



dent, local favorite, and marathon legend, won his first of four Boston Marathons in 1975, and Maine's Joan Benoit Samuelson won her second Boston Marathon in 1983; her time of 2:22:43 was a course, national, and world record. One of the marathon's most infamous episodes was the crowning of Rosie Ruiz as the women's winner in 1980. Ruiz, wearing number W50, ran onto the race course from Kenmore Square with the men and was the first woman across the finish line. No official checkpoint had recorded the passage of W50, however, and the characteristic pattern of sweat on her clothing and the distinctive tautness of leg muscles after a long run were missing. BAA officials investigated the incident and disqualified her as the women's winner.

In 1970 Boston became the first major marathon to hold a wheelchair competition and in 1984 wheelchair entries became an official BAA division. Most notably, Jean Driscoll of Illinois won seven successive wheelchair races between 1990 and 1997, tying Clarence DeMar's record of seven titles. Also in the 1970s, the BAA imposed a standard qualifying time to limit the size of the running field and to attract the most prestigious runners. Today, proof of qualification on a certified course in another sanctioned USA Track and Field or foreign equivalent is necessary to enter the Boston Marathon.

From the mid-1930s to the late 1970s, the Boston Marathon was supported by benefactors such as the Prudential Life Insurance Company. In order to continue as a world-recognized race, the marathon became a fully professional event in the 1980s. Sponsorship in 1986 by the John Hancock Financial Services attracted elite runners from all over the world; runners from Africa came to run the Boston Marathon for the first time in 1988. Kenyan Ibrahim Hussein won the 1988 race, and Kenyan runners have won all but three of the races since then. In 2004 both the men's (Timothy Cherigat) and women's (Catherine Ndereba) champions were Kenyan. The historical Boston Marathon, one of the most high-profile athletic events in the world, continues to signify the pursuit of athletic perfection and personal bests for those who seek to gain entry.

Boston Athletic Association, *The Official Map of the Boston Marathon* (1997); Tom Derderian, *The Boston Marathon: The History of the World's Premier Running Event* (1994); Hal Higdon, *Boston: A Century of Running* (1995).

Donna Jean Zane

Boston Red Sox World Series champions. It took 86 years, but in 2004 the Boston Red Sox finally were able to claim the title again, for the first time since 1918. That long

drought came to define the team, much of its history being synonymous with a deep sense of pessimism. The Red Sox ruled baseball in the early 1900s and personified defeat for the rest of the century. They won the first World Series, in 1903, and their fifth title in 1918. But in 1919 they sold Babe Ruth, who went on to become the greatest player in the history of the game, to their nemesis, the New York Yankees. The worst blunder in sports history became central to the mythology of baseball, creating the sport's greatest dynasty in the Yankees and consigning the Red Sox to a series of tumbles, broken promises, and near misses. All their lives New Englanders had to watch as the Yankees won title after title, 26 in all, while their beloved Sox endured defeat and what came to be called the Curse of the Bambino.

For most of the 20th century, the Sox were linked in baseball minds with the Chicago Cubs, baseball's other perennial loser playing in a quaint old ballpark. But the Cubs were usually good-natured also-rans, shuffling off to another sixth-place finish. Red Sox history was a recurring dream of glory that always crashed in flames at the last possible moment. Four times since the sale of Ruth—in 1946, 1967, 1975, and 1986—the Sox made it to the World Series. Each time, they lost in the seventh game, twice in unbearable fashion. There have been three one-game playoffs in American League history; the Sox have been in two of them, in 1948 and 1978, and suffered close, crushing losses in both.

The Red Sox were also on the brink of the pennant several times, only to fold in the end. In 1949 they finished the season with two games in New York, needing to win only one to clinch the pennant. The Yankees beat them in both. In 1972 the Sox lost the title at the end of the season on a base-running mistake. In 1974 they blew a seven-and-a-half game lead in the season's final month. In 1978 the Sox led the Yankees by 14 games on July 20 and then staggered through one of the game's most spectacular collapses before losing a one-game playoff when the Yankees' light-hitting shortstop, Bucky Dent, popped a three-run homer to shallow left to seal their fate. His name is still reviled throughout New England. The Sox lost the 1986 World Series against the New York Mets in horrifying fashion, after being one strike away from the championship in the sixth game before they imploded in a series of miscues culminating in an easy grounder that dribbled through Bill Buckner's legs—the most infamous error in World Series history—giving the Mets an impossible victory. Over the next decade, the Sox became the only major league team ever to lose 13 consecutive postseason games. In 2003 the Yankees left another indelible stain on the psyche

of New England when, five outs away from victory in the seventh game of the American League championship series, Sox manager Grady Little stuck with his obviously tiring ace pitcher, Pedro Martinez, and Boston fans watched in agony once again as New York methodically rallied from a three-run deficit to claim yet another pennant.

In the dark shadow of this dismal defeat, team management wasted little time in firing Little and pursuing more pitchers, landing star closer Keith Foulke and another ace, Curt Schilling, now paired with Martinez, to go with their explosive offense. The result was victory at last in 2004, ringing as loudly in Sox history as the taunt of 1918 had signaled its heartbreak.

Through mid-season, the team of stars was slowly sinking into the familiar mire of another second-place finish when general manager Theo Epstein engineered an audacious move, trading away the team's icon, shortstop Nomar Garciaparra, to improve its defense and speed. Garciaparra's departure immediately sparked the players, and the Sox became baseball's hottest team, combining relentless hitting with clutch defense and superb pitching. They entered the 2004 playoffs in top form, swept the Anaheim Angels in the first round, and set the stage for a drama that would captivate the nation.

In the championship series, the Yankees quickly took a disturbing 3-0 lead in games. But the Sox pulled out a dramatic victory in the 12th inning of game four, and then a second win in the 14th inning the next night, on the strength of extraordinary pitching and slugger David Ortiz's clutch hitting. Then Schilling, in a performance that reached for the mythological, pitched through the pain of an injured and bleeding ankle to tie the series. When the Sox routed New York in the deciding game and players tumbled in celebration across the infield of Yankee Stadium, all of Red Sox Nation drank deeply from the glass of redemption. It was the greatest comeback in the history of sports, and fittingly it happened against the Yankees, finally breaking the tradition of suffering that had shaped the memories of Sox fans for generations. Boston then hammered the point home with a crushing sweep of the powerful St. Louis Cardinals in the World Series, and the effect on New England was surreal.

The team was formally established in 1901 as a charter member of the American League and went through a handful of nicknames, including the Americans, the Pilgrims, and the Puritans, before settling on the Red Sox in 1907. They won five of the first 15 World Series—in 1903, the first ever, and again in 1912, 1915, 1916, and 1918—with a team that included some of the giants of the game: Tris

