

Booklist

Advanced Review – Uncorrected Proof

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Blood Equity: The Dark Side of America's Biggest Blood Sport.

Sep 2009. Walking Shadows, DVD, \$18.99.

Former NFL player Roman Phifer is the producer of this hard-hitting program that focuses on the plight of retired NFL players permanently injured, unemployed, and destitute. Former Chicago Bears head coach and player Mike Ditka, an outspoken advocate for retired players, speaks out against owners and union members unwilling to part with billions of dollars raised annually by the NFL in order to help needy retirees. Testimonies from such well-known players as Harry Carson, Cyril Smith, Donnie Green, Tony Dorsett, and Darryl “Moose” Johnston (game footage and stills intercut the interview footage) underscore the financial, emotional, and physical difficulties facing many former stars. Particularly poignant are interviews with the caregiver wife of retired Green Bay Packer Willie Wood, who suffers from permanent brain damage. A surefire discussion prompter for NFL fans and others.

— *Candace Smith*