

Name _____

Bill Russell: A Champion and Trailblazer in Basketball History

Short Answer Key

1. Bill Russell had a successful college basketball career at the University of San Francisco, leading the Dons to two consecutive NCAA championships in 1955 and 1956.
2. Bill Russell changed the game of basketball by pioneering shot-blocking and defensive abilities. He was one of the first players to consistently block shots, altering opponents' attempts at the rim and making it challenging for opposing teams to score.
3. Bill Russell played a significant role in advocating for civil rights and social justice by speaking out against racial discrimination and actively participating in the civil rights movement. His leadership and advocacy helped promote racial equality.
4. Bill Russell's leadership and commitment to teamwork were instrumental in the Boston Celtics' success. He emphasized the importance of playing together and relying on each other's strengths, setting a standard for excellence in the NBA.
5. After retiring as a player, Bill Russell continued to contribute to the sport of basketball as a coach, commentator, and mentor to young players. He also received accolades for his contributions to both basketball and social justice, including the Presidential Medal of Freedom.

