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Sports Illustrated



*Sports fans love to reminisce over the days where it all went wrong: the wasted draft pick, the tragic trade or the defecting hero. These may not be, by definition, the worst roster moves ever made, but they were the ones that affected us on a personal level. These are the events that caused -- and still cause -- us to sit on our bar stools and lament the cruel twists of life.*

Bruins fans flooded CNNSI.com with their tales of woe, starting, of course, with the stunning departures of idols [Bobby Orr](#) and [Ray Bourque](#) 24 years apart, followed by the [Phil Esposito trade](#); the premature retirement of [Cam Neely](#); the 1972 trade of [Reggie Leach](#); and the failed homecoming of [Kevin Stevens](#).

**React**

CNNSI.com wants you to [send us your memories](#) of the day your heart was broken by a team, player or GM.

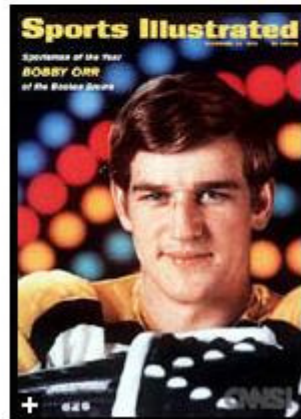
- React to any of the deals listed here.
- Remind us of other Bruins heartbreakers that we may have neglected.
- Or, write about another team for a future edition of "Say It Ain't So."

Then keep your eyes open for when we run your reactions on CNNSI.com.

**June 24  
1976**

**D Bobby Orr signs free-agent contract with Chicago**

For 22 years, Bruins fans struggled to comprehend how Bobby Orr's career came to such a depressing end in a Blackhawks uniform. Then, in 1998, the world (Orr included) learned that Alan Eagleson, Orr's agent *and* the head of the Players' Association, had withheld details of a contract offer that would have kept Orr in Boston for the remainder of his playing career by making him a minority owner in the club.



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The reported 18.5-percent ownership would have amounted to about \$20-40 million today.

Instead, Orr walked out on the Bruins and to this day has never had any official involvement with the team for which he revolutionized the role of defenseman. Eagleson, who bilked Orr out of most of whatever money he did make, served time in Canada for his role in elaborate, illegal schemes that skimmed money from the players he represented.

In his 10 years with the Bruins, Orr won every major award at least twice (except the Calder, which he only won once, duh) and won two Stanley Cups. He was the face of the Bruins and of the NHL, the Gretzky of his time. He led the league in assists five times and in overall points twice ... unheard of for a defenseman at the time. For him to leave was absolutely devastating to Bruins fans, who no doubt consider his departure the biggest disappointment in team history. The Bruins haven't won a Cup since.

As for Orr, he played only 20 games for the Blackhawks in 1976-77 before knee surgery virtually ended his career. He returned in 1978-79, but lasted only six games before retiring. He lives in Boston and still is an ambassador of sorts for the Bruins, but he has never fully reconciled his differences with the team and has never held a formal position.

**SI Flashback**

- [Stanley Cup '55-59](#)
- [Stanley Cup '60-69](#)
- [Stanley Cup 70-79](#)
- [1970 Sportsman of the Year](#)

[http://sportsillustrated.cnn.com/hockey/nhl/news/2001/02/15/sayitaintso\\_bruins](http://sportsillustrated.cnn.com/hockey/nhl/news/2001/02/15/sayitaintso_bruins)