



## War Room: The Legacy of Bill Belichick and the Art of Building the Perfect Team

By Michael Holley

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Bill Belichick is one of the titans of today's game of football. Now, sports commentator and bestselling author Michael Holley follows three NFL teams—the New England Patriots, Kansas City Chiefs, and Atlanta Falcons—from training camp 2010 through the Super Bowl and into the April draft, opening a new window into Belichick's influence on the game. This one-of-a-kind exploration takes football fans behind the scenes of the most popular sport in America, with unprecedented insider access to the head coaches, scouts, trainers, and players who make the game what it is—including new insights from Bill Parcells, Todd and Dick Haley, and Belichick himself. For true fans of the game, and for readers of *Badasses*, *Patriot Reign*, and *Boys Will Be Boys*, Holley's *War Room* is not to be missed.

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### Editorial Review

#### Review

“A deeply reported, thoroughly engaging look at what it takes to succeed in the NFL.” (Kirkus Reviews (starred review))

Crisply written, the story moves along like a two-minute drill. It also sparkles with interesting anecdotes and tidbits....WAR ROOM is a lively, fast-paced insider’s account that will please ardent and casual fans alike.” (Boston Globe)

“WAR ROOM is going to take you into the inner world of pro football. I recommend it highly.” (Peter King, Sports Illustrated)

“The ultimate book for pro football geeks.” (Publishers Weekly)

“Fans will want to read how Belichick transformed the once-lackluster Patriots into the most successful franchise of the past decade, which Holley explains in an engaging chronological narrative.” (Booklist)

#### From the Back Cover

Football games aren’t won on Sundays in the fall. They’re won on draft day in the spring—in the war room.

In this landmark book, *New York Times* bestselling author Michael Holley takes readers behind the scenes of three contending National Football League teams and into the brilliant minds of Bill Belichick and his two former protégés Thomas Dimitroff and Scott Pioli.

Holley masterfully shows how a single idea conceived by Belichick in 1991—how to build the perfect team—triggered a journey filled with miraculous finishes, heartbreaking losses, broken relationships, and Super Bowl championships. Readers are given unprecedented access—from the draft room to the locker room to the sidelines—and insights into why Belichick is considered to be the NFL’s best coach and premier strategist.

Before he achieved success, though, Belichick was barely surviving as a coach. *War Room* opens in Cleveland, where Belichick, a young head coach, worked in an office with two employees in their late twenties: Pioli, a low-paid scouting assistant, and Dimitroff, a groundskeeper and part-time scout. After Belichick was fired by the Browns in 1996, the three men were in separate cities and seemingly a lifetime away from being recognized as leaders and champions. But soon they were reunited in New England, where they refined and burnished Belichick’s method for constructing a winning team, overseeing one of the greatest franchises in modern NFL history.

These three master strategists are now competitors. Belichick continues at the helm of the New England Patriots, while Pioli is now in charge of the Kansas City Chiefs and Dimitroff is running the Atlanta Falcons. And even though they no longer work for the same franchise, they do have a common goal: building the perfect team, one draft pick and one trade at a time.

*War Room* is their unique and often astonishing story. It is packed with never-been-told anecdotes and new observations from team officials, players, coaches, and scouts, all leading to surprising and groundbreaking

insights into the art of building a champion.

#### About the Author

MICHAEL HOLLEY is the author of the New York Times bestsellers *Patriot Reign*, *Never Give Up* (with Tedy Bruschi), and *Red Sox Rule*. He was a *Boston Globe* sportswriter for ten years, and he is the cohost of *The Big Show* on Boston sports radio station WEEI. Holley lives in Cambridge, Massachusetts, with his wife and two sons.

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##### Mike Jones:

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