

a good problem for the Bears to have. Broncos President John Elway wouldn't have hired Fangio if the defense hadn't been impressive the last few seasons. In fact, it was dominant this season, ranking first in scoring defense and leading the league in several key statistical categories, including run defense, takeaways and opponents' passer rating. # Fangio doesn't leave after a Super Bowl title, as Ryan did, but the defense is young with foundational players at all three levels, meaning the work Fangio did since arriving as the coordinator under Fox leaves the Bears well-positioned to excel for seasons to come. # Selfishly, players had said they hoped Fangio would remain in place but acknowledged he deserved an opportunity to become a head coach. # " #cursewords, " cornerback Prince Amukamara wrote on his Twitter account after news of Fangio's departure broke. # Fangio had interviewed for a head-coaching job only three times before: with the Bears last year, the 49ers in 2015 and the Chargers in 1997 -- meaning he went 22 years between his first interview for a top job and landing one. # Nagy is already working to locate a successor. # The Bears had hoped to land Bowles, who was on the same Eagles staff as Nagy in 2012, and they spoke with Bowles on Wednesday before he chose to go to the Buccaneers. Nagy has a longstanding relationship with Bowles -- Nagy's father coached him in high school. Arians has an even deeper background with Bowles. Arians coached Bowles at Temple, and Bowles served as his defensive coordinator with the Cardinals. As one source said, the ties between Bowles and Arians ran too deep for the Bears to win out, even though