

Chicago Bears

coach: Mike Ditka

1985

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

Chicago	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

Offense:	AFC: San Diego	467n points	NFC: Bears	456 points (2 nd)
Defense:	AFC: NY Jets	264 points	NFC: Bears	198 points (1 st)

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.
- **Bears were possibly the most dominant team in NFL history.**

Club won 12 in a row and was 5-1 against winning teams, outscoring the 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 1st downs.

Bear's 52 wins from 85-88 is most by NFL team in 4-year period.

Bears' 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 3rd downs.
- Second year in a row Dent led NFC in sacks.
- Their 54 takeaways were 4 short of club record (1952).

Bear offense out-rushed opponents by 90 yards/game. Club's 176 1st downs rushing 3rd most in NFL (NE, 1978, 181).

- Bears were 3rd 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 (456 points).
- First time since 1968 that a Bear kicker led league in scoring

- WGN radio's Wayne Larrivee was joined by Bears legend Dick Butkus.
- **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 *Sports Illustrated* front cover 5 times: QB Jim McMahon ("Bears on the Prowl"); following their blowout win over the Dallas ("44-0"); McMahon again (Super Bowl Bound); LB Mike Singletary ("Chicago's D Spells Doom"), and after the Bears beat New England in the Super Bowl ("Supermen!")
Displaying hair shorn in Mohawk style, QB McMahon was termed the "Punky QB."
- Bear's 10/21 game vs. Green Bay put William "The Refrigerator" 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.
- Twenty five 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: 1st: DT **William “Refrigerator” Perry** (#22; Clemson); 8+ seasons, 6’2”, 335 lbs.

2nd: DB Reggie Phillips (SMU); 3 years.

4th: K **Kevin Butler** (Georgia); 11 years. Butler currently holds 2 club-records: 1,116 points and 243 FGs.

9th: RB **Thomas Sanders** (Texas A & M); 5 years.

11th: 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

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)

Lost: QB Rusty Lisch; K Bob Thomas to San Diego

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

Season:

9/8: **Beat Tampa Bay 38-28 at home.** Astroturf temp was 133F. Halftime: Tampa led 28-17. Bears points: 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. TB RB **James Wilder:** rushed 27 times for 166 yards. Bears led yards (436-307) and 1st downs (27-17). Turnovers: Bears 3, Bucs 2.

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

Rushing: **Payton 17/120**

Receiving: Payton 6-37

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. Bears points: McKinnon (32-yard pass from McMahon), Suhey (1-yard run), and 2 Butler FGs (21 & 28 yards). Bears led in yards (369-206) and 1st downs (18-10). Patriots scored in 4th Q on 90-yd pass from Tony Eason to Craig James. Bears’ defense allowed 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’ 1st 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 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 while picking up blitzes.

Stats were mixed: Vikings had more 1st downs (23-21); Bears led in yards (480-445). Vikings’ 22 1st downs passing was record for Bear opponent (broken 12/2000). Minnesota QB **Tommy Kramer** passed 28-55 for 436 yards and 3 TDs – 2nd most passing yards by a Bear opponent (1st: 1982).

Vikings WR **Anthony Carter:** 4 catches/102 yards and 2 TDs. Turnovers: Bears 1, Vikings 5.

Passing: Fuller 13-18/124 & 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: Bears led 31-10. Bears’ points: Gault (99-yard KO return), McMahon TD passes to McKinnon (14 yards), Moorehead (20 yards), and Payton (33 yards); a 13-yard TD pass from Payton to McMahon, a 1-yard run by Dennis Gentry, and a 28-yard FG by Kevin Butler.

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. Bear's points: 2 Butler FGs (30 & 28 yards), McKinnon (21-yard pass from McMahon), and 2 rushing TDs by Payton (4 & 9 yards out), including his **100th career TD**. Tampa Bay QB **Steve DeBerg**: passed 23-46 for 346 yards. Targets were WRs **Jimmy Giles** (7 catches/112 yards) and **Kevin House** (6 catches/100 yards & 1 TD). Bears led yards (433-373) and 1st downs (22-19). Tampa Bay netted 0 1st downs rushing. Turnovers were even at 3/ea.

