

Chuck Pagano

Live in vision, not in circumstance #chuckstrong 12 million raised for cancer research

Football • Boise, Idaho

og1coaches.com/p/chuckpagano

Biography

Chuck Pagano's NFL career was defined by defensive excellence, culminating in his head-coaching tenure with the Indianapolis Colts (2012–2017). Originally from California, he cut his teeth in various college programs before becoming a defensive backs coach for the Cleveland Browns and the Oakland Raiders. His NFL reputation peaked when he was promoted to defensive coordinator of the Baltimore Ravens in 2011, where he led one of the league's most feared defenses. The Colts then hired him as head coach, and under his leadership, the team achieved three straight 11–5 seasons and playoff appearances. Pagano's courageous battle with leukemia in 2012, and his subsequent return to coaching that same season, embodied his resilience and inspired the "ChuckStrong" movement across the league.

Statement

Football is a game of perseverance, unity, and heart. My goal is to inspire players to overcome adversity and strive for excellence in all facets of life.

Achievement

Fast Turnaround

Took the Colts from 2–14 to 11–5 in his first year (2012).

Postseason Success

Led the Colts to the playoffs in three consecutive seasons, reaching the AFC Championship Game in 2014.

Strong Win-Loss Record

Compiled an overall 53–43 NFL head-coaching record.

"ChuckStrong" Movement

Mobilized nationwide support for cancer research, illustrating his impact beyond football.

Education

Marketing

University of Wyoming

Four-year letterman and four-year starter at strong safety at Wyoming and graduated with a degree in marketing in 1984

Feature

Coach P's Keys with Coach Pagano

Coach P's Keys" is a segment on "The Pat McAfee Show" where former NFL coach Chuck Pagano provides in-depth analysis and strategic insights for upcoming football games, offering viewers a coach's perspective on game plans and key factors for success.

The ability to bounce back from losses a signature trait of Chuck Pagano's Colts

Chuck Pagano has said on several occasions that there is not a locker room in the NFL that deals with adversity better than the Indianapolis Colts. That resiliency might seem like "coach speak" to some onlookers but Pagano's Colts back up that statement with results.

Chuck Pagano Gives His Keys To Victory For Packers vs Titans | Pat McAfee Show

Not many places where you get inside an actual NFL team meeting environment. We are HONORED to have Coach Pagano on the program. This is a conversation from The Pat McAfee Show LIVE from Noon-3PM EST Mon-Fri.

PRINCIPLES

- Resilience: Emphasizes pushing through challenges, a principle exemplified by his own cancer battle.
 - Collaboration: Values input from every member of the team, ensuring everyone's voice is heard.
 - Empathy & Trust: Believes in cultivating deep trust with players and staff through genuine care and support
 - Positive Reinforcement: Celebrates individual and team successes to build momentum.
-

PLAYER DEVELOPMENT

Andrew Luck

Indianapolis Colts | Football | 2012 - 2013

Chuck Pagano, the former head coach of the Indianapolis Colts, coached quarterback Andrew Luck for six seasons. Pagano has praised Luck as a teammate, leader, and competitor, and has expressed gratitude for Luck's support during his battle with leukemia.

T.Y. Hilton

Indianapolis Colts | Football | 2012 - 2021

T.Y. Hilton is a wide receiver who played for the Indianapolis Colts for 11 seasons. He was a four-time Pro Bowler and is considered one of the team's most important players.

COACHING CAREER

Defensive Coordinator — Chicago Bears

NFL - National Football League | Football | 2019 - 2021

In 2019, I became the defensive coordinator for the Chicago Bears, leading a unit that ranked among the top defenses in the league and helped the team to two consecutive 8-8 seasons, including a playoff appearance in 2020. Despite early success, the defense faced challenges with consistency, penalties, and injuries, but standout players like Khalil Mack and Roquan Smith earned All-Pro and Pro Bowl honors under my leadership. In January 2021, I retired from coaching to spend more time with my family, reflecting on an incredible career filled with lasting relationships and achievements.

Head Coach — Indianapolis Colts

NFL - National Football League | Football | 2012 - 2018

In 2012, I became head coach of the Colts, leading a remarkable turnaround from 2-14 to an 11-5 playoff season while battling leukemia, with Bruce Arians stepping in as interim coach during my treatment. Over six seasons, I guided the team to three straight 11-5 records, two division titles, and an AFC Championship appearance in 2014, despite challenges like injuries to Andrew Luck and the "Deflategate" controversy. After

finishing 4–12 in 2017, I transitioned to a consultant role in 2018, sharing my NFL expertise.

Defensive Coordinator — Baltimore Ravens

NFL - National Football League | Football | 2008 - 2012

Served as defensive secondary coach for three seasons and promoted to defensive coordinator in 2011. In 2011, our defense finished third in both points allowed and in yards allowed; they also finished 13th in takeaways and second in rushing yards allowed, the latter of which came to little surprise as Baltimore's defense has always been known for its ability to stop the run. We drastically improved the pass defense, going from 21st in passing yards allowed to 4th; they also improved from ninth in passing touchdowns allowed to first in the league. Our defense also came away with 17 interceptions.

Defensive Backs Coach — Oakland Raiders

NFL - National Football League | Football | 2004 - 2008

After leaving Cleveland in 2004, I spent two seasons as the defensive backs coach of the Oakland Raiders. In 2006, the Raiders allowed just 151 passing yards per game and 285 total yards per game. This ranked them first and third in the league, respectively.

Secondary Coach — Cleveland Browns

NFL - National Football League | Football | 2001 - 2004

Helped the Browns tie a franchise record for the fewest passing touchdowns allowed with 13. In 2001, the secondary accounted for 28 of the Browns' NFL-high 33 interceptions, and, in the same season, rookie cornerback Anthony Henry led the league with ten interceptions.

Special Teams Coordinator — University of Miami

NCAA Division I - National Collegiate Athletic Association Division I | Football | 1995 - 1999

Recruited and coached four first round NFL draft picks, and during the 2000 season, school secondary was named the nation's best by College Football News. Our defensive backs did not allow a passing touchdown over the last 27 quarters of the 1999 season. Miami also blocked 39 kicks in 59 games, including a school record 12 blocks in 1996.

Linebackers Coach — Boise State University

NCAA Division I - National Collegiate Athletic Association Division I | Football | 1987 - 1988

Chuck Pagano was an outside linebackers coach at Boise State University from 1987–1988. He is a former NFL head coach and is now a resident of Boise, Idaho.

Defensive Backs Coach — East Carolina University

NCAA Division I - National Collegiate Athletic Association Division I | Football | 1987 - 1990

Served as ECU's secondary coach from 1987 to 1988 before being promoted to defensive coordinator in 1989, a role he held through 1990.
