

# 1985 Chicago Bears

coach: Mike Ditka

## AFC

### Eastern

Miami	12- 4
NY Jets	11- 5
New England	11- 5
Indianapolis	5-11
Buffalo	2-14

### Central

Cleveland	8- 8
Cincinnati	7- 9
Pittsburgh	7- 9
Houston	5-11

### Western

LA Raiders	12- 4
Denver	11- 5
Seattle	8- 8
San Diego	8- 8
Kansas City	6-10

## NFC

### Eastern

Dallas	10- 6
NY Giants	10- 6
Washington	10- 6
Philadelphia	7- 9
St. Louis	5-11

### Central

<b>Chicago</b>	15- 1
Green Bay	8- 8
Minnesota	7- 9
Detroit	7- 9
Tampa Bay	2-14

### Western

LA Rams	11- 5
San Francisco	10- 6
New Orleans	5-11
Atlanta	4-12

<b>Offense:</b>	AFC:	San Diego	467 points	NFC:	<b>Bears</b>	456 points (1 <sup>st</sup> )
<b>Defense:</b>	AFC:	NY Jets	264 points	NFC:	<b>Bears</b>	198 points (1 <sup>st</sup> )

### Club:

- Turnovers: 54/31 (+23)
- Coach Mike Ditka signed 3-year contract in January.
- Defensive Coordinator Buddy Ryan was not happy about Bears #1 choice in draft.

### Possibly the most dominant team in NFL history.

Club won 12 in a row and was 5-1 against winning teams, outscoring such opposition 178-71.  
Bears were the only team since 1950 to score 400+ points while allowing fewer than 200 (456-198).  
Club established records for points scored, yards gained, and most 1<sup>st</sup> downs.  
Bears' 52 wins from 85-88 is most by NFL team in 4-year period.

**Defense:** Total yards allowed 258.4 yards/game (176 pass, 82.4 rush), and 64 sacks. Opponent's QB rating: 47.4.  
Led NFL in fewest points (198), fewest yards allowed (4,135), and interceptions (34; 3 short of 1935 club record).  
Opponents converted 29.8% of 3<sup>rd</sup> downs. Bears' 54 takeaways were 4 short of club record (1952).  
Second year in a row Dent led NFC in sacks.

**Offense:** Out-rushed opponents by 90 yards/game. Club's 176 1<sup>st</sup> downs rushing 3<sup>rd</sup> most in NFL (NE, 1978, 181).  
Bears were 3<sup>rd</sup> in yards gained (5,837), behind San Francisco (5,924) and New York Giants (5,884).  
Club led NFC in rushing yards (2,761) and in scoring (**club-record** 456 points).  
First time since 1968 that a Bear kicker led league in scoring.

- **Dick Butkus** joined WGN's **Wayne Larrivee** in the radio booth.
- **Contract problems:** Richard Dent was a late arrival to camp.
  - Other late arrivals included Mike Singletary, Keith Van Horne, Steve McMichael, and William Perry.
  - DL **Al Harris** and DB **Todd Bell** also held-out but did not play. Bell requested \$1.53M/3 yrs. Bears offered \$1M/3 years.
- Ditka later termed his team "The Grabowskis."
- Bears made the front cover of *Sports Illustrated* 5 times: McMahon ("Bears on the Prowl"); following their blowout win over Dallas ("44-0"); McMahon again (Super Bowl Bound); Singletary ("Chicago's D Spells Doom"), and after Bears beat New England in Super Bowl ("Supermen!").
- Displaying hair shorn in Mohawk style, QB McMahon was termed the "Punky QB."
- Bears' 10/21 game vs. Green Bay put Perry into the limelight.
- From 1985-87 – Bears were 22-1 with McMahon at QB (36-5 from 1984-88).
- Bears beat Tampa Bay twice – overcoming 12-point and 14-point deficits.
- In 2010, 25 years after winning the Super Bowl, the Bears were invited to the White House.

12/11: Bears released **Super Bowl Shuffle** – ostensibly done for charity. McMichael and Hampton opted out.

**Draft:** 1<sup>st</sup>: DT **William "Refrigerator" Perry** (#22; Clemson); 8+ seasons, 6'2", 335 lbs.  
2<sup>nd</sup>: DB Reggie Phillips (SMU); 3 years. Returned an interception for a TD during the Super Bowl.  
4<sup>th</sup>: K **Kevin Butler** (Georgia); 11 years. Butler was record holder for points (1,116) and FGs (243).  
9<sup>th</sup>: RB **Thomas Sanders** (Texas A & M); 5 years, 11 TDs (10 rushing).  
11<sup>th</sup>: LB **Jim Morrissey** (MSU); 8+ years, 108 games.

**Add:** Free agent QB **Mike Tomczak** (OSU), WR Keith Ortego (McNeese St), LB Cliff Thrift (SD), DB Ken Taylor (Oregon State); OG **Tom Thayer** (drafted 1983) and TE Tim Wrightman (drafted 1982) returned from USFL.

