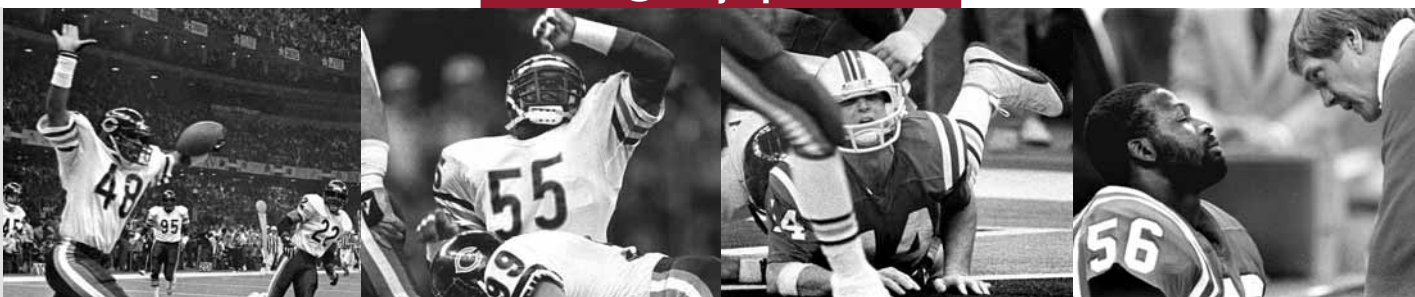


Which of the Pats' five Super Bowls do you remember most fondly?

Tell us what you think at projosports.com/patriots



BEARS OVERWHELMED PATS IN SUPER BOWL XX: View the gallery at Projosports.com/patriots

Boots on the ground

Our writers have arrived in Arizona; follow their Super Bowl reports all week at projosports.com/patsblog

Top of the heap

Since 1994, the Patriots have compiled the top winning percentage in the NFL (playoffs included):

	W	L	T	P.C.
Patriots	162	85	0	.656
Packers	154	90	0	.631
Steelers	151	92	1	.621
Broncos	145	92	0	.612
Colts	143	99	0	.591

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

SECTION B



MONDAY, JANUARY 28, 2008

projo SPORTS

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

THE PATRIOTS STORY: It was thought the salary-cap rule would mean the end of dynasties in the NFL. But the Pats built one anyway.

Selfless

Yesterday: How the Pats built a team culture in which players learned to check their egos at the door.

Shrewd

Today: How management learned to play by the new rules, no matter how many tough decisions it took.

And Lucky

Tomorrow: How good fortune, primarily the sixth-round selection of Tom Brady, helped create the dynasty.



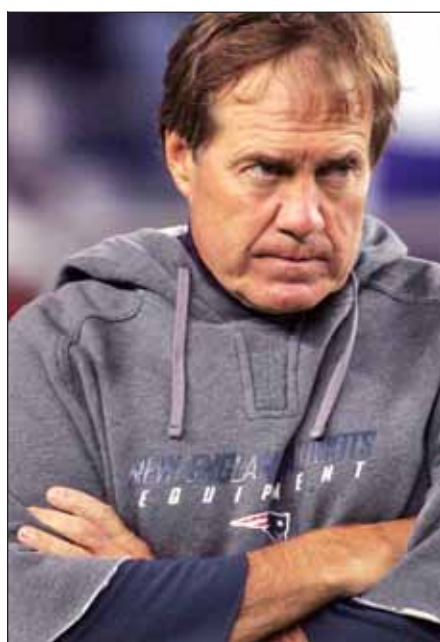
Shrewd

The Pats are run brilliantly by a front-office team that knows how to manage the salary cap and isn't afraid to make tough personnel decisions



AP / STEPHAN SAVOIA

Owner Robert Kraft wanted to build "an organization that could get to the playoffs every year."



THE PROVIDENCE JOURNAL / MARY MURPHY

So he hired a coach, Bill Belichick, who never lets sentiment sway his personnel decisions.



THE PROVIDENCE JOURNAL / BILL MURPHY

And a vice president, Scott Pioli, who understands both what a player can do and what salary he's worth.



THE PROVIDENCE JOURNAL / BOB BREIDENBACH

Adam Vinatieri kicked last-second field goals to win two Super Bowls, including the first one the Patriots won (in New Orleans in 2002, above), and was arguably a bigger franchise icon than Tom Brady. But when the Pats decided Vinatieri was no longer worth the money he was seeking, they let him go.

