

CHRIS STRAUSSER
Offensive Line Coach

Coaching Experience: 34th season
NFL Experience: 6th season
Colts Experience: 4th season
College: Chico State
Hometown: Cleveland, Ohio

Strausser enters his fourth season with the Colts as offensive line coach. He has 33 years of coaching experience, including 28 years at the collegiate level. Strausser helped Indianapolis reach the playoffs in 2020 with an 11-5 regular season record.

In three seasons under Strausser, the Colts have allowed the fourth-fewest sacks in the NFL. For the first time since 2003-07, Indianapolis has had a 1,000-yard rusher in three consecutive seasons.

In 2021, the Colts offense ranked second in rushing yards per game (149.4 avg.) and tied for ninth in points per game (26.5 avg.). Indianapolis tied for ninth in the NFL in fewest sacks allowed. For the first time since 2016, the Colts had a 1,000-yard rusher (Jonathan Taylor - 1,811 yards) and 1,000-yard receiver (Michael Pittman Jr. - 1,092 yards) in the same season. Guard Quenton Nelson was named Associated Press Second Team All-Pro. Nelson and center Ryan Kelly each earned Pro Bowl honors. It marked the first time Indianapolis has had at least two offensive linemen represented in three consecutive Pro Bowls since 1987-89 (center Ray Donaldson and tackle Chris Hinton).

Strausser's group helped pave the way for Taylor to put together one of the best single-season performances by a running back in team history. Taylor led the NFL in scrimmage yards (2,171), rushing yards (1,811), rushing touchdowns (18), 100-yard rushing games (10) and first down runs (107). He finished tied for first in total touchdowns (20) and ranked second in the league in total points (120) by non-kickers. Taylor set franchise single-season records for rushing yards, rushing touchdowns and fewest carries to reach 1,000 rushing yards (173). He became the third player ever with a rushing touchdown in at least 11 consecutive games within a single season. Taylor also became the youngest player in NFL history with at least 2,000 scrimmage yards (2,171) and 20 scrimmage touchdowns (20) in a single season.

In 2020, Strausser's unit tied for the second-fewest sacks allowed in the NFL. The Colts registered four games without allowing a sack, which tied for the fourth-most in the league. The offensive line helped Taylor become just the fifth rookie in franchise history to register 1,000 rushing yards (1,169 yards). He finished third in the NFL in rushing yards. It marked the first time since 2003-05 that Indianapolis registered back-to-back seasons (2019-20) with a 1,000-yard rusher. Nelson (First Team) and Kelly (Second Team) were each named Associated Press All-Pro. It marked the 10th occasion the team has had multiple offensive linemen represented on the All-Pro Teams and the first time since 1988 (Donaldson and Hinton were each named Second Team). Nelson and Kelly were also named to the Pro Bowl. It marked the first time the Colts have had two offensive linemen represented in consecutive Pro Bowls since 2005-06 (tackle Tarik Glenn and center Jeff Saturday).

In Strausser's first season in Indianapolis, the Colts were the only team in the NFL to start the same five offensive linemen (tackle Anthony Castonzo, Nelson, Kelly, guard Mark Glowinski and tackle Braden Smith) in all 16 regular season games. The group tied for the ninth-fewest sacks

allowed in the league. Nelson and Kelly were each named to the Pro Bowl, marking the first time Indianapolis had two offensive linemen represented in the Pro Bowl since 2006. Nelson also garnered Associated Press First Team All-Pro honors for the second consecutive season.

Strausser's unit helped the Colts register a top-10 rushing attack for the first time since 2001 as the team boasted the league's seventh-ranked rushing offense (133.1 avg.). Indianapolis' 4.52 yards per carry average was the fifth-highest single-season total in franchise history. Running back Marlon Mack finished 11th in the NFL in rushing yards with a single-season career-high 1,091 yards on the ground to become the first Colts player to register a 1,000-yard rushing season since 2016. In Week 11 vs. Jacksonville (11/17), the offensive line helped pave the way for Jonathan Williams (116 yards) and Mack (109 yards) to become just the fourth pair of running backs in franchise history to register 100 rushing yards in the same game. Indianapolis finished with 264 rushing yards against the Jaguars, which ranked 12th in single-game team history.

