a young lady, and that it was an accident when she hurt herself, and to where they called me, called my attorneys, trying to get X amount of dollars out of me and if 'we don't give X amount of dollars,' they were going to go to the press before this game."

In a copy of a court document filed with the clerks of the courts, Broward County 17th Judicial Circuit of

SEE MOSS, D2



THE PROVIDENCE JOURNAL / BOB BREIDENBACH

Patriots receiver Randy Moss talks to the media yesterday about a restraining order filed against him by a Florida woman.

## Patient running is paying off for the Pats' Maroney

BY SHALISE MANZA YOUNG  
JOURNAL SPORTS WRITER

FOXBORO — Laurence Maroney hasn't changed that much — he still smiles the same gap-toothed smile, still likes to play jokes and share a laugh with his New England teammates, still talks in that staccato pace tinged with St. Louis style.

But he has changed. Over the last few months, he's learned to be more patient; over the last year or so, he's realized that being an NFL player is more mental than physical; over that last 21 months, since he was drafted out of the University of Minnesota, he's accepted that football is still a game, but it's a business now as well.

In recent weeks, the second-year running back has enjoyed the statistical success expected of him when the Patriots drafted him 21st overall last year, picking

"That's one thing [Corey Dillon] always tells me: no matter what, just keep doing you."

LAURENCE MARONEY

up 428 yards and five touchdowns over his last four games, averaging 5.3 yards per carry.

It wasn't so long ago, however, that Maroney heard that he was dancing behind the line, fans were already calling him a bust, and his own coaches wanted him to pick up three and four yards at a time instead of looking for the big gain every time he got the ball.

He claimed not to know what was being

SEE PATRIOTS, D2

URI TAKING ITS UP-TEMPO STYLE TO ST. LOUIS, WHILE PC'S FIVE AIMS FOR A MUCH-NEEDED VICTORY AT UCONN — D4

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