Passing: McMahon 22-34/292 1/2 & 1 sack
 Rushing: Payton 16/63 2TDs
 Receiving: **Moorhead 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 4th FG (29 yards) and Payton scored on a 17-yard run.

Bears dominated the Niners in the offensive categories: 22-11 in 1st downs, and 372-183 in net yards-gained. Late in the 4th Q, Ditka put William "Refrigerator" Perry in backfield – returning the perceived insult the Bears received during the 1984 NFC Championship. San Francisco was flagged 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, 49ers 2.

Passing: McMahon 18-31/186 0/0 & 1 sack
 Rushing: **Payton 24/132 2TDs**
 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. Bears points: Payton scored twice (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: Bear's added a safety when Otis Wilson tackled Packer's 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.

Stats: Bears led yards (342-319) and 1st downs (24-16). Packers WR **James Lofton**: 7 catches/103 yards & 1 TD. From 1985 – 1991, Bears went 12-2 vs. Green Bay. Turnovers: Bears 4, Packers 5.

Passing: McMahon 12-26/144 0/0 & 3 sacks
 Fuller 2-5/23
 Rushing: **Payton 25/112 2TDs**
 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. Bears points: 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) & 1st downs (24-16). Turnovers: Bears 2, Vikings 5.

Passing: McMahon 18-31/181 2/1 & 1 sack
 Rushing: **Payton 19/118**
 Receiving: Moorehead 4-53
 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 the bad blood between these two teams continued into the following 2 seasons as well. This matchup alone included 6 unnecessary roughness penalties, several fights and one player ejection. Bear 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 3rd play of the game, QB Jim McMahon received a late hit from Ken Stills long *after* the whistle blew. On another occasion, Stills also drilled FB Matt Suhey several seconds after a play had ended. In fact, Suhey was *headed back* to the Bear's huddle when the collision 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 3rd Q on a long Jim Zorn pass to Jessie Clark. Bears came back in the 4th Q on a safety by Steve McMichael and a 27-yard run by Payton. Stats: Bears led in 1st downs (16-15) and in net yards gained (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. Bears points: 2 rushing TDs by Fuller (1 & 5 yards), one by Calvin Thomas (7-yard run), and a 39-yard FG by Butler. Bears led in yards (360-106), 1st 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. Bears team hadn't beaten Cowboys since 1971 (6 straight losses). 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 1st downs (18-12). Bears were flagged 8 times for 105 yards. Dallas got no deeper than the Bear's 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.** 1st time since 1972 a 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 1st downs (24-10) and in yards-gained (379-119). Falcons QBs completed 3 of passes 17 for -22 yards, a **record low for Bear opponent.** Atlanta crossed 50-yard line only once. Falcons RB **Gerald Riggs:** 30 rushes for 110 yards. Turnovers: Bears 1, Falcons 3.

Passing: Fuller 10-20/151 & 1 sack
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. This game stood as one of the most watched MNF games ever. Dolphins scored on 5 straight possessions and led 31-10 at half. Bears' points came on 1-yard run by Fuller and a 30-yard FG by Butler. With an undefeated season slipping away, Ditka and 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 a Dan Marino 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. Bear's offense stumbled in 2nd half - allowed 2 sacks and turned the ball over twice. On a good note, Payton recorded his 8th straight 100 yard rushing game.

Stats were skewed: Bears led in 1st downs (23-17), yards-gained (343-335), and in ball possession (34:08 - 25:52). But the offense allowed 6 sacks (Marino was sacked 3 times) and turned ball over 4 times.

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) & **Mark Duper** (5-107). Turnovers: Bears 4, Dolphins 2.

