

# Spring Football: New Coach, Faces Give Coyotes Different Feel



MARCUS SIMS • SR • RUNNING BACK

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VERMILLION — Minus 23 players from last season, there is naturally a different feel to the University of South Dakota football team this spring.

Change is everywhere. Even on such details as where the Coyotes play. These are such things new head coach Joe Glenn referenced during one of the team's first practices in Vermillion.

Looking beyond the softball complex to the south of the current practice field, Glenn pointed to where the old practice area was when he was at USD.

"Hey, at least we have grass out here," he said, chuckling. "When I played here, it was the Dust Bowl. There were times I was in one end zone and I couldn't even see the other end because of the dust.

"Things have certainly changed," he added, with a long pause. "And definitely for the better."

That's the goal for the Coyotes in 2012: Improvement.

To do so, USD — which had 23 seniors last season — will rely on mostly new faces. The offense will see seven new starters, while the defense will have six new starters.

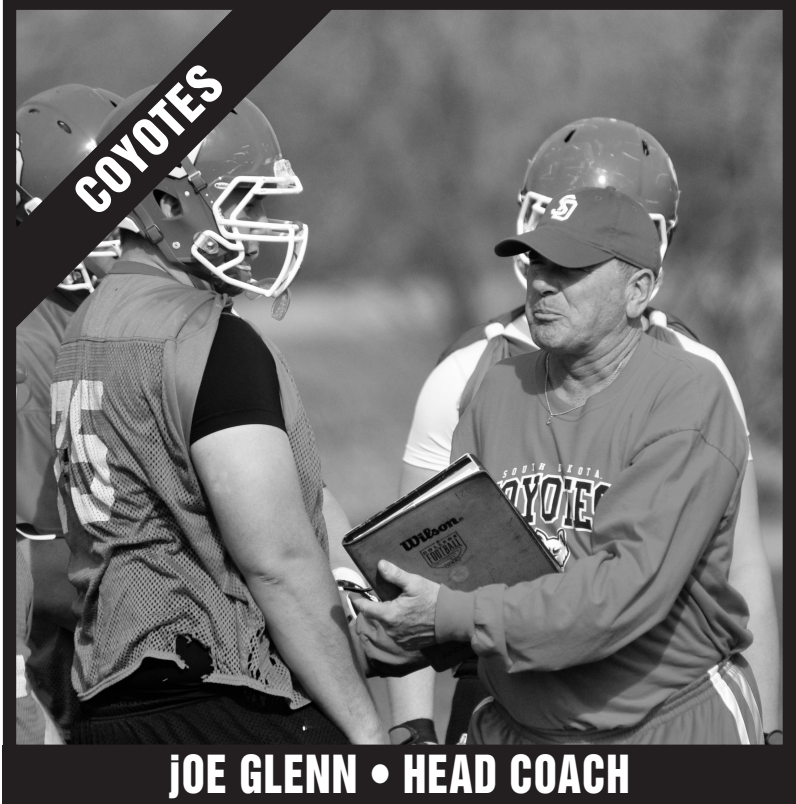
For good measure, there are five new coaches on the staff.

"There's a lot of adversity here when you think about it," said junior defensive back D.J. Wakes, one of three transfers already on campus.

"I mean, just look at all the new stuff. New coaches, new players, new conference, and then they're building a new arena.

"It's everywhere."

The last game action for the Coyotes, a frustrating loss at North Dakota last November, has helped spur the motivation to improve this spring, senior receiver Will Powell said.



JOE GLENN • HEAD COACH

"The new guys caught that right away," he said. "We didn't even have to really explain it, they could just feel that we were frustrated."

That's where spring ball helps, Glenn said. Even though the Coyotes have just 72 players in action now (until the freshman class gets to campus in the fall), most of the practices are basic anyway.

"We're putting in our stuff; everything we're doing is USD stuff," Glenn said. "We don't have a game Saturday, so for the next five months, it's all about us."

The program calls it "installation," Glenn said. The offensive, led by coordinator Wes Beschorner, is using the same terminology, though

the Coyotes will eventually add a "few wrinkles," according to Glenn.

