

# CENTURY OF SPORTS LEGENDS

By our sports editor  
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**T**HE New England Patriots football team beat the Los Angeles Rams to win the Super Bowl yesterday, matching the record for the most titles. Patriots quarterback Tom Brady, who was featured in all the franchise's triumphs, became the

only player in history to win six Super Bowls!

The team's triumph crowns a century or more of sporting excellence in Massachusetts. The Boston Americans baseball team—later renamed the Boston Red Sox—defeated the Pittsburgh Pirates in the first World Series in 1903.

In 2004, the Red Sox ended the “Curse of the Bambino” with a sixth World Series win after an

86-year wait. Fans claimed the “curse” was the result of the sale of star player Babe Ruth. Since then, the team has won three more championships. Ted Williams, who played between 1939 and 1960, is still considered one of the game's greatest hitters.

The Boston Braves—which eventually moved to Atlanta—also won the World Series.

The legendary Boston Celtics

basketball team has won 17 championships, more than any other NBA team. One of the Celtics' many great players was Bill Russell, who won 11 NBA championships with the team, and an Olympic medal.

The Boston Bruins, one of North America's “Original Six” ice hockey teams, has won six Stanley Cup championships. The Bruins' Bobby Orr became a legend after scoring a winning shot with a “flying goal.” Massachusetts has excelled beyond team sports. Brockton-born Rocky Marciano was the undefeated world heavyweight boxing champion during the 1950s.

The spirit of Massachusetts also burns bright in Olympic sport: Needham-born gymnast Aly Raisman won two gold medals at the Games in 2012 and one in 2016.

The Boston Marathon, said to be the world's oldest annual marathon, was center stage in a “battle of the sexes” in 1966. Bobbi Gibb defied the authorities to become the first woman to run the entire race.

The marathon was a men's division event, and women were not allowed to run in it. Gibb hid in a bush near the start, then quietly joined the race. Later, in a victory for women's equality in sport, the rules were changed to allow women to compete.

