

NFL COACH of the YEAR ANALYSIS and PICKS - 2026

BACKGROUND

We researched common Coach of the Year winners criteria for their teams since 2011. The "Success Rate" column indicates the percent of the time Coach of the Year team met the criteria since 2011. We then screen and grade this year's teams by that criteria.

CRITERIA	SUCCESS RATE	METHODOLOGY FOR OUR ANALYSIS AND PICKS
% of time teams' SB odds 40+ to 1:	87%	We use DraftKings Super Bowl odds.
% of time projected wins under 9:	87%	We use DraftKings Over-Under Projected Win Totals.
% of time team won 11+ games:	93%	Our subjective analysis evaluates probability of 11 wins.
% times prior year wins was under 8:	80%	Simple view of prior year team record.
% times team improved by 4+ wins:	87%	is DraftKings Over/Under Wins projection 4+ more than prior year team wins?
% of times team made playoffs:	100%	DraftKings "Make Playoffs" -130 to +130 "Maybe", > -130 "Yes", > +130 "No".
11 wins reasonable	n/a	"Yes"-DraftKings over-under wins line w/in 1 1/2 of 11; "Maybe" if within 2 1/2, "No" if > 3.

5 CRITERIA COLUMNS TEAMS SHOULD MEET ----->					1		2		3	4	5
2026 COY FINAL GRADE	COACH	TEAM	# OF CRITERIA MET	SUPER BOWL ODDS: X TO 1	SUPER BOWL ODDS > 39-1	TEAM '25 NUMBER OF WINS	TEAM '25 WINS UNDER 9	'26 WINS NEEDED (2025 wins +4)	'26 WINS NEEDED REASONABLE	MAKE '26 P/O PER VEGAS ODDS	11 WINS IN 2026 IS REASONABLE
BEST BET	Zac Taylor	Bengals	4	22	No	6	Yes	10.0	Yes	Yes	Yes
BEST BET	Andy Reid	Chiefs	4	15	No	6	Yes	10.0	Yes	Yes	Yes
BEST BET	Jesse Minter	Ravens	4	10	No	8	Yes	12.0	Yes	Yes	Yes
GOOD BET	Todd Bowles	Bucs	3	45	Yes	8	Yes	12.0	No	Maybe	Maybe
GOOD BET	Dan Quinn	Commanders	3	65	Yes	5	Yes	9.0	Yes	No	No
GOOD BET	Schottenheimer	Cowboys	3	25	No	7	Yes	11.0	Yes	Maybe	Maybe
GOOD BET	John Harbaugh	Giants	3	70	Yes	4	Yes	8.0	Yes	No	No
GOOD BET	Aaron Glenn	Jets	3	200	Yes	3	Yes	7.0	Yes	No	No
GOOD BET	Clint Kubiak	Raiders	3	150	Yes	3	Yes	7.0	Yes	No	No
GOOD BET	Robert Salah	Titans	3	120	Yes	3	Yes	7.0	Yes	No	No
AVE. BET	Dan Campbell	Lions	2.5	18	No	9	No	13.0	Maybe	Yes	Yes
AVE. BET	Kellen Moore	Saints	2.5	80	Yes	6	Yes	10.0	Maybe	No	No
NO BET	Kyle Shanahan	49ers	2	17	No	12	No	16.0	No	Yes	Yes
NO BET	Joe Brady	Bills	2	10	No	12	No	16.0	No	Yes	Yes
NO BET	Sean Payton	Broncos	2	20	No	14	No	18.0	No	Yes	Yes
NO BET	Todd Monken	Browns	2	150	Yes	5	Yes	9.0	No	No	No
NO BET	Mike LeFleur	Cardinals	2	400	Yes	3	Yes	7.0	No	No	No
NO BET	Jim Harbaugh	Chargers	2	16	No	11	No	15.0	No	Yes	Yes
NO BET	Shane Steichen	Colts	2	65	Yes	8	Yes	12.0	No	No	No
NO BET	Jeff Hafley	Dolphins	2	300	Yes	7	Yes	11.0	No	No	No
NO BET	Nick Sirianni	Eagles	2	15	No	11	No	15.0	No	Yes	Yes

NO BET	Kevin Stefanski	Falcons	2	120	Yes	8	Yes	12.0	No	No	No
NO BET	Matt Lafleur	Packers	2	16	No	9.5	No	13.5	No	Yes	Yes
NO BET	Dave Canales	Panthers	2	80	Yes	8	Yes	12.0	No	No	No
NO BET	Mike Vrabel	Patriots	2	16	No	14	No	18.0	No	Yes	Yes
NO BET	Sean McVay	Rams	2	8	No	12	No	16.0	No	Yes	Yes
NO BET	M. Macdonald	Seahawks	2	10	No	14	No	18.0	No	Yes	Yes
NO BET	Demico Ryan	Texans	2	17	No	12	No	16.0	No	Yes	Yes
NO BET	Ben Johnson	Bears	1.5	25	No	11	No	15.0	No	Maybe	Yes
NO BET	Mike McCarthy	Steelers	1.5	50	Yes	10	No	14.0	No	No	Maybe
NO BET	Kevin O'Connell	Vikings	1.5	50	Yes	9	No	13.0	No	No	Maybe
NO BET	Liam Cohen	Jaguars	1	30	No	13	No	17.0	No	Maybe	Maybe

NOTES & EARNINGS ON OUR PICK SUCCESS BY YEAR		# OF BEST BET PICKS	\$100 PER BET COST	PAYOUT WON
2022	Our three top picks finished 2nd, 3rd and 5th in the AP voting.	1	\$100	-\$100
2023	Stefanski, our "Best Bet" pick won it with preseason odds of 23-1.	3	\$300	\$2,400
2024	None of the top 3 vote getters K. O'Connell, D. Campbell, or A. Reid were in our "Best Bet" or "Good Bet" picks.	3	\$300	-\$300
2025	Vrabel, a "Best Bet" pick won it at +850 preseason. Other "Best Bets" B. Johnson & K. Shanahan finished 4th & 5th.	3	\$300	\$950
		10	\$1,000	\$2,950
WHERE THE TOP 5 VOTE GETTERS FINISHED VS OUR PICKS		NET WON/LOST		\$1,950

AP VOTING RESULTS	WHERE WE RATED THE TOP 5 FINISHERS			
PLACE OF AP VOTE FINISH	BEST BET	GOOD BET	AVE. BET	NO BET
AWARD WINNER	2	-----	1	1
2nd PLACE	-----	3	1	-----
3rd PLACE	-----	1	1	3
4th PLACE	1	1	-----	2
5th PLACE	1	2	-----	1