



Kris Kocurek is in his first season with the Miami Dolphins after he was named defensive line coach on Jan. 31, 2018.

Kocurek has nine years of NFL experience coaching the defensive line position, all with the Detroit Lions (2009-17). He was promoted from assistant defensive line to defensive line coach in 2010. In those nine years, he coached five Pro Bowl seasons, including four by current Dolphins defensive tackle Ndamukong Suh, and helped Suh become the Lions' all-time career sacks leader (36.0) by a defensive tackle.

Kocurek's defensive linemen accumulated 250 sacks while he was Detroit's defensive line coach from 2010-17, the fourth-most by a team's defensive linemen in the NFL during that span. His defensive linemen also ranked No. 5 in forced fumbles with 57 and No. 10 in passes defended with 82 since 2010. His rush defenses have ranked in the NFL's top 20 in each of the past six seasons and his teams have been among the league's top 10 in sacks in four of his nine years. Since his promotion to defensive line coach in 2010, he helped the Lions rank in the top half of the league in both rush defense and total team sacks. The Lions were 10th in the NFL in rush defense, limiting opponents to 109.0 rushing yards per game, and 14th in total team sacks with 298 during that span.

In 2017, Kocurek helped defensive end Ezekiel Ansah tie for eighth in the NFL with 12 sacks. He also worked with Anthony Zettel, who started all 16 games and totaled 6.5 sacks and 16 quarterback hits in just his second NFL season after he was a sixth-round pick in 2016. Defensive tackle A'Shawn Robinson was eighth among NFL interior defensive linemen with 53 tackles (32 solo) and tied for the league lead with six passes defended.

Kocurek helped the Lions earn an NFC Wild Card berth in 2016 and was instrumental in the development of defensive end Kerry Hyder. Hyder entered the league as an undrafted free agent in 2015 and played just one game that season but bursted onto the scene as a pass-rushing specialist in 2016. Despite starting just two games, Hyder led the Lions with eight sacks, which were fourth among undrafted players in the league. As a rookie that season, Robinson led all NFL defensive tackles with seven passes defended.

The 2015 season was a breakout campaign for Ansah, who set a career high with 14.5 sacks. His total was tops in the NFC and third in the NFL as Ansah earned his first Pro Bowl selection and second-team All-Pro honors. Ansah also forced four fumbles, which was tied for second-most in the NFL. The Lions were tied for seventh in the NFL with 43 sacks.

In 2014, Kocurek directed the unit primarily responsible for helping the Lions become the second-best run defense in the NFL in the previous decade (2005-14). Detroit led the league by allowing just 69.3 rushing yards per game, bested in the previous 10 years only by Pittsburgh's 2010 defense, which allowed 62.8 rushing yards per game. The Lions also were eighth in the NFL with 42 sacks. Suh had a first-team All-Pro season and earned his fourth Pro Bowl selection after tying for third among defensive tackles with 8.5 sacks and sixth with 53 tackles (44 solo). The Lions earned an NFC Wild Card berth after an 11-5 finish.

Suh also earned first-team All-Pro honors and a Pro Bowl selection in 2013. He was second among NFL defensive tackles with six passes defended. The Lions defense was sixth in the NFL in rushing, allowing just 99.8 yards per game. Ansah led all NFL rookies with eight sacks, which was also the most on the team.

In 2012, Suh was second among NFL interior defensive linemen with eight sacks and earned second-team All-Pro honors and his second Pro Bowl selection. Cliff Avril led the team with 9.5 sacks.

The 2011 Lions were tied for 10th in the NFL with 41 sacks. Detroit went 10-6 and earned an NFC Wild Card spot. Suh once again earned first-team All-Pro honors. Avril led the team with 11 sacks, which were tied for 11th in the league.

Kocurek was promoted to defensive line coach in 2010, where he helped the Lions finish sixth in the NFL with 44 sacks, an improvement from 29th in the league (26 sacks) the previous season. He mentored the team's first-round pick, Suh, and helped him have one of the most productive seasons by a rookie defensive tackle in NFL history. Suh led the team and all NFL defensive tackles with 10 sacks, the most by an NFL rookie interior lineman since 2003, when Minnesota's Kevin Williams posted 10.5. Suh's 10 sacks were the most by a Lions defensive tackle since Henry Thomas had 10.5 in 1995. Suh's 66 tackles (49 solo) were fourth on

the team and fifth among NFL defensive tackles. Suh became the first rookie defensive tackle to ever earn Associated Press All-Pro honors and the first rookie defensive lineman to do so since Tennessee's Jevon Kearse in 1999. He also picked up AP Defensive Rookie of the Year honors, becoming the sixth defensive tackle to win the honor and first since Miami's Tim Bowens in 1994.

Kocurek landed his first NFL coaching job in 2009 as Detroit's assistant defensive line coach. He helped defensive tackle Sammie Hill become an opening day starter despite being a fourth-round rookie from Division II Stillman College. Hill finished the season with 26 tackles (14 solo) and two fumble recoveries in 13 games.

Prior to Detroit, Kocurek served as the defensive line coach at Stephen F. Austin (2008), assistant head coach/defensive line at West Texas A&M (2007) and defensive line coach at Texas A&M-Commerce (2006). His 2007 team at West Texas A&M won the conference title and led the Lone Star Conference in scoring defense. At Texas A&M Commerce in 2006, Kocurek helped the team's defense lead the conference in scoring and total yards allowed. He also served as a graduate assistant at Texas A&M-Kingsville (2004-05) and a student assistant at Texas Tech (2003).

Kocurek played two NFL seasons with Tennessee (2001-02) and Seattle (2001) after he was a seventh-round pick (237th overall) by Seattle in the 2001 NFL draft. He appeared in one game with Tennessee in 2001 before spending the 2002 season on injured reserve. Kocurek played collegiately at Texas Tech, where he was a three-time All-Big 12 selection. He was selected team captain and named the team's defensive player of the year as a senior. His last name is pronounced KO-SIR-ick.

| KRIS KOCUREK'S COACHING CAREER |                      |   |
|--------------------------------|----------------------|---|
| 2003                           | Texas Tech           | Graduate Assistant  |
| 2004-05                        | Texas A&M-Kingsville | Graduate Assistant  |
| 2006                           | Texas A&M-Commerce   | Defensive Line  |
| 2007                           | West Texas A&M       | Asst. Head Coach/Defensive Line                           |
| 2008                           | Stephen F. Austin    | Defensive Line  |
| 2009-17                        | Detroit Lions        | Assistant Defensive Line (2009); Defensive Line (2010-17) |
| 2018-present                   | Miami Dolphins       | Defensive Line  |