



City of Cambridge

29.

IN CITY COUNCIL

May 17, 1999

COUNCILLOR TOOMEY
VICE MAYOR GALLUCCIO
COUNCILLOR SULLIVAN

WHEREAS: It has come to the attention of this City Council that Providence College senior Marc DesRoches set a school record with his 11-1 season as a pitcher for the Providence College Friars; and

WHEREAS: Marc's record for the year also includes a 2.31 ERA; and his star performance this season came after having surgery performed on his throwing arm in December; now therefore be it

RESOLVED: That the City Council go on record congratulating Marc DesRoches on his record-setting pitching season at Providence College, and on his graduation from Providence College; and be it further

RESOLVED: That, in addition to sending a suitably engrossed copy of this resolution to Marc DesRoches, the City Clerk send a copy to Providence College urging them to reconsider their termination of their fine seventy-six year-old baseball program on behalf of the entire City Council.

In City Council May 17, 1999.

Adopted by the affirmative vote of eight members.

Attest:- D. Margaret Drury, City Clerk.

A true copy;

ATTEST:-

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "D. Margaret Drury". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned to the right of the word "ATTEST:-".

D. Margaret Drury
City Clerk

TT

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MS

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Lights out for Friars

Curtain falls on PC baseball program

By JOHN CONNOLLY

PROVIDENCE — The lush green grass of the outfield at Hendricken Field was being pelted by a steady drizzle. The infield, uncovered, was vacant. The Providence College baseball players, owners of the No. 1 ranking in New England and with 40 victories this season — second most in school history — were inside running and lifting weights.

The gray day provided a fitting centerpiece to a lameduck program that will cease to exist at the conclusion of the upcoming Big East tournament. Tomorrow's affair with Villanova will be the final home game.

After 76 years of play, Providence baseball, a program that has seen 15 players drafted by Major League Baseball, including Red Sox infielder Lou Merloni, is counting down its last days. A victim of Title IX, the Friars (40-13) this spring have played like shipwreck survivors hoping someone finds their message in a bottle.

The announcement came last Oct. 6 to drop men's baseball, men's tennis and men's golf. Since that day, the PC players and coaches have made the best of a tough situation, performing always at the highest of levels.

"Overall, the No. 40 (wins) ... well, I knew we'd be successful, but to win 40 in these conditions are pretty difficult," said Friars head coach Charlie Hickey, who has retained a sprightly stride, ready wit, and ever-present smile amid what is the most trying of times.

"I've told the team one thing: to hold close to their heart. That is, each day we go out there is one less day that we will be able to. So I've asked the kids to remember that every day and don't waste the opportunity, because we don't have a lot left," Hickey added.

"If you asked me in October, I'd say it would be easy to focus. It's something that's on each kid's mind all the time. Should I transfer to another school? Will I be able to play there? I think, though, that they understand that this is the last time they can do something together here. So you have 25 guys contributing every day."

Marc DesRoches, a fifth-year senior from Cambridge and Matignon High, is a prime example of the grit each Friars play-

er has displayed. After having surgery performed on his right (throwing) elbow by Red Sox team physician Arthur Pappas in December, DesRoches has rebounded quickly with a team-best 11-1 record and 2.31 ERA. The 11 wins is a single-season school mark.

"On the field we're trying to take care of business," said DesRoches, who received a recent inquiry from an independent minor professional league in Seattle about playing this summer after noting he helped Chatham to the Cape Cod League title last summer. "We're just trying to play our best baseball and get into the playoffs. We're trying to put some wins up on the board. We're playing at the level we've prepared to be at. We don't take anything for granted."

The Friars have circled the wagons for their swan song, each player chipping in. Junior outfielder Keith Reed of Auburn, a bona fide pro prospect, leads in home runs (17) and RBI (66) and is second in batting average (.415). Sophomore Mike Scott is tops in average (.425) and runs (73). He has set rookie and school marks for hits (99) and leads the country in triples (11) after missing last season with a knee injury.

Freshman Neal McCarthy and Reed share the doubles (18) lead. Sophomore infielder Mike O'Keefe tops in walks (35). Freshman Jamie Athas of Holyoke has stolen 15 bases in 18 attempts.

"Obviously, to be 40-13 at this point is pretty good, but I think it's something that started back in January. It was something that happened early. DesRoches had arm surgery. (Senior third baseman) Angelo Ciminiello had a sprained ankle. Our starting left fielder (Jason Hairston) had a sprained wrist," Hickey said.

"So right off the bat we had to replace some key people. We had some young kids stepped in and performed very well. I think sometimes it shows exactly what coaches don't know."

With tomorrow's final home game on tap, the Friars are waxing nostalgic.

"When we get close to the (start of the) season, we always have a nice alumni banquet and there are a lot of things that you overlook," DesRoches said. "But I think this year it meant a little extra. It made you think back on the 80 years of baseball tradition."

5/16

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Res That the City Council go on record
expressing its congratulations to
Marc DesRoches upon the occasion of
his graduation from Providence College

Send copy to Providence College using the
to continue 36

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Attest:- D. Margaret Drury, City Clerk.

A true copy;

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D. Margaret Drury
City Clerk

Consent Order #29 630 R

Councillor Toomey, Vice Mayor Galluccio and Councillor Sullivan re: congratulations to Marc DesRoches on his record-setting pitching season and graduation from Providence College and urge Providence College to reconsider their termination of their seventy-six year old baseball program.

In City Council May 17, 1999

ORDER ADOPTED