



BY JOEL KELLER

For a football fan, meeting Bart Oates is an interesting experience. You know that Oates was a Pro Bowl center, so you expect to be greeted by a hulk of a man. You might also expect that he'd have the weathered and weary look of a person who spent the better part of his life fending off large men who were intent on knocking his running back or quarterback into the next week.

But the man in front of you cuts a different figure. Sure, he's tall, but he's slimmed down since his playing days. His silvering hair is neatly combed back. Impeccably dressed in a yellow golf shirt and charcoal grey dress slacks, he gives you a firm but warm handshake and a pleasant smile. In fact, if it weren't for the scars on his elbows, remnants of previous surgeries, you might think that Oates was just like any other lawyer, businessman or real estate agent that you would see in the vicinity of the Morris County Courthouse.

Here's the interesting part: he's all three and more.

"Offensive linemen have a very different mindset," says Oates, sitting in the conference room of All-Pro Title, LLC, where he is general counsel and principal partner. "Collectively, they're the least athletic guys on the team, but it's a very cerebral group."

It is that cerebral quality that has led Oates, who won Super Bowl championships with the 1986 and 1990 New York Giants and with the 1994 San Francisco 49ers, to a post-football career that few ex-players can claim. In addition to his work for the title corporation, the Harding resident is a director for Cohn Real Estate in Roseland, finding and fulfilling brokerage assignments for the firm. And now, one of his major philanthropic efforts is as the chairman of the board of the New Jersey Hall of Fame (see sidebar).

Unlike many players who leverage their money or fame into a lucrative career after they leave the field, Oates, 47, set the building blocks for

SEEING RED A bloody Oates, left, during a playoff game in 1990 against the Chicago Bears. Opposite page: These days, the attorney and businessman suits up in a shirt and tie.