

Should Patriots fans be concerned about Tom Brady's health?

Tell us what you think at projosports.com/patriots



UNBEATEN ROGERS DOWNS PORTSMOUTH: View the gallery at HSGameTime.com/rhodeisland

Hoops chat

URI basketball writer Paul Kenyon will answer your questions at noon today in the college hoops room at projosports.com/chat

Super Giants

This will be the Giants' fourth Super Bowl appearance. The first three:

Jan. 25, 1986	Giants 39, Broncos 20
Jan. 27, 1990	Giants 20, Bills 19
Jan. 28, 2000	Ravens 34, Giants 7

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

SECTION C



WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 23, 2008

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TROUBLE A FOOT?

Don't bet on Pats' Brady missing the Super Bowl

He's going to play, OK?

Tom Brady has never missed a game since stepping in as quarterback of the Patriots in the third game of the 2001 season, so what would make you think he wasn't going to play in the biggest game of what — if the Patriots finish undefeated — will be a history-making season for the ages?

JIM DONALDSON

Please tell me you weren't worried because you saw a picture of Tom Terrific wearing a protective "boot" on his right foot while limping along a New York City street, toward the home of his glamorous girlfriend, former Victoria's Secret model Gisele Bundchen?

Please tell me you didn't get hysterical over those tabloid headlines, such as the one blaring: "Girlie man limps home."

First of all, if Brady were seriously injured, he would have been in Foxboro, getting treatment — not in Manhattan, getting TLC from the shapely Ms. Bundchen.

Secondly, when he and the lovely Gisele and a few friends stepped out on the town Monday night, Brady had given "the boot" to the boot, leaving it home in favor of more fashionable footwear, rather than wear it to Butter, a trendy, New York

nightspot.

Hey, the guy has a reputation to uphold — he was, after all, proclaimed the "world's best-dressed man" by Esquire magazine.

What we have here is a classic case of too many paparazzi and too much time between now and Super Bowl XLII, set for a week from Sunday in Arizona.

Chargers quarterback Philip Rivers had arthroscopic surgery on his knee last Monday so he could play against New England in the AFC Championship Game. Did you seriously think a foot injury that couldn't keep Brady out of a New York nightclub would keep him out of the Super Bowl?

This isn't like the 2001 season, when there was a legitimate question of whether Brady could, would, or even should start in Super Bowl XXXVI in New Orleans after injuring an ankle in the AFC Championship Game in Pittsburgh.

Thanks to a Troy Brown punt return for a touchdown, the Patriots were leading that game, 7-3, late in the second quarter when Brady was hit — and hurt — just after releasing a 28-yard

