

= Rex Ryan =

Rex Ashley Ryan (born December 13 , 1962) is an American football coach who is the head coach of the Buffalo Bills of the National Football League (NFL) . After serving as an assistant coach for 22 years , Ryan attained his first head coaching job in the NFL with the New York Jets in 2009 . He is the son of former head coach Buddy Ryan and is the fraternal twin brother of Rob Ryan .

From a young age , Ryan aspired to follow in his father 's footsteps and become a professional football coach . After spending the majority of his youth in Canada , Ryan returned to the United States as a teenager where he attended college at Southwestern Oklahoma State University . Upon graduating Ryan spent the next 22 years serving as an assistant coach on different teams at both the college and professional level . At the behest of their head coach Brian Billick , Ryan joined the Baltimore Ravens in 1999 and spent nine years there . In 2005 he became the defensive coordinator , and in 2008 the assistant head coach .

Hours after the Ravens lost to the Steelers in the 2008 playoffs , Ryan accepted a contract offer from the Jets for their vacant head coaching position . During his tenure , Ryan became well known throughout the league for his outspoken manner , boisterous attitude and success with the Jets , which included back @-@ to @-@ back AFC Championship Game appearances in the 2009 and 2010 seasons . Ryan was fired by the Jets at the conclusion of the 2014 season , and he accepted a contract offer to coach the Bills two weeks later .

Ryan 's teams are highly regarded for their defensive capabilities , which often feature " relentlessness [and] unpredictable mayhem founded on [Ryan 's] premise that ' whatever you do best , we 're going to take away from you ' " , according to New York Times writer Nicholas Dawidoff .

= = Early life = =

Rex Ryan and his fraternal twin , Rob , were born in Ardmore , Oklahoma , on December 13 , 1962 , to Doris and Buddy Ryan . When the boys were aged two , their parents amicably divorced . Following the divorce , their mother attended the University of Chicago to earn her doctorate . Rex , Rob and their older brother Jim moved with her to Toronto , Ontario , Canada , where she secured an administrative position at the University of Toronto . During the course of his upbringing , Rex wanted to follow in the footsteps of his father , a defensive pioneer in the NFL known for developing the 46 defense , and by age six Rex and Rob knew they wanted to pursue coaching careers .

In Canada , there was little emphasis on football , much to the disappointment of Rex . By the time Rex was a teenager , Doris realized he and his brothers were too much to handle for a single mother trying to advance her career . She decided it was in the best interest of the brothers to send them to live with their father , who was the defensive line coach for the Minnesota Vikings at the time . The reasons behind this were to keep them out of trouble and to help them expand their knowledge of the game of football where it was more prevalent .

In 1978 , when Buddy was hired by the Chicago Bears as their defensive coordinator , Rex , Rob and Jim followed their father to Illinois where the family settled in Prairie View . The brothers attended Stevenson High School in Lincolnshire .

Rex went on to attend Southwestern Oklahoma State University in Weatherford , Oklahoma , alongside Rob , and played for the football team as a defensive end . He graduated from Southwestern Oklahoma in 1986 , and in 2011 was inducted into the university 's Hall of Fame .

= = Collegiate coaching = =

Upon graduating from Southwestern in 1986 , with the help of his father , Ryan secured a job as a graduate assistant on the Division I @-@ AA (now Division I FCS) Eastern Kentucky Colonels football team . At Eastern Kentucky , he had a multitude of responsibilities which ranged from making copies of game plans to picking players up at the airport . The Colonels won the Ohio Valley Conference title in the two years Ryan served as an assistant . At the age of 26 , Ryan became the

assistant head coach and defensive coordinator at Division II New Mexico Highlands for a year , during which the team led the league in defensive turnovers . After his stint with New Mexico Highlands , Ryan joined Division I Morehead State as the defensive coordinator , where he remained for four years . During his tenure , the defense was ranked among the highest in the nation .

After working for his father for two years with the NFL 's Arizona Cardinals , Ryan returned to college coaching as the defensive coordinator for the Cincinnati Bearcats . The Bearcats won the first Humanitarian Bowl over Utah State in Ryan 's final year , marking the team 's first bowl appearance in fifty years . Ryan was the Oklahoma Sooners ' defensive coordinator for a year in which the defense was ranked sixth in the nation . However , head coach John Blake failed to achieve a winning record for a third straight year and subsequently , the entire staff was fired . Ryan served as defensive coordinator at Kansas State for a month in 1999 under head coach Bill Snyder .

