

Will Kevin Faulk be back with the Patriots next season?

Tell us what you think at projsports.com/patriots



TIVERTON TRIUMPHS OVER MT. HOPE: View the gallery at HSGameTime.com/rhodeisland

Friars pregame

Check out Kevin McNamara's multimedia preview of PC-Seton Hall posted this afternoon at projsports.com/pc

Mr. January

Kevin Faulk has been a standout in the postseason during his nine seasons with the Patriots:

	NO.	YDS	AVG.
Rushing	76	366	5.0
Receiving	38	323	8.5

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

SECTION C



THURSDAY, JANUARY 24, 2008

projoSPORTS

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

Rams repay Colonials in runaway win

URI uses an array of 3-point shots and some standout play in the second half to upend nemesis George Washington.

BY PAUL KENYON
JOURNAL SPORTS WRITER

SOUTH KINGSTOWN — It was back to normal for the URI basketball team last night, which was good news for the Rams.

Whatever slump the team might have been in after losing two of its first three Atlantic 10 games disappeared in a barrage of second-half 3-point baskets that helped beat George Washington, 81-70, at the Ryan Center.

URI
81

G. WASH.
70

NEXT GAME

Saturday at St. Bonaventure 7 p.m.

The result was sweet for the Rams (16-3, 2-2 in the Atlantic 10) since they had lost six in a row to the Colonials (5-9, 1-3), including the A-10 title game last March. Combine that with a loss to Dayton in the conference opener as well as a loss at Saint Louis in their

last start and the Rams told themselves it was a must game.

"We were all happy, but I was probably the happiest," said co-captain Will Daniels, who was part of the second-half onslaught that built leads as big as 21 points. "I've been here four years and I haven't beaten them. This was big for us tonight."

"It was a good win for us. We wanted to get this game up and down," agreed coach Jim Baron. After struggling in a half-court game in the

SEE **RAMS, C3**



THE PROVIDENCE JOURNAL / JOHN FRIEDAH

URI's Jimmy Baron, who scored his 1,000th point last night, drives to the basket past GW's Rob Diggs during first-half play.

Seton Hall looks to improve road record at PC

Seeking their third conference win in a row, the Pirates are just 1-4 on the road as they confront the Friars tonight in Providence in the two teams' only meeting this season.

BY KEVIN MCNAMARA
JOURNAL SPORTS WRITER

PROVIDENCE — Riding high after a big win over Louisville, Bobby Gonzalez considers his team armed and dangerous. Taking the next step, however, is a challenge everyone around the Big East is struggling with.

Gonzalez, who rode shotgun to Pete Gillen as a Providence College assistant from 1994-98, has Seton Hall on the move. The Pirates are in town to play the Friars tonight in a key Big East contest for both teams. The Hall is looking for its third consecutive conference win. That's a major move forward for a team that finished 4-12 in Gonzo's first season at the helm last year.

The Pirates are 9-2 at home but just 1-4 on the road, including Big East losses to Marquette and Pittsburgh. Winning on the road is a tough step.

SEE **GONZALEZ, C3**

UNSUNG HERO

Faulk's versatility is invaluable to the Pats

Doing it all

	RUSHING					RECEIVING				
	Att	Yds	Avg	Lng	TD	Rec	Yds	Avg	Lng	TD
2007	62	265	4.3	14	0	47	383	8.1	23	1
Playoffs	5	17	3.4	8	0	13	118	9.1	14	0

BY SHALISE MANZA YOUNG
JOURNAL SPORTS WRITER

To look at the most basic of his stats: 5-foot-8, 202 pounds, Kevin Faulk isn't that impressive as a football player.

He's a little on the short side, a little on the light side for a running back in today's NFL. He isn't the fastest guy, isn't the most naturally athletic.

But when he's on the field, there isn't much Faulk can't do.

He can carry the football, can throw a block better than most, can make a key third-down catch when called upon, can return punts.

Or as his former coach at LSU, Gerry DiNardo, says of the Patriots' ninth-year veteran, "I find his recent success with the Patriots storybook in this way: he's not a prototypical anything in the NFL, but they have found a way to make him a star."

Faulk has always been a standout, and not just with pads on. A schoolboy All-American at Louisiana's Carencro High when DiNardo lured him about 40 miles east to Baton Rouge, Faulk hit the ground running, so to speak, at LSU, enrolling in school early to begin his classes.

Given his status as a local star, Faulk was one of the most visible players of DiNardo's tenure with the Tigers, and the coach put extra responsibility on the young man because he knew so many in the area looked up to him.

Faulk responded. "He graduated in 3½ years, in a time where a lot of athletes don't graduate, let alone in 3½ years," DiNardo said. "He was never a problem academically. He just went about his business."

"He came to my office one day (in his senior year) and said, 'I'm graduating in December; I just wanted to let you know.' I always remember him coming to tell me that."

Faulk became one of the most prolific rushers in school history and the Southeastern Conference, and as Bill Belichick has done with Faulk, DiNardo used him in a variety of ways: as a rusher, receiver and punt returner.

The former high school quarterback knew every play in the playbook, DiNardo said, and everyone else's assignment in those plays.

But Faulk knew how to tweak his coach as well: during practice, and sometimes in games, Faulk would grab a punt by plucking it out of the air, hands over his head, rather than with his elbows out and palms toward the sky.

"I'd tell him, 'You're making me a nervous wreck,' and he'd just laugh," DiNardo said with a chuckle.

New England drafted Faulk in the second round of the 1999 draft, and he is one of the few players on the current Pats' roster that predates Belichick's tenure as head coach.

Much as he did in Baton Rouge, Faulk now simply goes about his business. He's not the rah-rah type, getting into teammates' faces or gyrating after making a big catch.

SEE **PATRIOTS, C5**



Patriots veteran running back and kick returner Kevin Faulk might get overlooked at times, but not when the game is on the line.

THE PROVIDENCE JOURNAL / GLENN OSMUNDSON

Parcells proud of former aides Coughlin, Belichick



"I have family on one team, and I have strong sentiment for the other team. I talk more with Bill than I do with Tom, but I wish them both the best."

BILL PARCELLS, director of operations for the Dolphins

The NFC Championship Game victory sent Giants head coach Tom Coughlin into the Super Bowl against Bill Belichick and the undefeated Patriots.

BY VINCE DITRANI
THE RECORD (HACKENSACK, N.J.)

Bill Parcells was about as far away from the frozen tundra as you can get Sunday night, watching the second half of his coaching tree lock up a spot in Super Bowl XLIII.

"It was great theater," the Miami Dolphins' director of football operations said of the Giants' 23-20 overtime NFC title win in Green Bay. "It was one of those games that will be remembered for a long, long time."

The pulsating victory under the toughest of conditions sent Giants head coach Tom

Coughlin into the big game against another former Parcells aide, Bill Belichick, and his undefeated New England Patriots. The game reminded Parcells of his 1990 team's upset win over San Francisco on Matt Bahr's final-play field goal in the NFC Championship Game leading up to Super Bowl XXV.

Belichick was the defensive coordinator while Coughlin coached the wide receivers on that Giants team.

"It makes me feel proud," Parcells said of the matchup of his former assistant coaches. "I don't think you should be penalized for hiring good assistants. People say no wonder he did so well; look at the assistant coaches he had. Well, what's wrong with hiring good ones?"

Following Super Bowl XXV, the three

SEE **PARCELLS, C5**