**Lost:** QB Rusty Lisch; K Bob Thomas to San Diego  
- **Perry:** Gained legendary status with his nick-name, warm personality, excessive weight, and ability to score TDs.  
- **Butler:** Scored 100+ points/season 5 times and held Bears' single-season record. Butler played through 1995.  
- **Tomczak's** record as a Bear: 21-10; 454-915/6,247 yards (33 TD passes, 47 interceptions, and QB rating of 62.5)

**Injuries:** McMahon (neck/back; fractured hand; shoulder; leg)

### Season:

9/8: **Beat Tampa Bay 38-28 at home.** Astroturf temperature was 133 F. Halftime: Tampa led 28-17. Bears scoring came on McMahon TD passes to McKinnon (21 yards) and Suhey (9 yards), 2 rushing by McMahon (each from 1 yard out), and a 38-yard FG by Kevin Butler. Bears led yards (436-307) and 1<sup>st</sup> downs (27-17). Turnovers: Bears 3, Bucs 2.

TB RB **James Wilder:** rushed 27 times for 166 yards.

Passing: McMahon 23-34/274 2/1 & 3 sacks

Rushing: **Payton 17/120**

Receiving: Payton 6/7

Gault 4/60

Defense: 2 interceptions (Fencik & Frazier) & 2 sacks (Dent 2)

9/15: **Beat New England 20-7 at home.** Halftime: Bears led 10-0. McKinnon scored on a 32-yard pass from McMahon, Suhey rushed from 1-yard out, and Butler booted 2 FGs (21 & 28 yards). Bears led in yards (369-206) and 1<sup>st</sup> downs (18-10). Patriots scored in 4<sup>th</sup> Q on 90-yd pass from Tony Eason to Craig James.

Bears' defense allowed just 27 yards rushing. Patriots punted 11 times. Turnovers: Bears 2, Patriots 4.

Passing: McMahon 13-21/232 1/0 & 3 sacks

Rushing: Payton 11/39

Receiving: McKinnon 5/73 1 TD

Defense: 3 interceptions (Dent, Fencik & Singletary) & 6 sacks (Singletary 3, Dent, Marshall, and Wilson)

9/19: **Beat Minnesota 33-24 away.** Halftime: Vikings led 10-6. Bears' 1<sup>st</sup> half points came on 2 Butler FGs (24 & 19 yards).

*Second-half:* With Minnesota ahead, 17-9 and Steve Fuller struggling at QB, McMahon pleaded with coach Ditka to enter the game. When Ditka relented, McMahon then went to work - throwing TD passes to Gault (70 yards) and two to McKinnon (25 yards and 43 yards). McMahon's success would not have been possible without Walter Payton's ability to block on-coming blitzes. Butler's 31-yard FG in the 4<sup>th</sup> Q finished all scoring. Stats were mixed: Vikings had more 1<sup>st</sup> downs (23-21); Bears led in yards (480-445).

Vikings' 22 1<sup>st</sup> downs passing was record for Bear opponent (broken 12/2000). Minnesota QB **Tommy**

**Kramer** passed 28-55 for 436 yards and 3 TDs - 2<sup>nd</sup> most passing yards by a Bear opponent (1<sup>st</sup>: 1982).

Vikings WR **Anthony Carter** caught 4 passes for 102 yards and 2 TDs. Turnovers: Bears 1, Vikings 5.

Passing: Fuller 13-18/124 0/0 & 1 sack

McMahon 8-15/236 3/0

Rushing: Payton 15/62

Receiving: **Gault 6/146 1 TD**

**McKinnon 4/133 2 TDs**

Defense: 3 interceptions (Frazier, Marshall, and Wilson) & 4 sacks (McMichael 2, Hampton, Dent/Rivera)

9/29: **Beat Washington 45-10 at home.** Halftime: behind 10-0 after the 1<sup>st</sup> quarter, Bears went on to score 31 points before the half ended. Bears scored on a 99-yard KO return by Gault, McMahon TD passes to McKinnon (14 yards), Moorehead (20 yards), and Payton (33 yards).

*Second-half:* Payton threw a 13-yard TD pass to McMahon, Dennis Gentry scored from 1 yard out, and Butler booted a 28-yard FG. Redskins QB **Joe Theismann**, serving as substitute punter, punted the ball 1 yard. Turnovers: Bears 1, Redskins 3.

Passing: McMahon 14-21/160 3/1 & 3 sacks

Rushing: McMahon 3/36

Payton 7/6

Receiving: McKinnon 3/50 1 TD

Defense: 2 interceptions (Richardson & Ken Taylor) & 4 sacks (Dent, Keys, Marshall, and McMichael)

10/6: **Beat Tampa Bay 27-19 away.** Halftime: Tampa led 12-3. Butler booted 2 FGs (30 & 28 yards), McKinnon scored on a 21-yard pass from McMahon, and Payton scored from 4 & 9 yards out - including his **100<sup>th</sup> career TD**. Bears led in yards (433-373) and 1<sup>st</sup> downs (22-19). Bucs netted 0 1<sup>st</sup> downs rushing. Turnovers were even at 3/ea.

