

Rivera To Be Named Panthers New Coach

Written by Mike Kelly
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Fox Sports is reporting that Ron Rivera is on the verge of becoming the fourth head coach of the Carolina Panthers.

According to Fox Sports, Rivera has met with team officials a second time, and that the Panthers are calling other candidates who interviewed for the job and telling them that the club is going in a different direction.

Rivera, a second-round pick from the University of California, played linebacker for the Chicago Bears from 1984-1992. Rivera was also a member of the Bears Super Bowl XX championship team.

Rivera was also the first Puerto Rican/Mexican American to play in the NFL. He has been a defensive assistant since 1997 with the Bears, Philadelphia Eagles, and the San Diego Chargers. He also became the Bears defensive coordinator in 2005; he became San Diego's defensive coordinator in 2008.

Rivera replaces John Fox, who's contract was not renewed after nine seasons with the Panthers. Carolina, thanks to a league-worst 2-14 record, also has the No.1 overall pick in the National Football League draft in April.