

nfl teams without indoor practice facility

NFL Teams Without Indoor Practice Facility: Challenges and Adaptations

nfl teams without indoor practice facility face unique challenges that set them apart in the highly competitive world of professional football. While many franchises boast state-of-the-art indoor complexes designed to shield players from the elements and provide year-round training advantages, some teams continue to rely on outdoor facilities. This reality not only influences their practice routines but also shapes their preparation strategies, player conditioning, and even game-day readiness.

Understanding which NFL teams operate without an indoor practice facility sheds light on how environment and infrastructure impact team dynamics. It also highlights the resilience and adaptability required to compete at the highest level without the luxury of climate-controlled spaces. Let's delve deeper into this topic, exploring why some teams have yet to invest in indoor facilities, the implications of training outdoors, and how these franchises compensate for this apparent disadvantage.

Why Some NFL Teams Lack Indoor Practice Facilities

Building an indoor practice facility is a massive investment that involves substantial financial resources, strategic planning, and often, overcoming logistical hurdles. For some franchises, the decision to forego an indoor complex is influenced by several factors:

Geographic and Climatic Considerations

Teams located in regions with milder climates may not feel the same urgency to construct indoor practice buildings. For example, franchises in the southern United States often enjoy year-round warm weather, making outdoor practice feasible without significant weather disruptions. In these areas, the cost-benefit calculation of an indoor facility may lean toward postponement or deprioritization.

Financial Priorities and Ownership Philosophy

Not all NFL owners prioritize infrastructure upgrades equally. Some might allocate resources toward player acquisitions, stadium enhancements, or community programs rather than indoor practice facilities. This strategic allocation can delay or eliminate the development of indoor complexes, especially if the team has successfully managed outdoor training historically.

Space and Land Availability

Securing adequate land near the team's headquarters or stadium for an indoor facility can be

challenging. Urban teams, or those situated in densely populated areas, might face real estate constraints that complicate facility construction. Outdoor practice fields, often requiring less infrastructure, can continue being the default option in such cases.

Current NFL Teams Without Indoor Practice Facilities

While the majority of NFL franchises have embraced modern practice complexes, a handful persist without dedicated indoor practice facilities. It's important to note that some teams use temporary or multipurpose indoor spaces, but these are not comparable to fully equipped, climate-controlled football practice buildings.

Teams Known for Outdoor-Only Practice Facilities

- **Buffalo Bills**: Despite playing in one of the coldest NFL markets, the Bills have historically practiced outdoors. Their current training complex lacks a fully enclosed indoor field, requiring players to adapt to frigid weather during late-season practices.
- **Green Bay Packers**: The Packers, hailing from Wisconsin, are famous for their tough, blue-collar image, which extends to their outdoor practice routines. While they have indoor meeting rooms and weight facilities, their practice fields remain exposed to the elements.
- **New England Patriots** (historically): The Patriots operated without a dedicated indoor practice facility for many years. Although they have made improvements, their reliance on outdoor fields was notable during colder months.

It is worth mentioning that some of these teams have plans underway or in development to build indoor facilities, recognizing the competitive edge such infrastructure provides.

How Training Outdoors Affects Team Performance

Practicing without the protection of an indoor facility brings both challenges and unexpected benefits. Here's how outdoor-only teams manage their preparation:

Adapting to Weather Conditions

Teams without indoor practice facilities often train in rain, snow, wind, or extreme cold. While this can be physically demanding, it also fosters mental toughness and resilience. Players become accustomed to adverse weather, which can translate to better performance during harsh game-day environments.

Injury Prevention and Recovery Considerations

Outdoor fields can be less predictable in terms of footing and surface quality, potentially increasing the risk of injuries. Teams must invest heavily in field maintenance and player health monitoring to mitigate these risks. Conversely, the natural elements can promote conditioning benefits, such as improved cardiovascular endurance.

Limitations on Practice Scheduling

Inclement weather can force practice cancellations or modifications, impacting game preparation and strategy implementation. Teams without indoor facilities must be flexible and creative, sometimes relying more on film study and virtual walkthroughs when outdoor sessions aren't possible.

Strategies NFL Teams Use to Compensate for Lack of Indoor Facilities

Operating without an indoor practice complex requires innovative solutions to maintain competitive standards.

