



Foreword

WHILE I WAS GROWING UP in Houston, my whole life was about football. I loved playing pickup games in the neighborhood and competing in school games. When the Dolphins and the Vikings came to Houston in 1974 to play in Super Bowl VIII, I walked several miles by myself just to watch players get off the bus. I saw Chuck Foreman, Sammy White, Jim Marshall, Fran Tarkenton, and other star players. That was the biggest thing in my life.

When the Redskins drafted me in 1981, I learned fast that I wasn't the only person who loved the game of football. People in Washington do, too, and they're so passionate about the team I played with for a decade, the Redskins. I wore the burgundy and gold at a time when Redskins wins were so common. I was honored to be part of such a great organization, and I feel like I'm still a part of it.

These days, I hear so many Redskins fans talk about the great players that stand out in the team's history going back to the days at Griffith Stadium: Sammy Baugh, Eddie LeBaron,

Gene Brito. People also talk to me about Bobby Mitchell, Sonny Jurgensen, Charley Taylor, and Brig Owens. My name is mentioned in that same category, and I am proud to be part of such a hallowed group. There's a common denominator. People put their issues aside—black, white, rich, or poor, and they have a common admiration for the Redskins. That's all part of the team's loyal and fanatical fan base.

The Redskins have a rich history and have been a part of the fabric of the nation's capital for along time. As one of the NFL's original teams, they have also made a huge contribution to the league's storied history. All of that comes alive in *The Redskins Encyclopedia*, which tells the Redskins' story in a comprehensive and entertaining way. It's an information bonanza that makes you want to keep reading. Redskins fans are special, and they deserve a book like this.

Dexter Manley