BY JIM DONALDSON
JOURNAL SPORTS WRITER

If your singular focus is winning, you must release aging, overpaid players, no matter how unpopular doing so is.

— From *Management Secrets of the New England Patriots*, by James Lavin

It's no secret why the Patriots are the best team in football, undefeated at 18-0, and playing in the Super Bowl for the fourth time in seven years.

No organization in the NFL is better at determining not only what a player can do for it on the field, but also what a player is worth to it in this era of the salary cap.

There's only so much money to go around, and if a team fails to make shrewd personnel and financial decisions, it finds itself out of money and out of the playoffs.

What has made the Patriots perennial winners is not just the players they sign, but, equally important, the players they don't.

Remember the uproar when the Pats couldn't agree to terms with popular strong safety Lawyer Milloy and wound

up waiving him just before the start of the 2003 season?

Milloy was a four-time Pro Bowler and a team leader. He also was turning 30, and in 2002 had failed to intercept a pass, make a sack, or, despite his reputation as a hard hitter, force even one fumble.

He wound up signing with division rival Buffalo, which routed a shaken Patriots team in the season opener, 31-0. But the Patriots quickly recovered, losing just

one more game the rest of the season. They won their last 15 in a row, including a 32-29 victory over Carolina in Super Bowl XXXVIII.

In the five years since Milloy left New England, he has not been to either the Pro Bowl or the Super Bowl.

"It is human nature," Lavin wrote, "to allow sentiment to sway decisions. Many coaches would have paid Joe Andruzzi, David Patten and Ty Law — integral members of three Super Bowl-winning teams — to stay on for a fourth Super Bowl run (following the 2004 season.)"

SURVEY: Is the Pats' willingness to discard old stars an important part of their success? Go to projo.com/patriots

SUPER BOWL XLII: Patriots vs. Giants, Sunday, Feb. 3 at 6:17 p.m., FOX Television.

SEE PATRIOTS, B7

Orangemen stick with their zone and put the squeeze on Friars

Despite having only seven scholarship players available, Syracuse cripples PC's offense.

BY KEVIN McNAMARA
JOURNAL SPORTS WRITER

SYRACUSE, N.Y. — Jim Boeheim's latest Syracuse University basketball team may be on personnel life-support, but the Orange are still finding ways to win Big East games.

The latest example came at the expense of the Providence College Friars yesterday when the Orange's trademark zone defense crippled PC's offense for

much of the game and paved the way for a 71-64 victory in front of 23,309 fans at the Carrier Dome.

Syracuse, 14-7 overall and 4-4 in conference play, beat the Friars with only seven scholarship players suited up. Six actually got into the game, but those half-dozen are still pretty good. Donte Greene continued his superb freshman season by pouring in 24 points, including five 3-pointers. Fellow frosh Jonny Flynn added 12 points and 5 assists, while Paul Harris chipped in 14 points. Center Arriz Onuaku grabbed 14 rebounds in leading a slaughter of the Friars off the

boards.

Boeheim has lost two starters to season-ending knee injuries, and yesterday Antonio "Scoop" Jardine was suspended indefinitely due to an unspecified violation of university policy. Boeheim says his team can't run like it wants to, in order to conserve energy. The team's four key starters each played 37 or more minutes.

"We've never been close to this. It's difficult. We're as short-handed as you'd ever want to be," Boeheim said. "You can

SYRACUSE
71
PC
64

NEXT GAME
Thursday
at Notre Dame
7 p.m.

play six or seven guys, but it's tough. We're going to keep fighting through it."

After major defensive problems early in the year, Syracuse's zone is perking up. It certainly dominated the Friars. PC struggled through one of its worst halves of the season as it managed only 21 points on 29-percent shooting in the opening

20 minutes. The Friars trailed by nine at the half and fell behind by as many as 12 points early in the second half before the offense was finally jolted into action. The

3-point shooting of Dwain Williams (21 points) and Jeff Xavier (16) did the trick, and PC took a two-point lead with 7:40 left.

The score was 56-56 at the four-minute mark, but Syracuse scored the next nine points to lock up the win.

PC fell to 12-7 overall and 3-4 in the Big East. The promise of a three-game winning streak has been reversed after two straight losses. Up next is a trip to Notre Dame, where the Fighting Irish hold a 31-game home winning streak.

SEE PC, B5