



GIBBS RETURNS AFTER FIFTH-LONGEST ABSENCE FROM COACHING

He’s back!

And it only took Washington Redskins head coach **JOE GIBBS** 11 years to return, which ties for the fifth-longest absence from an NFL head-coaching job in league history. The leader in the category is **PADDY DRISCOLL**, who took 33 years between head-coaching jobs (1923-55).

How does Gibbs feel about returning to coach the Redskins, the team he lead to three Super Bowl titles in four appearances in 12 seasons (1981-92)?

“I had a 12-year investment here, and 24 years in reality because I kept close friends and community ties here,” said Gibbs. “I watched it all. There was a lot going on. When you see something you care about struggle, you feel it like everybody else. This is one of my greatest thrills in life.”

Following are the longest times between head-coaching jobs in NFL history:

HEAD COACH	SEASONS AWAY	YEARS AWAY
Paddy Driscoll	33	1923-55
Joe Bach	15	1937-51
Dick Vermeil	14	1983-96
Ted Marchibroda	12	1980-91
Joe Gibbs	11	1993-03
Ray Malavasi	11	1967-77

Upon Gibbs’ return to the NFL sidelines, several of his new players have lightheartedly described the cultural differences he will see in 2004 compared to his last coaching role in 1992. Following are some things – according to players – Gibbs can learn from and about his new players:

WELCOME TO 2004, COACH

- **SLANG:** “Something we say now is ‘You got wheeled on,’” says Redskins cornerback **FRED SMOOT**. “I think back in the day when he last coached they used to say ‘You got burned.’”
- **MUSIC:** “I like hip-hop,” says Washington offensive tackle **CHRIS SAMUELS**. “The only thing coach Gibbs can relate to in hip-hop is the Chicago Bears’ Super Bowl Shuffle in ’85. And that’s very different from hip-hop nowadays.”
- **CARS:** “I drive a 745LI BMW with 22-inch rims on it.” says Redskins guard **RANDY THOMAS**. “Coach Gibbs doesn’t know anything about 22s. When he was last coaching, players were driving souped-up Cadillacs.”
- **WARDROBE:** “I think it’s all about the designer suits these days,” says Smoot. “I don’t ever go to a store and buy a suit off the racks anymore. I get it personally made.”

GREEN’S A PROVEN QB GURU

Although the Arizona Cardinals’ young quarterback **JOSH MC COWN** (three career starts) has yet to accrue much NFL experience, don’t be surprised if he enjoys a breakout season under the tutelage of new Arizona head coach **DENNIS GREEN**.

In 10 seasons with the Minnesota Vikings, Green led his team to eight playoff appearances with *seven different quarterbacks* at the helm.

"Dennis Green has a great track record working with quarterbacks," says ESPN's **SEAN SALISBURY**, who played for Green from 1992 through '94. "He can really help a young quarterback like Josh McCown continue to develop."

Most notably, Green helped **RANDALL CUNNINGHAM** resurrect his career in 1998 after being out of football for more than a season. En route to a Pro Bowl season, Cunningham was the catalyst for an offense that broke the NFL record for points scored in a season (556). That team was built around talented wide receivers, including **RANDY MOSS** and a pair of now-retired greats – **CRIS CARTER** and **JAKE REED**.

With the formidable trio of receivers – **ANQUAN BOLDIN**, **BRYANT JOHNSON** and **LARRY FITZGERALD** – already at his disposal in Arizona, Green has surrounded McCown with serious talent.

The seven different quarterbacks who advanced the Vikings to the playoffs during Green’s tenure in Minnesota:

QUARTERBACK	PLAYOFF YEARS W/GREEN	PLAYOFF RESULT	QB ACCOLADES
Sean Salisbury	1992	Wildcard Round	
Jim McMahon	1993	Wildcard Round	
Warren Moon	1994	Wildcard Round	Pro Bowl, NFL Player of the Week (twice)
*Brad Johnson	1996	Wildcard Round	NFL Player of the Week (twice)
Randall Cunningham	1997	Divisional Round	
	1998	NFC Championship Game	NFL MVP, NFL Offensive POY, NFC Pro Bowl (starter), NFC Player of the Month (October), NFC Player of the Week (3 times)
Jeff George	1999	Divisional Round	
*Daunte Culpepper	2000	NFC Championship Game	NFC Pro Bowl, Divisional Playoffs Player of the Week, NFC Player of the Week (twice)

*Active