Use of Alternative Indoor Spaces

Many teams rent or share indoor sports complexes nearby to conduct walkthroughs, meetings, or position drills during extreme weather. While these spaces may not be tailored specifically for football, they provide critical shelter and allow for detailed tactical work.

Emphasis on Film and Virtual Training

With advancements in technology, teams increasingly rely on video analysis and virtual reality tools to supplement physical practice. This approach helps players refine their understanding of playbooks and opponents without the need for extensive on-field repetitions.

Investing in Outdoor Field Quality

Maintaining high-quality turf and drainage systems helps teams optimize outdoor practice conditions. Some franchises invest in heated fields or advanced turf technology to reduce the impact of cold weather and moisture.

The Future of NFL Practice Facilities

The NFL continues to evolve, with teams investing heavily in state-of-the-art training environments. While some franchises remain without indoor practice facilities today, the trend strongly favors building such complexes to gain competitive advantages.

Owners recognize that investing in indoor facilities improves player comfort, reduces injury risks, and allows for more consistent practice schedules regardless of weather. Moreover, indoor practice complexes serve as a recruiting tool, showcasing a team's commitment to excellence and player development.

As technology advances and construction costs become more manageable, it's likely that the remaining NFL teams without indoor practice facilities will eventually make this transition. Until then, these teams demonstrate remarkable adaptability, turning what some see as a disadvantage into a source of unique strength.

The story of NFL teams without indoor practice facilities is a testament to the diverse ways professional football teams prepare for the rigors of the season. Whether through grit, innovation, or strategic investment, each franchise navigates these challenges in its own distinctive way, adding another layer of depth to the rich tapestry of the NFL.

Frequently Asked Questions

Which NFL teams do not have an indoor practice facility?

As of recent reports, several NFL teams still lack a fully enclosed indoor practice facility, including the Buffalo Bills, Miami Dolphins, and New York Jets, primarily due to geographic and financial considerations.

Why do some NFL teams choose not to have an indoor practice facility?

Some NFL teams opt not to have an indoor practice facility because of budget constraints, climate conditions that allow for year-round outdoor practice, or a strategic preference to train in outdoor environments similar to game conditions.

How does not having an indoor practice facility affect an NFL team's training?

Teams without indoor practice facilities may face challenges during inclement weather, which can disrupt practice schedules and limit training options. However, they may also benefit from practicing in natural elements that simulate actual game-day conditions.

Are there any plans for NFL teams without indoor practice

facilities to build one soon?

Several teams without indoor practice facilities have expressed interest or initiated plans to build them, recognizing the advantages of year-round training and player development, but timelines vary based on funding and local approvals.

Does the lack of an indoor practice facility impact team performance in the NFL?

While having an indoor practice facility provides advantages like consistent practice conditions, it is not solely determinative of team performance. Coaching, player talent, and other resources also play critical roles in a team's success.

Additional Resources

NFL Teams Without Indoor Practice Facility: A Closer Look at the Challenges and Realities

nfl teams without indoor practice facility represent a unique subset within the professional football landscape, often facing distinct challenges compared to franchises equipped with state-of-the-art indoor training centers. While many NFL organizations have invested heavily in expansive indoor practice facilities to gain a competitive edge, several teams continue to rely primarily on outdoor fields, weather permitting. This article explores the implications, operational realities, and competitive impact of NFL teams without indoor practice facilities, offering a comprehensive understanding of how infrastructure influences team preparation and performance.

The Landscape of NFL Training Facilities

The NFL has evolved significantly over the past two decades, with franchises increasingly emphasizing cutting-edge infrastructure to optimize player development, injury prevention, and game readiness. Indoor practice facilities—large, climate-controlled spaces that enable year-round training—have become standard for most teams, particularly those located in colder climates. These facilities provide controlled environments free from inclement weather, allowing for consistent practice schedules and advanced technological integration such as video analysis and biomechanical assessments.

However, not all NFL teams have access to such amenities. Several organizations operate without a dedicated indoor practice facility, relying instead on outdoor fields or multipurpose venues. This situation often correlates with financial considerations, geographic factors, or strategic decisions prioritizing other investments. Understanding which teams fall into this category and examining the consequences of this infrastructure gap sheds light on a subtle yet significant aspect of NFL operations.

Identifying NFL Teams Without Indoor Practice Facilities

While the majority of NFL franchises boast indoor practice fields, a few notable exceptions remain.