One of the biggest changes on offense will be at the quarterback position.

Sophomore Josh Vander Maten, for now, is the team's top signal-caller, though Kevin Earl (R-Fr.), Nick Meyer (R-Fr.) and Kyle Cichos (Jr.) are also seeing action this spring.

"I'm real high on them," Glenn said of the quartet. "Josh and Kevin have really showed us something. Nobody knows what to do with (defensive lineman) Tyler Starr yet, even without pads."

Much like former quarterbacks

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KASSIE LOE • JR • INFIELDER

## Calendar

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Academy, Irene-Wakonda, Viborg-Hurley, 9 a.m.); West Central Inv. at Central Valley GC (Beresford, Dakota Valley, Elk Point-Jefferson, Wagner, 8 a.m.); Alcester-Hudson at West Sioux

**SOFTBALL, WOMEN'S** Neb.-Omaha at USD (DH, 2 p.m.); MMC at Morningside (DH, 3 p.m.)

**TENNIS, BOYS'** YHS at Vermillion (4 p.m.)

**TRACK & FIELD, COLLEGE OUTDOOR** MMC Twilight (MMC, 4 p.m.)

**TRACK & FIELD, PREP** Creighton Inv. (Bon Homme, Creighton, Crofton, Hartington Cedar Catholic, Laurel-Concord-Coleridge, Randolph, Wausa, 1:30 p.m.); Dakota Valley Inv. (Beresford, Dakota Valley, Elk Point-Jefferson, 4 p.m.); Danielson Relays at Salem (Ethan-Parkston, 4 p.m.); Great Plains Conf. at Lake Andes (Andes Central, Avon, Marty, Scotland, Tripp-Delmont-Armour, 1 p.m.); Ponca Inv. at South Sioux City (Newcastle, Ponca, 4 p.m.); West Boyd Inv. at O'Neill (Niobrara-Verdigre, Santee, 10 a.m.)

**Wednesday, April 25**

**TRACK & FIELD, COLLEGE OUTDOOR** S.D. State Open (USD)

**Thursday, April 26**

**BASEBALL, COLLEGE** MMC at Briar Cliff (DH, 2 p.m.)

**BASEBALL, CLUB HIGH SCHOOL** Yankton at Bon Homme (7 p.m.)

**BASEBALL, CLUB JV** Yankton at Bon Homme (5 p.m.)

**BASEBALL, CLUB 9TH-10TH** S.F. Roosevelt at Yankton (DH, 5 p.m.)

**GOLF, BOYS'** Bridgewater-Emery Inv. at Valley View GC, Freeman (Freeman, Freeman Academy, Gayville-Volin, Marion, 10 a.m.); Centerville at Alcester-Hudson; Ponca at Laurel-Concord-Coleridge

**GOLF, GIRLS'** Bridgewater-Emery Inv. at Valley View GC, Freeman (Freeman, Freeman Academy, Marion, 10 a.m.); Centerville at Alcester-Hudson

**TENNIS, BOYS'** YHS at S.C. Bishop Heelan (4 p.m.)

**TRACK & FIELD, COLLEGE OUTDOOR** Drake Relays (MMC, USD)

**TRACK & FIELD, PREP** First Dakota Relays at Yankton (YHS, Beresford, Dakota Valley, Gayville-Volin, Irene-Wakonda, Vermillion, 4 p.m.); Miller Inv.

(Platte-Geddes); Norfolk Track Classic (Hartington, Laurel-Concord-Coleridge, Randolph, Wausa, 4:45 p.m.); Terry Bong Inv. at Canton (Alcester-Hudson, Freeman, Marion, Viborg-Hurley, 4 p.m.)

