



NATIONAL FOOTBALL LEAGUE
280 Park Avenue, New York, NY 10017
(212) 450-2000 * FAX (212) 681-7573
WWW.NFLMedia.com

Joe Browne, Executive Vice President-Communications
Greg Aiello, Vice President-Public Relations

AFC NEWS 'N' NOTES

FOR USE AS DESIRED
AFC-N-14 11/15/05

FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION,
CONTACT: STEVE ALIC (212/450-2066)

SCHOTTENHEIMER COACHING TREE ASCENDS IN NFL STANDINGS

Four of the NFL division leaders are led by coaches whose roots lead to San Diego Chargers head coach **MARTY SCHOTTENHEIMER**.

The four are **BILL COWHER** of Pittsburgh, **TONY DUNGY** of Indianapolis, **MARVIN LEWIS** of Cincinnati and **LOVIE SMITH** of Chicago. Another who shares Schottenheimer lineage is **MIKE MULARKEY** of second-place Buffalo.

Such choice NFL standings real estate was nearly passed up by Schottenheimer for the real estate business itself in 1975.

"The opportunities were kind of disappearing," says Schottenheimer, who was 31 years old in 1975 and just saw his one-year coaching stint with the World Football League's Portland Storm end when the league ceased operations. "I had made a decision that if I didn't get a job by the end of March 1975, I was going to head back to the real estate business, which is what I was doing in Denver at the time."

Schottenheimer was in the running for the New York Giants' linebackers coach position. The Giants had just hired a new head coach in **BILL ARNSPARGER**, who would become Schottenheimer's mentor. "Bill called me on the 27th or 28th of March and brought me in for an interview and offered me the job. I remember him telling me what he'd pay me, and I didn't have the nerve to say, 'Coach, I'd do this for nothing.'"

Now in his 20th year as an NFL head coach, the Canonsburg, Pennsylvania native stands eighth on the all-time coaching list with 187 career wins and leads all active coaches. As a head coach, teams have finished at .500 or better under Schottenheimer in 17 of 19 seasons, advancing to the playoffs in 12 of his 18 full head-coaching seasons. His Chargers enter Week 11 tied for second in the AFC West with a 5-4 record.

Former Cleveland/Baltimore owner **ART MODELL** was the first to give Schottenheimer an NFL head-coaching opportunity midway through the 1984 season with the Cleveland Browns. The team was 1-7 when Schottenheimer was promoted from his defensive coordinator post to take the team's reins. The club won four of its final eight games and won its division in each of the next three years (1985-87). The Browns also qualified as an AFC Wild Card team under Schottenheimer in 1988.

"Marty is a tough, hard-nosed coach who is both a student of the game and teacher of it," says Modell. "His teams would always have a full understanding by game-time of what it would take to win that day. His teams are always sound in the fundamentals of winning football. They tackle well. They don't beat themselves. They can always run the ball."

"Because he hasn't won a Super Bowl, he doesn't get enough credit for how good he is. Look at his record. He's a great coach."

The Colts' Dungy reported to Schottenheimer in Kansas City from 1989-91 as the Chiefs' defensive backs coach. "Marty is the most detailed and precise coach that I've ever been around – his preparation is unbelievable," says Dungy. "His teams rarely beat themselves and it starts with him."

"He is very detailed and hard-working, but the biggest thing to me is his passion for the game and for everything that the National Football League stands for. He works more hours than anyone I've been around and he enjoys it and his coaches and players can feel it and feed off of that."

When discussing his former assistants who are now head coaches – Cowher, Dungy, and the Jets' **HERMAN EDWARDS** – Schottenheimer extols their virtues.

"Their ability to teach is what stands out," he says. "When you look at them, none was a great player. They had to find those extra ways that they could maintain a balance, if not an edge. The personalities between Tony and Bill couldn't be of further extremes, but they both have the ability to communicate and teach. All three of them are successful because

that's the key element. You have to be able to get people to understand what you're trying to get them to do. If you can do that, you've got half the battle won."

MARTY SCHOTTENHEIMER: ACTIVE HEAD-COACHING TREE

