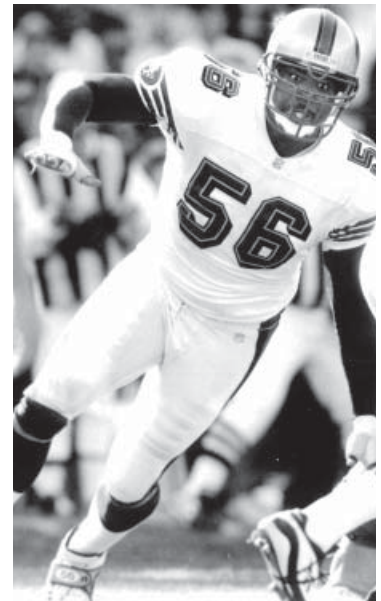




**CHRIS DOLEMAN  
PRO FOOTBALL HALL OF FAME  
2011 FINALIST**



## **CHRIS DOLEMAN**

**6-5, 287, DOB: 10/16/61**

**COLLEGE: University of Pittsburgh**

**HIGH SCHOOL: William Penn Senior High- York, PA**

A dynamic pass rusher and key part of successful teams throughout his 15 seasons in the NFL, Chris Doleman was disruptive to offenses and played through defensive eras that saw him shift from OLB to RDE early in his career.

Selected by the Vikings with the #4 overall pick in 1985, Doleman was a durable player that suited up for 232 of a possible 237 career games from 1985-99 for 3 different teams, earning Pro Bowl honors with each club. During his 15 seasons he endured only 3 losing campaigns and was part of double-digit win teams 7 times and led his teams to the playoffs 10 times. Doleman posted 10+ sacks during 8 seasons, tied for the 3rd-highest sack total in NFL history with 21.0 in 1989 and ranks 4th all-time with 150.5 sacks while still amassing over 1,000 tackles. His ability to strip the football was legendary, notching 45 career forced fumbles and recovering 24.

Doleman returned to the Vikings in 1999 for his 15th and final NFL season, coming out of retirement after the 2nd game of the season, going on to start 11 of 14 games during the regular season and both playoff contests.

### **DOLEMAN MILESTONES**

- Notched 39 career multi-sack games, including 2 games with 4.0 sacks, 2 games with 3.5 sacks and 4 with 3.0 sacks
- Named NFC Defensive Player of the Week 8 times, including twice in 1989, 1995 and 1996 with 3 different teams
- Helped 2 interior linemates earn NFL Defensive Player of the Year honors- Keith Millard 1987, Dana Stubblefield 1997
- Played on 4 defensive units that ranked #1 in the NFL- Minnesota 1988, '89, '93 and San Francisco 1997
- Touchdowns: 3 - 59t INT return vs. Tampa Bay 9/14/86; 27t INT vs. Tampa Bay, 11/8/92; 0t FR vs. Baltimore, 11/17/96
- Safeties: 2 - Sack in EZ at NY Giants 12/9/90; sack in EZ vs. Tampa Bay 9/20/92

### **WINNING WAYS**

- Doleman played and started in 17 career playoffs games with Minnesota (10), San Francisco (6) and Atlanta (1)
- Doleman's teams earned playoff berths in 10 of Doleman's final 13 seasons
- Doleman was on playoff teams his final 5 seasons with 3 teams- Atlanta ('95), San Francisco ('96-98), Minnesota ('99)
- Doleman's teams finished 1st or 2nd in their Division in 11 of his 15 seasons

**DOLEMAN'S DEFENSES RACK UP THE SACKS-** Doleman paced the 1989 Vikings with 21.0 sacks and the team amassed 71.0, the 2nd-most in NFL history. Doleman's impact on his club's pass rush was evident as his teams ranked in the top 7 of the NFL for sacks in 8 of his 15 seasons

**NFL TEAM SACKS IN A SEASON:** 1984 Bears (72), 1989 Vikings (71), 1987 Bears (70)

**DOLEMAN'S TEAMS IN NFL SACK RANKINGS (top 10 finishes):** 1989 Vikings (#1/71), 1990 Vikings (#3/47), 1992 Vikings (#3t/51), 1993 Vikings (#7t/45), 1996 49ers (#5/45), 1997 49ers (#3t/54), 1998 49ers (#3/51), 1999 Vikings (#7/46)

**"Chris Doleman had the ability to deliver the big play when you needed it. Teams had to keep an eye on him because they knew it was coming, be it in the beginning, middle or end of the game. He was capable of making that big play. As a young guy learning the NFL game from him, he did so much for me. He taught me how to be a pro on and off the field. He was quiet on the field, a leader without speaking. It was his presence that influenced games. The way he studied the game and showed his teammates the way to prepare and be a mature player made a big impact on me." John Randle - Pro Football Hall of Fame 2010**