Prior to Indianapolis, Strausser spent two seasons with the Denver Broncos, where he served as offensive line – tackles coach (2018) and assistant offensive line coach (2017). He was instrumental in the development of tackle Garrett Bolles, whom the team selected with the 20th overall pick of the 2017 NFL Draft. From 2017-18, Bolles started all 32 games at left tackle. He was named to the PFWA All-Rookie Team after becoming just the fifth rookie in franchise history to start every game at left tackle.

In 2018, Strausser's unit tied for the 10th fewest sacks allowed (34) in the NFL and helped pave the way for undrafted rookie running back Phillip Lindsay to rush for 1,037 yards and nine touchdowns. His rushing total was the second-most by an undrafted rookie (since the 1970 NFL merger) and he became just the sixth Broncos rookie to reach 1,000 yards in a single season. Lindsay registered 1,278 yards from scrimmage and 10 total touchdowns. He became the first undrafted offensive player in NFL history to make the Pro Bowl as a rookie.

Prior to Denver, Strausser coached the offensive line at the collegiate level for 22 seasons. As associate head coach/offensive line coach at Washington from 2014-16, three of his offensive linemen were named first-team or second-team all-league selections. The Huskies won the PAC-12 Conference Championship in 2016 and advanced to the College Football Playoff semifinals.

Strausser joined Washington's staff along with Head Coach Chris Petersen after spending seven seasons (2007-2013) on Petersen's staff at Boise State. He served as offensive line coach and run game coordinator for Boise State from 2010-13, adding the responsibilities as associate head coach in 2013. During that time, Boise State surrendered just 36 sacks (0.69 per game) to rank second in the nation during that four-year period.

At Boise State, Strausser helped convert center Matt Paradis from a defensive lineman to become a Second Team All-Mountain West Conference selection in 2012 and 2013. Paradis went on to be selected by the Denver Broncos in the sixth round (207th overall) of the 2014 NFL Draft. He has started all 98 career NFL games he has appeared in with the Carolina Panthers (2019-21) and Broncos (2015-18).

In 2006, Strausser served as assistant head coach/offensive line coach at the University of Colorado.

In his first stint at Boise State from 2001-05, Strausser coached the offensive line, adding

assistant head coach to his title in 2003. Four of his linemen earned First Team All-Western Athletic Conference honors during his first tenure.

Prior to Boise State, Strausser spent a combined 12 seasons at Portland State (1993-94, 2000), Foothill College (1997-99), San Jose State (1995-96), Sonoma State (1992), Oregon State (1990-91) and Menlo College (1989).

Strausser graduated from Chico State University in 1989 with a bachelor's degree in physical education. He went on to earn his master's in education from Oregon State in 1991.

Strausser and his wife, Cathy, have two daughters, Maeve and Sarah.

Coaching Career

1989	Menlo College	Wide Receivers/Tight Ends
1990-1991	Oregon State	Graduate Assistant
1992	Sonoma State	Offensive Tackles/Tight Ends/Special Teams Coordinator
1993-1994	Portland State	Offensive Line/Recruiting Coordinator
1995-1996	San Jose State	Offensive Line
1997-1999	Foothill College	Offensive Line/Run Game Coordinator
2000	Portland State	Offensive Line/Run Game Coordinator
2001-2002	Boise State	Offensive Line
2003-2005	Boise State	Assistant Head Coach/Offensive Line
2006	Colorado	Assistant Head Coach/Offensive Line/Run Game Coordinator
2007-2009	Boise State	Run Game Coordinator/Tight Ends
2010-2011	Boise State	Run Game Coordinator/Offensive Line
2012-2013	Boise State	Associate Head Coach/Run Game Coordinator/Offensive Line
2014-2016	Washington	Associate Head Coach/Offensive Line
2017	Denver Broncos	Assistant Offensive Line
2018	Denver Broncos	Offensive Line - Tackles
2019-2022	Indianapolis Colts	Offensive Line