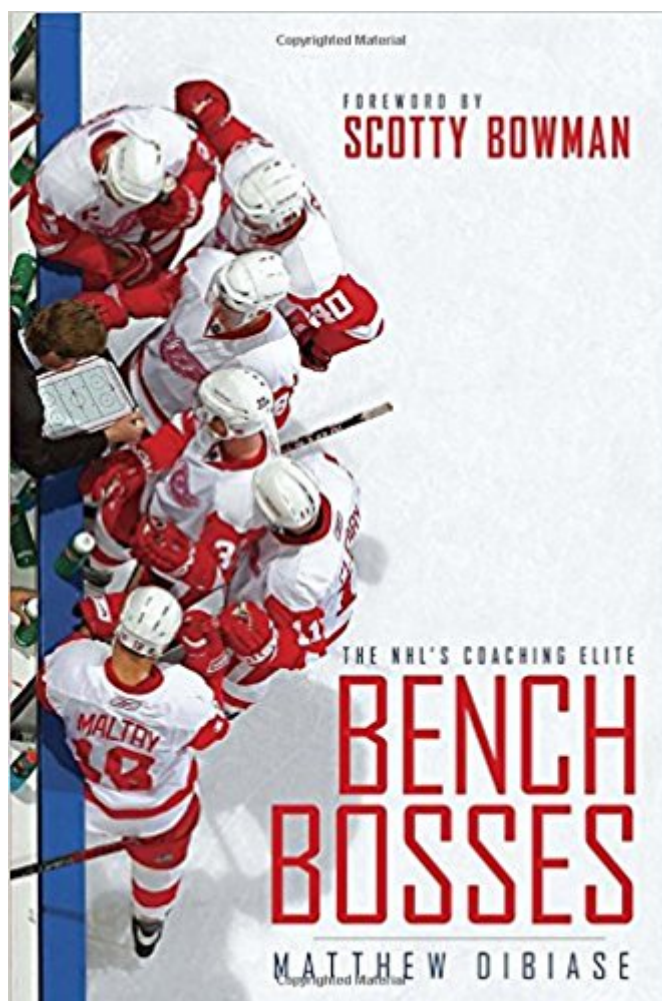


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# Bench Bosses: The NHL's Coaching Elite



## Synopsis

Bench Bosses celebrates the greatest NHL Coaches in the history of the game. Bench Bosses is filled with compelling biographical narrative, innovative analysis, historical allusion, hockey folklore, humour, heartbreak, and tragedy. By introducing a creative new method for evaluating coaching success, professional historian and hockey columnist Matthew DiBiase settles many a debate. His hard-hitting prose and cogent analysis covers key aspects of coaching and definitively identifies the greatest offensive and defensive coaches, expounds on the best penalty-killing or power-play coaches and delves into statistics to determine the nastiest squads on the ice. His unique assessment method determines his selection of the top fifty head coaches of all time. DiBiase's in-depth hockey research delivers a powerful, gripping and informative look at the game's best of the best. This seminal book tells the story behind the story of coaching success. It removes subjectivity and bias and provides a comprehensive overview of each coach's major career achievements and the contributions each has made to the game. In the writing of this book, the author personally interviewed many of the game's best known coaches and their players to get the most accurate and complete perspective of the sport and its coaching elite. Readers will enjoy hearing from such names as Scotty Bowman, Al Arbour, Jean Beliveau, Dick Irving Jr., and more.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

"A fascinating book on coaching personalities and their careers." • "Scotty Bowman Bench Bosses takes you beyond the bench and into the minds of some of

hockey's greatest Generals. A great read for anyone and everyone who loves hockey and watching coaches lose their minds on referees. — Jay Onrait, Fox Sports Live anchor, and bestselling author of *Anchorboy* "If you are looking for a well-researched, comprehensive look at many of the best coaches ever to have coached in the NHL, check out *Bench Bosses: The NHL's Coaching Elite* by Matthew DiBiase." — Metroland

MATTHEW DIBIASE is a member of the Society for International Hockey Research and works for the National Archives-Mid Atlantic Region located in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, where he handles reference requests from businesses, politicians, foreign citizens and special interest groups. He holds a M.A. in American History from Rutgers-Camden University and earned his journalistic chops at writing for his college newspaper. Matthew DiBiase has published numerous op-ed pieces with local newspapers in the South Jersey area and is a regular columnist at *Inside Hockey Magazine*, where his analyses, retrospectives, and think-pieces about the NHL can be read throughout the regular hockey season.

A great way to use analytics to rate coaches....everything you wanted to know..Great capsules of each coaches career..

Most sports books that are lists of the best or worst of something usually follow a tried and true format — a countdown to the top spot, a brief biography or recap of the team or player and an explanation why the team or player is ranked at that spot. Take that format and throw it out the window when picking up this book on the best coaches in the history of professional hockey. Hockey historian Matthew DiBiase devised a format that takes both positive and negative accomplishments by hockey coaches and ranked the best coaches from 1 to 50, with a few extra "honorable mention" coaches. His methodology is simple in one respect — positive accomplishments such as playoff appearances and Stanley Cup wins are worth one point each while negative accomplishments such as a losing season or missing the playoffs lose one point each. Then a few tweaks to allow for items such as different requirements for these accomplishments through different eras and it makes for one of the best books about any sport for comparing eras. Hockey fans and historians will appreciate the write ups for each coach, especially those about coaches from the early days of the sport like Pete Green, Art Ross, Frank and Lester Patrick and Ralph "Cooney" Weiland. Even if the reader has not heard of some of these coaches from many years ago, he or she will

appreciate what that coach has meant to the game and what he accomplished after reading that coach's passage. Another reason that I believe that this is one of the best books about who is the best at what he does is that DiBiase includes accomplishments in other professional leagues as well as the Pacific Coast Hockey League and Western Canada Hockey League/Western Hockey League from the early 20th century and the World Hockey Association from the 1970s. By including a coach's accomplishments in these leagues as well, DiBiase gives a complete picture of what the coach achieved without shortchanging him because he coached in a different professional league. Finally, the book doesn't stop at just ranking these coaches. There are chapters describing who was the best coach in each decade, which coaches often came close to making the Stanley Cup finals but never made it, rivalries and separate short chapters on each of the aforementioned other professional leagues. That gives the book even more credibility as a complete comparison of these coaches over the history of professional hockey. The book can be read for pleasure or can be used for reference as well. It is an outstanding record of the best coaches the game has known and should be on the bookshelf of every hockey fan and historian. I wish to thank Mr. DiBiase for providing a copy of the book in exchange for an honest review.

Bench Bosses is a great book for hockey fans! It's packed with detail on 50 of the best coaches in the history of the NHL. And it is up to date as of the summer of 2015. Matt DiBiase's research and analysis on each coach makes this book a rare find and a great gift for any hockey fan. I so enjoyed this book that I took it with me on a business trip to Mexico City so I could finish reading it. I will definitely read it again.

I can say Matthew's book Bench Bosses: The NHL's Coaching Elite is one of the best books I have read that provides an excellent history of NHL / WHA coaches. This is done using an objective analysis of a data set that ranks the coaches (for the analytic geeks like me) and also using direct access interviews with many of the coaches (for the hockey historian like me). As a member of SIHR and a reader of close to 25 books a year, I rank this one a+ and a must read.

This is the best stocking stuffer for any hockey fan. My dad is going to be so stoked. Every real hockey fan in North America would enjoy this book no doubt about it.

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