



Doug Plank

Doug was not a physically big football player but he was one of the most feared. His goal when hitting an opposing player wasn't just to separate him from the ball, but also from his senses. His playing style resulted in countless concussions, 5 knee operation and a shoulder replacement. He was the epitome of tough. In fact, Buddy Ryan, the Chicago Bears defensive co-ordinator under head coach Mike Ditka named the famous "46 defense" not after an alignment, but after Plank's jersey number.

Plank was little-regarded coming out of Ohio State as he was drafted in the 12th round of the 1975 draft by the bears. This is in spite of having won 3 Big Ten titles and playing in 3 consecutive Rose Bowls. However, Doug became a starter for the Bears in his first season and became the first Bears' rookie to lead the team in tackles.

Doug played his entire 8-year NFL in the Windy City as one of the hardest hitting free safeties in the game. Paired with Gary Fencik at strong safety, they were dubbed "The Hit Men". Plank retired in 1982 and remains revered in Chicago to this day.

Doug became a very successful businessman toward the end of his career and afterwards. He once owned 22 Burger King franchises, is a licensed realtor, a business consultant and has been a football analyst for many radio and television broadcasts. Additionally, the lure of football pulled him back into the game on several occasions when he held several different coaching positions in the Arena Football League, the NFL (Falcons & Jets) and at his alma mater, Ohio State University.

Plank has been a success at everything he has done. He was fearless on the field and has been the same in his business career. His message of how to approach life with a full effort is a story that needs to be heard by business executives and students alike. As he was once quoted, "Most football players are temperamental. That's 90% temper and 10% mental." Hire Doug today to fire up your organization.

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