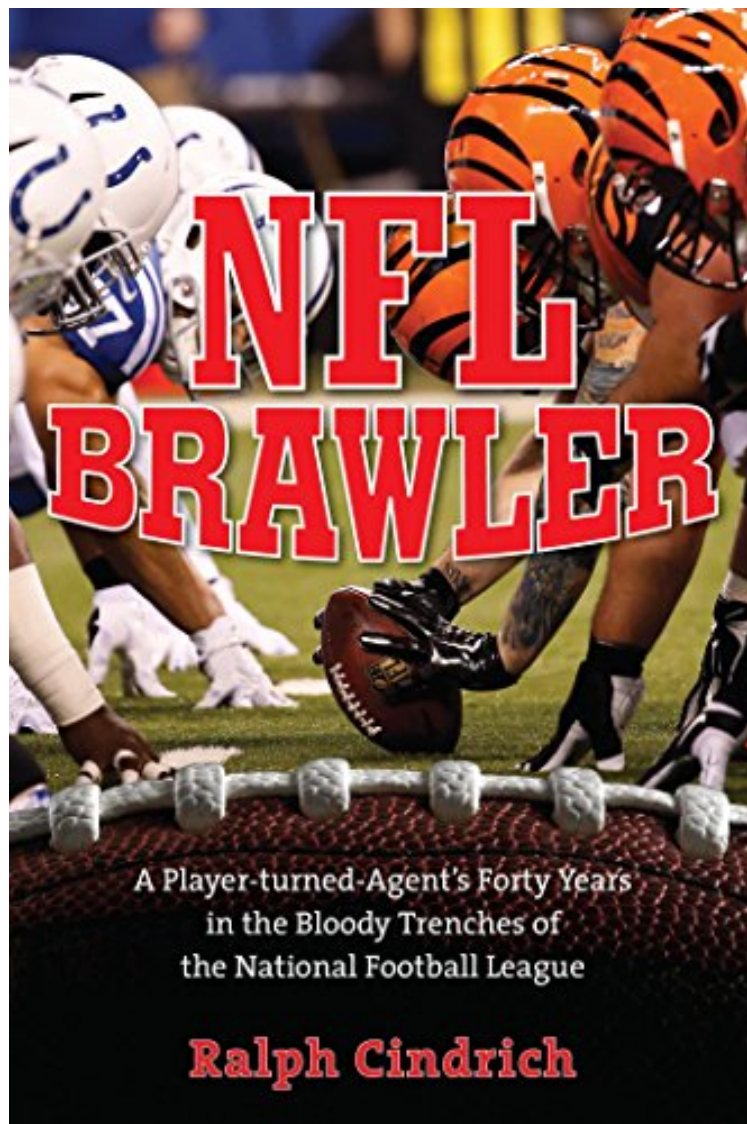


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## NFL Brawler: A Player-Turned-Agent's Forty Years in the Bloody Trenches of the National Football League

*Ralph Cindrich*

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**Ralph Cindrich : NFL Brawler: A Player-Turned-Agent's Forty Years in the Bloody Trenches of the National Football League** before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised NFL Brawler: A Player-Turned-Agent's Forty Years in the Bloody Trenches of the National Football League:

5 of 5 people found the following review helpful. OutstandingBy Robert Brayldquo;I recently had the honor - and I donrsquo;t throw that word around lightly - to narrate the audiobook of NFL Brawler. As Ralph says in the

introduction, it's got everything: conflict, rags-to-riches, love, hard edges, wholesomeness, characters, and on and on. One thing not mentioned, however, is the confidence Ralph's book instills. Reading about how Ralph worked (while actually experiencing it as I recorded) inspired the hell out of me. Honesty, integrity, loyalty, drive, and a hell of a sense of humor. I had all those qualities in my personal life. And while I like to believe I did before, after being introduced to Ralph, I know I have them in my professional life now as well. And, oh yeah. NFL Brawler... is funny as hell, too! - R.C. Bray

5 of 5 people found the following review helpful. Cindrich comes across as a junior high bully who thinks he's God's gift to the agent business and I hate that I contributed to it. By David Swaim This had a few interesting stories if you can get past the arrogance and pomposity of the writer. I couldn't. Cindrich comes across as a junior high bully who thinks he's God's gift to the agent business and I hate that I contributed to him in any way by the purchase of this book. He calls himself several demeaning names in this book, and I can't disagree with his assessment on any of them.

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. A page-turning look at an astonishing career. By John S. Fredland The hugely entertaining "NFL Brawler" is Mr. Cindrich's memoir of the journey from growing up in the coal town of Avella, PA to advising an all-pro team's worth of NFL talent (specializing in offensive linemen, with the occasional Al Toon or Jeff Blake thrown in), and there's a lot to recommend in it. Steelers' fans will appreciate his account of how a kindly word from Art Rooney Sr. could diffuse a tense situation. Cowboys' fans will appreciate the first-person account of what it's like to be so much of a prick that Jerry Jones would intervene when you're squaring off to fight Jimmy Johnson. People from Pittsburgh's south suburb of Mt. Lebanon (my hometown and Mr. Cindrich's residence) will appreciate his gritty tales of 1980s and 1990s life in our municipality, including the heretofore unknown link between Mt. Lebanon youth football and the Herschel Walker trade. The book's broader appeal, however, lies in Mr. Cindrich's tales of aggro-labor-management relations between all sorts of familiar names, spanning the pre-free agency 1980s (when agents earned their keep by leveraging holdouts, the United States Football League, and threats to go into professional wrestling to maximize rookie contracts) and the free agency/salary cap 1990s and onward (when agents earned their keep by devising creative means to work within salary caps and rookie pay scales).

NFL Brawler is a raucous first-person account of an NFL under siege by the gamers' first player-turned-agent, Ralph Cindrich, the original "Blind Sider" agent whose entertaining pro football memoir takes readers behind the scenes of the gamers' most important and outrageous drafts, deals, and trades; takes on NFL scandals by telling it like it is; and takes readers closer to the real action of the sport—from locker rooms to boardrooms, and into the worlds of agents and players—than any book to date. Chronicling more than thirty years in the professional football business—on the field and in the locker room; in high-stakes negotiations with coaches, GMs, and owners; and inside agents' and players' personal lives—Cindrich, twice named by The Sporting News as one of the 100 most powerful people in sports, writes about a who's who of professional football: NFL coaches like Bill Parcells, Jimmy Johnson, Mike Ditka, Sid Gillman, and Bill Belichick; NFL owners like Art Rooney and Al Davis to Jerry Jones and others; other sports agents; and the NFL talking heads from John Madden to Keyshawn Johnson. While taking certain aspects of his beloved sport to task, Cindrich's memoir is entertaining—blowing out of the water Jerry Maguire, Arli\$, and other portrayals of an agent's life.

"Ralph Cindrich is the ultimate football insider." ---John Clayton, ESPN About the Author A star linebacker at the University of Pittsburgh, Ralph Cindrich played for the NFL's New England Patriots, Houston Oilers, and Denver Broncos. In the 1980s he became one of the game's most prominent player agents. Today Ralph represents several second-generation clients and teaches sports-law classes. He lives in Pennsylvania. R. C. Bray is an Audie and AudioFile Earphones Award-winning narrator. An accomplished producer and voice-over artist, his voice can be heard in countless TV and radio commercials. He lives in New England with his wife and three children.