

*Remarks for the  
Walter Payton Statue Dedication  
May 17, 2003*

- Recognize Payton family
  - (You may want to say something about Rica here)
  
- Exciting to think about this football field and the games that have been played on it over the years
  - In particular, the games that featured the man we knew as “Sweetness” / Walter Payton
  
- Today, 28 years after he was drafted out of Jackson State by the Chicago Bears, we celebrate and remember his life
  - There was never anyone like him in football
  - I don’t think anyone will ever be like him
  
- Someone may break his career rushing record one day, but records were made to be broken
  - What no one will ever match is the love he had for the game, for his team, for his family and friends
  - No one will ever match the determination, drive and dedication he had to be the best
  
- One of Walter Payton’s teammates on the Chicago Bears, linebacker Mike Singletary, once commented that his favorite part of the game was simply the opportunity to play
  - When you watched Walter Payton run, you had to believe he felt the same way
  - He loved to play, and we loved to watch him play
  
- For now, all we have of Walter Payton – of Sweetness – are our memories, and films of the greatest running back ever to play the game of football