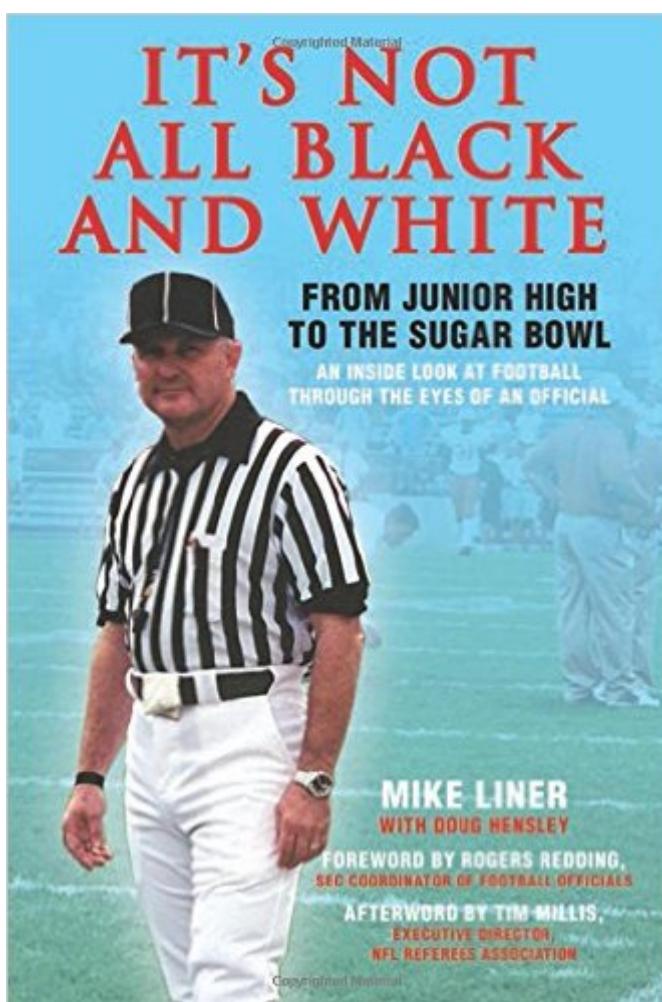


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# It's Not All Black And White: From Junior High To The Sugar Bowl, An Inside Look At Football Through The Eyes Of An Official



## **Synopsis**

From junior high football games to the Sugar Bowl with a national championship up for grabs, Mike Liner has seen it all in football. President and CEO of a bank by day, Liner has been a Texas football official on Fridays and Saturdays for the past 35 years. It's Not All Black and White offers a view of college football seen through a different set of eyes, the eyes of an official. Liner takes readers through the story of his ascension up the officiating hierarchy and describes the bumps in the road he encountered along the way. In doing so, he puts a human face on an aspect of football that all too often is dehumanized -- the officiating of the game. With a foreword by SEC Coordinator of Football Officials Rogers Reding and an afterword by Tim Millis, Executive Director, NFL Referees Association, It's Not All Black and White lifts the curtain on big-time college football, revealing what Liner saw as he observed it and why the game means so much to him. Liner also recounts important lessons he learned through football about life as a business leader, as a family man and as someone whose faith has grown through the years.

## **Book Information**

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## **Customer Reviews**

I really like this book because it is the "tell it like it is" story of what it takes to prepare and excel in the world of officiating college football. If you ever thought it was easy, the author will quickly demonstrate that it is a difficult and often thankless task. Mr. Liner tells the story how he got his start and worked his way up through the ranks and the considerable sacrifices he had to make to become proficient enough to move to the college level. Even though the author obviously was an outstanding college football official in his own right, he pays tribute to his mentors who helped him learn the craft. He is also candid enough in the book to talk about the toll that his rigorous football

officiating schedule had on his personal life and it adds a nice touch to the book. Finally, at the end of each chapter, Mr. Liner sets up a scenario from a football game in which you get to be the official and make the call as to whether it's a penalty or not. I have been following football for 40 years and thought I would ace this part, but I only got half of them right! It was a fun exercise, anyway. A unique book that I would recommend.

A very good read about the experiences of a college football referee. You get insight into the preparation and dedication involved in being a ref. Mike liner provides tips on officiating such as not having rabbit ears and not taking derisive comments personally. If you want to read about the perspective of a ref or considering getting into it your self, this is a worthwhile and informative read by an experienced official.

After reading this book, watching a football game has never been the same. I had no idea of how much is happening on the field by the guys wearing the striped shirts. Remember how different watching a game became when you got to see it on high def? You will most probably have a similar reaction (more mental than visual) the first game you watch after you have taken an afternoon or a couple of plane rides to read this book. One more note, you will definitely be less prone to badmouth an official because you will have come very close to walking a mile in their shoes. If you are a fan of football...it's a must read or you will forerever remain an ignorant boob! (regarding the professionalism it takes to be a big time football official)

There are not many books in circulation that cover the subject of football officiating, especially those that speak toward "moving up" and progressing toward the upper echelon of the craft. I don't believe Mr. Liner's sole intention of his book is to cover those subjects exclusively, but rather to share his story of the journey he took to get there. Along the way, he does share some tips and suggestions that are helpful in the process. I appreciated the personal tone of the book, and the stories from "the inside" of officiating are enjoyable to read if you are an official. Sports officials are largely unknown to the general public (and that is usually a good thing!), but Mr. Liner has opened up his world to the reader in these pages. I will say, it is more of a specific audience that will enjoy the book, but it is a good, easy read.

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