

CHRIS KUPER

ASSISTANT OFFENSIVE LINE COLLEGE: NORTH DAKOTA NFL: 11TH SEASON DOLPHINS: THIRD SEASON

Chris Kuper is in his third season with the Miami Dolphins and second as the assistant offensive line coach. He originally joined the team as offensive quality control on Jan. 25, 2016.

In his first season as assistant offensive line coach in 2017, Kuper was forced to use nine different starting offensive linemen due to injuries. The Dolphins allowed just 33 sacks, ranking 11th in the NFL. The unit's run blocking improved as the season progressed, with running back Kenyan Drake leading the NFL with 444 rushing yards over the final five weeks.

In his first season with the team in 2016, Kuper helped the Dolphins to their most successful campaign in eight years, winning 10 games and advancing to the playoffs for the first time since 2008. Miami won nine of its final 11 games. During those 11 contests, the team ranked No. 3 in the NFL with 132.9 rushing yards per game and tied for third with just 13 sacks allowed. Quarterback Ryan Tannehill had the most efficient season of his career, setting career highs in quarterback rating (93.5), yards per attempt (7.7) and completion percentage (67.1). Running back Jay Ajayi rushed for 1,272 yards, the third-most in a single season in Dolphins history. Wide receiver Jarvis Landry caught 94 passes, the fourth-most in a single season in team history. Landry and Ajayi became the second Dolphins duo to top 1,000 yards rushing and receiving in the same season and both earned Pro Bowl selections.

Kuper played eight years (2006-13) in the NFL, all as a guard for the Denver Broncos. During his career, he allowed just 12.5 sacks and was penalized only 20 times in 90-career games played. He was named one of the team's co-captains three times from 2010-12.

Kuper started 79 career games, 68 at right guard and 11 at left guard. He was selected to the Pro Bowl following the 2012 season, and his teammates chose him as the recipient of the Ed Block Courage Award in 2012 after he persevered through a fractured/dislocated ankle suffered in the 2011 regular-season finale and a broken forearm sustained during training camp.

In 2011, Kuper was named first-team All-Pro by Rick Gosselin of the Dallas Morning News after he started all 16 regular-season games and helped the Broncos lead the league in rushing with a team-record 2,632 yards.

During the 2008 campaign, Kuper was the only guard in the NFL to start all 16 games and not surrender a sack. The Broncos set a club record for fewest sacks allowed (12) that season and ranked No. 3 in the league in yards per rush (4.8).

Kuper played collegiately at North Dakota and earned All-American honors from the Associated Press in each of his final two seasons. A native of Anchorage, Alaska, he is married to his wife, Cynthia. They have four children – Madeline, James, Anna and Alexandra. His last name is pronounced KOO-pehr.

CHRIS KUPER'S COACHING CAREER

2016-present Miami Dolphins Offensive Quality Control (2016)
Assistant Offensive Line (2017-present)