Tampa Bay QB **Steve DeBerg**: passed 23-46 for 346 yards. His targets: WRs **Jimmy Giles** (7 catches/112 yards) and **Kevin House** (6 catches for 100 yards & 1 TD).

Passing: McMahon 22-34/292 1/2 & 1 sack  
Rushing: Payton 16/63 2 TDs  
Receiving: **Moorehead 8/114**  
Defense: 2 interceptions (Frazier & Duerson)

10/13: **Beat San Francisco 26-10 away.** Bears led 16-10 at the half on a 3-yard run by Payton, and 3 Butler FGs (34, 38 & 27).

*Second-half*: Butler kicked his 4<sup>th</sup> FG (29 yards) and Payton scored on a 17-yard run. Bears dominated the Niners in both offensive categories: 22-11 in 1<sup>st</sup> downs, and 372-183 in net yards-gained. Late in the 4<sup>th</sup> Q, Ditka inserted William "Refrigerator" Perry in backfield - returning the perceived insult the Bears received during the 1984 NFC Championship.

The Niners were penalized 13 times and lost 2 fumbles. First time a Walsh-coached team failed to score a TD on offense. San Francisco's lone TD came on 43-yd interception return by Carlton Williamson. Niners QB **Joe Montana** was sacked 7 times. Bears rushed for 183 yards. Turnovers: Bears 1, Niners 2.

Passing: McMahon 18-31/186 0/0 & 1 sack  
Rushing: **Payton 24/132 2 TDs**  
Receiving: Wrightman 3/56  
Defense: 0 interceptions & 7 sacks (Dent 2, Marshall 2, Duerson, McMichael, and Wilson)

10/21: **Monday Night Football: Beat Green Bay 23-7 at home.** Halftime: Bears led 21-7 on 2 short TDs by Payton (2 yards & 1 yard) and William "The Refrigerator" Perry scored from 1 yard out. What made Payton's TDs noteworthy was that Perry was the lead blocker. Perry was in on only 5 offensive plays.

*Second-half*: Bears added a safety when Otis Wilson tackled Packers' backup QB Jim Zorn in the end-zone.

Sloppy game: The Bears lost 4 fumbles. For their part, the Packers threw 4 interceptions and lost 1 fumble.

Bears led yards (342-319) and 1<sup>st</sup> downs (24-16). Packers WR **James Lofton**: 7 receptions for 103 yards & 1 TD.

From 1985 - 1991, Bears record against Green Bay was 12-2. Turnovers: Bears 4, Packers 5.

Passing: McMahon 12-26/144 0/0 & 3 sacks  
Rushing: **Payton 25/112 2 TDs**  
Receiving: Payton 4/41  
Defense: 4 interceptions (Duerson, Fencik, Marshall & Richardson) & 5 sacks (Hampton 1 ½, McMichael 1 ½, Dent, Wilson)

10/27: **Beat Minnesota 27-9 at home.** Halftime: Bears led 13-7. The rundown: McMahon threw TD passes to McKinnon (33 yards) and Payton (20 yards); Kevin Butler booted 2 FGs (40 & 29 yards), and Otis Wilson (23 yard interception return). Bears led in yards (413-236) & 1<sup>st</sup> downs (24-16). Turnovers: Bears 2, Vikings 5.

Passing: McMahon 18-31/181 2/1 & 1 sack  
Rushing: **Payton 19/118**  
Receiving: Payton 5/37 1 TD  
Defense: 5 interceptions (Marshall 2, Duerson, Wilson, and Ken Taylor) & 4 sacks (Wilson 2, Hartenstine, and Perry)

11/3: **Beat Green Bay 16-10 away.** War of words preceded game and bad blood continued throughout the game.

This matchup alone included 6 unnecessary roughness penalties, several fights and one player ejection.

Bears coaches counted 5 cheap shots in the first 9 plays from scrimmage. Halftime: Bears led 7-3 on 4-yard TD pass from McMahon to William Perry.

Long before Perry's TD, Packers' aggressiveness was apparent: On the 3<sup>rd</sup> play of the game, QB Jim McMahon received a late hit from Ken Stills; the collision took place *after* the whistle blew. On another occasion, Stills also drilled FB Matt Suhey several seconds after a play ended. In fact, Suhey was *headed back* to the Bears' huddle when hit by Stills. Stills and the Packers were assessed a 15-yard penalty, but Stills was not ejected (the League later fined him \$500). Other Packers also got into the mix: Packers DE Mark Lee pushed Payton towards the sideline benches after a lengthy run. For that action, Lee was ejected.