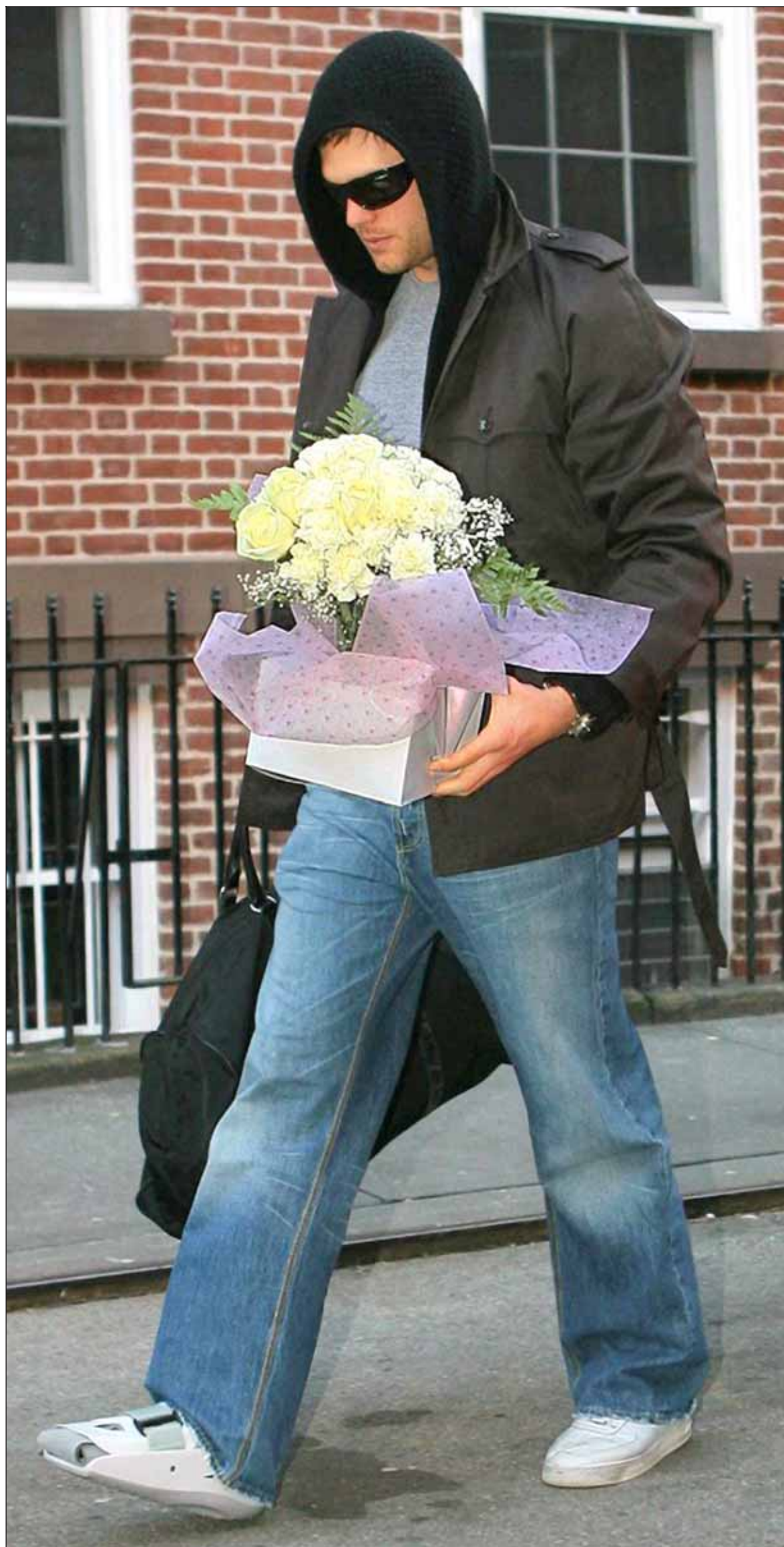
SEE DONALDSON, C3



THE NEW YORK POST

The flowers Tom Brady was seen carting around New York City Monday certainly weren't for the New York Post.

Championship Game in Pittsburgh. Thanks to a Troy Brown punt return for a touchdown, the Patriots were leading that game, 7-3, late in the second quarter when Brady was hit — and hurt — just after releasing a 28-yard



INFODAILY.COM

Tom Brady, who supposedly has a mild high-ankle sprain, was spotted in New York Monday wearing a protective boot on his right foot while hanging out with supermodel girlfriend Gisele Bundchen.

Pats' key to victory: Be first by playing every second

Sporting a perfect record, New England players have subscribed to coach Bill Belichick's demand that they be prepared to play all 60 minutes of each game.

BY ROBERT LEE
JOURNAL SPORTS WRITER

FOXBORO — The Patriots know firsthand how not playing a full 60 minutes in a football game can come back to haunt you.

In last year's AFC Championship Game, the Patriots blew an 18-point lead to the Colts and lost, 38-35, so New England coach Bill Belichick made sure that the Patriots played 60 minutes every time they stepped on the field this season.

"I think in the National Football League you've got to be ready to play 60 minutes every week," Belichick said. "I think every team knows that, so no matter what the

score, situation or conditions are, you play for 60 minutes, whichever side you're on.

"That's what the competition is in this league. There's a lot of close games, a lot of them come down to one possession, a lot of them come down to the final possession, so you just have to be ready to go for 60 minutes every week."

There were several games in which the Patriots didn't need to play the full 60 minutes. The Patriots won their first eight games by an average of 25.5 points per game.

Belichick was criticized for keeping his star players on the field the entire game.

But he defended himself, saying at the time that one day the Patriots would need to play a complete 60 minutes and if they weren't used to doing that, then they might lose in the end.

SEE PATRIOTS, C3

Like it or not, Japan trip an experience for Red Sox

Major League Baseball wants Boston and Oakland to be ambassadors of the globalization of baseball.

BY JOE McDONALD
JOURNAL SPORTS WRITER

BOSTON — Call it baseball's version of Around the World in 80 Days. Japan is a faraway place and its people have a strong love for the game of baseball. While some Bos-

ton Red Sox and Oakland Athletics personnel have objections to traveling there to start the 2008 season, the fact is that Major League Baseball wants them there as ambassadors in the continual globalization of baseball.

Now that the offseason is just about over and done with — just like the Colorado Rockies in the World Series — the Red Sox have already turned their attention toward spring training and the trip to Japan. The

Sox will leave spring training on March 20 and return to Boston on April 7 after traveling in a span of 19 days to three countries, including a three-game stint against the Blue Jays in Toronto April 4-6.

From the get-go, manager Terry Francona and some Red Sox players were not warm to the idea of sending two major-league teams to Tokyo to play a couple of exhibition games against Japanese teams before playing their respective season-

openers. In fact, it took ownership and the league to finalize the trip, along with some requests by the Players' Association.

Francona recently said the Red Sox will do what is in the best interest of baseball, have a smile on their faces and travel some 12,000 miles over a span of 19 days so the baseball world can get a glimpse of the world champions.

SEE RED SOX, C2

"I've never experienced anything like this, and we're going to be living three weeks out of a suitcase."

MIKE LOWELL
Red Sox third baseman