= = National Football League = =

= = = Assistant coach = = =

When his father was hired as the head coach of the Arizona Cardinals in 1994 , he offered Rex his first job in the NFL as a defensive assistant , working with the team 's linebackers and defensive linemen . After nine straight losing seasons prior to Buddy 's arrival , the Cardinals produced an 8 ? 8 record in Buddy 's first year as head coach . However , in his second season , the team went 4 ? 12 and subsequently , the entire staff was fired despite the positive performance of the defense .

Ryan went on to coach at three different colleges following his tenure with the Cardinals , though by the time he joined Kansas State in 1999 , he was hopeful of a return to the NFL . Ryan received a call from newly named head coach Brian Billick of the Baltimore Ravens , who wanted to interview him for the defensive line coaching position . Having visited a class Ryan was teaching earlier in his career , Billick had been so impressed by Ryan 's passion for the game of football that he decided to hire Ryan if he ever attained a head coaching position . When offered the position , Ryan accepted .

In his first year , the defense was ranked second overall in the NFL and second in rushing yards allowed . By his second year , in 2000 , the Ravens ' defense set NFL records for fewest points allowed and fewest rushing yards allowed . The defense allowed a combined 23 points in four playoff games en route to a Super Bowl XXXV victory , Ryan 's only Super Bowl ring . The defense consistently performed well in the following years . As a result , Ryan was promoted to defensive coordinator in 2005 following the departure of Mike Nolan , who became the head coach of the San Francisco 49ers . In 2006 , Ryan received Assistant Coach of the Year awards from Pro Football Weekly and the Pro Football Writers Association .

Upon the conclusion of the Ravens ' 5 ? 11 performance in 2007 , the entire staff was dismissed on New Year 's Eve . Ryan was one of the candidates interviewed by the Ravens for their head coaching vacancy ; however , the Ravens chose to name John Harbaugh as the team 's new head coach . Ryan also interviewed with Miami and Atlanta about filling their head coaching vacancies , but the offers went to Tony Sparano and Mike Smith respectively .

Ryan was disappointed by his failure to obtain a head coaching job , but he agreed to return to Baltimore under the direction of Harbaugh , who retained Ryan as defensive coordinator and promoted him to assistant head coach . In 2008 , Ryan 's final year with the team , the defense was ranked second overall in the NFL . The Ravens lost by nine points in the AFC Championship Game against the Pittsburgh Steelers . Ryan 's nine @-@ year tenure with the team , during which the defense never ranked lower than sixth overall in the NFL , concluded an hour later when he accepted the head coaching position with the New York Jets .

= = = New York Jets = = =

Following a late season collapse in which the Jets missed the playoffs after losing four of their final five games , the team fired head coach Eric Mangini on December 29 , 2008 . The team interviewed a host of candidates , including Ryan , Jeff Jagodzinski , Russ Grimm , Bill Callahan , and Brian Schottenheimer ; however , the contract , which was valued at approximately \$ 11 @. @ 5 million over the course of four years , was ultimately offered to Ryan .

Accepting the offer on January 19 , 2009 , Ryan immediately began to carry out a plan of action he outlined for the franchise 's future . He planned to remove the players from distractions on and off the field and allow them get to know one another to build team chemistry . Thus , training camp was moved to the campus of SUNY Cortland , where the team would be relatively secluded from the media and any other distractions . Ryan and general manager Mike Tannenbaum were also determined to draft a quarterback who could lead and be the face of the franchise . As a result , the team traded up to select Mark Sanchez with the fifth overall pick in the 2009 NFL Draft .

= = = = 2009 season = = = =

The Jets opened their season against the Houston Texans . Ryan began his head coaching career with a 24 ? 7 victory over the Texans in which the Jets ' defense shut out their opponents ' offense . Houston 's lone score came on a fumble return for a touchdown . The following week , the defense did not allow a touchdown against the New England Patriots in a 16 ? 9 victory at home , marking the Jets ' first home victory over New England since 2000 . Ryan and the Jets went on to defeat the Tennessee Titans in week three , marking the first time the Jets opened the season at 3 ? 0 since 2004 . The victory also allowed Ryan to become the Jets ' first rookie head coach to win his first three games since Al Groh did so in 2000 . New York went on to lose six of their next seven games save for a shutout victory over the Oakland Raiders , 38 ? 0 .