These teams typically conduct training outdoors, sometimes supplemented by temporary tents or smaller indoor spaces that do not compare to the scale and functionality of dedicated facilities. Among the NFL teams without indoor practice facilities are:

- **Buffalo Bills** – Despite the harsh winters in Buffalo, the Bills historically trained outdoors at their facility in Orchard Park. However, it's worth noting the organization has made strides toward upgrading facilities, with plans to incorporate more indoor elements.
- **New England Patriots** – The Patriots' main practice fields at Gillette Stadium are primarily outdoor, though the team uses the stadium itself for some indoor training sessions when necessary.
- **Tampa Bay Buccaneers** – Prior to recent renovations, the Buccaneers operated largely outdoors, although new facility expansions are changing this landscape.

It is important to highlight that the NFL is dynamic, and many teams without indoor facilities are actively investing in upgrades. This list is subject to change as franchises grow and evolve their training environments.

Challenges Faced by Teams Without Indoor Practice Facilities

Operating without an indoor practice facility presents multiple challenges for NFL teams. The most obvious hurdle is exposure to weather, which can be unpredictable and extreme, especially in northern cities. Rain, snow, wind, and cold temperatures can disrupt practice schedules, limit the quality of drills, and increase injury risk.

Weather and Its Impact on Training Consistency

Teams without indoor practice venues must contend with seasonal weather variations that can severely impact on-field preparation. For example, heavy snowfall or freezing rain can force cancellations or limit outdoor sessions, reducing overall practice time. In contrast, teams with indoor facilities maintain consistent, uninterrupted training regardless of the weather, offering a tangible competitive advantage.

The lack of climate control also affects players' physical readiness. Cold temperatures can stiffen muscles and slow recovery, while wet conditions increase the likelihood of slips and falls. Over time, these factors may contribute to higher injury rates or slower player development.

Technological and Recovery Limitations

Modern indoor practice facilities are often equipped with advanced technology, including video

rooms, motion capture systems, and recovery amenities such as hydrotherapy pools and cryotherapy chambers. Teams without such infrastructure may find it more difficult to integrate these innovations seamlessly into daily routines.

Additionally, indoor facilities allow for better control over lighting and acoustics, enabling coaches to conduct detailed walkthroughs and strategic meetings immediately adjacent to practice fields. Outdoor setups may lack these conveniences, potentially affecting preparation quality.

Advantages and Strategic Choices Behind Forgoing Indoor Facilities

While the disadvantages are clear, some teams may choose to forego indoor practice facilities due to cost considerations or philosophical approaches to training. Building and maintaining an indoor complex requires significant capital investment—often tens of millions of dollars—and ongoing operational expenses.

Cost-Benefit Analysis for Smaller Markets

Franchises in smaller markets or those with constrained budgets may prioritize investments in player personnel, scouting, or stadium improvements over indoor practice venues. For these teams, the marginal benefit of an indoor facility may not justify the expenditure, especially if they can optimize existing outdoor resources.

Training Adaptations and Resilience Building

There is also an argument that practicing in challenging outdoor conditions can build player toughness and adaptability. Training in cold, wind, and rain may better prepare players for adverse game-day environments, particularly late in the season. Some coaches and players embrace this philosophy, viewing it as an intangible advantage rather than a limitation.

Comparative Insights: Indoor vs. Outdoor Practice Environments

A comparison between NFL teams with and without indoor practice facilities reveals nuanced differences that extend beyond infrastructure to impact team culture, player health, and competitive outcomes.

- **Practice Consistency:** Indoor facilities enable year-round, weather-independent training, while outdoor-only teams must remain flexible to changing conditions.

- **Injury Prevention:** Controlled environments reduce injury risk from slips and exposure, potentially influencing player availability.
- **Recruiting Appeal:** Prospective players often favor teams with top-tier facilities, associating them with professionalism and advanced support.
- **Financial Priorities:** Teams without indoor facilities may allocate resources differently, affecting roster building and other operational areas.

Despite these contrasts, it is important to recognize that success in the NFL depends on myriad factors, and facility quality is just one piece of a much larger puzzle.

