

# Redskins Head Coach History



**Redskins head coach history** is a fascinating journey that reflects the evolution of one of the NFL's most storied franchises. The Washington Redskins, now known as the Washington Commanders, have had a rich history since their founding in 1932. The head coaches of the team have played pivotal roles in shaping its identity, culture, and success on the field. This article delves into the significant figures in Redskins coaching history, their achievements, coaching styles, and the impact they had on the franchise and its fans.

## Foundational Years and Early Coaches

The Redskins were established in the early days of the NFL, and their first head coach was L. D. "Duke" Slater, who led the team for just one season in 1932. The early years were marked by several coaching changes, as the franchise struggled to find a consistent leader.

### George Allen Era (1971-1977)

One of the most notable coaches in Redskins history is George Allen, who took over the reins in 1971. His coaching philosophy was centered around building a strong defense and fostering a winning mentality. Allen's leadership was characterized by:

- **Innovative Strategies:** He was known for his "Over the Hill Gang," a group of seasoned players who played pivotal roles in the team's success.
- **Playoff Appearances:** Under his guidance, the Redskins made the playoffs in five of his seven seasons, culminating in a Super Bowl appearance in 1973.

Allen's tenure is often remembered for its intensity and his ability to motivate players, which left a lasting impact on the franchise.

## **Joe Gibbs: The Legendary Coach (1981-1992, 2004-2007)**

Perhaps the most iconic figure in Redskins head coach history is Joe Gibbs. He first took the helm in 1981 and quickly transformed the team into a powerhouse in the NFL.

- Super Bowl Success: Gibbs led the Redskins to three Super Bowl championships (1983, 1988, and 1992), a remarkable achievement that solidified his legacy as one of the greatest coaches in the league.
- Offensive Innovation: His use of the "Hogs," a formidable offensive line, and his adaptability to different quarterback styles made the Redskins' offense versatile and unpredictable.
- Strong Leadership: Gibbs was revered for his ability to connect with players and foster camaraderie, creating a winning culture that resonated throughout the organization.

Gibbs returned for a second stint in 2004, but although the team experienced mixed results, his influence remained a significant part of the franchise's identity.

## **Transition and Challenges: 1990s to 2000s**

Following Gibbs' departure, the Redskins faced challenges in maintaining their status as a competitive team. The 1990s and early 2000s saw a series of coaching changes that reflected the instability within the organization.

### **Norv Turner (1994-2000)**

Norv Turner took over as head coach in 1994, inheriting a team in transition. His tenure was marked by:

- Mixed Results: While Turner had a talented roster, including players like quarterback Gus Frerotte and running back Stephen Davis, the team struggled to achieve consistent success.
- Playoff Appearance: The highlight of his tenure was a playoff appearance in 1999, but ultimately, he was unable to replicate the success of the Gibbs era.

Turner's time with the Redskins was characterized by an inability to establish a solid identity, leading to his dismissal in 2000.

## Other Key Coaches of the 2000s

The early 2000s were turbulent, with several head coaches attempting to restore the franchise's glory:

- Marty Schottenheimer (2001): Schottenheimer lasted only one season, leading the team to an 8-8 record before being let go.
- Steve Spurrier (2002-2003): Spurrier, known for his success in college football, struggled to adapt to the NFL, leading to a disappointing record of 12-20.
- Joe Gibbs (2004-2007): Gibbs returned, bringing some stability, but despite a playoff appearance in 2005, the team struggled to regain its former glory.

## Recent Coaching Changes and Developments

The 2010s brought further changes to the coaching staff, with the franchise continuing to search for the right leader.

### Mike Shanahan (2010-2013)

Mike Shanahan, a two-time Super Bowl winner with the Denver Broncos, took over as head coach in 2010. His tenure included:

- Quarterback Controversy: The selection of Robert Griffin III in the 2012 NFL Draft created excitement but also led to challenges in managing quarterback dynamics.
- Playoff Run: The 2012 season saw the Redskins winning the NFC East, but injuries and controversies marred Shanahan's later years.

### Jay Gruden (2014-2019)

Jay Gruden succeeded Shanahan and had a mixed record:

- Offensive Focus: Gruden emphasized an offensive game plan and worked to develop quarterbacks like Kirk Cousins.
- Playoff Appearance: His best season came in 2015 when the team reached the playoffs, but overall, he faced challenges with consistency.

### Ron Rivera (2020-Present)

In 2020, Ron Rivera was hired as head coach, bringing a wealth of experience from his time with the Carolina Panthers.

- **Defensive Improvement:** Rivera focused on strengthening the defense, leading to significant improvements in team performance.
- **Cultural Change:** He emphasized a positive culture and team unity, aiming to rebuild the franchise's identity after years of turmoil.