*Second-half*: Packers regained the lead in the 3<sup>rd</sup> Q on a long Jim Zorn pass to Jessie Clark. Bears final points came on a safety by Steve McMichael and a 27-yard run by Payton. Stats: Bears led in 1<sup>st</sup> downs (16-15) and yards (253-242). Turnovers were even at 1/ea.

Passing: McMahon 9-20/91 1/0 & 3 sacks  
Rushing: **Payton 28/192 1TD**  
Receiving: Wrightman 2-29  
Defense: 1 interception (Fencik) & 3 sacks (Hampton 2, McMichael)

11/10: **Beat Detroit 24-3 at home.** Halftime: Bears led 14-0 on rushing TDs by Fuller (1 yard) and Calvin Thomas (7 yards).  
*Second-half:* Fuller scored from the 5 in the 3<sup>rd</sup> Q and Butler added a 39-yard FG in the 4<sup>th</sup>. Bears led in yards (360-106), 1<sup>st</sup> downs (26-8), and ball possession (41:02 to 18:58). Bears rushed for 250 yards. Second time in 3 years two Bears rushed for 100+ yards. Turnovers: Bears 2, Lions 4.

Passing: Fuller 7-13/112 0/0 & 1 sack  
Rushing: **Payton 26/107**  
**Suhey 16/102**  
Receiving: Payton 4/67  
Defense: 1 interception (Duerson) & 4 sacks (Perry 2, Marshall, McMichael/Wilson)

11/17: **Beat Dallas 44-0 away.** Worst defeat in Dallas' history. Since 1971, the Cowboys won 6 straight games against the Bears. Ditka was facing Landry for first time in a regular season game. It was the first time Cowboys had been shut out in 219 regular season games. Halftime: Bears led 24-0 on a 1-yard interception by Dent, 44-yard FG by Butler, a 36-yard interception by Richardson, and a 1-yard run by Fuller.

*Second-half:* Butler added 2 more FGs (46 & 22), Calvin Thomas scored on a 17-yard run, and Gentry scored from 16 yards out. Stats: Bears led yards (388-171) and 1<sup>st</sup> downs (18-12). Bears were flagged 8 times for 105 yards. Dallas got no deeper than the Bears' 38-yard line. Turnovers: Bears 1, Cowboys 5.

Passing: Fuller 9-24/164 0/1 & 4 sacks  
Rushing: **Payton 22/132**  
Receiving: Wrightman 2/61  
Defense: 4 interceptions (Dent, Frazier, Ken Taylor, Richardson) & 6 sacks (Dent 2, Duerson, McMichael, Hampton, Wilson)

11/24: **Beat Atlanta 36-0 at home.** 1<sup>st</sup> time since 1972 an NFL team was 12-0. Bears led 20-0 at the half on 2 Kevin Butler FGs (35 & 32), a 40-yard run by Payton, and a 1-yard run by Perry.

*Second-half:* Calvin Thomas scored from the 2, Henry Waechter added a safety, and Thomas Sanders scored from the 1. Bears led in 1<sup>st</sup> downs (24-10) and in yards-gained (379-119). Turnovers: Bears 1, Falcons 3. Falcons QBs completed 3 of 17 passes for -22 yards, a **record low for Bears' opponent**. Atlanta crossed 50-yard line only once. Falcons RB **Gerald Riggs** rushed 30 times for 110 yards.

Passing: Fuller 10-20/151 0/0 & 1 sack  
Tomczak 2-4/33  
Rushing: **Payton 20/102 1TD**  
Receiving: Gault 2/70  
Defense: 2 interceptions (Fencik & Frazier) & 5 sacks (Waechter 2 ½, Dent 1 ½, and Perry)

12/2: **Monday Night Football: Lost to Miami 38-24 away.** The 12-0 Bears faced Miami squad with the 1972 Dolphins (17-0) standing on the sideline. Miami was in the middle of a 7G winning streak. Matchup was one of the most watched MNF games ever.

Dolphins scored on 5 straight possessions and led 31-10 at half. Bears scored on 1-yard run by Fuller and a 30-yard FG by Butler. With an undefeated season slipping away, Ditka feuded with Ryan feuded on sidelines and in the locker room at half time.

*Second-half:* Fuller again scored from the 1 and later passed 19 yards to Ken Margerum. Miami got a break when Marino's pass deflected off Hampton's helmet right into WR Mark Clayton's hands. Clayton, not the intended target, ran the final 42 yards for a TD. Bears' offense stumbled in 2<sup>nd</sup> half – allowed 2 sacks and turned the ball over twice. On a positive note, Payton recorded his 8<sup>th</sup> straight 100-yard rushing game.

Stats were skewed: Bears led in 1<sup>st</sup> downs (23-17), yards-gained (343-335), ball possession (34:08 – 25:52), but also allowed 6 sacks (Marino was sacked 3 times) and turned ball over 4 times. Turnovers: Bears 4, Dolphins 2.