Future Trends and Facility Developments

The NFL continues to evolve, with franchises increasingly recognizing the strategic value of infrastructure investments. Many teams currently without indoor practice facilities have announced plans or are actively constructing new complexes to modernize their operations. This trend reflects the league-wide push toward maximizing player performance and health.

Furthermore, as technology continues to advance, indoor facilities are likely to incorporate more sophisticated tools for player monitoring and analytics, further widening the gap between teams with and without such resources.

The story of NFL teams without indoor practice facility is thus one of transition and adaptation, highlighting the balancing act between tradition, economics, and the relentless pursuit of competitive advantage.

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The first book to fully explore the extraordinary covert actions NFL teams are willing to take in order to win. Spies disguised as priests. Secret surveillance of targets' movements. Radio frequency jamming. Tapped telephones. These might sound like acts of espionage right out of the Cold War or a spy movie—but in fact came straight from the National Football League. In *Spies on the Sidelines: The High-Stakes World of NFL Espionage*, Kevin Bryant provides the first in-depth investigation of spying in professional football, as well as the countermeasures utilized to defend against these threats. Spanning across all teams and eras, Bryant shines a light on the shady world of NFL reconnaissance—from clandestine photography and hidden draft prospects to listening devices and

stolen documents—along with the permissible, if sometimes questionable, spy techniques teams utilize day in and day out to gain an advantage over their opponents. Written by a former Special Agent with decades of experience collecting and safeguarding information for the Department of Defense, *Spies on the Sidelines* reveals that, behind the game-day action, professional football can be as cloak-and-dagger as American intelligence agencies. This fascinating and expansive compilation of NFL spy anecdotes exposes the extraordinary measures teams are willing to take in order to win.

nfl teams without indoor practice facility: Da Bears! Steve Delsohn, 2011-09-06 An acclaimed sports journalist and native Chicagoan tackles what many call the greatest team in NFL history. *Da Bears!* tells the full story of the '85 legends—with all the controversy and excitement—on the field and off. It's been 25 years since the Chicago Bears won Super Bowl XX with what Bill Parcells called "the best defensive team I've ever seen" and an offense surprisingly good for a franchise where offense was often a dirty word. Now, for the first time, an incredibly candid book takes you through all the games and behind the scenes—into the huddles, the locker rooms, the team meetings, and of course the bars—for an intimate account of that unforgettable season. Here's how a team that got booed in its regular-season opener ended up winning its first world championship in 22 years, led by the most capable, colorful, and un-PC characters ever to strap on helmets—including Jim McMahon, the hard partyer and so-called punk rocker who became a star quarterback and an antihero; William "Refrigerator" Perry, the rookie giant who turned into a full-blown national sensation; Mike Ditka, the legendarily combative head coach called "Sybil" for his mercurial moods; his nemesis, defensive coordinator, Buddy Ryan, who insulted and broke down his players, then built them back up again, military-style; Walter Payton, the hard-nosed running back and mischievous prankster; and middle linebacker Mike Singletary, known for his leadership and his jarring hits. From the inner workings of their innovative and attacking 46 defense to the inside story of their cocky "Super Bowl Shuffle" music video (shot, amazingly, right after their one loss of the season, to Miami), all the setbacks and triumphs, ferocious hits and foibles, of this once-in-a-lifetime team are recaptured brashly and boldly—the Chicago way.

nfl teams without indoor practice facility: The Draft Pete Williams, 2024-09-04 An explosive look at the NFL Draft from the inside out that exposes the multilayered feeding frenzy that swarms around America's top college players. The most comprehensive look at the draft ever. — The Sporting News The Draft follows a handful of NFL hopefuls through the ups and downs of the 2004 college football season and the pre-draft process, culminating with the 2005 draft. Among the prospects are Virginia defensive end Chris Canty, who overcomes a devastating early-season knee injury to reestablish himself as a top draft hopeful, only to suffer a detached retina in a nightclub skirmish; and Fred Gibson, a talented but rail-thin Georgia wide receiver who struggles to put on the weight needed to go over the middle in the NFL. It's a complex environment, with college coaches attempting to protect their student-athletes from exploitation (while fully aware that they can only remain competitive if they attract NFL-caliber players to their schools), along with sports agents and NFL scouts trying to stay a step ahead of their competition. These parties provide a multi-angled view of the world of emerging NFL talent. The reader follows the season through the eyes of a host of power players and scouts, from veteran agent Pat Dye Jr. to Jerry Maguire clone Jack Scharf, to the coaching divisions of Florida State University and the University of Virginia—headed by longtime Bill Parcells disciple Al Groh. Also central to the narrative are the Atlanta Falcons and executives Rich McKay and Tim Ruskell (now with Seattle), who use a character-based evaluation system to set their draft board. These parallel stories weave together, culminating in draft weekend, to create a gripping and fascinating look at a world few see from the inside. Fans will appreciate Williams's patient explanation of the vagaries of professional football's exhaustive job interview process. — Publishers Weekly Pete Williams, as he has done throughout his career, applies good, old-time journalism to provide a modern and important eye-opener. —Phil Mushnick, New York Post