The team eventually recovered and won five of their final six games despite Ryan mistakenly stating the Jets had been eliminated from playoff contention following a loss to the Atlanta Falcons . The Jets defeated a previously unbeaten Indianapolis Colts ? a game not without controversy following Jim Caldwell 's decision to pull Indianapolis ' starters with the Colts leading . The Colts , who had already clinched a playoff berth , had little to play for aside from a perfect record . In the final game of the season , the Jets defeated the Cincinnati Bengals 37 ? 0 at Giants Stadium , the final sporting event to be held at the venue , as the defense held Cincinnati to 72 total rushing yards , and 0 total yards passing . The victory secured New York 's playoff berth as a wild card team . Under Ryan , the Jets finished the regular season ranked first overall in the NFL in rushing yards and total defense . New York defeated Cincinnati again the following week , this time at Paul Brown Stadium , in the AFC Wild Card playoff round . On January 17 , 2010 , Ryan coached the Jets in an upset over the San Diego Chargers , 17 ? 14 , on their way to the AFC Championship Game . The Jets subsequently lost to the Colts 30 ? 17 after leading in the first half of the game . Ryan became embroiled in controversy a few days later when he made an obscene gesture towards heckling Dolphins fans who spat on him during a Strikeforce mixed martial arts event at BankAtlantic Center in Sunrise , Florida . Ryan apologized for his action , stating that it was " stupid and inappropriate . " Ryan was fined \$ 50 @ , @ 000 by the Jets .

= = = = 2010 season = = = =

As Ryan headed into his second year as the team 's head coach , the club announced he had been given a two @-@ year contract extension . Ryan continued to exude confidence in the team , writing on ESPN 's training camp tour bus " Soon To Be Champs " in August , referencing that the Jets would make it to the Super Bowl and become the eventual champions . Ryan had been asked to sign the Jets ' logo on the back of the bus but included the message with his signature . The prediction was met with some criticism while others praised his brashness , something that was felt to be lacking in the NFL at the time . When the team appeared on the television series Hard Knocks that same month , Ryan was criticized , particularly by former head coach Tony Dungy , for his use

of foul language . Dungy and Ryan later met in person to reconcile their differences . Ryan 's championship claims were nearly proven correct as the Jets opened the season with the best record in the NFL at 9 ? 2 . This set the stage for a Monday night matchup with their division rival , the Patriots , who were also 9 ? 2 . The Patriots , behind the strong performance of quarterback Tom Brady , defeated the Jets 45 ? 3 . However , the Jets finished the season with an 11 ? 5 record and qualified as a wild card team in the playoffs . The Jets were one win short of tying the franchise record in wins set by the 1998 team led by Bill Parcells .

In the wild card round , the sixth @-@ seeded Jets beat the AFC South champion and third @-@ seeded Colts 17 ? 16 on January 8 , 2011 , at the Colts ' home field to qualify for the Divisional Playoffs . The following week , on January 16 , they defeated the AFC East champion and first @-@ seeded Patriots 28 ? 21 , ending New England 's eight @-@ game winning streak . The victory made the Jets the first team to win back @-@ to @-@ back road playoff games in consecutive seasons , and qualified them to advance to the AFC Championship Game for the second consecutive season , where they lost on the road to the AFC North champion Pittsburgh Steelers 24 ? 19 .

== == 2011 season == ==

The Jets opened their 2011 campaign with a 2 ? 3 record , leading to discontent within their clubhouse . The team had begun to stray from its philosophy of consistently running the ball and began to pass more often , but the offense struggled with this adjustment . Receivers Plaxico Burress , Santonio Holmes and Derrick Mason reportedly approached coach Ryan to question offensive coordinator Brian Schottenheimer 's system . Ryan , meanwhile , had begun to isolate himself from the rest of the team as he became less " hands @-@ on " and opted to have his assistants coach the players at their respective positions . Ryan attracted further attention to the team during a Thursday Night Football game against the New England Patriots when he responded to a heckling fan with an obscene remark and was fined \$ 75 @, @ 000 by the league . Despite struggling to an 8 ? 7 record , the Jets still had the ability to attain a playoff berth if they won their regular season finale against the Miami Dolphins in combination with the outcome of three other games played that day .

However , the discontent within the locker room and the team 's overall struggles culminated with Holmes criticizing and arguing with teammates in the huddle against Miami . Holmes was benched in the fourth quarter while the Jets subsequently lost 19 ? 17 , ending their postseason pursuit . After the Jets finished the season with a disappointing 8 ? 8 record , Ryan admitted to having lost the pulse of the team . Then free agent running back LaDainian Tomlinson remarked that Ryan 's Super Bowl predictions had an adverse effect on the locker room by placing undue pressure on the players . Ryan conceded this point and announced that he would refrain from making such statements publicly in the future .