Miami QB **Dan Marino** passed 14-27 for 270 yards 3 TDs. Marino's targets were **Nat Moore** (4-75, 2 TDs), **Mark Clayton** (5-88, 1 TD) and **Mark Duper** (5-107).

Passing: McMahon 3-6/42 0/1 & 6 sacks  
Fuller 11-21/169 1/2  
Rushing: **Payton 23/121**  
Receiving: Gault 2/79  
Defense: 1 interception (Frazier) & 3 sacks (Dent 2, Wilson)

12/8: **Beat Indianapolis 17-10 at home.** Halftime: Tied at 3. Bears scored on a 20-yard FG by Butler, 16-yard run by Payton, and 3-yard run by Calvin Thomas. Bears led yards (328-232) and 1<sup>st</sup> downs (22-10). Neither team turned the ball over.

Passing: McMahon 11-23/145 0/1 & 3 sacks  
Rushing: **Payton 26/111 1TD**  
Receiving: Gentry 2/38  
Defense: 0 interceptions & 1 sack (Wilson)

12/14: **Beat New York Jets 19-6 away.** Halftime: Bears led 10-3. Bears scored on 4 Butler FGs (18, 31, 37, and 21 yards), and a 7-yard pass from McMahon to Tim Wrightman. Bears again dominated the stats, leading in yards (319-159) and 1<sup>st</sup> downs (20-11). K Pat Leahy established a Jets club record by kicking 55-yard FG.

Jets were not pushovers: club beat Tampa Bay 62-28 1 month earlier. Payton's string of consecutive 100-yard rushing games ended at 9. Turnovers: Bears 1, Jets 1

Passing: McMahon 15-31/215 1/0 & 5 sacks  
Rushing: Payton 28/53  
Receiving: Payton 1/65  
Defense: 0 interceptions & 4 sacks (Dent 2, Hampton & Wilson)

12/22: **Beat Detroit 37-17 away.** Halftime: Bears led 6-3. Bears scored on 3 Butler FGs (25, 24, and 21 yards), a 94-yard KO Return by Gentry, a 14-yard run by McMahon, 5-yard fumble recovery by LB Ron Rivera, and an 11-yard pass from McMahon to Margerum. On the 3<sup>rd</sup> play of the game, Detroit QB Joe Ferguson was rendered motionless after a hard hit by LB Wilbur Marshall. Ferguson was replaced by Eric Hipple.

Stats were mixed: Lions led in 1<sup>st</sup> downs (22-20), Bears gained more yards (382-326). Bears' defense totaled 7 takeaways (4 fumble recoveries) and 6 sacks. Hipple did achieve some success: targets were WRs **Pete Mandley** (5/127 yards) & **Leonard Thompson** (9/101 yards). Turnovers: Bears 4, Lions 7.

Passing: McMahon 13-22/194 1/2  
Rushing: Payton 17/81  
Receiving: Gault 2/69  
Defense: 3 interceptions (Duerson, Richardson, and Rivera) & 6 sacks (Dent 2, Keys, Marshall, Perry & Wilson)

### Playoffs:

1/5: **Beat New York Giants 21-0** at home. Giants were led by Coach **Bill Parcells** and included Pro Bowlers QB **Phil Simms**, RB **Joe Morris**, DE **Leonard Marshall**, LBs **Harry Carson** and **Lawrence Taylor**. NY's offense led NFL in yards; Morris rushed for 1,336 yards and scored 21 TDs. Feared NYG defense totaled 68 sacks.

Halftime: Bears led 7-0 on a freak play – Giants P Sean Landetta whiffed on punt while standing in his own end zone. Shaun Gayle picked up the loose ball on the 5-yard line and ran it in for TD. Stats showed a -7-yard punt.

*Second half:* QB McMahon hooked up twice with Dennis McKinnon (23 yards & 20 yards) for scores.

Butler missed on 3 FG attempts (26, 49, and 38). Overall, Bears outgained Giants 363-181.

- Simms passed 14-35 for 209 yards and was sacked 6 times; Morris was held to 12 carries for 32 yards.
- NYG went 3-and-out 9 of the 1<sup>st</sup> 11 times they had the ball. Turnovers: Bears 0, Giants 1.

Passing: McMahon 11-21/216 2/0  
Rushing: Payton 27/93  
Receiving: Gault 3/68  
McKinnon 3/52 2 TDs  
Defense: 0 interceptions & 6 sacks (Dent 3 ½, Fencik, Singletary, Wilson ½)

### NFC Championship:

1/12: **Beat Los Angeles Rams 24-0** at home. Rams featured RB **Eric Dickerson**. Bears were 11-point favorites.

Bears led 10-0 at half on QB Jim McMahon's 16-yard TD run and Kevin Butler's 34-yard FG. Bears 2<sup>nd</sup> TD came in the 3<sup>rd</sup> Q on 22-yard TD pass from McMahon to Willie Gault. In the 4<sup>th</sup> Q, DE Richard Dent's forced fumble allowed LB Wilbur Marshall to grab the loose ball and run 52 yards for final score.