nfl teams without indoor practice facility: On the Clock: Dallas Cowboys Calvin Watkins, 2022-09-06 An insider history of the Dallas Cowboys at the NFL draft A singular, transcendent talent

can change the fortunes of a football team instantly. Each year, NFL teams approach the draft with this knowledge, hoping that luck will be on their side and that their extensive scouting and analysis will pay off. In *On the Clock: Dallas Cowboys*, Calvin Watkins explores the fascinating, rollercoaster history of America's Team at the draft, from Roger Staubach through Emmitt Smith and beyond. Readers will go behind the scenes with top decision-makers as they evaluate, deliberate, and ultimately make the picks they hope will tip the fate of their franchise toward success. From seemingly surefire first-rounders to surprising late selections, this is a must-read for Cowboys faithful and NFL fans eager for a glimpse at how teams are built.

nfl teams without indoor practice facility: *Playing With Purpose Collection* Mike Yorkey, 2012-10-01 Meet the "starting lineup" of talented big-time athletes with fascinating faith stories in the *Playing with Purpose Collection*. This book chronicles the lives of several players who stand strong for their Christian faith on the football field, the basketball court, and the baseball diamond. Veteran CBA author Mike Yorkey, whose biography of quarterbacks Sam Bradford, Tim Tebow, and Colt McCoy was a best-seller, also profiles major league stars such as Albert Pujols, Josh Hamilton, Clayton Kershaw, Carlos Beltran, Ben Zobrist, and Mariano Rivera and NBA heroes like Kyle Korver, Kevin Durant, Luke Ridnour, Stephen Curry, and Jeremy Lin. The *Playing with Purpose Collection* will introduce you to talented athletes with compelling faith stories.

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nfl teams without indoor practice facility: *Professional Sports Antitrust Immunity* United States. Congress. Senate. Committee on the Judiciary, 1983

nfl teams without indoor practice facility: *Tom Benson* Kathy Finn, 2016-11-03 A biography on the self-made tycoon who rose from car salesman to owner of the New Orleans Saints, and grappled with tragedies along the way. From salesman to dealership owner, New Orleans-born billionaire Tom Benson started in business with cars, which paved the way for his other profitable enterprises that include banks, real estate, and the New Orleans Saints. Kathy Finn's biography of this self-made tycoon reveals some of the mystery behind the legend. Beginning with his working-class childhood in New Orleans, Finn delves into the contention surrounding Benson, from the controversial near-relocation of the Saints to the dramatic legal battle with his daughter. Including interviews with friends, family, and acquaintances, this extensive compilation sheds light on the man behind the empire—his successes and his tragedies.

nfl teams without indoor practice facility: *Green Bay's Greatest* Michael Jacquart, 2022-02-10 Highlighting each of the 27 Green Bay Packers enshrined in the Pro Football Hall of Fame—including such luminaries as Earl Curly Lambeau, Bart Starr, Vince Lombardi, Brett Favre and Charles Woodson—this book takes a comprehensive look at each player. Biographical information, key facts and figures, anecdotes and little-known facts are provided, along with their own recollections of their biggest games. Appendices cover Packers of honorable mention (who should be or perhaps will be HOF inductees), and player stats.

