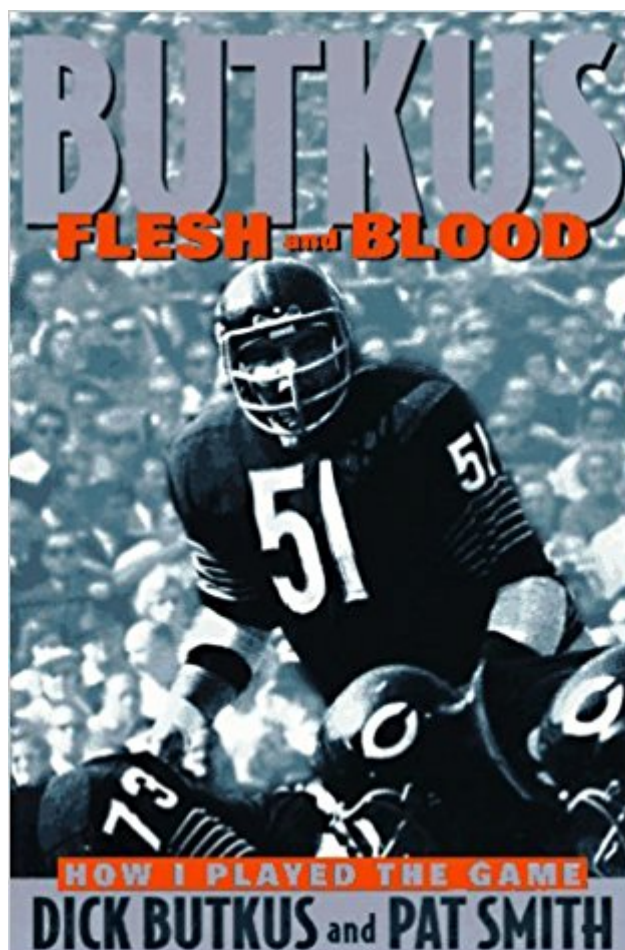


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# Butkus: Flesh And Blood



## Synopsis

From 1965 to 1973 Dick Butkus was the most revered player in professional football. Although he never played for a championship team, and one can't say he set all kinds of records, no other defender in the entire history of the NFL has so electrified the game. The stories about Butkus are legendary. They make him sound so intense, so ferocious, and for the most part they are frighteningly true. Yet underneath the layers of mythology resides a man who is as thoughtful and emotional as he is intense. In *Butkus*, Dick Butkus tells his entire life story, from growing up and getting into trouble in Chicago, to his uncomfortable yet glorious years at the University of Illinois. He reveals what it felt like to be the ninth child of two hardworking Lithuanian parents--one of whom was born in a Illinois coal mine, the other never fully learned to speak English--and the camaraderie and contentment he experienced while playing football. He recounts the historic nine seasons with the Chicago Bears where he played with and against such immortals as Gale Sayers, Jim Brown, Brian Piccolo, Mike Ditka, and Joe Greene. Dick Butkus looks deeply into his own psyche to find the source of his passionate style of play--a style that has often been described as violence and intimidation on the football field. With honesty and emotion, he recounts his battles with George "Papa Bear" Halas, the NFL, and the media.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

"Flesh and Blood" is Dick Butkus' autobiography from birth to 1997. He begins by telling about his family and some of the mischief he perpetrated as a youth. He tells of his early love for the game of football and an older brother that pursued a career as a player. He writes with a lot of admiration about fellow Bears rookie Gale Sayers and his appreciation for the talents of the great running

backs. He also explains his respect for George Allen and his disappointment when George Halas let Allen leave the Bears' staff as a defensive coordinator. Allen had a big impact on the rookie Linebacker and he maintained a friendship after that. George Allen even contemplated a trade for Butkus shortly before the Linebacker retired. Dick Butkus elaborates on the adjustments to college football and academics. He didn't get to play as a freshman for the Illini and schoolwork was more challenging. He tackles some of the false legends regarding his actions on the field. "Flesh and Blood" gives you a look at the NFL of old from a player's point of view. Like other hall-of-famers of his period, he loved the game and often-times unselfishly played when he shouldn't have. He sued the Bears to get paid after he had to retire because of his knee injuries. The knee surgeries before the 1971 season were brutal and you have to wonder if they weren't more damaging than helpful. Dick Butkus covers his post-football life at the end of the book. While he played like a monster, he shows a human side as a husband and father. There may never be another Middle LineBacker that intimidates opponents and disrupts a game the way that # 51 did during his short career. This is his story and I enjoyed reading it.

Butkus is such an old-school cool guy. I very much enjoyed not only learning more about he and his football career, but also about his childhood and family, the NFL, and several of his mentors and friends. Very good read for anyone who ever followed the career of the greatest linebacker to ever play the game!

Never been a Bears fan, never will. But who amongst us growing up in the '60s and loving football, did not admire Dick Butkus? Whatta' player! I loved the cover of this book! What a menacing figure! Let's talk about the book. Overall, a good, insightful book but a couple of items disappointed me. First, the ramblings about his falling out with the Bears. After many pages, I felt like saying, 'Get over it!' but considering who I would be speaking to...well. Second, I was curious what his kids grew up to be like. Not much mention of his wife nowadays either. But, this is a book about Butkus and his life was football. Fun to read...

Dick Butkus shows that his talents are not only limited to the football field in this excellent autobiography. This book is a must for any football fan of any age.

As a fellow alum, I was quite pleased to read about Butkus's career in the pros. I caught him at the tail end of his pro career, so this book helped immensely. Contrary to the egotistical Mike Ditka,

Butkus is what being a Chicago Bear is all about.

Dick Butkus was a fantastic football player and his book was a joy to read. I especially enjoyed his childhood memories and his dreams when he was young. It is a shame that his knee broke down, robbing him of years on the football field, but what was even worse was the way Halas betrayed him. Fortunately, the city of Chicago and the rest of the football world never stopped admiring the greatest tackler that ever lived. And the most amazing thing of all is that he played for so many years in so much pain - pain most of us couldn't even cope with walking down the street. While Payton was the epitome of greatness on the offensive side of the ball, Butkus was it on the defensive side. What an amazing player.

This book was good, it starts out kind of slow but once he starts talking about his career with the bears it speeds up and is hard to put down. I felt the author did a great job portraying Butkus. This book is good for someone who understands the game of football.

anyone who has ever put on shoulder pads or played sports at any level will appreciate the competitiveness of Mr Butkus, perhaps the best football player ever. Throughout the book *Flesh and Blood*, I was compelled to go outside and play. I'm 60.

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