



# SEAN McDERMOTT

## HEAD COACH

Sean McDermott was named head coach of the Bills on January 11, 2017. With 7 playoff appearances and 5 AFC East division titles under his belt in his first 8 seasons, he methodically transformed the culture of a franchise that had not experienced a postseason berth the previous 17 years.

“Sean is a proud, Christian, determined man,” said Bills owner Terry Pegula. “I remember before his interview for the head coaching job thinking about him being a two-time National Prep Wrestling Champ. I thought to myself, you wrestled, you’re determined, you love what you’re doing and you won. He comes to the Bills everyday and will never ask anyone, player or coach to do anything he wouldn’t do.”

McDermott is ranked first in team history in win percentage and ranked 2nd in wins behind Marv Levy (123). From 2020-24, the Bills captured five consecutive AFC East division titles for the first time in team history. Buffalo and Kansas City are the only 2 teams in the NFL to win 10+ games and earn a playoff berth each year from 2019-24.

In 2024, McDermott was named to the NFL’s Competition Committee, becoming the first Bills representative on that committee since Bill Polian (1990-93). “It’s a great honor” McDermott said. “It certainly comes with a responsibility as well to grow the game and evolve the game, like many who have come before us have done so well over the years.”

In 2020, the Bills won their first playoff game since 1995 as McDermott finished 2nd for the NFL’s coach of the year. He was also a finalist for that honor in 2019 and 2022.

In 2017, McDermott became the third coach in Bills history to earn a playoff spot in his first season, joining Joe Collier (1966) and Wade Phillips (1998).

McDermott was hired by the Bills after 6 seasons as the defensive coordinator in Carolina, where he led a top-10 defense 4 times and helped the Panthers earn 3 division titles and a trip to Super Bowl 50.

In 2015, McDermott’s defense helped lead the way to a 15-1 record and trip to Super Bowl 50. Four players – Thomas Davis, Luke Kuechly, Josh Norman and Kawann Short – earned Pro Bowl and All-Pro honors. He was The Sporting News Coordinator of the Year in 2013.

He spent his first 12 NFL seasons with Philadelphia under Andy Reid, working his way up to defensive coordinator in 2009-10. In 2009, he was named the NFL’s top defensive coordinator by Pro Football Weekly.

A protege of the late Jim Johnson, the Eagles legendary defensive coordinator, McDermott served as defensive assistant/quality control coach (2001-02), assistant defensive backs coach (2003), secondary/safeties coach (2004-06), and linebackers coach (2007-08).

He joined the Eagles in 1998 as a scouting administrative coordinator before being promoted to assistant to the head coach under Reid in 1999. McDermott worked with several Pro Bowlers during his time in Philadelphia, including Hall of Fame safety Brian Dawkins.

## PERSONAL

Off the field, McDermott and his family are active in the Western New York community, making multiple visits to Oishei’s Children Hospital of Buffalo. They have participated in many different efforts to provide awareness for food allergies and skin cancer, including an annual food drive at Wegmans that helps food-insecure families with food allergies and special dietary needs. They also partner with Wegmans on skin cancer awareness initiatives.

A member of the LaSalle College High School Hall of Athletics, McDermott was a two-time All-Catholic League and a National Prep School Champion in 1992 and 1993 and went undefeated in 75 consecutive wrestling matches.

McDermott was an All-Atlantic 10 Conference safety at William & Mary in 1997 and graduated with a degree in finance. He was inducted into the school’s Athletics Hall of Fame in 2023 and was honored with the school’s Principled Achievement Award for Exemplary Leadership in 2024. He began his coaching career at W&M as a graduate assistant in 1998. McDermott and Steelers coach Mike Tomlin were teammates during their time at W&M.

Sean and his wife, Jamie, have three children. His father, Rich, was a football coach at West Chester University and Ursinus College and his brother, Tim, is the Chief Business Officer of the Philadelphia Union of the MLS. McDermott was born in Omaha, Nebraska on March 21, 1974.

## THE STAMPEDE

**Favorite movie:** Vision Quest

**Favorite athlete growing up:** Brian Bosworth

**Favorite musical artist:** Zac Brown Band

**Favorite TV show growing up:** Monday Night Football

**Favorite snack:** Brownies and ice cream