== == 2012 season == ==

Through 11 weeks in 2012 , the Jets struggled to a 4 ? 7 record . The presence of Tim Tebow created a controversy as the media and fans called for Ryan to bench the inconsistent Mark Sanchez in favor of Tebow . Ryan was criticized for his decision to keep Tebow activated during the Jets ' Thanksgiving Day contest against the New England Patriots despite Tebow playing with two broken ribs , leading to questions about his job security . With Tebow inactive for the Jets ' following contest against the Arizona Cardinals , Ryan made the decision to bench Sanchez , who threw three interceptions , in favor of Greg McElroy . McElroy threw a touchdown pass to Jeff Cumberland to score the team 's only points in a 7 ? 6 victory over Arizona .

Ryan renamed Sanchez the starting quarterback the following Wednesday after seeking out multiple opinions within the organization . In a must win game against the Tennessee Titans to remain in playoff contention , Sanchez struggled ; he completed 13 of his 28 passes for 131 yards while throwing four interceptions and fumbling the ball in Titans territory in the closing minutes of the

Jets ' 14 ? 10 defeat . A day later , Ryan announced McElroy would start . Sanchez started the final game of the season after McElroy suffered a concussion in his lone start . Sanchez 's struggles continued as the Jets fell to the Buffalo Bills and ended their year with a 6 ? 10 record , their first losing season under Rex Ryan . On December 31 , 2012 , the Jets fired general manager Mike Tannenbaum , but announced that Ryan would return for the 2013 season .

= = = = 2013 season = = = =

For the 2013 campaign , Ryan overhauled his coaching staff , promoting Dennis Thurman to defensive coordinator while adding several new coaches including offensive coordinator Marty Mornhinweg . Newly hired general manager John Idzik emphasized there would be competition at all positions including quarterback . The Jets drafted Geno Smith in the second round of the 2013 NFL Draft to compete with Sanchez . Ryan was widely criticized for his decision to insert Sanchez late in a preseason game against the New York Giants after Sanchez suffered a season @-@ ending shoulder injury which led to Smith being named the starter .

Through their first nine games of the year , the Jets went 5 ? 4 and earned Ryan some early Coach of the Year consideration . The team proceeded to lose their next three contests as the rookie Smith committed eight turnovers while failing to score during that stretch . This prompted speculation by analysts as to whether or not Ryan would be fired . The Jets broke their losing streak with a 37 ? 27 win over the Raiders that kept them in playoff contention . The following week , the Jets played the Carolina Panthers and trailed by three points heading into the fourth quarter . In the span of five minutes , the Panthers scored twice and the Jets were unable to complete a comeback attempt , losing 20 ? 30 . The loss eliminated the Jets from playoff contention .

New York played the Cleveland Browns a week later . In a meeting before the game , Ryan told his players that he expected to be fired at the end of the year . The Jets defeated Cleveland 24 ? 13 and despite the uncertainty , the players and coaches were in high spirits . Several players including Antonio Cromartie , Calvin Pace and Willie Colon went on to publicly express their support for Ryan to return as coach . In the season finale , the Jets defeated the Miami Dolphins 20 ? 7 , eliminating them from playoff contention . In the locker room after the game , owner Woody Johnson and Idzik announced Ryan would return for the 2014 season much to the delight of the players . Ryan was praised for keeping his team competitive after being eliminated from playoff contention and keeping their spirits high throughout the year despite their inconsistency .

= = = = 2014 season = = = =

The Jets opened the 2014 season with a 19 ? 14 win over the Oakland Raiders but proceeded to lose their next eight games . Geno Smith , who started the year at quarterback , was replaced by veteran Michael Vick midway through the season . Vick helped to snap the losing streak in a week nine win over the Pittsburgh Steelers . Despite the victory , Ryan was seen cursing at an unidentified person and was subsequently fined \$ 100 @,@ 000 by the league . The team continued to struggle with Smith eventually being reinserted into the lineup . The Jets went on to win two of their last three games to finish with a 4 ? 12 record , their worst finish under Ryan . Despite players again expressing their desire for Ryan to remain the coach , he was dismissed on December 29 , 2014 .

= = = Buffalo Bills = = =

Ryan was hired as head coach of the Buffalo Bills on January 12 , 2015 , agreeing to a five @-@ year , \$ 27 @.@ 5 million contract .