**"Doleman is one of those rare guys, maybe one of four or five that I played against during my career right there with Reggie White, Bruce Smith, Derrick Thomas, that you had to know where they were and set your protection accordingly. You had to know if you were going to help the tackle out with a tight end or running back to chip on those guys. Doleman was someone you always had to worry about because you knew he could get to the quarterback. The amount of time and attention that went to preparing for Chris Doleman benefitted the others guys on those defensive lines. He was one of those guys that you had to make sure could be blocked in one way or another." Warren Moon - Pro Football Hall of Fame 2006**

## NFL CAREER SACKS

Bruce Smith..... 200.0  
Reggie White..... 198.0  
Kevin Greene..... 160.0  
**Chris Doleman ..... 150.5**  
Michael Strahan..... 141.5  
John Randle ..... 137.5  
Richard Dent..... 137.5

## INTs BY SACK LEADERS

Smith ..... 200.0 ... 2 INT  
White ..... 198.0 ... 3 INT  
Greene..... 160.0 ... 5 INT  
**Doleman ..... 150.5 ... 8 INT**  
Strahan..... 141.5 ... 4 INT  
Randle ..... 137.5 ... 1 INT  
Dent..... 137.5 ... 8 INT

## CAREER FUMBLE RECOVERIES

Jim Marshall ..... 29  
Jason Taylor ..... 29  
Rickey Jackson..... 28  
Cornelius Bennett..... 26  
Kevin Greene..... 26  
Dick Butkus..... 25  
**Chris Doleman ..... 24**  
James Hasty..... 24

## NFL SINGLE-SEASON SACKS

Michael Strahan, 2001..... 22.5  
Mark Gastineau, 1984 ..... 22.0  
**Chris Doleman, 1989 ..... 21.0**  
Reggie White, 1987 ..... 21.0

## NFL SACKS 1987-1999

Reggie White ..... 161.5  
Kevin Greene..... 153.0  
Bruce Smith ..... 149.5  
**Chris Doleman ..... 147.0**

## NFL SACKS 1989

**Chris Doleman, MIN..... 21.0**  
Tim Harris, GB..... 19.5

## NFL SACKS 1998

Michael Sinclair, SEA..... 16.5  
Reggie White, GB..... 16.0  
**Chris Doleman, SF..... 15.0**  
Kevin Greene, CAR..... 15.0  
Michael Strahan, NYG..... 15.0

## VIKINGS CAREER FORCED FUMBLES

**Chris Doleman ..... 33**  
Alan Page ..... 28

## VIKINGS CAREER SACKS

Carl Eller (15 yrs)..... 130.0  
Jim Marshall (19 yrs) ..... 127.0  
John Randle (11 yrs) ..... 114.0  
Alan Page (12 yrs)..... 108.5  
**Chris Doleman (10 yrs) ...96.5**

## VIKINGS SACKS IN A SEASON

**Chris Doleman, 1989 ..... 21.0**  
Alan Page, 1976..... 18.0  
Keith Millard, 1989..... 18.0

## MOST SEASONS LEADING VIKINGS IN SACKS

John Randle ..... 9  
**Chris Doleman ..... 6**  
Jim Marshall ..... 6  
Alan Page ..... 6

## 1990s NFL TEAM OF THE DECADE

**DEs... Chris Doleman, Bruce Smith, Reggie White, Neil Smith**

## ASSOCIATED PRESS 1ST-TEAM ALL-PRO DEFENSIVE LINES

**1989... Chris Doleman, DE;** Reggie White, DE; Keith Millard, DT; Michael Dean Perry, DT

**1992... Chris Doleman, DE;** Bruce Smith, DE; Cortez Kennedy, DT; Ray Childress, DT

## NEWSPAPER ENTERPRISE ASSOCIATION 1ST-TEAM ALL-PRO DEFENSIVE LINE

**1987... Chris Doleman, DE;** Michael Carter, NT; Reggie White, DE;

## ASSOCIATED PRESS 2ND-TEAM ALL-PRO DEFENSIVE LINES

**1987... Chris Doleman, DE;** Charles Mann, DE; Keith Millard, DT; Tim Krumrie, DT

**1993... Chris Doleman, DE;** Reggie White, DE; Ray Childress, DT; Henry Thomas, DT

## 1987-90, '92, '97 NFC PRO BOWL DEFENSIVE LINE STARTERS (\*backup in '93-Atl, '95-SF)

**1987... Chris Doleman, DE;** Michael Carter, NT; Reggie White, DE

**1988... Chris Doleman, DE;** Keith Millard, NT; Reggie White, DE

**1989... Chris Doleman, DE;** Keith Millard, NT; Reggie White, DE

**1990... Chris Doleman, DE;** Jerry Ball, NT; Reggie White, DE

**1992... Chris Doleman, DE;** Pierce Holt, NT; Reggie White, DE

1993... Richard Dent, DE; Sean Gilbert, DT; John Randle, DT; Reggie White, DE; **\*Chris Doleman, DE**

1995... Charles Haley, DE; Eric Swann, DT; John Randle, DT; Reggie White, DE; **\*Chris Doleman, DE**

**1997... Chris Doleman, DE;** John Randle, DT; Dana Stubblefield, DT; Michael Strahan, DE

Doleman's dominance at DE freed his teammates on the interior defensive line. During Doleman's career he helped 5 DTs on his teams make the Pro Bowl 7 times and was Pro Bowl teammates with a linemate 5 times.

