



FROM PLAYER TO HEAD COACH

Few aspects of a head coach's career give him more credibility with his players than if the coach was a player himself. In fact, all current NFL head coaches have laced up their cleats for various positions on college or professional teams before starting their coaching careers.

San Diego Chargers head coach **NORV TURNER** credits his college football experience at Oregon, which included backing up former Chargers star quarterback **DAN FOUTS**, for helping him become the coach that he is today.

"The biggest thing about being a college quarterback was that I played for great coaches in **JOHN ROBINSON** and **DON READ**," says Turner. "The other thing was playing with Dan Fouts, which certainly was a big plus for me. Just getting to talk to him and see him and watch him operate. He played the game a little different than most guys would and I got a great feel for how things should be done and can be done."

Playing experience also helps the coaches connect with their players, especially when times get tough.

"I'll always be able to relate to players who get frustrated with injuries, because I was in that position too," says Green Bay Packers head coach **MIKE MC CARTHY**. "As a captain at Baker University in Kansas, I had to walk out to midfield on crutches with a cast on my leg for the coin toss at the NAIA Division II national championship game in 1986, and I still remember each crutch getting stuck in the mud with every step."

While current head coaches' playing experiences vary, it appears that not all positions are represented equally when it comes to an eventual coaching career. Former quarterbacks lead the pack, snagging the top spot on current coaching staffs nearly twice as often as the next closest position.

Here's a rundown of current head coaches and the positions they played in college or in the NFL:

<u>HEAD COACH</u>	<u>TEAM</u>	<u>POSITION</u>	<u>HEAD COACH</u>	<u>CURRENT TEAM</u>	<u>POSITION</u>
Bill Belichick	New England	C/TE	Gary Kubiak	Houston	QB
Brian Billick	Baltimore	TE	Marvin Lewis	Cincinnati	LB
Cam Cameron	Miami	QB	Scott Linehan	St. Louis	QB
Brad Childress	Minnesota	QB/WR	Eric Mangini	New York Jets	NT
Tom Coughlin	New York Giants	RB	Rod Marinelli	Detroit	OT/DT
Romeo Crennel	Cleveland	DT/OT	Mike McCarthy	Green Bay	TE
Jack Del Rio	Jacksonville	LB	Mike Nolan	San Francisco	DB
Tony Dungy	Indianapolis	QB/DB	Sean Payton	New Orleans	QB
Herm Edwards	Kansas City	DB	Bobby Petrino	Atlanta	QB
Jeff Fisher	Tennessee	DB	Wade Phillips	Dallas	LB
John Fox	Carolina	DB	Andy Reid	Philadelphia	OT
Joe Gibbs	Washington	TE/G/LB	Mike Shanahan	Denver	QB
Jon Gruden	Tampa Bay	QB	Lovie Smith	Chicago	LB/DB
Mike Holmgren	Seattle	QB	Mike Tomlin	Pittsburgh	WR
Dick Jauron	Buffalo	RB/DB	Norv Turner	San Diego	QB
Lane Kiffin	Oakland	QB	Ken Whisenhunt	Arizona	TE

<u>Position</u>	<u>Positions of NFL Head Coaches*</u>
Quarterback	12
Defensive Back	7
Tight End	5
Linebacker	5
Offensive Tackle	3
Defensive Tackle	2
Running Back	2
Wide Receiver	2
Center	1
Guard	1
Nose Tackle	1

*Includes coaches that played multiple positions.