

Quinn vs. Bill Belichick

The Super Bowl features a pair of superstar quarterbacks and deep, talented offensive talent, but coaching could be the deciding factor in who takes home the Lombardi trophy.

Atlanta's Dan Quinn and New England's Bill Belichick have traveled different roads throughout their career, with Quinn experiencing his first taste of head coaching success and Belichick entering his seventh Super Bowl appearance as a head coach.

Both coaches have built powerhouse offenses, even though their assistant coaching backgrounds are on the defensive side of the ball.

Let's take a closer look at how each coach has reached this point in his career and how their experience could make the difference in Super Bowl LI.

BILL BELICHICK: A LIVING LEGEND

Belichick has built one of the most impressive coaching resumes across any sport. He entered the professional coaching ranks with the Baltimore Colts in 1975 before moving on to the Giants for a 12-year stint that included two Super Bowl victories with Belichick as defensive coordinator.

Belichick then served as head coach of the Cleveland Browns from 1991 to 1995, finishing with a 36-44 record and making the playoffs only once.

He joined the New England Patriots in 1996 under Bill Parcells before eventually taking over as head coach in 2000. During his career in New England, Belichick has built a reputation for consistency and excellence, compiling only one losing season with organization — his first campaign as head coach in 2000.

DAN QUINN: A COACHING UP-AND-COMER

Quinn began his NFL coaching career in San Francisco as their defensive quality control coach in 2001, spending six years with the 49ers, Miami Dolphins and New York Jets. He started to gain attention with the Seattle Seahawks, which he joined in 2009, and also as the defensive coordinator for the Florida Gators college football program during the 2011 and 2012 seasons.

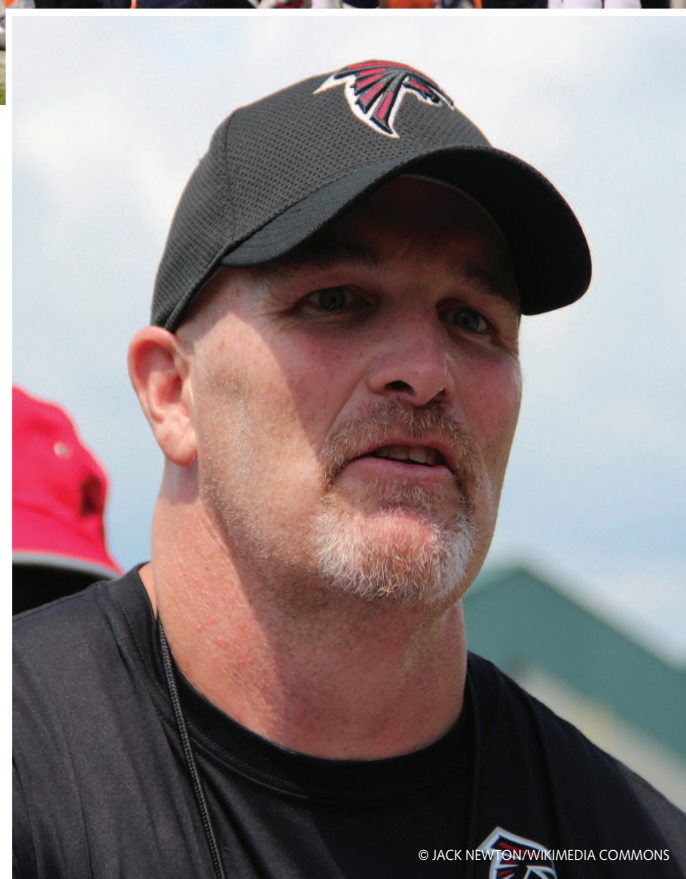
Quinn returned to the Seahawks in 2013 and made an immediate impact on the Seahawks' vaunted defense. According to the Seahawks' team site, the Seahawks led the league in fewest points allowed, fewest yards allowed and takeaways with 231, 4,378, and 39, respectively, during Quinn's first season. They rode this defensive momentum to a Super Bowl championship that season.

In 2015, Quinn reached an agreement to become the head coach of the Atlanta Falcons. The team finished 8-8 in his first season, missing the playoffs, but Quinn was instrumental in making major trades and draft picks during the offseason.

The results have showed. The Falcons finished 11-5 record this season and knocked off Quinn's former team 36-20 to advance to the NFC title game, where they also dominated the Green Bay Packers to reach the Super Bowl.



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