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The Great Bobby Orr

Like most people my age, I grew up with the notion of *Sports Illustrated* as a bastion of great story-telling. In recent years, as the mag has thinned out, and the focus became more micro, those old "bonus pieces" gradually faded into the background.



Don't know if it's too early call it a trend, but it seems the magazine is returning to its roots and it was exemplified by [S.L. Price's piece on Bobby Orr](#) in the current issue.

There are so many fantastic details within, such as the players calling him "God," short for "Godfather," but never to his face. How he literally saved [Derek Sanderson's](#) life by forcing him into rehab. And, of course, his famous battle with [Alan Eagleson](#), the disgraced former head of the player's union and Orr's one-time agent.

In the great pantheon of Boston sports, Orr sits atop the mountain with [Bill Russell](#), [Larry Bird](#), [Ted Williams](#), and—it's not too early to say it—[Tom Brady](#). What binds them all together, besides their talent, is their personalities: fiercely independent, sometimes inscrutable, often times private, and occasionally prickly.

Kudos to SI for shedding some light on the great Number Four.

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