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: Score was tied at 3. Bears points came 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 1st 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 points: on 4 Butler FGs (18, 31, 37, and 21 yards), and a 7-yard pass from McMahon to Tim Wrightman. Bears once again dominated the stats, leading in yards (319-159) and 1st 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. Moreover, they ended 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 points: 3 Butler FGs (25, 24, and 21 yards). Gentry (94-yard KO return), McMahon (14-yard run), LB Ron Rivera (5-yard fumble recovery) and Margerum (11 yard pass from McMahon). On the 3rd 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.

Offensively, stats were mixed: Lions had more 1st downs (22-20); Bears led in 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 inside NY's end zone. The loose ball was picked up by Shawn Gayle on 5 yard line and run in for TD. Stats showed a -7 yard punt.

Second half: QB McMahon tossed 2 TD passes to Dennis McKinnon (23 yards & 20 yards). 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 1st 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 2nd TD came in the 3rd Q on 22 yard TD pass from McMahon to Willie Gault. In the 4th 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 (17 rushes, 46 yards) fumbled twice. LA 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:

Passing:	McMahon	178-313/2392	56.9%	15/11	82.6
	Fuller	53-107/777	49.5%	1/5	57.3
	Payton	3-5/96	60%	1/0	143.7

Rushing:	Payton	324/1551	4.8	9 TDs
	Suhey	115/471	4.1	1 TD
	McMahon	47/252	5.4	3 TDs
	Cal Thomas	31/125	4.0	4 TDs
	Gentry	30/160	5.3	2 TDs
	Sanders	25/104	4.2	1 TD
	Fuller	24/77	3.2	5 TDs
	Perry	5/7	1.4	2 TDs

Receiving:	Payton	49/483	9.9	2 TD
	Moorehead	35/481	13.7	1 TD
	Gault	33/704	21.3	1 TD
	Suhey	33/295	8.9	1 TD
	McKinnon	31/555	17.9	7 TD
	Wrightman	24/407	17.0	1 TD
	Margerum	17/170	11.2	2 TD
	McMahon	1/13		1 TD
Perry	1/ 4		1 TD	

KR:	Gault	22/577	26.2	1 TD	99 yard return for TD was longest in NFL
	Gentry	18/466	25.9	1 TD	94-yard return

PR: Ken Taylor 25/198 7.9

Kicking: Butler 31-37 FG (83.8%) and 51-51 PAT Established **club record** & with 31 FG and 144 points
Butler's 144 points is NFL rookie record

Punting: Buford 68/42.2

Interceptions: Frazier 6/119 TD, Duerson 5/53, Fencik 5/43, Marshall 4/23, Richardson 4/174 TD, Wilson 3/35 TD, Ken Taylor 3/28, Dent 2/10 TD, Singletary 1/23, Rivera 1/4

- Bears led NFL in interceptions; Richardson's 90 yard interception return for TD was longest

- Safeties: McMichael, Wilson, Waechter and Rivera; Rivera with 1 fumble recovery for TD.;

Sacks (64): 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 .5

Scoring: Butler 51 PAT, 31 FG 144 points

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 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.
- **Tampa Bay** began string of 19 straight road losses.

Noteworthy games:

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

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 is an **NFL record**.

NY Giants lost to Dallas 30-29. Giants QB **Phil Simms**: passed 18-36 for 432 yards.

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 QB **Phil Simms**: 40-62 & 513 yards passing. Giants out-gained Bengals 470-199.

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: Monday Night Football: **Washington** beat NY Giants 23-21. Redskins QB **Joe Theismann** suffered a fractured right leg after being tackled by Giants LB **Lawrence Taylor**. Injury ended Thiemann's career.

12/8: **Miami** beat Green Bay 34-24. Dolphins QB **Dan Marino** threw 5 TD passes.

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 341yards.

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

- First time since 1971 that the **Pittsburgh Steelers** fell below .500
- San Francisco 49er RB **Roger Craig** became 1st NFL player to receive and rush for 1000+ yards/ea. Next player: 1999.

Changing Places: LA WR Drew Hill (Hou), NO RB George Rogers (WA).

