



## Dynasty: Auerbach, Cousy, Havlicek, Russell, And The Rise Of The Boston Celtics

By Lew Freedman

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More than half a century after the Boston Celtics' legendary first championship, here is a riveting inside account of one of sports' greatest franchises?between 1957 and 1969, winners of eleven titles, including a record eight in a row starting in 1959. Lew Freedman, who grew up attending Celtics games and eventually befriended the players and team management, chronicles the team's glory years under coach Red Auerbach, star player Bill Russell, and a legendary lineup of other talents. Revealing how he was swept up in dramatic moments both on and off the court, *Dynasty* is a great book about a vibrant sports town, the greatest players in basketball, and an unprecedented run of championships rarely challenged before or since in team sports.

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## **Dynasty: Auerbach, Cousy, Havlicek, Russell, And The Rise Of The Boston Celtics** By Lew Freedman **Bibliography**

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### Editorial Review

From the Inside Flap

In the spring of 1957 the Boston Celtics, led by coach Red Auerbach, won a National Basketball Association championship for the first time. Auerbach had been building the team throughout the 1950s but was still missing what he considered an essential piece—a single player in the middle who could hoist the team on his shoulders by doing the dirty work of rebounding and playing defense. That player was Bill Russell.

By blending unselfish yet talented players into a roster led by Russell's unconquerable will, Auerbach and the Celtics put together an unprecedented run of championships rarely challenged before or since in team sports. Between 1957 and 1969, Boston won eleven titles in thirteen seasons. Only when Russell retired did the era of dominance end.

Written by Lew Freedman, an award-winning veteran sportswriter who personally witnessed many of the Celtics' antics and special moments over the years, *Dynasty* is a celebration of the basketball team Auerbach melded into one of the greatest franchises in NBA history.

Freedman grew up attending Celtics games, from his first game as a boy in 1960 he befriended the players and the team management as an adult. In *Dynasty*, he draws on dozens of interviews as well as court-side observation to reveal dramatic moments both on and off the floor.

Half a century after the Celtics' legendary first championship, here is a riveting behind-the-scenes account of one of sports' greatest franchises—a terrific book about a vibrant sports town, the greatest players in basketball, and one of professional basketball's best and most beloved teams.

From the Back Cover

More than half a century after the Boston Celtics' legendary first championship, here is a riveting inside account of one of sports' greatest franchises—between 1957 and 1969, winners of eleven titles, including a record eight in a row starting in 1959.

In the spring of 1957, the Celtics, led by coach Red Auerbach, won a National Basketball Association championship for the first time. Auerbach had been building the team throughout the 1950s, but was still missing what he considered an essential piece, a single player in the middle who could hoist the team on his shoulders by doing the dirty work of rebounding and playing defense. That man was Bill Russell.

Author Lew Freedman, who grew up attending Celtics games and eventually befriended the players and team management, chronicles the team's glory years under Auerbach, Russell, and a legendary lineup of other talents. Revealing how he was swept up in dramatic moments both on and off the court, Freedman has penned a gripping book about a vibrant sports town, the greatest players in basketball, and an unprecedented run of championships rarely challenged before or since in team sports.

About the Author

Lew Freedman grew up in Boston and began attending Celtics games in 1960. Those teams and those players

made him into a lifelong basketball fan (and writer). The Celtics were his favorite team in any sport. He stayed up late at night on school days listening to announcer Johnny Most on the radio. An uncle took him to NBA doubleheaders (back when the league needed them as a marketing tool). Best of all, he thought, the Celtics won the championship every year. If you were a young fan, how could you not be thrilled by that? In a different time, when the league was smaller and the playoffs shorter, the Celtics guaranteed playoff action every year when his birthday rolled around each April. Every year he asked his parents for Celtics playoff tickets for his birthday present and that's what he got.

In the early 1960s, Freedman met several of the Celtics stars at public appearances made for what now would not even be considered tip money. His best friend's father owned a boys clothing store and brought in players like Havlicek, Tom Sanders, Sam Jones and K.C. Jones to sign autographs on Saturday afternoons. Because Freedman was the youngest son's friend, he got to hang out with the players in the back room.

Freedman also attended Jim Loscutoff's basketball camp for a few years and his father was later friendly with Tom Heinsohn. During the course of a sportswriting career he has had the opportunity to meet and talk with several of the Celtics. In the last few years alone he has chatted with Sam Jones, Bill Russell, and only recently Bob Cousy. When he was about twelve years old, Freedman wrote to Cousy and he sent an autographed picture. Sam Jones once ticked off Chamberlain and the big man came after him. Jones famously picked up a stool to fend him off like a lion tamer. Freedman was in the Garden to see it. One of the most dramatic off-floor moments in Celtics history was Bob Cousy Day at the Garden when he was retiring. Cousy cried, a fan yelled from the balcony, "We love you Cooz," and fans provided a standing ovation. Freedman was present and still owns the program.

## **Users Review**

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#### **Donovan Pena:**

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