



Rob Leonard enters his ninth season as an NFL coach and third with the Dolphins after being named linebackers coach on Feb. 8, 2019. He moved to assistant defensive line in 2020 and to outside linebackers in 2021.

In 2020, Leonard helped the Dolphins defense finish sixth in the NFL in scoring (21.1 points allowed per game). Miami led the league in takeaways (29) and third-down defense (31.2 pct.), winning 10 games for the first time since 2016.

Leonard spent the 2019 season as Miami's linebackers coach. He helped mentor second-year linebacker Jerome Baker, who led the team and was fourth in the AFC with 124 tackles (74 solo), and Vince Biegel, who led the team with 13 quarterback hits despite not joining the team until Week 1. Leonard also tutored Sam Eguavoen, who made the transition from the Canadian Football League and started six games in his first NFL season.

Leonard spent the first six seasons (2013-18) of his NFL coaching career with the New York Giants. He began his tenure as a defensive assistant (2013-16) before being promoted to assistant defensive line coach (2017) and then to outside linebackers coach (2018).

In 2018, Leonard moved to outside linebackers coach and helped Olivier Vernon lead the Giants with seven sacks and 21 quarterback hits. He mentored Lorenzo Carter, who totaled four sacks in his rookie season, tied for 10th among all NFL rookies.

Leonard was promoted to assistant defensive line coach in 2017. In his lone season in the role, Leonard helped defensive tackle Damon Harrison post 76 tackles (51 solo), which ranked second on the team and led all NFL defensive tackles. He also assisted defensive end Jason Pierre-Paul, who led the team with 8.5 sacks in his first 16-game season since 2014.

Leonard served as a defensive assistant for the Giants from 2013-16. In 2016, he was part of a staff that coached the NFL's most-improved defense in the NFL, which helped the team finish 11-5 and earn a playoff berth.

In 2015, the Giants defense was tied for sixth in the NFL with 28 takeaways. The team's 15 interceptions were tied for 10th. The unit tied for eighth with 17 forced fumbles and tied for fourth with 13 fumble recoveries.

The 2014 Giants' defense made several big plays. They finished fourth in the NFL with 47 sacks, led by Pierre-Paul, whose 12.5 sacks were eighth in the NFL. Pierre-Paul also had 76 tackles (54 solo), which ranked third on the team. The Giants intercepted 17 passes, good for 11th in the NFL.

In Leonard's first NFL season in 2013, the Giants finished eighth in the NFL in total defense, allowing just 332.3 yards per game. The unit had the 10th-best passing defense in the NFL, allowing just 223.3 net passing yards per game, and limited opposing passers to a 78.3 rating, which ranked sixth in the league. The Giants were also stout against the run, holding opponents to just 3.84 yards per carry, the sixth-best mark in the NFL.

Leonard came to the Giants from North Carolina State, where he was a graduate assistant for three seasons (2010-12). The Wolfpack posted winning records and appeared in three consecutive bowl games while he was on staff. He began his coaching career in 2009 as a defensive assistant at Cardinal Gibbons High School in Raleigh, North Carolina.

Leonard was a three-year letterman at North Carolina State (2006-08), where he walked on and earned a scholarship while redshirting following his freshman season at Washington & Jefferson College, a Division III school. He primarily played special teams in 2006 and 2007 before earning a starting linebacker role in 2008. He led the Wolfpack with 95 tackles and 801 snaps that season and earned the team's Mike Hardy Award, given annually to the player who plays beyond his capabilities.

A native of Moon Township, Pennsylvania, Leonard earned first-team all-conference honors at Moon High School, where he played running back, cornerback, kick returner and punter. He also earned second-team all-state honors at cornerback.

Leonard and his wife, Anna, have two sons, Bo and Luke, and a daughter, Mary.

ROB LEONARD'S COACHING CAREER

2010-12	North Carolina State	Graduate Assistant
2013-18	N.Y. Giants	Defensive Assistant (2013-16) Assistant Defensive Line (2017) Outside Linebackers (2018)
2019-present	Miami Dolphins	Linebackers (2019) Assistant Defensive Line (2020) Outside Linebackers (2021-)