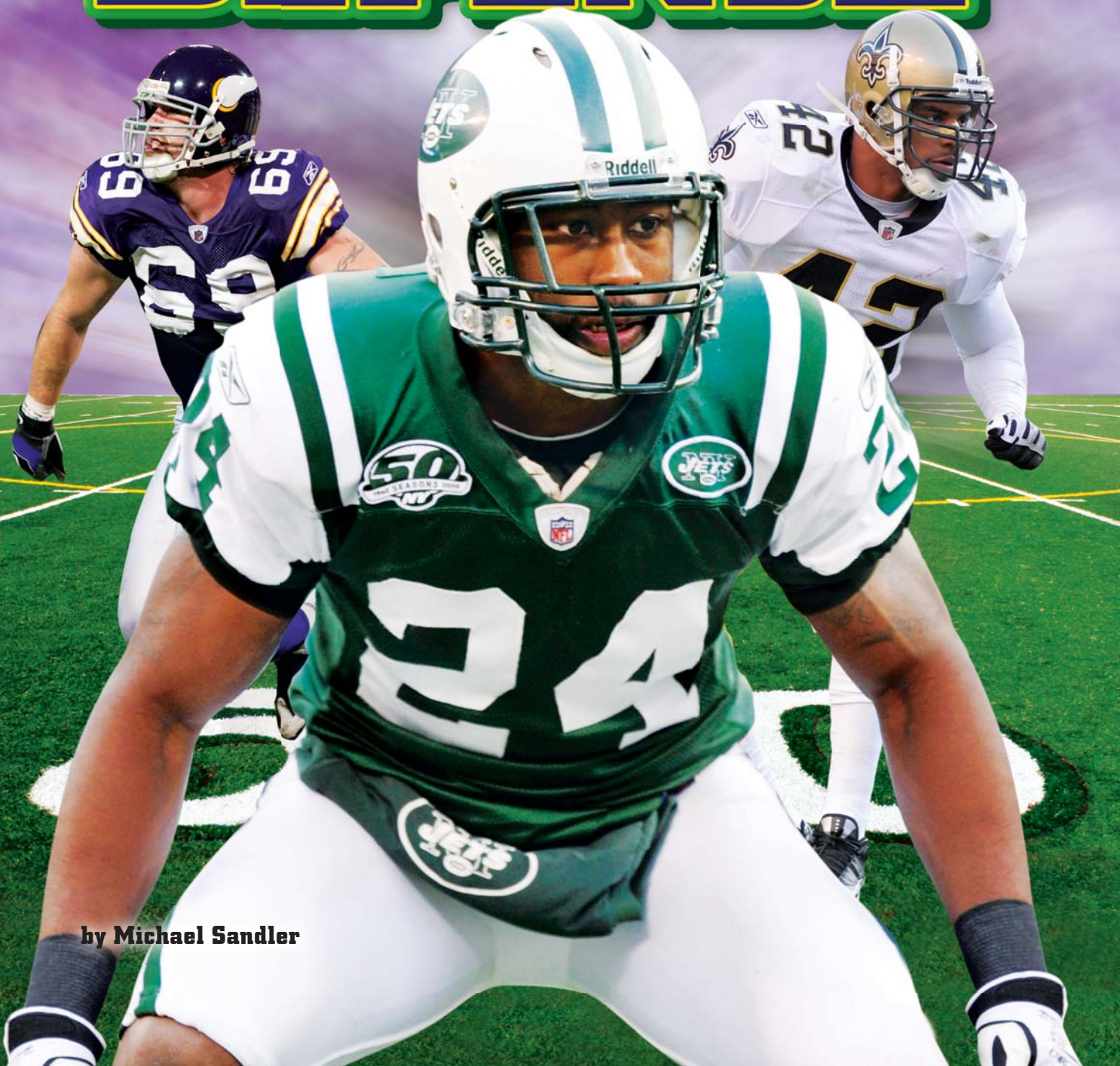




PRO FOOTBALL'S STARS OF THE DEFENSE

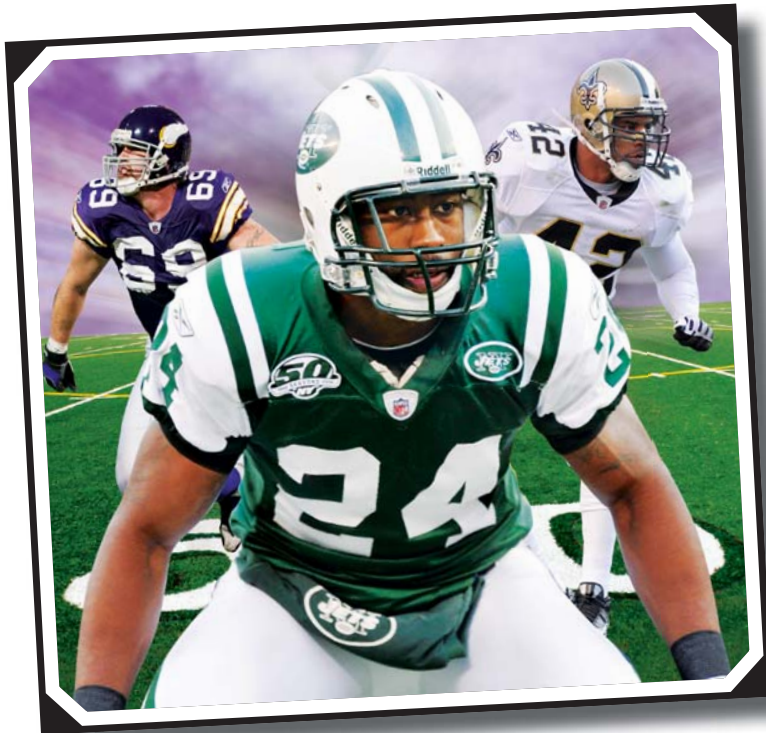


by Michael Sandler

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PRO FOOTBALL'S STARS OF THE DEFENSE



by Michael Sandler

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STARS OF THE DEFENSE

For NFL teams, scoring points is only half the game. Great **defense** is just as important for a win.

The league's greatest defenses are built around star players who excel at their jobs. By stopping the run and shutting down the pass, these defensive players make it nearly impossible for the other team to gain yards or score points.



San Francisco 49ers linebacker Patrick Willis (#52) sacks quarterback Kyle Boller (#12) of the St. Louis Rams.

This book features the talented athletes who play at the different defensive positions. You will learn about **linebackers** such as Elvis Dumervil and Patrick Willis, who put nonstop pressure on the quarterbacks. You will meet **cornerbacks** and **safeties** such as Darren Sharper, Darrelle Revis, and Charles Woodson, who keep **receivers** from catching passes. You will also discover the powerful players of the **defensive line** such as Jared Allen, Dwight Freeney, and Haloti Ngata. Each one is a star of the defense!



Safety Darren Sharper (#42) of the New Orleans Saints hits Bernard Berrian (#87) of the Minnesota Vikings.

Minnesota Vikings defensive end Jared Allen (#69) grabs Reggie Bush (#25) during a game against the New Orleans Saints.





HALOTI NGATA #92

BALTIMORE RAVENS

Position: Defensive Tackle

Born: 1/21/1984 in Inglewood, California

Height: 6' 4" (1.93 m)

Weight: 345 pounds (156 kg)

College: Oregon

Pro Bowls: 1

Defensive tackles aren't as flashy as cornerbacks or linebackers. They usually do boring things such as clog up the middle of the field, tackle **running backs**, and keep blockers busy.