## **Conclusion**

The history of **Redskins head coach history** is a tale of triumphs and challenges, reflecting the broader narrative of the franchise itself. From George Allen's innovative strategies to Joe Gibbs' legendary leadership and the more recent efforts of coaches like Mike Shanahan and Ron Rivera, each head coach has left an indelible mark on the organization. As the team continues to evolve, the lessons learned from its coaching history will undoubtedly influence its future direction. The legacy of these coaches will always be a significant part of what it means to be a fan of the Washington Commanders.

## **Frequently Asked Questions**

### **Who was the first head coach of the Washington Redskins?**

The first head coach of the Washington Redskins was Marshall 'Lone Star' Dietz, who led the team from 1937 to 1940.

### **Which Redskins head coach has the most wins in franchise history?**

Joe Gibbs holds the record for the most wins as head coach of the Washington Redskins, with a total of 140 regular-season victories.

### **How many Super Bowl championships did Joe Gibbs win with the Redskins?**

Joe Gibbs won three Super Bowl championships with the Washington Redskins, in the years 1983, 1988, and 1992.

### **What was the significant achievement of head coach George Allen?**

George Allen led the Redskins to an impressive 1971 season, finishing with a 9-4-1 record and making the playoffs, marking the team's first postseason appearance since 1945.

## Who was the Redskins' head coach during their 2012 playoff run?

Mike Shanahan was the head coach of the Washington Redskins during their 2012 playoff run, which was highlighted by Robert Griffin III's standout rookie season.

## What impact did Ron Rivera have on the Washington Redskins since becoming head coach?

Ron Rivera has focused on rebuilding the Washington Redskins' culture and improving their on-field performance since becoming head coach in 2020, leading to a more competitive team.

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#### *Lysimachia Plant Growing & Care Guide for Gardeners*

Oct 30, 2023 · How to Grow and Care for Creeping Jenny, Creeping Charlie, Loosestrife, Herb Twopence, Moneywort and other Lysimachia Plant Genus members in Your Garden.

#### *Lysimachia - Wikipedia*

Lysimachia (/ˌlaɪsɪˈmɜːkiə / LY-sim-AY-kee-ə) [2] is a genus consisting of 182 accepted species of flowering plants traditionally classified in the family Primulaceae. [1] Based on a molecular phylogenetic study it was transferred to the family Myrsinaceae, [3] before this family was later merged into the Primulaceae. [4]

#### **Lysimachia - Fine Gardening**

The genus Lysimachia includes about 150 species of herbaceous and evergreen perennials and shrubs, mainly growing in damp grassland and woodland or near water in subtropical regions.

#### **Lysimachia Growing Guide - Farmer Bailey Inc.**

Common Name Gooseneck loosestrife (Lysimachia clethroides), Purple gooseneck loosestrife (Lysimachia purpurea) Genus Lysimachia Species L. clethroides (Lady Jane), L. purpurea (Beaujolais) Family Primulaceae Life Cycle Perennial (USDA zones 4-9) Format Perennial Plugs Plug Care Avoid exposing plugs to stressful c

#### Lysimachia: Types, Growing in the Garden - Best Landscape Ideas

Sep 13, 2018 · Lysimachia ciliata varieties 'Firecracker' goes well with plants that have foliage bluish and bluish shades. White Lysimachia clethroides suitable for white garden in combination with other white and silver plants, and it will look beautiful next to the bright colors.

#### Six best lysimachia to grow - BBC Gardeners World Magazine

Aug 16, 2021 · Six of the best lysimachia (loosestrife) to grow, including creeping Jenny and 'Beaujolais', recommended by the experts at BBC Gardeners' World Magazine.

#### **Creeping Jenny: Identifying Characteristics, Landscape Use And ...**

Apr 17, 2025 · Creeping Jenny, scientifically known as Lysimachia nummularia, belongs to the Primulaceae family, which includes primroses and other herbaceous plants. It is part of the genus Lysimachia, comprising around 150-180 species of flowering plants, primarily native to temperate and subtropical regions. The species name nummularia derives from the Latin nummus, ...

#### **Lysimachia punctata - Plant Finder - Missouri Botanical Garden**

Noteworthy Characteristics *Lysimachia punctata*, commonly called loosestrife, is native to central/southern Europe and Turkey, but has over time escaped gardens throughout many parts of the northern U.S., particularly in the northeastern states, where it has naturalized in waste places, ditches and along roadsides. It is a rhizomatous perennial that grows to 3' (infrequently ...

### **33 Facts About Lysimachia**

*Lysimachia*, commonly known as loosestrife, is a fascinating genus of flowering plants that often captures the attention of gardeners and botanists alike. Did you know that *Lysimachia* includes over 180 species? These plants are known for their vibrant yellow, white, or purple flowers and their ability to thrive in various environments, from wetlands to woodlands. Some species are ...

#### Ultimate 'Lysimachia' Care Guide: Tips & Propagation

*Lysimachia*, commonly known as loosestrife, is a diverse genus of flowering plants in the Primulaceae family. Native to temperate and tropical regions across the globe, *Lysimachia* species are known for their vibrant flowers and lush foliage. These plants can vary significantly in appearance, ranging from creeping ground covers to upright perennials.

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