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For Bobby Orr, family tops glory days on ice



By Joe Fitzgerald
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Bobby Orr, watching from his home in Florida, empathized with the Patriots [team stats] as they trudged off the field Sunday.

"Anybody who's ever played sports knows what they were feeling," the iconic Bruins [team stats] legend said. "We've all been there."

But he now knows something they have yet to discover.

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"Let a little time go by," he suggests, "getting back to family and friends, and you begin to realize things are not as bad as you thought. Those thrills I had years ago aren't even close to the thrills I'm experiencing now; in fact, it feels as if the best time of my life is just beginning."

At 62, far removed from those halcyon days when he was hockey's Elvis, that would seem to be a stretch.

"You wouldn't think so if you could see him with Alexis on his knee," Darren Orr, his older son, said about Bobby's granddaughter, now 14 months old. "She calls him Papa, and when she hugs and kisses him, he absolutely melts."

Two weeks ago, with his cup of joy already overflowing, Orr received a call informing him that Alexis' brother, Robert Braxon Orr, had just arrived.

"We weren't planning on flying to Boston for a few more days," he said. "But he came early. We got the call at 3 a.m., he was born at 5:56, and we were in that room before noon."

So now he had a grandson, too.

"Newborns don't say much, but they know you're there," Orr theorized, laughing. "Obviously I was thrilled when I heard they were naming him Robert, but we're going to call him Brax, the big Brax, who skated out of the delivery room! Oh, we're going to have fun with him."

"Peggy and I are having a ball. Watching a baby laugh makes me laugh, too. When they look at you and give you a smile, you stop thinking about everything else in the world."



GAME CHANGE: Boston Bruins legend Bobby Orr holds his 1-day-old grandson, Robert Braxon Orr, and his 14-month-old granddaughter, Alexis.

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In his case, that includes any longing for the good old days, glorious as they were.

"They were great times and I was very lucky," he said. "But just when you think life can't get any better, you find more good times are waiting further down the road.

"To get married, loving your wife, is wonderful. Then you get to raise your own kids, and before you know it you're watching them raise theirs. And now when we see what awesome parents Darren and Chelsea are, that's still another big thrill."

So he has no desire to turn back the hands of time, nor does he allow disappointments from the past to burden his mind today.

"If you see [Tom Brady \[stats\]](#)," Orr said, "tell him better times are coming. Someday when he's bouncing grandkids on his knee, he'll know what I'm talking about."

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