



“IRON” MIKE SINGLETARY *Minister of Defense and Linebacker*

Personal information

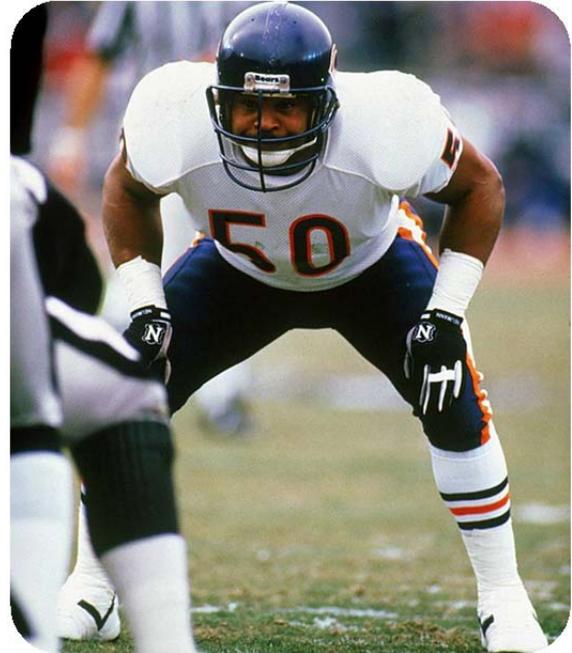
Born: October 9, 1958 (age 53)
College: Baylor University
Drafted: 1981 / Round 2, pick 38. (Chicago Bears)
Retired: 1992 (Chicago Bears)

Career Highlights

1985 NFL Defensive Player of the Year
1988 NFL Defensive Player of the Year
1990 NFL Walter Payton Man of the Year
Super Bowl XX Champion
Ten Pro Bowls: 1983-1992
Inducted into Hall of Fame in 1998

Links

CBN Testimony: <http://youtu.be/SgGODEy3iAY>
Singletary miked during game: <http://youtu.be/zQGkq8B0-X0>
ESPN's NFL Top 100: <http://youtu.be/glJnOCEBek>



“God gives us athletic ability, but it’s what you do between your ears that makes you a great player. That’s where Mike really excelled.” – Joe Thiesmann

“ I think a man becomes less than a man when he begins to compromise on what he believes is right.” - - Mike Singletary

His ears betrayed him...A six car accident? What sense did that make to little Mike?

First, he lost his older brother to carbon monoxide poisoning. Then, his dad became a workaholic and worked construction jobs during the week, while being a street preacher during the weekends. For a still unknown reason, he deserted his family and moved in with another woman. His brother, Grady, became the father figure Mike never had.

“Go to church and worship God. Stay away from things like drinking beer and smoking cigarettes” he chided to Mike. Grady loved Mike. And Mike loved Grady.

And now he was just...gone.

Grady was the victim of a drunk driver. The driver caused a 6 car accident that left Grady and others dead. But ironically, the driver escaped unhurt.

Mike was angry and confused. What would he do now?



Mike Singletary's Story:

Mike Singletary was born in Houston, Texas. His large family of his parents and brothers and sisters lived in a small wooden home next to a church that his father built. Family life was tough and money was tight. Mike's dad was always working construction jobs or preaching, and it seemed like he wasn't happy to be the father of the family.

Tragedy struck the family when one of Mike's brothers died of carbon monoxide poisoning while sleeping next to a coal stove. A year later, Mike's father left the family for another woman. It was then that his older brother, Grady, became Mike's father figure. When Mike joined his junior high school football team in 7th grade, it was Grady, not his dad, that attended the game. And then tragedy struck again. Grady was killed by a drunk driver.

Mike soon found that football was his escape. As he entered Evan E. Worthington High School in Houston, he became the centerpiece of the team. In only 9th grade, Mike was named Texas All-State guard and linebacker. His high school career earned him a scholarship to Baylor University. At Baylor, Singletary earned All-America honors in both his junior and senior years.

Drafted by the Chicago Bears in the 1981 NFL draft's 2nd round, Singletary became a starter in the Chicago Bears lineup in the seventh game of his rookie season. A nearly unanimous all-rookie selection, Singletary went on to start 172 games for the Bears during his 12-year career. The only two games he missed were in the same year - 1986. Selected to play in a team record 10 Pro Bowls, Singletary was All-Pro eight times, and All-NFC every year from 1983 to 1991.

His rugged play earned him the nickname "Iron Mike". His love of God earned him the nickname "Minister of Defense". Combine those two nicknames, and you have perhaps the most rugged, passionate player to ever play in the NFL.

Mike Ditka, his coach, relates Mike's passion to his pastoral skills: in 1985, the day before a playoff game against the Rams, he was talking to the offense while Singletary was in the next room giving the defense a motivational speech. Within minutes, the Minister of Defense was screaming at the top of his lungs and the defensive players were throwing chairs and knocking over tables. The Bears would eventually go to win Super Bowl XX by beating the New England Patriots 46-10. In the game, Singletary tied a Super Bowl record with 2 fumble recoveries while terrorizing the New England backfield.

After 12 years, Singletary retired in 1992. He was elected to the College Football Hall of Fame in 1995 and to the Pro Football Hall of Fame in 1998. He is widely accepted as one of the Top 100 NFL Players of All Time.



NAME: _____

BALL FOOTBALL LESSON: MIKE SINGLETARY: MINISTER OF DEFENSE

Bible Verse: Matthew 6:33

33 But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness,
and all these things will be given to you as well.

WOODEN MAXIMS:

“Be quick, but don't hurry.”

Know His Story:

Mike’s early life was fraught with heartache and tragedy. His FATH-___-R deserted his family while Mike was a youngster. Mike lost ___ brothers to accidents: one to CAR-___-___-N monoxide poisoning, and one to a DR-___-___-K driver. To help him escape, Mike turned to F-___-___-___-BALL. He was a T-___-___-___-S All-State football player as a ___ grader. He eventually got a college scholarship, then joined the Ch-___-___-ago B-___-___-___-___ in 198___. For the next ___ years, he terrorized quarterbacks and earned two nicknames: I-___-___-N Mike, for his ruggedness, and Minister of Defense, for his enthusiastic preaching of the Gospel. Singletary is considered one of the top _____ NFL players of all time.

Know What To Do:

Quickness is one of a football player’s most valued traits. *Quickness* is an external result of a focused, trained mind and body. Conversely, *hurriedness* is an anxious state of mind that impedes quickness. Take a linebacker for example...Once he is pursuing a running back, he needs to be quick (be able to anticipate moves and make adjustments) yet not hurry (which causes him to overcommit because his momentum carries him too far). Looking at the picture of Mike Singletary, study how he balances his body to ensure that he is quick. Before every play, what questions might he ask himself to mentally prepare him to be quick?

Know What’s Important (Discuss with your parents):

When Jesus made this encouraging statement in Matthew 6:33, he was speaking to an anxious, young group of disciples who’s political leaders were seeking the praise of men, not God. They were confused because they thought he had come to be their King, yet it looked like they were going to be struggling to provide for themselves by following Christ. Christ had a different idea: simply seek to please God, and have faith that God will take care of the rest. In other words, being anxious leads to worry. And when you worry, you make mistakes. God says that he will provide. Can worrying solve your concern? Or is it better to be quick – in other words, mentally and emotionally prepare yourself on how to adjust, given changing circumstances?

What do you worry about? Would it help to ask God to handle it for you? RIGHT NOW, be quick: ask your parents to help you pray about it.
