

Bruce Arians Chooses Competent People

This article is from the "Among Friends" section of the Church of God Big Sandy's website, churchofgodbigandy.com. It was posted for the weekend of Sept. 5, 2020.

By Dave Havir

BIG SANDY, Texas—A lot of you have probably never heard of Bruce Arians. He presently happens to be the coach of the NFL team called the Tampa Bay Buccaneers.

For the record, I don't know much about Mr. Arians' life. I have basically heard of him through the years merely in the context of his ability as a football coach.

Recently, I heard about him making comments about protesting. After I heard the comments, I found out some other information about him.

I want to share some of that information with you.

Criticized protesting

Mr. Arians made news when he had the audacity to make a negative comment about players on his football team being involved in protesting.

An article by Michael David Smith titled "Bruce Arians Tells Players to Take Action, 'Protesting Doesn't Do Crap' " was posted at profootballtalk.com on Aug. 27, 2020.

Some of the corporate media seemed to lose their minds.

- Was this football coach merely trying to influence his players from boycotting games during the season?
- Or were his words reflecting his pattern of life?

March 2019 article

■ Looking back to 2019, an article by Kimberley A. Martin titled "Female? Minority? Bucs' Bruce Arians Doesn't Care Who You Are As Long As You Can Coach" was posted at yahoosports.com on March 26, 2019. Following are excerpts of the article.

Last week, the Bucs became the first team in NFL history to employ two women as full-time assistant coaches, hiring Lori Locust (assistant defensive line coach) and Maral Javadifar (assistant strength and conditioning coach). But, while their gender is an important detail, Arians insisted their credentials were the ultimate criteria.

“They’re good fits for what we need,” he said Tuesday during the NFL coaches’ breakfast at the annual league meeting. “The fact that their gender is different, who gives a s—?”

It was quintessential Arians. Blunt and unbothered. Understated yet impactful. Heartfelt and hyperbole-free.

The groundbreaking additions of Locust and Javadifar come on the heels of Arians becoming the first NFL head coach to hire three African-American coordinators—Byron Leftwich (offensive), Todd Bowles (defensive) and Keith Armstrong (special teams).

All that matters to Arians is talent and whether his coaches can help him win games.

September 2019 article

n Looking back to 2019, an article by Kimberley A. Martin titled “Here’s How Bucs’ Bruce Arians Assembled Historic Coaching Staff; ‘They Just Happened to Be Black’ ” was posted at yahoosports.com on Sept. 3, 2019. Following are excerpts of the article.

Arians is drawn to people like him: Talented, but oftentimes overlooked. Underdogs with something to prove. Driven individuals eager for an opportunity.

No matter their race.

No matter their gender.

No matter what others think.

“I don’t see color, I just see quality,” Arians told Yahoo Sports during a separate sit-down interview at the Bucs’ facility.

“And opportunity doesn’t always come. I thought I should have had a head-coaching opportunity a long time ago. Called plays in the Super Bowl. Won the game. No phone calls. I guess that’s part of it too—to give people of quality opportunity. Regardless of gender or race.”

His method is simple: Surround yourself with the best people.