

MIKE ADAMLE



Mike Adamle is a former NFL running back, television broadcaster, Ironman athlete and – most importantly – a loving father and husband. His love for football stemmed from his father's accomplishments. In the 1940s, Tony Adamle was an All-Pro Linebacker and two-time NFL champion with the Cleveland Browns.

Inspired by the drive and determination of his father, Adamle started playing football at age 15. His high school football successes were impressive enough for Mike to earn a full scholarship to Northwestern University where he was team captain, All-American fullback and Big Ten MVP in his senior season. He is considered one of the Wildcats' all-time greats and can still claim four school rushing records.

Adamle was a fourth-round draft choice of the Kansas City Chiefs and then played for the New York Jets. He returned to his college hometown to play for the Chicago Bears where he was the starting running back before a guy named Walter Payton was drafted.

Upon retiring from the NFL, he worked for NBC Sports from 1977-83 where he hosted *SportsWorld*, co-hosted the network's NFL pre-game show and handled a variety of assignments, including covering three Super Bowls. In 1984, Adamle joined ABC7 in Chicago as a sports anchor/reporter and also worked for the network as a sideline reporter for the USFL. Starting in 1989, he worked full-time on the network level of ABC Sports handling *Wide World of Sports* assignments and hosting the cult-phenomenon *American Gladiators* television show until 1996.

That same year, Adamle joined ESPN's broadcast team as a college football sideline reporter and studio analyst. He also hosted the *X Games* and *Destination Extreme*, along with the network's Pro Beach Volleyball and World Special Olympics coverage. In 1998, he became a Chicago sports anchor, spending the remainder of his broadcast career at NBC5 and CBS2.

Epilepsy has not stopped Adamle from competing in various marathons and triathlons. He has competed in five Ironman competitions including Kona. Upon his retirement from NBC5, he went public with his diagnosis of CTE (chronic traumatic encephalopathy) from his many years on the football field. He and his wife, Kim, have launched an awareness and support group called "Rise Above: The Mike Adamle Project."