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field days

Photographer Neil Leifer captured the mud and mayhem of football's glory years.

AMERICAN GLADIATORS ABOVE, FROM LEFT: The Browns' Jim Brown, the Jets' Joe Namath, and the 49ers' Charlie Krueger. BELOW LEFT: Leifer, 18, working for *Sports Illustrated* in 1961.

Working the sidelines on any given Sunday, the legendary *Sports Illustrated* photographer **Neil Leifer** shot football's greats: Jim Brown threading a defensive line, Dick Butkus delivering a fumble-inducing hit, Joe Namath prancing in the backfield. But his most arresting work, collected in the lavish, limited-edition *Guts and Glory: The Golden Age of American Football 1958–1978* (Taschen, $500), zooms out from the superstars to show the game's balletic violence on a wider scale—running backs windmilling over tangled defenders, pass rushers piling onto quarterbacks, linebackers crushing into centers with atom-splitting force. —**THOMAS JACKSON**

Bicycle: TIM HOUT. Turbine: Starck Network. Football players: Courtesy of [illegible]