

Dallas Cowboy Coaches History



Dallas Cowboy coaches history is a fascinating journey that reflects the evolution of one of the most storied franchises in NFL history. Since its inception in 1960, the Dallas Cowboys have been led by a series of dynamic coaches who have left their mark on the team, the league, and the game of football itself. This article will delve into the significant coaches throughout the Cowboys' history, their achievements, coaching styles, and contributions to the team's legacy.

Foundational Years: 1960-1970

The Dallas Cowboys were established in 1960, and the franchise's early years set the stage for its future success.

Tom Landry (1960-1988)

Tom Landry is synonymous with the Dallas Cowboys, serving as the team's first head coach. His innovative coaching methods and strategic mind transformed the Cowboys into a powerhouse in the NFL.

- Achievements:
 - Led the team to five Super Bowl appearances, winning two (Super Bowl VI and XII).
 - Accumulated a record of 250 wins, 162 losses, and 6 ties.
 - Inducted into the Pro Football Hall of Fame in 1990.
- Coaching Style:
 - Known for his "Flex Defense," which revolutionized defensive strategies in the NFL.
 - Emphasized discipline, hard work, and a strong work ethic among his players.

Landry's influence extended beyond the field as he became a cultural icon in Dallas and a symbol of the franchise's identity.

Jimmie Johnson (1989-1993)

Following Landry's tenure, Jimmie Johnson took the reins as head coach. His time with the Cowboys was marked by a level of success that solidified the team's dominance in the early 1990s.

- Achievements:
 - Won two Super Bowls (XXVII and XXVIII).
 - Guided the team to an impressive 44-36 regular-season record.
- Coaching Style:
 - Known for his intense and competitive nature.
 - Implemented a strong emphasis on team chemistry and mental toughness.

Johnson's departure after the 1993 season coincided with the team's peak, leaving a legacy that would influence future generations of coaches.

The 1990s Dynasty

The 1990s were a golden era for the Dallas Cowboys, marked by continued success and the establishment of a winning culture.

Barry Switzer (1994-1997)

Barry Switzer stepped in after Johnson, taking over a loaded roster that had already achieved significant success.

- Achievements:
 - Won Super Bowl XXX in 1995.
 - Compiled a record of 40 wins and 24 losses during his tenure.
- Coaching Style:
 - Known for his ability to manage egos and foster a relaxed but competitive environment.
 - Utilized an offensive system that allowed for player creativity and expression.

Switzer's ability to navigate a team full of stars helped maintain the Cowboys' status as a top franchise in the NFL.

Transition and Challenges: Late 1990s to Early 2000s

The late 1990s and early 2000s brought challenges for the Cowboys, leading to a series of coaching changes.

Chan Gailey (1998-1999)

Chan Gailey took over in a period of transition, trying to restore the Cowboys' former glory.

- Achievements:
 - Led the Cowboys to two playoff appearances.
 - Recorded a 18-14 regular-season record.
- Coaching Style:
 - Focused on a balanced offensive attack, integrating both passing and running games.
 - Struggled to maintain consistency in a changing locker room environment.

Gailey's stint was short, and he was soon replaced as the team continued to look for stability.

Dave Campo (2000-2002)

Dave Campo's tenure was marked by growing pains as the team attempted to rebuild.

- Achievements:
 - Struggled with a combined record of 15-33.
 - Failed to make the playoffs during his time.
- Coaching Style:

- Emphasized discipline and fundamentals.
- Faced significant challenges in managing a roster with many young players.

Campo's time was seen as a rebuilding phase, but it ultimately led to further changes in leadership as the team sought a new direction.

Return to Prominence: Mid 2000s to Present

The mid-2000s marked a resurgence for the Cowboys, largely attributed to new coaching philosophies and strong leadership.

Bill Parcells (2003-2006)

Bill Parcells, a legendary figure in the NFL, took over and immediately instilled a sense of discipline and accountability.

- Achievements:
 - Led the Cowboys to the playoffs in 2003 and 2006.
 - Accumulated a record of 34 wins, 30 losses.
- Coaching Style:
 - Known for his tough approach and ability to motivate players.
 - Focused on building a strong defense and a solid running game.

Parcells laid the groundwork for future success, emphasizing the importance of a strong organizational culture.

Wade Phillips (2007-2010)

Wade Phillips succeeded Parcells and was known for his player-friendly approach.

- Achievements:
 - Led the team to a 13-3 record in 2007 and an NFC East title.
 - Reached the playoffs in 2009.
- Coaching Style:
 - Advocated for an attacking defense and a high-scoring offense.
 - Fostered a relaxed atmosphere that allowed players to thrive.

Despite his success during the regular season, Phillips struggled in the playoffs, leading to his eventual dismissal.

Jason Garrett (2010-2019)

Jason Garrett, initially appointed as interim head coach, later became the permanent head coach and brought stability to the organization.

- Achievements:
 - Led the team to three playoff appearances and an NFC East title in 2014.
 - Accumulated an 85-67 regular-season record.
- Coaching Style:
 - Focused on a balanced offensive strategy and player development.
 - Emphasized the importance of preparation and mental toughness.

Garrett's tenure was marked by ups and downs, but he remained a respected figure within the organization.

Mike McCarthy (2020-Present)

In 2020, Super Bowl-winning coach Mike McCarthy took over the helm, bringing a wealth of experience and a fresh perspective.

- Achievements:
 - Led the Cowboys to the playoffs in his first season.
 - Known for integrating innovative offensive strategies.
- Coaching Style:
 - Focuses on a high-tempo offense and adaptability.
 - Known for building strong relationships with players and staff.

McCarthy's leadership continues to shape the Cowboys' future, as the team seeks to reclaim its place among the elite in the NFL.

Conclusion

The Dallas Cowboy coaches history is a testament to the evolution of a franchise that has consistently sought excellence. From Tom Landry's innovative strategies to Mike McCarthy's modern approach, each coach has contributed to the rich tapestry of the Cowboys' legacy. As the team moves forward, it will continue to build on the foundations laid by its past leaders, striving for success and a return to championship glory. The journey of the Cowboys is not just about wins and losses; it is about the indelible mark each coach has left on the franchise and the community that supports it.

Frequently Asked Questions

Who was the first head coach of the Dallas Cowboys?

The first head coach of the Dallas Cowboys was Tom Landry, who served from 1960 to 1988.

How many Super Bowl championships did Tom Landry win with the Cowboys?

Tom Landry won two Super Bowl championships with the Cowboys, in Super Bowl VI (1972) and Super Bowl XII (1978).

Who succeeded Tom Landry as head coach of the Dallas Cowboys?

After Tom Landry was fired in 1988, Jimmy Johnson was hired as the head coach of the Dallas Cowboys.

What notable achievement did Jimmy Johnson accomplish with the Cowboys?

Jimmy Johnson led the Cowboys to back-to-back Super Bowl victories in Super Bowl XXVII (1993) and Super Bowl XXVIII (1994).

Which Dallas Cowboys coach is known for the phrase 'How 'bout them Cowboys'?

Barry Switzer, who coached the Cowboys from 1994 to 1997, is known for popularizing the phrase 'How 'bout them Cowboys' after winning Super Bowl XXX in 1996.

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