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Now, Belichick is on to . . .

Patriots and famed coach part ways after 24 years as dynasty fades



JOHN TLUMACKI/GLOBE STAFF

Of all great coaches in N.E. history, he's No. 1 (A)

DAN SHAUGHNESSY
COMMENTARY

Bill Belichick and Red Auerbach are the greatest two coaches in New England sports history.

By a mile.

Belichick and Auerbach are gold and silver. Or silver and gold. It's not even worth talking about candidates for the bronze medal platform. One could argue Terry Francona, Harry Sinden, Dick Williams, Milt Schmidt, Tommy Heinsohn, Bill Parcells, Chuck Fairbanks, Claude Julien, Jimmy Collins, Bill Carrigan, and Joe Cronin. You get silly and make a case for Bobby Valentine and Clive Rush if you insist.

It does not matter.

It's Bill and Red.

There is no other.

Belichick and Auerbach were the bookend builders of our two great sports dynasties — the 1950s-60s Celtics, and the 21st century Patriots.

Belichick, who was politely fired by the Patriots Thursday, coached the team for 24 seasons, won 17 division titles, and took them to 13 AFC Championship games and nine Super Bowls. He won six Super Bowls, more than any other NFL head coach. He has 333 head coaching wins, just 14 shy of Don Shula's NFL-record

SHAUGHNESSY, Page C4



BARRY CHIN/GLOBE STAFF/FILE 2017

"For me, this is a day of gratitude and celebration," Bill Belichick said, as he joined Patriots owner Robert Kraft at Gillette Stadium on Thursday. Super Bowl victory rallies (above, in 2017) became a regular part of the Boston landscape during Belichick's tenure.

The Patriot Way

Tara Sullivan wonders: What happens when a key architect at the root of it all is gone? **C1.**

What's next

Ten possibilities to take over as coach, and potential landing spots for Belichick. **C6.**

Time had come for both sides

FOXBOROUGH — At the NFL owners' meetings in October in New York, Steelers owner Art Rooney II stopped briefly to chat about the decision in 1991 to move on from legendary coach Chuck Noll.

BEN VOLIN
ON FOOTBALL

"After 23 years, it was time," Rooney said. "It was just time."

It was 24 years together for Bill Belichick and the Patriots. It was a spectacular run that may never be duplicated, in both length and accomplishments.

Thursday, it came to an end when the Patriots and Belichick parted ways.

It was just time.

Robert and Jonathan Kraft made the move that had to be made, given the state of

ON FOOTBALL, Page C5

OVERALL WITH THE PATRIOTS

SUPER BOWL TROPHIES **6**

SUPER BOWL APPEARANCES **9**



MATTHEW J. LEE/GLOBE STAFF/FILE 2014

REGULAR SEASON RECORD **266-121**

DIVISION TITLES **17**

As Iowa caucuses near, the race is for second place

Weather could be wild card

By Jess Bidgood
GLOBE STAFF

DES MOINES — Cindy Klein pushed through the crowd at an airport hotel on Wednesday, determined to personally praise Governor Ron DeSantis of Florida for his performance in a Fox News town hall the previous day. Klein, a retired registered nurse, had just decided to caucus for him.

"I was leaning toward [Donald] Trump, but I believe that I did that because I felt it was the inevitable," said Klein, a few minutes after she spoke with DeSantis. "More of us have got to stop that kind of thinking and vote for the right person."

If DeSantis wants to wrestle the GOP nomination away from the former president, he will need a lot more Cindy Kleins.

With the Iowa caucuses just a few days away, DeSantis, former South Carolina governor Nikki Haley, and entrepreneur Vivek Ra-

IOWA, Page A6

With consumers pledging to reuse, not spend, businesses are buying in

By Thomas Lee
GLOBE STAFF

After Cheryl Luacaw's mother passed away in 2022, the Jamaica Plain resident set about cleaning her mother's bedroom. To her shock, she found bags of pricey, unopened merchandise, including a Chanel handbag, tags still on.

How sad, Luacaw thought. Her mother never got a chance to enjoy her purchases.

The experience prompted Luacaw, a retired state housing program specialist, to take the measure of her own belongings. She soon discovered boxes of new, unused clothing sitting in her own home — just like her mom.

So this year, Luacaw decided to stop buying stuff. She also plans to either resell the unused clothing or give it away to friends and family.

"I reached a saturation point," said Luacaw, who's in her 70s. "There are more important things to spend money on."

Pledging to stop buying new stuff — or, as it's known on TikTok, planning a "no-spend" year — has become an increasingly popular perennial New Year's resolution, akin to losing weight, saving money, or quitting smoking. And like the



SUZANNE KREITER/GLOBE STAFF

"I have too much stuff. It's overwhelming me right now," said Maja Young, who is thinking twice about new things.

gyms and financial advisers that cater to those aspirations, an entire ecosystem has become more mainstream in recent years to encourage consumers and businesses to reduce overconsumption and overproduction by extending the life of existing materials and products.

Called "the circular economy," the system rests on the core principle of using recycling, re-

SPENDING, Page A12



Wet blanketed

Friday: Clouding up, rain late. High 42-47. Low 36-41.

Saturday: Damp, clearing. High 54-59. Low 30-35.

High tide: 11:26 a.m.

Sunrise: 7:12 Sunset: 4:33

Comics and Weather, G6-7. Obituaries, C11.

The SJC raised the minimum age for life without parole sentences to 21 from 18. **B1.**

The United States and its allies struck targets in Yemen in an expansion of the war in the Middle East. **A3.**

Several students at Harvard filed a suit accusing the administration of not protecting Jewish students. **B1.**

EBay settled new charges in the stalking and harassment of a Natick couple. **B5.**

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