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Sports

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Eye-opener

Disgraced agent gets his say in new book

There have been many words used concerning former sports agent Tank Black.

Thief.

Liar.

Felon.

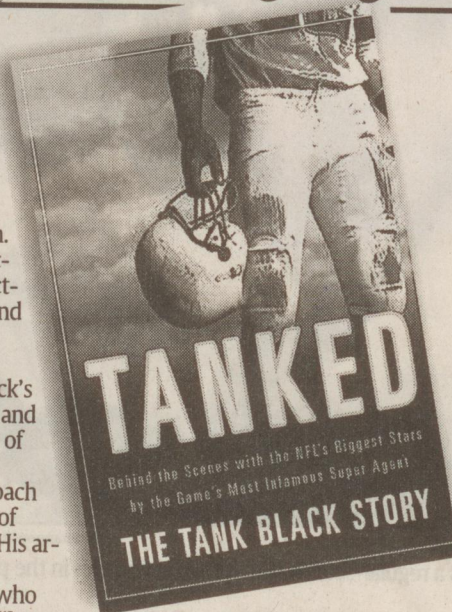
He would like to add two — understanding and redemption.

Black, 52, spent almost a decade in prison after being convicted of stealing from his clients and lying to federal authorities.

His new book, *Tanked!* (thetankblackstory.com), is Black's explanation of what happened and of events that later cleared him of some charges.

Black went from a football coach to an agent handling hundreds of millions of dollars in contracts. His arrest in 2000 ended all of that.

"I want people just to know who the real Tank Black is," he says. "I was stupid. I made mistakes. I wasn't thinking. I wanted people to know that I



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His side: Tank Black's book details his fall as an agent.

didn't cheat players out of any money and that I didn't steal any money."

The walls came tumbling down for Black, whose clients included Sterling Sharpe, Vince Carter and dozens of No. 1 NFL draft picks, when a side business turned out to be a front for organized crime.

That led to his lying to federal agents about knowing people linked to the business.

"I just want to say how stupid it was," Black says about the lie. "I didn't know these guys were drug dealers. It has to do with taking your eye off the ball. . . . I thought that they would come back later and say 'Well, the lie that he told, it just doesn't have a lot of substance.' It wouldn't be a big deal. Now I know that isn't true, and it's nobody's fault but my own."

— Reid Cherner

Click here for a Q&A with Black
gameon.usatoday.com