

CLOSING IN ON LEGENDS

These two coaching legends have a combined 321 career victories, six Super Bowl appearances and 30 years of head-coaching experience.

Washington Redskins head coach **JOE GIBBS** (162) and Seattle Seahawks head coach **MIKE HOLMGREN** (159) have the most career victories among active coaches. Gibbs, who is a member of the Pro Football Hall of Fame, needs nine wins to pass two other Hall of Fame coaches – **BUD GRANT** (168) and **PAUL BROWN** (170) – to move into 10th place on the all-time wins list. Holmgren, who also trails **BILL COWHER** (161) and Gibbs, needs 12 wins to move ahead of Grant and Brown. Both coaches fully understand the significance of being mentioned with these two coaching legends.

“It’s an honor to be amongst the company of these two men,” Holmgren says. “Paul Brown and Bud Grant are two of the finest coaches this league has ever known and their teaching influences have had a profound effect on the game.”

A look at the all-time top-10 head coaches in career victories:

| COACH, TEAM(S) | CAREER VICTORIES |
|---|-------------------------|
| Don Shula, Baltimore Colts, Miami Dolphins | 347 |
| George Halas, Chicago Bears | 324 |
| Tom Landry, Dallas Cowboys | 270 |
| Earl (Curly) Lambeau, Green Bay Packers, Chicago Cardinals, Washington Redskins | 229 |
| Chuck Noll, Pittsburgh Steelers | 209 |
| Marty Schottenheimer, Cleveland Browns, Kansas City Chiefs, Washington Redskins, San Diego Chargers | 205 |
| Dan Reeves, Denver Broncos, N.Y. Giants, Atlanta Falcons | 201 |
| Chuck Knox, L.A. Rams, Buffalo Bills, Seattle Seahawks | 193 |
| Bill Parcells, N.Y. Giants, New England Patriots, N.Y. Jets, Dallas Cowboys | 183 |
| Paul Brown, Cleveland Browns, Cincinnati Bengals | 170 |

LIKE FATHER, LIKE SON

Most boys have hurled a pigskin with their father on a cool fall afternoon. It is part of being an American in a football-crazed society. However, not many have been able to talk Xs and Os with their father or watch him roam the sidelines on gameday.

Some NFL coaches did have that chance and have decided to follow in their fathers’ footsteps. Many of them truly value the guidance they received from their fathers in trying to lead their teams to a Super Bowl title.

MIKE NOLAN had the unique experience of watching his father, **DICK**, man the sidelines for the team he is currently coaching, the San Francisco 49ers, for eight seasons from 1968-1975.

“I want to thank my father because he was the one that taught me that football was a people business,” says Nolan. “When I was named the head coach of the 49ers, it fulfilled a lifelong dream to follow in my father’s footsteps. I have always considered myself one of the 49ers Faithful and, having grown up in the Bay Area, I can say that I was once a fan as well.”

Another head coach who watched his father lead an NFL team is Dallas’ **WADE PHILLIPS**. His father, **BUM**, coached the Houston Oilers (1975-1980) and the New Orleans Saints (1981-1985).

During his junior year of college, Phillips visited his father, who was then an assistant coach for the Chargers, and discovered that he might want to enter the same profession.

“In San Diego, I got to see what pro football players look like, and knew I wasn’t going to be a player like one of them,” says Phillips. “So, I thought I better think of something else I really want to do.”

Following in the footsteps of his grandfather and father, Wade’s son **WES** is an assistant on his staff with the Cowboys.

Another father-son combination currently coaching in the NFL is **LANE KIFFIN** and his father **MONTE**. After being USC’s offensive coordinator for the past two seasons, the 31-year old Lane Kiffin was named the head coach of the Oakland Raiders.

“I remember how Lane would stay up with me and watch tape when he was a kid,” says Monte Kiffin, the defensive coordinator for the Tampa Bay Buccaneers. “He loves the X’s and O’s. He loves to attack.”

Monte Kiffin currently works under Buccaneers head coach **JON GRUDEN**, who also had a successful coach for a dad. His father, **JIM**, coached four seasons in the Big Ten for Indiana and three seasons at Notre Dame.

Miami Dolphins head coach **CAM CAMERON** was able to learn about coaching from his stepfather **TOM HARP**, who was the head coach at Cornell (1961-65), Duke (1966-70), and Indiana State (1973-77).