Bears out-gained Rams 232-130. Dickerson rushed 17 rushes for 46 yards but fumbled twice. Rams QB Dieter Brock passed 10-31 for 66 yards. Bears punted the ball 10 times, Rams 11. Turnovers: Bears 1, Rams 3.

Passing: McMahon 16-25/164 1/0  
Rushing: Payton 18/32  
Receiving: Payton 7/48  
Gault 4/56  
Defense: 1 interception (Frazier) & 3 sacks (Dent, Hampton & Perry)

### End of Season Stats:

<b>Passing:</b>	Jim McMahon	178-313/2392	56.9%	15/11	82.6
	Steve Fuller	53-107/777	49.5	1/5	57.3
	Walter Payton	3-5/96	60.0	1/0	143.7
<b>Rushing:</b>	Walter Payton	324/1551	4.8	9 TDs	
	Matt Suhey	115/471	4.1	1 TD	
	Jim McMahon	47/252	5.4	3 TDs	
	Cal Thomas	31/125	4.0	4 TDs	
	Dennis Gentry	30/160	5.3	2 TDs	
	Thomas Sanders	25/104	4.2	1 TD	
	Steve Fuller	24/77	3.2	5 TDs	
	William Perry	5/7	1.4	2 TDs	

<b>Receiving:</b>	Walter Payton	49/483	9.9	2 TD
	Moorehead	35/481	13.7	1 TD
	Willie Gault	33/704	21.3	1 TD
	Matt Suhey	33/295	8.9	1 TD
	Dennis McKinnon	31/555	17.9	7 TD
	Tim Wrightman	24/407	17.0	1 TD
	Ken Margerum	17/170	11.2	2 TD
	Jim McMahon	1/13		1 TD
	William Perry	1/4		1 TD

**Kicking:** Kevin Butler (31 FG, 51 PAT) 144 points **NFL rookie record** for points; **club record** for FGs

**Punting:** Maury Buford 42.2

**KR:** Willie Gault 26.2 1 TD 99-yard return  
Dennis Gentry 25.9 1 TD 94-yard return

**PR:** Ken Taylor 7.9

**Scoring:** Kevin Butler 144 points

**Interceptions:** Leslie Frazier 6/119 TD, Dave Duerson 5/53, Gary Fencik 5/43, Wilbur Marshall 4/23, Mike Richardson 4/174 TD, Otis Wilson 3/35 TD, Ken Taylor 3/28, Richard Dent 2/10 TD, Mike Singletary 1/23, and Rivera 1/4  
Safeties: McMichael, Wilson, Waechter, and Rivera; Rivera with 1 fumble recovery for TD.

**Sacks:** Dent 17 (led NFL), Wilson 10.5, McMichael 8, Hampton 6.5, Marshall 6, Perry 5, Singletary 3, Waechter 2.5, Duerson & Keys 2/each, Hartenstine 1, Rivera ½

**All-Pro:** Payton, Dent & McMichael

**Pro Bowl:** T Jim Covert, DE Richard Dent, S Dave Duerson, DE Dan Hampton, C Jay Hilgenberg, QB Jim McMahon, RB Walter Payton, LB Mike Singletary, LB Otis Wilson

### League:

**RULE:** To avert a potential injury, QBs were now allowed to slide into a tackle.

- Defenses began to employ the **zone blitz**.
- After **USFL folded**, former LA Express QB **Steve Young** began his NFL career with the Tampa Bay Buccaneers.

**Changes:** LA WR Drew Hill (Hou), NO RB George Rogers (WA)

9/15: **San Diego** lost to Seattle 49-35. Seahawks WR **Daryl Turner** caught 4 of QB **Dave Krieg**'s 5 TD passes. Chargers QB **Dan Fouts**: 29-43/440 yards & 4 TDs; **WR Wes Chandler**: 13/243 yards.

10/6: **San Francisco** beat Atlanta 38-17. Niners QB **Joe Montana**: passed 37-57 for 429 yards & 5 TDs. Montana's 57 passes without an interception remains an **NFL record**.

10/13: **Seattle** beat Atlanta 30-26. Seahawks QB **Dave Krieg**: passed 33-51 for 405 yards and 4 TDs. **NY Giants** lost to Cincinnati 35-30. Giants out-gained Bengals 470-199. Giants QB **Phil Simms**: 40-62 & 513 yards passing' Giants' offense totaled **NFL record** 29 1<sup>st</sup> downs passing. Simms was also sacked 7 times for 70 yards in losses.

11/10: **Miami** beat NY Jets 21-17. Dolphins WR **Mark Duper** caught 8 passes for 217 yards.

11/17: **NY Jets** beat Tampa Bay 62-28. Jets QB **Ken O'Brien** threw 5 TD passes; Jets totaled 581 yards on offense.