That's why, in September 2006, the Baltimore Ravens' Haloti Ngata surprised so many people with his flashy play. In his very first NFL start, this defensive tackle reached up and **intercepted** a Tampa Bay Buccaneers pass. Then he rumbled downfield for 60 yards (55 m) like an out-of-control train.

Haloti has kept the surprises coming ever since—**sacking** quarterbacks and running interceptions back for touchdowns. Ravens coach John Harbaugh jokes that Haloti, with all his flashy plays, might even need a new position such as cornerback. He won't get one, though, because he just does his current job too well.

BIG SEASON 2009

In 2009, Haloti was a key player in a defense that allowed just 93 **rushing yards** (85 m) per game. He helped Baltimore make the playoffs and was rewarded with his first **Pro Bowl** selection.

Haloti (#92) tackles Kansas City Chiefs quarterback Brodie Croyle (#12) during a game in 2009.



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For NFL teams, scoring points is only half the game. Great defense is just as important for a win. The best defenses are those built around star players who excel at their jobs. By stopping the run and shutting down the pass, they make it nearly impossible for the other team to gain yards or score points.

In this book you'll meet the best of the best—Elvis Dumervil, Patrick Willis, Darren Sharper, Darrelle Revis, Charles Woodson, Jared Allen, Dwight Freeney, and Haloti Ngata. You'll soon see why they're considered the best defensive stars currently playing pro football.

Pro Football's Dream Teams

Pro Football's Most Spectacular Quarterbacks

Pro Football's Stars of the Defense

Pro Football's Stars of the Offense

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