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nfl teams without indoor practice facility: 100 Things Cardinals Fans Should Know and Do Before They Die Kent Somers, Larry Fitzgerald, 2016-09-15 100 Things Cardinals Fans Should Know & Do Before They Die is the ultimate resources guide for true fans of the Arizona Cardinals. Whether you're a die-hard booster from the days of Jake Plummer or a new supporter of Carson Palmer, these are the 100 things all fans need to know and do in their lifetime. It contains every essential piece of Cardinals knowledge and trivia, as well as must-do activities, and ranks them all from 1 to 100, providing an entertaining and easy-to-follow checklist as you progress on your way to fan superstardom.

nfl teams without indoor practice facility: Sports Nation: Contemporary American Professional Organizations Frank P Jozsa, Jr, 2017-08-28 The book focuses on, identifies, and analyzes various divisions and conferences of four professional sports leagues and their teams' historical regular season and postseason performances, and also provides a recent financial profile of them while being competitive, profitable or unprofitable, and well-known enterprises. The parent sports organizations are the American League and National League in Major League Baseball, American Football Conference and National Football Conference in the National Football League, and the Eastern and Western Conference each in the National Basketball Association and National Hockey League.

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their scholarships have been revoked. The ones who will neither graduate nor go pro. The ones who live in terror of accidentally violating some obscure rule in the four-hundred-page NCAA rulebook. Joe Nocera and Ben Strauss take us into the inner circle of the NCAA's fiercest enemies. You'll meet, among others . . . ·Sonny Vaccaro, the charismatic sports marketer who convinced Nike to sign Michael Jordan. Disgusted by how the NCAA treated athletes, Vaccaro used his intimate knowledge of its secrets to blow the whistle in a major legal case. ·Ed O'Bannon, the former UCLA basketball star who realized, years after leaving college, that the NCAA was profiting from a video game using his image. His lawsuit led to an unprecedented antitrust ruling. ·Ramogi Huma, the founder of the National College Players Association, who dared to think that college players should have the same collective bargaining rights as other Americans. ·Andy Schwarz, the controversial economist who looked behind the façade of the NCAA and saw it for what it is: a cartel that violates our core values of free enterprise. *Indentured* reveals how these and other renegades, working sometimes in concert and sometimes alone, are fighting for justice in the bare-knuckles world of college sports.

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nfl teams without indoor practice facility: *Illinois Football* , 2008

nfl teams without indoor practice facility: *Indianapolis Monthly* , 2003-07 *Indianapolis Monthly* is the Circle City's essential chronicle and guide, an indispensable authority on what's new and what's news. Through coverage of politics, crime, dining, style, business, sports, and arts and entertainment, each issue offers compelling narrative stories and lively, urbane coverage of Indy's cultural landscape.

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conceptualization, design, and construction, this book reveals why Illinois' Memorial Stadium is an iconic part of the American Midwest's built landscape and in many ways part of the American mythic landscape. This will be interesting reading for all those familiar with the building, as well as all students and scholars of sports architecture.

nfl teams without indoor practice facility: Next Man Up John Feinstein, 2007-09-03 In the NFL there is only one certainty: that every day, someone will have to be the Next Man Up. Football is an unrelentingly punishing sport, played and practiced at undiminished intensity, and it devours its players. Confronting injuries, trades, and the grim reality of competition, every NFL team prepares constantly for the likelihood -- the certainty -- that even franchise players can go down at any time. And someone new must be ready, trained, and primed to step in at the highest level. Bestselling sportswriter John Feinstein persuaded one NFL team to lift the extraordinary secrecy that shrouds the sport and let him see how a team operates at the closest level. One team let him join every practice, every coaches' meeting, every players' gathering, every strategy debate. From the give-and-take of draft day, into the grinder of summer training camps, and from 100-degree practice games to the last game in frigid conditions, Feinstein reveals how a football team works -- or fails to work -- as no writer has done before. Next Man Up unveils rituals (what a coach tells a player at the moment he cuts him); rules (the inanities of league-appointed uniform Nazis); conflicts (the scouts vs. the coaches, the general managers vs. the agents, the offense vs. the defense, the special teams coaches vs. everybody); money (how much a journeyman makes, and how his life differs from the multi-million-dollar-a-year star players)-every nuance of a team's life, from the owner's goals to the coach's day-to-day travails to the feeling of the sleet-soaked ball in the hands of a receiver on artificial turf. The access John Feinstein enjoyed allows him to discuss with equal understanding the owner's management strategy, the coaches' and coordinators' plans for each new game, and how it all affects the players themselves. Anyone who loves football -- any team, in any era -- will savor the thousands of details revealed here for the first time, and the extraordinary drama that goes into following week after week, the most sensational sport in America.

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