11/18: MNF: **Washington** beat NY Giants 23-21. Redskins' QB **Joe Theismann** suffered fractured right leg after being tackled by Giants LB **Lawrence Taylor**. Injury ended Theismann's career.

12/15: **Washington** beat Cincinnati 27-24. Redskins WR **Art Monk** caught 13 passes for 230 yards.

12/20: **Denver** beat Seattle 27-24. Broncos QB **John Elway**: passed 24-43 for 432 yards & 1 TD.

12/21: **Washington** beat St. Louis 27-16. Redskins RB **George Rogers** rushed 34 for 206 yards & 1 TD. **NY Giants** beat Pittsburgh 28-10. Giants RB **Joe Morris** rushed 36 times for 202 yards & 3 TDs.

12/22: **Kansas City** beat San Diego 38-34. Chiefs WR **Stephon Paige** caught 8 passes for ML record 309 yards and 2 TDs.  
Old record: 303; 1945, Cleveland Rams Jim Benton. Chargers QB **Mark Herrmann**: passed 37-58 for 341 yards.

1/4: **LA Rams** beat Dallas 20-0. Rams RB **Eric Dickerson** rushed 34 times for **NFL playoff-record** 248 yards.

**Streaks:** **LA Rams** won 7 straight; **New Orleans** lost 9 straight, **Kansas City** lost 7 in a row.

- First time since 1971 the **Pittsburgh Steelers** fell below .500
- San Francisco Niners RB **Roger Craig**: 1<sup>st</sup> NFL player to receive and rush for 1000+ yards/ea. Next player: 1999.

**Last Season:** QB Joe Theismann (see 11/18 game above), QB Brian Sipe, K Jan Stenerud, RB Earl Campbell, DE Julius Adams, OG John Hannah, RB John Riggins, and Vikings coach Bud Grant (158-96-5).

**Rookie Class:** **DBs** Eugene Robinson and Jerry Gray; **WRs** Gary Clark and Al Toon; **TEs** Mark Bavaro and Jay Novacek; **RBs** Hershell Walker, Kevin Mack, and 1983 Heisman winner Mike Rozier; **K** Kevin Butler; **LBs** Carl Zander, Simon Fletcher and Jack Del Rio; **C** Kevin Glover; **DTs** William "The Refrigerator" Perry and Ray Childress; **DE** Simon Fletcher; **OT** Jim Lachey, Lomas Brown, and Bill Fralic; **KR/PR** Steve Tasker; **QBs** Randall Cunningham, Steve Bono, Frank Reich, Mike Tomczak, Bernie Kosar and Doug Flutie.  
Chosen by the LA Rams in the 11<sup>th</sup> round, Heisman winner Doug Flutie played through 2005.

**Hall-bound:** DE Bruce Smith & WR Andre Reed (Buff), WR Jerry Rice (SF), DE Chris Doleman (MN), DE Reggie White (Phil), LB Kevin Greene and QB Steve Young (TB).  
**Rice:** Played through 2004. Set NFL-record 1,549 career receptions & 197 TDs.

**#1 Draft Pick:** DE Bruce Smith (VA Tech), Buffalo. Smith established NFL record 200+ sacks

#### Stat Leaders:

<b>Rushing:</b>	AFC:	Marcus Allen	LA Raiders	380/1759	4.6	11 TDs
		Freeman McNeil	NY Jets	294/1331	4.5	3 TDs
		Craig James	New England	263/1227	4.7	5 TDs
	NFC:	Gerald Riggs	Atlanta	397/1719	4.3	10 TDs
		<b>Walter Payton</b>	<b>Chicago</b>	324/1551	4.8	9 TDs
		Joe Morris	NY Giants	294/1336	4.5	21 TDs
<b>Passing:</b>	AFC:	Ken O'Brien	NY Jets	297-488/3888	60.9%	25/8 96.2
		Boomer Esiason	Cincinnati	251-431/3443	58.2	27/12 93.2
		Dan Fouts	San Diego	254-430/3638	59.1	27/20 88.1
	NFC:	Joe Montana	San Francisco	303-494/3653	61.3%	27/13 91.3
		<b>Jim McMahon</b>	<b>Chicago</b>	178-313/2932	56.9	15/11 82.6
		Dieter Brock	LA Rams	218-365/2658	59.7	16/13 82.0
<b>Receiving:</b>	AFC:	Lionel James	San Diego	86/1027	11.9	6 TDs
		Todd Christiansen	Oakland	82/987	12.0	6 TDs
		Butch Woolfolk	Houston	80/814	10.2	4 TDs
	NFC:	Roger Craig	San Francisco	92/1016	11.0	6 TDs
		Art Monk	Washington	91/1226	13.5	2 TDs
		Tony Hill	Dallas	74/1113	15.0	7 TDs
<b>Scoring:</b>	AFC:	Gary Anderson	Pittsburgh	139 points (33 FG, 40 PAT)		
	NFC:	<b>Kevin Butler</b>	<b>Chicago</b>	144 points (31 FG, 51 PAT)		