= = = = 2015 season = = = =

The Bills opened the 2015 season with a 27 @-@ 14 win over the Indianapolis Colts . Frustrated by the Bills leading the NFL in penalties heading into their Week 5 game against the Tennessee Titans

, Ryan gave the entire team wristbands with the message " Yes sir " . These were the only words he wanted his players to use with officials if they were flagged . After being flagged 17 times in Week 4 loss against the New York Giants , the Bills were penalized only seven times in their 14 @-@ 13 victory over the Titans . The Bills entered their bye week with a 3 @-@ 4 record after losing in London to the Jacksonville Jaguars .

Ryan gave the whole team the week off during the bye , and he himself found a secluded beach to " get away and focus " . The Bills came out of their bye week and defeated the Miami Dolphins 33 @-@ 17 , improving their season record to 4 @-@ 4 . Ryan is now 2 @-@ 5 all time following a bye week . Ryan returned to MetLife Stadium week 10 during a much anticipated Thursday Night Football game against the Jets . The Bills won the game 22 @-@ 17 , and improved to 5 @-@ 4 on the season . Ryan faced questions before and after the game about his decision to name IK Enemkpali , who had been released by the Jets in preseason after breaking quarterback Geno Smith 's jaw in an altercation , as Buffalo 's captain for the game .

The Bills were unable to make the playoffs in their first season with Ryan as coach , as they were eliminated in Week 15 with a 35 @-@ 25 loss to the Washington Redskins on December 20 , extending their drought to 16 seasons , the NFL 's longest active drought . They finished the season with an 8 @-@ 8 record .

= = = 2016 season = = =

On January 10 , 2016 it was announced that Ryan had hired his twin brother Rob to the Bills coaching staff . Rob will serve as an assistant head coach and will also work with the defense . Three days later Ryan hired former NFL standout Ed Reed to be an assistant defensive backs coach .

= = Coaching philosophy = =

Ryan stresses that coaches are essentially supposed to be open and communicative with the players and management , who in turn will reciprocate the same attitude . By connecting with his associates , Ryan states , it 's " valuable when it comes to figuring out how to motivate somebody (...) because I want that guy to fight for me , just like I want to fight for him . " Fullback Tony Richardson , in an interview , stated Ryan " loves his football team , loves his players " and does as much as he possibly can to ensure their success . Despite his boisterous and brash comments that have caused increased media coverage of the team , Ryan has taken the attention and has managed to " [put] it on himself " so the players can focus on their tasks . Ryan has also stressed that the teaching process is an important one , particularly when it comes to providing a player information and building chemistry . However , there has to be flexibility as the process must also be insightful and positive . Coaches , Ryan states , are responsible for providing players with information that is vitally important otherwise " if you emphasize everything , you 've emphasized nothing . "

= = Coaching strategy = =

With extensive knowledge regarding the intricacies of the defense , Ryan has been criticized for not devoting similar time and effort into coaching the offense . Ryan refuted this , stating his goal is to implement a proficient running game , citing a desire to " get after " the opponent through running the ball . Ryan has also stated that passing the ball is important but should not be used incessantly as there should be a balance between both aspects of the offense . In 2009 and 2010 , the Jets were ranked first and fourth overall in the league in rushing which coincided with their two playoff appearances . In 2011 , the Jets attempted to convert to a more pass @-@ oriented offense , which have become more widely used in the NFL , however , the team struggled with this adjustment and reverted to their former run @-@ oriented offense by the middle of the season . His defensive strategy , in contrast , tends to be more elaborate taking into consideration his experience in the

field . There are six different defensive formations utilized in football , but the two commonly used formations are the 3 ? 4 formation , with three defensive lineman and four linebackers , and the 4 ? 3 formation , with four defensive lineman and three linebackers . The Jets utilized the former of the two popular formations ; however , Ryan tended to employ all six formations in varying forms . Furthermore , he often calls audibles that have the defense line up in one formation and switch to another so as to cloak their intentions and confuse and pressure the opponent .

As a testament to this philosophy , Ryan is often willing to defer the coin toss to the opponent so his team can begin the game playing on defense in order to " set the tone " and generate turnovers . This concept has been criticized by ESPN 's John Clayton , who has found the method to be ineffective league @-@ wide . Mark Kriegel , an analyst for the NFL Network , found that between 2005 and 2012 , during his tenure with both the Ravens and Jets , Ryan 's defenses have never been ranked lower than sixth overall in the NFL and have allowed an average of 281 yards per game from scrimmage , second to Dick LeBeau 's 277 @.@ 4 yards per game . LeBeau is generally regarded as one of the best defensive coordinators in the history of the NFL .

