

# Detroit Red Wings®



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Contact: Kyle Kujawa, Communications Professional  
(313) 471-7518 office; (248) 953-4561 cell

## **RED WINGS EXTEND HEAD COACH JEFF BLASHILL**

**... Detroit Native Completed his 10th Season with the Organization in 2020-21 ...**

**... Media Availability with Steve Yzerman and Jeff Blashill Set for 11:00 a.m. on Thursday ...**

**DETROIT** – Detroit Red Wings executive vice president and general manager Steve Yzerman today announced that Jeff Blashill has agreed to a contract extension to remain head coach of the Red Wings. Additionally, Yzerman announced that assistant coach Dan Bylsma will not be back in 2021-22.

Blashill, 47, is in his 10th season with the organization in 2020-21, originally joining the Red Wings as an assistant coach for the 2011-12 season before spending three seasons as head coach of the American Hockey League's Grand Rapids Griffins from 2012-15. In his six seasons as head coach of the Red Wings, Blashill has overseen a transitional period for the organization and has helped a number of top prospects work their way up the depth chart and become impact NHL players, including captain Dylan Larkin, who is the team's leading scorer in Blashill's tenure, and defenseman Filip Hronek, who led the Red Wings in average time on ice this season for the second-straight year as a 23-year-old. In 2020-21, former first-round draft picks Michael Rasmussen (ninth overall, 2017) and Filip Zadina (sixth overall, 2018) earned full-time NHL roles and saw their responsibilities increased as the season progressed.

"I'm encouraged by the progress I've seen over the last two seasons with Jeff as our coach," said Red Wings executive vice president and general manager Steve Yzerman. "Jeff is a great communicator and is a well-prepared and organized coach. He has made our team difficult to play against and has helped the young guys on our roster become better all-around hockey players."

Currently the third-longest tenured head coach in the NHL, Blashill guided the Red Wings to a more competitive season in 2020-21, as the team finished 19-27-10 to surpass its 2019-20 season win total (17), despite playing 15 fewer games, and improved from 39 points to 48. Additionally, the Red Wings increased their goals for per game from 2.00 to 2.25 and decreased their goals against per game from 3.73 to 3.00; they won twice as many games by two-or-more goals (14) and seven times as many by three-or-more goals (7); and they took points in 19-of-20 games (17-1-2) when scoring three-or-more goals, an improvement over a 13-7-3 mark in such contests from a season ago. Despite missing multiple key forwards to injury throughout the final month of the regular season, the team picked up points in 10 of its final 14 games (6-4-4). Over Detroit's final 22 games, its team goals against was the seventh-lowest in the league (2.50) and its penalty kill was the NHL's second-best (91.2%). Blashill's overall head coaching record in the NHL stands at 172-221-62, and he ranks sixth in franchise history in both games coached (455) and wins.

"Jeff Blashill has proven to be the right coach to continue leading our team," said Red Wings governor, president and CEO Christopher Ilitch. "Through improved overall team play and the significant growth of our young players, Jeff has shown the ability to maximize talent from both an individual and team perspective. With a wave of highly anticipated prospects on the horizon, I know that Jeff will continue to instill in them a relentless work ethic and the daily habits necessary to make our team successful. I'm excited about the future and I know everyone in our organization will continue to work diligently towards building our hockey club into a perennial contender."

At the international level, Blashill was tabbed as head coach of the United States for three-straight IIHF World Championships from 2017-19, and has worked six tournaments for USA Hockey over his coaching career. At the 2018 IIHF World Championship in Denmark, the Americans finished 6-1 in group play and defeated Canada for the second time in the tournament during the bronze medal game, marking the fifth time in the history of the tournament that Team USA won a medal. Blashill previously helped Team USA capture medals at the 2006 Ivan Hlinka Memorial Tournament (silver) and the 2009 World Junior A Challenge (gold).

Prior to being named head coach of the Red Wings, Blashill served as head coach of the Griffins and led the team to three of the most successful seasons in the franchise's history, combining for a 134-71-12-11 regular-season record. In 2012-13, the Griffins captured the first of two-straight Midwest Division titles and eventually the first Calder Cup championship in the franchise's 17-year history. No team played more playoff games (50) than the Griffins during Blashill's run as head coach. He won the Louis A. R. Pieri Memorial Award as the AHL's most outstanding coach in 2013-14 and served as a head coach at the 2014 AHL All-Star Classic.

