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Colts firing of Caldwell was the right move

January 18, 2012 [Brian Weiss](#)

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Jim Caldwell was fired Tuesday after only three seasons with the Colts.

Credit: nydailynews.com

Operation “Clean House” continued in the front office of the Indianapolis Colts on Tuesday as head coach Jim Caldwell was fired after only three seasons with the team.

Caldwell went 26-22 over the three-year span but was given the release papers after a dismal 2-14 season in 2011.

The firing of Caldwell comes only two weeks after Vice Chairman Bill Polian and General Manager Chris Polian were let go.

Jim Irsay, Colts' owner, has decided that it's time to move in a new direction with the team.

"It's not an overnight process," Irsay said in Tuesday's press conference. "But I look forward to getting the team back to the success it has had."

Newly signed GM Ryan Grigson agrees.

"Change isn't the easiest transition to make," he said. "But it's the new direction we must take for Colts football."

With the past success this team has had, it couldn't have been an easy decision to make such drastic changes in the front office – but it was time. With Bill Polian already two steps out the door, and his son, Chris, set to take over the reigns it might have made the decision a little easier.

Chris was the main play caller in the past two drafts and, to be honest, the quality of players acquired during that time was sub par.

Irsay recognized that Chris didn't receive the trait of finding great talent with not so great picks in the draft. The draft is a cornerstone to rebuilding a franchise and Chris just wasn't the right person to do it.

Now lets get to Caldwell.

Caldwell took over a team that was used to winning and led them to the Super Bowl in his first season. From there, it went downhill, ending with the Colts worst regular season record since 1991.

I don't think Caldwell was ready to be a head coach in the NFL and the past three years have shown that. I'm sure he will make a great assistant for another team as he was in Indy but he isn't head coach material.

Caldwell is a passive leader and his reluctance to show emotion hurt the team throughout his tenure. It never looked like Caldwell had full control of the team on the sideline during a game. Combine that with multiple basic coaching mistakes like timeout and player usage and it's a recipe for disaster.

The firing of the Polians didn't help Caldwell's case either.

Grigson and Irsay want to start fresh. Bring in a new guy that coincides with where they want to take the team. Caldwell obviously wasn't that guy.

The Colts won't waste any time trying to find a replacement for Caldwell.

"I'm very excited for the new opportunity to bring in a new head coach. The search will start immediately," Irsay said.

I believe the new coach needs to have a few key traits.

First and foremost he needs to be a good leader. He must have the ability to take control of the locker room when things aren't going as planned. With all the change in the front office there might be dissenting

opinions from the players.

He must also be committed to rebuilding, as it looks like that is where the Colts are headed, i.e. Andrew Luck. A long-term contract isn't out of the question either, as the Colts need some stability after such a colossal uprooting.

And lastly, he must have some experience at the head coaching position. We saw where no coaching experience can take us and personally I'd rather not see it again, ever.

Many Colts fans are wishing to see Bill Cowher or Jon Gruden take over the vacant position, but a miracle would have to happen to see them on the Colts sidelines next year.

More realistic candidates could be; Wade Phillips, current Houston defensive coordinator, Dom Capers, current Green Bay defensive coordinator, or Marty Morhinweg, current Philadelphia offensive coordinator, to name a few.

Reports are saying that the Colts are going to look for an offensive-minded head coach. This is understandable since the emphasis has always been on offense in Indy. But I think the Colts need to put more thought into the defensive side of the ball. If this means paying a large amount of money to a defensive coordinator then so be it.

The Colts will likely go offensive in round one of the draft, cue Andrew Luck, again, but I see the Colts drafting mostly defensive with their other picks. Maybe we will finally see a strong defense in Indy in the next few years.

Hey, a man can dream can't he?

But just like the front office, and head-coaching position, the team needs revamped. This could lead to big names like Manning, Wayne, and Mathis no longer calling Indianapolis home.

Only time will tell, but with the way things have gone so far, it doesn't look like operation "Clean House" is going to be stopped anytime soon.

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1.

[redchanskiy](#)

January 23, 2012 at 10:49 pm

Brian what about that 1.3%??? haha jk.

But honestly trading down would be best cause we need help everywhere in that secondary. I say we seriously go out and get a decent to above average corner in FA and draft another with the 2nd round pick. Trade down the 3rd round pick and start acquiring more depth in the squad.



o

Brian Weiss

January 24, 2012 at 4:28 pm

Well it looks like he won't become the head coach even though they interviewed him twice. I don't think it would've been a great choice but heck I'm not running a franchise.

2.

G Dub

January 18, 2012 at 5:34 pm

They better not hire Tressel as head coach.

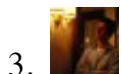


o

Brian Weiss

January 18, 2012 at 10:58 pm

I would be shocked if Tressel is the head coach next year. As I told a friend there's about a 1.3% chance.



3.

[redchanskiy](#)

January 18, 2012 at 3:51 pm

I actually think with the 33rd pick the Colts will either take a DE, CB, or WR Brian. We really need help at those three positions right now with wayne likely not coming back and Mathis also on the cusp of not resigning. It will be interesting to see though. If i where the colts i would trade down and acquire

more picks.



o

Brian Weiss

January 19, 2012 at 1:45 am

Definitely not going to trade down but I like taking a CB in the 2nd round. We need A LOT of help at that position.

1. No trackbacks yet.

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