## DTs EARNING PRO BOWL HONORS WITH DOLEMAN AS A TEAMMATE

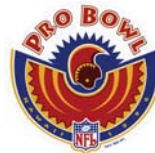
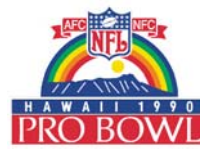
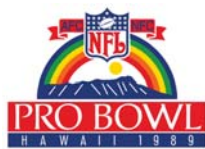
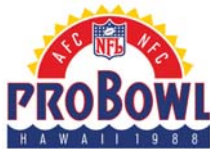
1988- Keith Millard (MIN), 1989- Keith Millard (MIN), 1991- Henry Thomas (MIN), 1992- Henry Thomas (MIN), 1993- John Randle (MIN), 1996- Bryant Young (SF), 1997- Dana Stubblefield (MIN)

## DOLEMAN'S CAREER

Season	G/S	W-L	Division	Sacks	Tackles	FF	FR	INT
1985 (Minnesota)	16/13	7-9	3rd	0.5	109	0	3	1
1986 (Minnesota)	16/9	9-7	2nd	3.0	44	2	0	1
1987 (Minnesota)	12/12	8-7	2nd	11.0	57	6	0	0
<i>Playoffs</i>	3/3	2-1		3.0	12	0	1	0
1988 (Minnesota)	16/16	11-5	2nd	8.0	58	2	0	0
<i>Playoffs</i>	2/2	1-1		0.0	6	0	0	0
1989 (Minnesota)	16/16	10-6	1st	21.0	94	5	5	0
<i>Playoffs</i>	1/1	0-1		0.0	5	0	0	0
1990 (Minnesota)	16/16	6-10	5th	11.0	92	4	0	1
1991 (Minnesota)	16/16	8-8	3rd	7.0	101	2	2	0
1992 (Minnesota)	16/16	11-5	1st	14.5	64	6	3	1
<i>Playoffs</i>	1/1	0-1		1.0	3	0	0	0
1993 (Minnesota)	16/16	9-7	2nd	12.5	68	3	1	1
<i>Playoffs</i>	1/1	0-1		0.0	9	0	0	0
1994 (Atlanta)	14/7	7-9	3rd	7.0	40	1	0	1
1995 (Atlanta)	16/16	9-7	2nd	9.0	75	2	2	0
<i>Playoffs</i>	2/2	1-1		1.0	7	0	0	0
1996 (San Francisco)	16/16	12-4	2nd	11.0	53	5	3	2
<i>Playoffs</i>	2/2	1-1		0.0	5	0	0	0
1997 (San Francisco)	16/16	13-3	1st	12.0	52	1	1	0
<i>Playoffs</i>	2/2	1-1		0.0	3	0	0	0
1998 (San Francisco)	16/16	12-4	2nd	15.0	47	3	2	0
<i>Playoffs</i>	2/2	1-1		2.0	8	0	1	0
1999 (Minnesota)	14/11	10-6	2nd	8.0	49	3	2	0
<i>Playoffs</i>	2/2	1-1		0.0	2	0	0	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>232/212</b>			<b>150.5</b>	<b>1,003</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>8</b>
<i>Playoffs</i>	<b>17/17</b>			<b>7.0</b>	<b>60</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>0</b>

## ALOHA DOLEMAN

Chris Doleman earned berths in 8 Pro Bowls during his career with 3 different teams - Minnesota (6, 1987-90, '92-93), Atlanta (1, '95) and San Francisco (1, '97). Doleman's 1st Pro Bowl came following the 1987 season and his final appearance came with the 49ers following the 1997 campaign. Doleman's 6 Pro Bowls as a Viking rank him tied for 2nd in team history by a defensive player behind only Hall of Famer Alan Page.



“Chris deserves to be in there. He was a big part of my own development as a player. Every day in practice we went against each other, both of us being very competitive, and I know he helped make me a better player. Hopefully I did the same for him. Going against Chris during the week made Sundays easier. His stats compare favorably with all the other great players. Chris Doleman was a great football player.” Gary Zimmerman - Pro Football Hall of Fame 2008