Born in Detroit and raised in Sault Ste. Marie, Mich., Blashill joined the Red Wings organization after one season as head coach at Western Michigan University in 2010-11, where he doubled the Broncos' win total from the previous season and led the school to its first appearance in the CCHA championship game since 1986. He finished as a finalist for CCHA Coach of the Year and was named National Coach of the Year by College Hockey News, Inside College Hockey and USCHO.com. Blashill made his head coaching debut with the United States Hockey League's Indiana Ice, compiling a 73-43-5 record as head coach and general manager from 2008-10. Indiana won a franchise-record 39 games in 2008-09 and won the Clark Cup as champions of the USHL.

Blashill began his coaching career with four seasons as an assistant coach for his alma mater, Ferris State University, from 1998-02, where he played goaltender from 1994-98. He later spent six seasons as an assistant coach with Miami University (2002-08), where the RedHawks qualified for the NCAA Tournament four times.

## YZERMAN AND BLASHILL MEDIA AVAILABILITY

Red Wings executive vice president and general manager Steve Yzerman and head coach Jeff Blashill will be available to the media via Zoom video conference on Thursday, May 13. Yzerman's availability will begin at approximately 11:00 a.m., with Blashill's to follow at approximately 11:30 a.m.

Please RSVP to Kyle Kujawa ([Kyle.Kujawa@hockeytown.com](mailto:Kyle.Kujawa@hockeytown.com)) to be added to the distribution email list (you do not need to RSVP if you received daily Zoom links during the 2020-21 regular season).

## BLASHILL'S COACHING HISTORY

Season	Team	Lge	GP	--- Regular Season ---						---- Playoffs ----			
				W	L	T	OTL	SOL	PCT	GP	W	L	PCT
1998-99	Ferris State*	CCHA	36	14	16	6	--	--	.472	--	--	--	---
1999-00	Ferris State*	CCHA	39	21	16	2	--	--	.564	--	--	--	---
2000-01	Ferris State*	CCHA	38	13	20	5	--	--	.408	--	--	--	---
2001-02	Ferris State*	CCHA	36	15	20	1	--	--	.431	--	--	--	---
2002-03	Miami (OH)*	CCHA	41	21	17	3	--	--	.549	--	--	--	---
2003-04	Miami (OH)*	CCHA	41	23	14	4	--	--	.610	--	--	--	---
2004-05	Miami (OH)*	CCHA	38	15	18	5	--	--	.461	--	--	--	---
2005-06	Miami (OH)*	CCHA	39	26	9	4	--	--	.718	--	--	--	---
2006-07	Miami (OH)*	CCHA	42	24	14	4	--	--	.619	--	--	--	---
2007-08	Miami (OH)*	CCHA	42	33	8	1	--	--	.798	--	--	--	---
2008-09	Indiana+	USHL	60	39	19	--	2	--	.667	13	9	4	.692
2009-10	Indiana	USHL	60	33	24	--	3	--	.575	9	4	5	.444
2010-11	Western Michigan	CCHA	42	19	13	10	--	--	.571	--	--	--	---
2011-12	Detroit*	NHL	82	48	28	--	6	--	.622	5	1	4	.200
2012-13	Grand Rapids+	AHL	76	42	26	--	4	4	.605	24	15	9	.625

2013-14	Grand Rapids	AHL	76	46	23	--	2	5	.651	10	5	5	.500
2014-15	Grand Rapids	AHL	76	46	22	--	6	2	.658	16	9	7	.563
2015-16	Detroit	NHL	82	41	30	--	11	--	.567	5	1	4	.200
2016-17	Detroit	NHL	82	33	36	--	13	--	.482	--	--	--	---
2017-18	Detroit	NHL	82	30	39	--	13	--	.445	--	--	--	---
2018-19	Detroit	NHL	82	32	40	--	10	--	.451	--	--	--	---
2019-20	Detroit	NHL	71	17	49	--	5	--	.275	--	--	--	---
2020-21	Detroit	NHL	56	19	27	--	10	--	.429	--	--	--	---
<b>NHL HEAD COACHING TOTALS</b>			<b>455</b>	<b>172</b>	<b>221</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>62</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>.446</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>.200</b>
<b>HEAD COACHING TOTALS</b>			<b>842</b>	<b>394</b>	<b>348</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>79</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>.527</b>	<b>77</b>	<b>43</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>.558</b>

\* - Assistant Coach  
+ - Won Championship