



AP PHOTOS

Who's next?

After Pedro, which other Boston athletes should have their numbers retired?

Until Tom Brady retires, most New England fans won't be ready to treat the golden age of Boston sports as history instead of something that could be still ongoing.



Matt Vautour

But on Tuesday, Pedro Martinez, one of the most beloved figures in this

recent run, or really ever in Boston sports, will have his number retired by the Red Sox, just days after his Baseball Hall of Fame induction Sunday.

Three World Series, four Super Bowls, an NBA title and a Stanley Cup have naturally produced a few legends. There figures to be more retired numbers to follow:

Boston Red Sox

Once upon a time the Red Sox employed strict standards for number retirement. A player had to be elected to the Hall of Fame, play 10 years for

the Red Sox and finish his career in Boston. But in recent years they've skirted or altogether ignored those guidelines.

Neither Carlton Fisk nor Johnny Pesky fulfilled the requirements, but 27 and 6 still hang on the right field facade, and even Pedro didn't play 10 years. So there's room to maneuver with anyone:

David Ortiz — Ortiz's loose association with performance-enhancing drugs combined with the fact that voters have been historically stodgy when voting for designated hitters

makes enshrinement in Cooperstown a less than 50-50 proposition. That said it's impossible to picture the current ownership group choosing not to retire his number. He's been an indispensable part of all three championships and one of the most clutch postseason performers in franchise history. On top of that, he's been the face of Boston sports, maybe even more than Brady. His spokesperson following the Boston Marathon bombings only added to his considerable legacy. **Verdict:** No Red Sox player will ever wear 34 again.

Curt Schilling — He's an interest-

ing case for the Hall of Fame as his borderline career numbers are helped by his terrific pitching in the postseason. But the Baseball Writers will be looking at his Philadelphia and Arizona postseason as well as Boston.

Will his contributions to two titles be enough to get his number retired in Boston?

There's comparisons to be made with Fisk.

If Fisk doesn't hit one of the most memorable home runs in baseball

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