<b>Interceptions:</b>	Everson Walls	Dallas	9	<b>Sacks:</b> <b>Richard Dent</b>	<b>Chicago</b>	17.0	
	Eugene Daniel	Indianapolis	8		Andre Tippett	New England	16.5
	Albert Lewis	Kansas City	8		Leonard Marshall	NY Giants	15.5
	Six tied with 7/each				Dexter Manley	Washington	15.0
					Charles Mann	Washington	15.0

**NFL Man of the Year:** C Dwight Stephenson, Miami

**Comeback Player:** none

**Rookie of the Year:** WR Eddie Brown, Cincinnati  
**Defensive Rookie/Yr:** LB Duane Bickett, Indianapolis  
**Offensive Rookie/Yr:** WR Eddie Brown, Cincinnati  
**AFC, NFC Coaches/Yr:** AFC: Raymond Berry, New England; NFC: Mike Ditka, Chicago  
**Coach of the Year:** **Mike Ditka, Chicago**  
**MVP:** RB Marcus Allen, LA Raiders & RB **Walter Payton**, Chicago  
**Offensive MVP:** RB Marcus Allen, LA Raiders & RB **Walter Payton**, Chicago  
**Defensive MVP:** LB **Michael Singletary** (Chicago), LB Andre Tippett (NE), DE Howie Long (LAR)  
**Hall of Fame:** Frank Gatski, Joe Namath, Pete Rozelle, OJ Simpson, and Roger Staubach.  
**NFC Championship:** Bears beat LA Rams 24-0  
**AFC Championship:** New England beat Miami 31-14.

## Super Bowl

### 1/26 Bears beat New England 46-10

Bears unable to avenge 12/2 loss to the Miami Dolphins – wild card entry New England beat Miami in the AFC Championship 31-14. Patriots won 9 of their last 11 games prior to playoffs; all their playoff wins were on the road.

**Pre-Super Bowl noise:** despite being adamant on not having made derogatory comments regarding women, McMahon received death threats and bomb threats. Club and league eventually allowed acupuncturist to treat players – primarily McMahon for his sore back. League also relented and allowed Bears to wear headbands – but the bands were not to display the *Adidas* name since they were not an NFL sponsor (McMahon was fined \$5,000 for wearing headband bearing the name of a *non*-NFL sponsor). McMahon did wear a headband with “Rozelle” written on the front.

Patriots had their own problems as well: some players allegedly attended or threw a party that included cocaine.

Bears led 23-3 at the half. Payton’s fumble on 2<sup>nd</sup> play of Bears 1<sup>st</sup> drive setup Patriots’ 36-yard FG, but Bears’ defense stiffened, and NE was never able to generate any offense. First-half statistics were staggering: Patriots gained –19 yards total offense (-6 rushing); only 1 of their first 16 plays went for positive yardage. Bears 1<sup>st</sup> half points came on 3 Butler FGs (28, 24, and 24), and TDs by Suhey (11-yard run) and McMahon (2-yard run).

*Second-half:* Bears scored 21 points in 3<sup>rd</sup> Q on TDs by McMahon (1 yard), backup DB Reggie Phillips’ 28-yard interception return (4<sup>th</sup> in Super Bowl history), and 1-yard plunge by William Perry. Bears’ final 2 points came on a Henry Waechter safety when he tackled QB Steve Grogan in the end zone. Patriots scored on an 8-yard pass from Grogan to Irving Fryer. For the game, Grogan passed 17-30/177; starter Tony Eason went 0-6.

Stats: Bears led in yards (408-123) and 1<sup>st</sup> downs (23-12). Patriots total yards was 4 short of 1975 record-low held by the Minnesota Vikings; New England recorded one 1<sup>st</sup> down rushing. Bears’ 7 sacks tied the 1976 Super Bowl record (Dallas vs. Minnesota), added 2 interceptions, recovered 4 fumbles, and were credited with a safety.

Not everything went the Bears way: Bears’ DB Leslie Frazier suffered a career-ending knee injury while returning a punt.

Passing:	McMahon	12-20/246	2 TDs rushing
Rushing:	Suhey	11/52	1 TD
	Payton	22/61	
	McMahon	5/14	2 TDs
Receiving:	<b>Gault</b>	<b>4/129</b> – including receptions of 43 and 60 yards.	
		Gentry, Margerum & Moorehead each had 2 receptions.	

Defense: 2 interceptions (Morrissey & Phillips) and 7 sacks (Dent 3 ½, Wilson 2, Hampton, McMichael, Waechter, and Marshall each had ½). Phillips was the 11<sup>th</sup> *defensive* player on Bears to score a TD.

**Richard Dent** was chosen as Super Bowl MVP

Shares: \$36K/\$18K