



## Sports Illustrated Blood, Sweat and Chalk: The Ultimate Football Playbook: How the Great Coaches Built Today's Game

By Tim Layden

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The modern game of football is filled with plays and formations with names like the Counter Trey, the Wildcat, the Zone Blitz and the Cover Two. They have become part of the sport's vernacular, and yet for many fans they remain just names, often confusing ones. To rectify that, Tim Layden has drilled deep into the core of the game to reveal not only how these chalkboard X's and O's really work on the field, but also where they came from and who dreamed them up.

These playbook schemes, many of them illuminated by diagrams, bear the insignia of some of the game's great innovators, men like Vince Lombardi, Don Coryell, Tom Osborne, Bill Walsh, Tony Dungy and Buddy Ryan. But football has also been radically altered by the ingenious work of men with more obscure names, like Tiger Ellison, Emory Bellard and Mouse Davis.

In *Blood, Sweat and Chalk*, Layden takes readers into the meeting rooms-and in some cases the living rooms-where the game's most significant ideas were hatched. He goes to the coaches and to the players who inspired them, and lets them tell their stories. In candid conversations with some of football's most intriguing characters, Layden provides a fascinating guide to the game, helping fans to better see the subtleties of America's favorite sport.

The game of football is cyclical. Coaches today are getting too much credit for formations and offenses that were dreamed up years ago. Tim Layden does a wonderful job of tracing the origin of those ideas in *Blood, Sweat and Chalk*.

- Urban Meyer, Head Football Coach, University of Florida

Tim Layden explores the minds and ambitions of the game's formative thinkers. Serious students of football must have this on their bookshelves!

- Steve Sabol, President, NFL Films

*Blood, Sweat and Chalk* is a must-read for all football aficionados. I, of course, especially enjoyed reading about the great Don Coryell, a true innovator in the game we all love. His ideas changed football-and this book shows you how.

- Dan Fouts, Hall of Fame Quarterback, San Diego Chargers

Tim has created a playbook that's instructional, a history book that's fascinating and a football bible that's a must-read for anybody who loves the game. All in one.

- Dan Patrick, Host, *NBC's Football Night in America*

Tim Layden does a great job telling the story of the people and the ideas that had a major impact on the game of football as we know it.

- Mack Brown, Head Football Coach, University of Texas

This is one of the most important sports books of our generation-and a lot of fun too. The formations and philosophies that win Super Bowls and national titles are made crystal clear. If you live for fall weekends, this is your book.

- Peter King, Author, *Monday Morning Quarterback*

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### **Sports Illustrated Blood, Sweat and Chalk: The Ultimate Football Playbook: How the Great Coaches Built Today's Game By Tim Layden Bibliography**

- Sales Rank: #564361 in eBooks
- Published on: 2010-08-04
- Released on: 2010-08-03
- Format: Kindle eBook

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### **Editorial Review**

#### **About the Author**

Sports Illustrated senior writer Tim Layden, who joined the magazine in March 1994, primarily writes about the NFL, Olympic sports (chiefly track and field in the summer and alpine skiing in the winter) and horse racing, but has written about a wide variety of subjects for the publication and for SI.com.

Before coming to *Sports Illustrated*, Layden spent six years at *Newsday*, three years at the *Albany Times-Union* and nine years at the *Schenectady Gazette*. During his three decades in journalism, Layden has won multiple sportswriting awards, including an Eclipse Award for coverage of thoroughbred horse racing in 1987.

Among Layden's most significant work for the magazine are stories detailing the remarkable recovery of injured NFL player Kevin Everett (Dec. 2007), the phenomenon of Big Hits in the NFL (July 2007), the Triple Crown near-misses by Funny Cide (2003), Smarty Jones (2004) and Big Brown (2008), the tragic career of track star Marion Jones, the subculture of ticket scalping in the pre-Internet world (1997) and during the winter of 1995, the growing problem of gambling by college students.

Born and raised in Whitehall, N.Y., Layden graduated in 1978 from Williams College, where he was an English major and a member of the basketball team. He is a runner-turned-cyclist who regularly battles the hills of northern Connecticut, where he lives with his wife and two children.

### **Users Review**

#### **From reader reviews:**

##### **Micheal Taylor:**

Sports Illustrated Blood, Sweat and Chalk: The Ultimate Football Playbook: How the Great Coaches Built Today's Game can be one of your nice books that are good idea. We recommend that straight away because this book has good vocabulary that can increase your knowledge in vocabulary, easy to understand, bit entertaining but nevertheless delivering the information. The article writer giving his/her effort that will put every word into delight arrangement in writing Sports Illustrated Blood, Sweat and Chalk: The Ultimate Football Playbook: How the Great Coaches Built Today's Game nevertheless doesn't forget the main point, giving the reader the hottest and based confirm resource details that maybe you can be one of it. This great information can easily drawn you into brand new stage of crucial pondering.

##### **Tom Burkhardt:**

Are you kind of stressful person, only have 10 or 15 minute in your moment to upgrading your mind talent or thinking skill also analytical thinking? Then you are receiving problem with the book in comparison with can satisfy your short period of time to read it because all of this time you only find reserve that need more time to be examine. Sports Illustrated Blood, Sweat and Chalk: The Ultimate Football Playbook: How the Great Coaches Built Today's Game can be your answer mainly because it can be read by you who have those short spare time problems.

**Joseph Thomas:**

Is it you who having spare time and then spend it whole day through watching television programs or just laying on the bed? Do you need something new? This Sports Illustrated Blood, Sweat and Chalk: The Ultimate Football Playbook: How the Great Coaches Built Today's Game can be the answer, oh how comes? The new book you know. You are therefore out of date, spending your extra time by reading in this completely new era is common not a geek activity. So what these guides have than the others?

**Noemi Burns:**

With this era which is the greater man or woman or who has ability to do something more are more precious than other. Do you want to become one of it? It is just simple approach to have that. What you must do is just spending your time not very much but quite enough to experience a look at some books. On the list of books in the top listing in your reading list will be Sports Illustrated Blood, Sweat and Chalk: The Ultimate Football Playbook: How the Great Coaches Built Today's Game. This book that is qualified as The Hungry Mountains can get you closer in growing to be precious person. By looking way up and review this guide you can get many advantages.

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