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

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, 1983 Heisman winner Mike Rozier; LBs Kevin Green, Carl Zander, Simon Fletcher and Jack Del Rio; C Kevin Glover; DT Ray Childress; DE Simon Fletcher; OT Jim Lachey, Lomas Brown and Bill Fralic; KR/PR Steve Tasker; QBs Randall Cunningham, Steve Bono, and Frank Reich.

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

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)

Top 2:

Rushing:	AFC:	Marcus Allen	LA Raiders	380/1759	4.6	11 TDs
		Freeman McNeil	NY Jets	294/1331	4.5	3 TDs
	NFC:	Gerald Riggs	Atlanta	397/1719	4.3	10 TDs
		Walter Payton	Chicago	324/1551	4.8	9 TDs
Passing:	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
	NFC:	Joe Montana	San Francisco	303-494/3653	61.3%	27/13 91.3
		Jim McMahon	Chicago	178-313/2932	56.9	15/11 82.6
Receiving:	AFC:	Lionel James	San Diego	86/1027	11.9	6 TDs
		Todd Christiansen	Oakland	82/987	12.0	6 TDs
	NFC:	Roger Craig	San Francisco	92/1016	11.0	6 TDs
		Art Monk	Washington	91/1226	13.5	2 TDs
Scoring:	AFC:	Gary Anderson	Pittsburgh	139 points (33 FG, 40 PAT)		
	NFC:	Kevin Butler	Chicago	144 points (31 FG, 51 PAT)		

Interceptions:	Everson Walls	Dallas	9	Sacks: Richard Dent	Chicago	17.0	
	Eugene Daniel	Indianapolis	8		Andre Tippett	New England	16.5
	Albert Lewis	Kansas City	8				

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

NFL Man of the Year: C Dwight Stephenson, Miami

Comeback Player: none

Rookie of the Year: WR Eddie Brown, Cincinnati

Defensive Rookie of the Year: LB Duane Bickett, Indianapolis

Offensive Rookie of the Year: WR Eddie Brown, Cincinnati

AFC/NFC Coaches of the Year: 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, 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 had no chance 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 playoff wins were on the road.

Pre-Super Bowl noise: despite being adamant on not having made derogatory comments regarding women, QB Jim McMahon received death threats and bomb threats. Club and league eventually allowed acupuncturist to treat players – primarily for McMahon’s sore back. League relented on their stance and allowed Bears to wear headbands – but were not to show 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). Before the game, McMahon wrote “Rozelle” on his headband.

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

Halftime: Bears led 23-3. Payton’s fumble on 2nd play of Bears 1st drive setup Patriot’s 36 yard FG, but NE offense then went nowhere. 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 1st 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 3rd Q on TDs by McMahon (1 yard), backup DB Reggie Phillip’s 28 yard interception return (4th in Super Bowl history), and 1 yard plunge by William Perry. Bear’s final 2 points came on a Henry Waechter safety when he tackled QB Grogan in the end zone. Patriots scored on an 8 yard pass from Grogan to Irving Fryer.

For the game Grogan 17-30/177; Patriots starter Tony Eason went 0-6.

Stats: Bears led in yards (408-123) and 1st downs (23-12). Patriots total yards was 4 short of 1975 record low held by the Minnesota Vikings; New England recorded one 1st 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 all went the Bears way: Bears’ DB Leslie Frazier suffered a career-ending knee injury while returning a punt.

Passing:	McMahon	12-20/246	0/0
Rushing:	Suhey	11/52	1TD
	Payton	22/61	
	McMahon	5/14	2 TDs
Receiving:	Gault	4/129 – including receptions of 43 and 60 yards. Gentry, Margerum & Moorehead 2/each	

Defense: 2 interceptions (Morrissey & Phillips) and 7 sacks (Dent 3 ½, Wilson 2; Hampton, McMichael, Waechter, and Marshall each had ½). Phillips became the 11th *defensive* player on Bears 1985 squad to score a TD.

Dent was chosen as Super Bowl MVP

Shares: \$36K/\$18K