= = Personal life = =

Ryan and his wife , Michelle , met at Southwestern Oklahoma State . When Rex accepted his position as a graduate assistant at Eastern Kentucky , he proposed to Michelle by phone ; she accepted and they were married in 1987 . Together , they have two sons , Payton and Seth , who is a walk @-@ on freshman wide receiver for Clemson . Ryan earned a Bachelor of Science and a Master 's degree in physical education from Eastern Kentucky University . He resided in Summit , New Jersey , during his tenure with the Jets .

= = = Health = = =

Ryan publicly announced in 2009 that he had been battling dyslexia for his entire life . During his early years , Ryan struggled to read and write in school ; however , he was not formally diagnosed until testing confirmed he had the disorder in 2007 . Ryan utilizes color @-@ coded playbooks and game plans when coaching on the sidelines to aid his comprehension .

Ryan underwent lap @-@ band surgery at NYU Medical Center in March 2010 in an effort to battle his obesity . Ryan also had a hernia repaired during the procedure . He was able to return to his home that same day to recover . Following a three @-@ week period he had lost 40 pounds and as of July 2012 , Ryan had lost 106 pounds .

= = = Car crash = = =

Ryan was involved in a three @-@ car crash in eastern Pennsylvania on January 14 , 2013 . A witness said Ryan ran his Ford Mustang through a red light and collided with another driver which caused the unidentified driver to hit a third car . Ryan was issued a warning , but no citation .

= = = Media = = =

Ryan released Play Like You Mean It , an autobiography and a conversational about football strategy . The book , which was published by Doubleday in the spring of 2011 , was co @-@ written by Don Yaeger , a former Sports Illustrated editor who has co @-@ authored the autobiographies of former NFL players Walter Payton and Warren Moon .

Ryan made a cameo appearance in the Adam Sandler film That 's My Boy , which was released on June 15 , 2012 . Ironically , his character was a fan of the Jets ' rival , the Patriots .

= = = Internet video = = =

In 2010 , a video purportedly of Michelle Ryan 's feet surfaced on the internet . The video shows a

man rubbing and smelling what is presumed to be the feet of Ryan 's wife . A spokesperson for the Jets commented by saying " Coach Ryan considers this a personal matter and will have no comment . " Multiple reports linked Ryan to a user profile named " ihaveprettyfeet " on a site for alternative sexual lifestyles . In September 2015 , a photo of Ryan surfaced of him sitting at his desk with a framed photo of a person 's feet behind him .

= = = Sports allegiances = = =

Ryan is an avid hockey fan , and has developed a notoriety of being a bandwagon jumper in recent years . Ryan has admitted he was a fan of the Toronto Maple Leafs , as a result of growing up in the city , but upon taking the Jets head coaching job , he was often seen cheering for all three of the New York metropolitan area franchises . During the New Jersey Devils run to the 2012 Stanley Cup Finals , Ryan was seen sporting the team 's attire , and two years later was seen donning the attire of the New York Rangers , during their run to the Stanley Cup Final . Outside of the playoff runs , Ryan performed a ceremonial puck drop at Nassau Veterans Memorial Coliseum on October 9 , 2010 , wearing a vintage New York Islanders jersey .

Ryan was known for a notorious incident at a Carolina Hurricanes game , as he attended the matchup with the Florida Panthers sporting a throwback Philadelphia Flyers jersey on . Upon being recognized by the fans at the arena , the team 's cheerleaders approached him with a Hurricanes alternate jersey sported by the team . The incident was noted as he was seen taking off the jersey and baring his chest for the crowd to see .

Upon taking the Buffalo Bills head coaching job , Ryan changed his allegiance to the Buffalo Sabres , and is often seen at the team 's home games and sporting the team 's attire .

= = = Political views = = =

On April 18 , 2016 Ryan introduced Republican presidential candidate front @-@ runner Donald Trump at one of his rallies held at the First Niagara Center in Buffalo , NY . Ryan told The Associated Press he was supporting Chris Christie for the nomination , but he dropped out of the race and has since endorsed Trump .

= = Head coaching record = =

Source :

= = = Coaching tree = = =

NFL head coaches under whom Rex Ryan has served :

Assistant coaches under Rex Ryan who have become NFL head coaches :