



Red Auerbach, basketball's greatest coach said of Russell, He is the smartest player ever. He is supremely intelligent, the fiercest player and proudest man I have ever seen. Michael Jordan, the only other player to win 5 MVP awards, has acclaimed that Bill Russell is the game's greatest living legend...no one has influenced the game of basketball more than Bill.

No one in any sport anywhere in the world has equaled the achievements of professional basketball's Bill Russell and his Boston Celtics.

As the leader of his team, his record speaks of consistency, winning an unprecedented 18 championships in 21 years of playing basketball. Besides leading the Boston Celtics, the greatest team of the 20th century to an extraordinary record of 11 world championships in 13 years and eight NBA championships in a row, Bill's high school team won three championships and he led the University of San Francisco to a divisional championship and two national championships, winning 55 straight games. In 1956 Bill proudly captained the U.S. Olympic basketball team to a gold medal.

Bill Russell and his teammates created the modern game of basketball. As a player and as a coach Bill revolutionized the game of basketball by playing defense like his life depended on it. His breakthrough approach to defense was predicated on the principle of making defense an offensive part of the game. Offensively he forever changed the game by transforming the entire tempo of the sport and introducing the concept of transition. No player in history could inflict his will on a game more effectively than Bill Russell.

Bill was chosen as the league's most valuable player five times...12 times elected to the NBA All-Star team...and, in 1967 he became the first African-American p...

Bill Russell

Speech Topics

- Teambuilding
- Sports
- Olympians
- Leadership



Testimonials

Bill Russell was the perfect speaker for our event. We were struck by his warmth & humility. Some other words used to describe him were "totally and completely wonderful, entertaining, bright, kind, patient and just awesome in every way". So, I'd say he has 350 new fans! Our audience was "just gushing" about the evening and it was a complete and total success! Thank you!

- UMASS Dartmouth .