

What should be the Patriots' offseason priority on offense?

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



MOSES BROWN NIPS NORTH SMITHFIELD: View the gallery at [HSGameTime.com/rhodeisland](http://HSGameTime.com/rhodeisland)

**URI-UMass coverage**

Paul Kenyon's multimedia preview this afternoon, live scoreboard and blog reports tonight, at [projsports.com/uri](http://projsports.com/uri)

**Where they stand**

The RPI (Ratings Percentage Index) standings of Rhode Island's Division I basketball teams:

20.	Rhode Island
63.	Providence
131.	Brown

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

SECTION C



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# UP IN THE AIR

## Pats' Moss and Stallworth could be packing their bags

BY SHALISE MANZA YOUNG  
JOURNAL SPORTS WRITER

The sting of the Patriots' defeat in Super Bowl XLII has barely subsided, but the NFL calendar doesn't give New England much time to wallow in its defeat — nor for the New York Giants to revel in their success.

Bill Belichick and Scott Pioli have already begun looking ahead to next year, and in fact, Pioli was working on next year last week: he arrived in Phoenix a few days behind the rest of the team, as he was meeting with the Patriots' pro and college scouts and discussing potential free agent and draft targets.

The NFL Combine, the annual exercise in evaluating college talent, begins on Feb. 20 in Indianapolis, and the first day teams can sign free agents is March 1. Add to that the draft in late April, and it's easy to see how quickly the team has to start making decisions on who may and may not be on the roster come September.

On Tuesday, Belichick laid out a loose framework for the calendar going forward.

"The first thing is to go back and look at what happened during the season, evaluate our team and our scheme and our players," he said. "Then we start moving into the team-building aspect, free agency, the draft, personnel decisions, playbook and all the things that we do to pre-

pare for the off-season program, the spring camps and ultimately the '08 season."

As good as they were offensively this season, scoring a league-record 589 points, the Patriots have decisions to make on that side of the ball.

Tom Brady certainly isn't going anywhere, but his corps of receivers could be drastically different for the third year in a row: Randy Moss is a free agent, and both the team and Donte Stallworth seem to understand that he will not be with

the Pats much longer. For New England to keep him, he is owed \$8 million in bonuses by March 1, and an additional \$1.6 million bonus based on playing time. All told, keeping Stallworth, who had 46

SEE PATRIOTS, C5

**LOOKING AHEAD**

**TODAY:**

What the Pats need to do on offense.

**TOMORROW:**

What the Pats need to do on defense.

**SATURDAY:**

What free agents will the Pats try to retain?

**SUNDAY:**

And which free agents will they pursue?



PROVIDENCE JOURNAL / GLENN OSMUNDSON

An unspectacular season and high price tag could hasten wide receiver Donte Stallworth's exit from New England.

Superstar wide receiver Randy Moss is a free agent and the Patriots could offer him a long-term contract or lock him up for a year at a guaranteed \$7.848 million to assure that his services land in Foxboro.

THE PROVIDENCE JOURNAL / MARY MURPHY

## Both Curry, PC feeling the pain

The Friars' starting point guard is yearning to return, but has resigned himself to sitting out a season in which his team is struggling without him.

BY KEVIN McNAMARA  
JOURNAL SPORTS WRITER

PROVIDENCE — The questions are finally slowing. So are the stares as he walks across the Providence College campus with a bulky boot strapped to his right foot.

No longer does Sharaud Curry hide in his dorm room because he can't stand to hear the question that's bounced around Friar Town since October: "When is Sharaud coming back?"

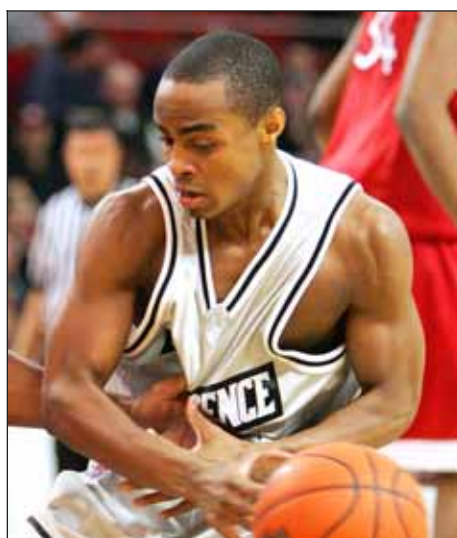
How about next year. With eight regular season games remaining, Curry is officially shelved for the season. That decision became evident about a month ago but was con-

firmed by the junior point guard in a wide-ranging interview yesterday.

"It's been very tough to deal with. I just stay out of the way and stay in my room," he said. "A lot of people understand and have been very supportive. They tell me to just get healthy. That means the most to me when I hear people tell me that. That shows that they not only care about us but they care about my health."

Curry, PC's starting point guard and floor leader for the last two seasons, played a mere eight minutes this season. After suffering a stress fracture just before practice began in October, Curry was told he could rejoin his teammates in 8-12 weeks. Now it's 16 weeks and he says the foot is finally feeling strong. The walking boot that's fit under his sweat pants most of the winter is finally gone. He's spent the last few days just like so many oth-

SEE CURRY, C3



THE PROVIDENCE JOURNAL / RUBEN W. PEREZ

PC is struggling without point guard Sharaud Curry, whose stress-fracture in his foot has ruled him out this year.

## There'll be no speed limit as Rams, UMass leg it out

BY PAUL KENYON  
JOURNAL SPORTS WRITER

The fans who have bought tickets for tonight's URI-UMass game at the Mullins Center in Amherst, Mass., could receive a bonus. They could end up seeing not only what shapes up as an excellent basketball game, but also a bit of a track meet, as well.

If form follows, there will be lots of running and plenty of points scored. That's the way both teams want to do it. Both have played that way all season and, faced with an opponent who likes to run as much as they do, neither side is likely to want to slow it down tonight.

Not so long ago, UMass and URI

**TONIGHT**

URI at UMass  
8 p.m.

had teams that wanted to out-tough each other. This time around, they will be trying to outrun each other.

Massachusetts (14-7, 3-4 in the A-10) has become one of the surprise teams in the conference. It has done it by totally revamping its style, in much the same way that URI did last season. Coach Travis Ford has gone from a power game that relied on Rashaun Freeman and Stephane

SEE URI, C3