

Sports Illustrated

CONTENTS

DEPARTMENTS

6

LETTERS

21

SCORECARD

118

INSIDE THE NFL

142

INSIDE BASEBALL

168

FOR THE RECORD

170

POINT AFTER

BACK GROUND

When L.A. Raider guard Steve Wisniewski buckles down, he gets dirty, which comes with the territory.

NFL '90

28

THE RICH GET RICHER

The Oakland A's sent a shudder through the American League by landing Willie McGee and Harold Baines
BY STEVE RUSHIN

38

THE FACE OF SWEEPING CHANGE

With Paul Tagliabue firmly lodged in the commissioner's seat, the NFL faces a challenging new decade
BY RICK TELANDER

48

NOT SHORT ON TALENT

Small running backs made big gains in 1989, a trend that is sure to continue in the season ahead
BY PETER KING

A gentle soul off the field, 5' 8" Barry Sanders is a mighty mite who runs up a storm for the Lions on it
BY AUSTIN MURPHY

68

LIFE ON THE LINE

The men in the pro trenches star in a pictorial portfolio, and they speak their minds, too

Anthony Munoz, offensive tackle extraordinaire for the Bengals, sets a lofty standard for linemen
BY JAY GREENBERG

84

RISKY BUSINESS

Recent developments have made building a roster and keeping players happy a mind-boggling ordeal
BY PETER KING

90

DR. Z'S SCOUTING REPORTS

A preview setting forth what to expect in all the divisional races, complete with the author's selections
BY PAUL ZIMMERMAN

Presenting L.A. receivers Flipper Anderson and Henry Ellard
BY RICHARD HOFFER

Brothers Clay and Bruce Matthews are divided—but united
BY JILL LIEBER

122

THE HAND THAT FEEDS THEM

To Eddie DeBartolo Jr., the most generous owner in sports, nothing is too good for a San Francisco 49er
BY RICK REILLY

COVER PHOTOGRAPH BY RONALD C. MODRA

SPORTS ILLUSTRATED (ISSN 0038-822X) is published weekly, with two issues combined at year-end and an additional double issue published in March 1990, by The Time Inc. Magazine Company. Principal Office: Time & Life Building, Rockefeller Center, New York, NY 10020-1393. Reginald K. Brack Jr., President; Joseph A. Ripp, Treasurer; Harry M. Johnston, Secretary. Second-class postage paid at New York, NY, and additional mailing offices. Authorized as second-class mail by Canada Post Corp., Ottawa, Canada, and for payment of postage in cash at Toronto, U.S. subscription \$69.66 for 54 issues. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to SPORTS ILLUSTRATED, Post Office Box 30602, Tampa, FL 33630-0602.

© 1990 THE TIME INC. MAGAZINE COMPANY. ALL RIGHTS RESERVED. REPRODUCTION IN WHOLE OR IN PART WITHOUT PERMISSION IS PROHIBITED. SPORTS ILLUSTRATED IS A REGISTERED TRADEMARK OF THE TIME INC. MAGAZINE COMPANY.

For subscription queries, call Customer Service at 1-800-528-5000.

• • • •

DR.Z's SUPER PICKS: CHIEFS AND RAMS

Sports Illustrated

SEPTEMBER 10, 1990
\$2.75

N
F
L

P
R
E
V
I
E
W

1
9
9
0



MereMart.com®

Vintage Magazines for Special People

DETROIT'S
BARRY SANDERS

MR. MIGHTY MITTE