**TRACK & FIELD, 10TH** First Dakota Relays at Yankton (YHS, 4 p.m.)

**Friday, April 27**

**BASEBALL, CLUB HIGH SCHOOL** Yankton at S.F. Washington (5:30 p.m.); Beresford at Vermillion; Dakota Valley at Bon Homme

**BASEBALL, CLUB JV** Yankton at S.F. Washington (7:30 p.m.)

**GOLF, BOYS'** Big East Conf. at Dell Rapids (Parker, 8 a.m.); Platte-Wagner Tourn. at Platte (Andes Central, Avon, Freeman, Platte-Geddes, Scotland, Tripp-Delmont, 10 a.m.)

**GOLF, GIRLS'** Mitchell Inv. (YHS, Wagner, 10:30 a.m.); Big East Conf. at Dell Rapids (Parker, 8 a.m.); Platte-Wagner Tourn. at Pickstown (Andes Central, Avon, Freeman, Platte-Geddes, Scotland, Tripp-Delmont, 10 a.m.); Vermillion Inv. (Beresford, Bon Homme, Dakota Valley, Elk Point-Jefferson, Parkston, Vermillion, 9:30 a.m.)

**SOFTBALL, WOMEN'S** W. Illinois at USD (DH, 2 p.m.)

**TENNIS, BOYS'** S.F. Roosevelt at Vermillion

**TRACK & FIELD, COLLEGE OUTDOOR** Dakota State Inv. (MMC; Drake Relays (MMC, USD)

**Saturday, April 28**

**BASEBALL, COLLEGE** Dakota Wesleyan at MMC (DH, 4 p.m.)

**BASEBALL, CLUB 9TH-10TH** Yankton at S.F. Washington (DH, 5 p.m.)

**GOLF, MEN'S** Dakota Cup at Morton, Minn. (USD)

**GOLF, WOMEN'S** Dakota Cup at Morton, Minn. (USD)

**GOLF, BOYS'** Pierce Inv. (Crofton, Hartington Cedar Catholic, Laurel-Concord-Coleridge, Randolph, 9 a.m.); West Holt Inv. (Creighton, Niobrara-Verdigre, 9 a.m.)

**SOFTBALL, WOMEN'S** W. Illinois at USD (noon); Hastings at MMC (DH, 1 p.m.)

**TENNIS, BOYS'** YHS/Mitchell/Watertown at Madison (9 a.m.); Brookings Inv. (Vermillion, 10 a.m.)

**TRACK & FIELD, COLLEGE OUTDOOR** Drake Relays (MMC, USD)

**TRACK & FIELD, PREP** Andes Central Inv. at Lake Andes (Andes Central, Avon, Bon Homme, Marty, Menno, Platte-Geddes, Scotland, Tripp-Delmont-Armour, Wagner, 9 a.m.); Barker Relays at Madison (Centerville, 9 a.m.); Chester Inv. (Parker, 10 a.m.); Lewis & Clark Conf. at Hartington (Allen, Bloomfield, Hartington, Newcastle, Ponca, Wausa, Wynot, 10 a.m.); Mid-State Conf. at Norfolk (Hartington Cedar Catholic, 10

a.m.)

**Sunday, April 29**

**BASEBALL, CLUB HIGH SCHOOL** Corsica-Stickney-Armour at Beresford; Vermillion at Bon Homme

**BASEBALL, CLUB 9TH-10TH** Yankton at Brookings (DH, 1 p.m.)

**GOLF, MEN'S** Dakota Cup at Morton, Minn. (USD)

**GOLF, WOMEN'S** Dakota Cup at Morton, Minn. (USD)

**SOFTBALL, WOMEN'S** Doane at MMC (DH, 1 p.m.)

**Monday, April 30**

**BASEBALL, CLUB HIGH SCHOOL** Harrisburg at Yankton (DH, 5:30 p.m.); Mount Vernon at Corsica-Stickney-Armour; Parkston at Bon Homme

**BASEBALL, CLUB JV** Yankton at Brandon Valley (DH, 5:45 p.m.)

**GOLF, BOYS'** Lewis & Clark Conf. (Hartington, Ponca); Hartington Cedar Catholic/Plainview at Randolph; Laurel-Concord-Coleridge/Wayne at Crofton

**GOLF, GIRLS'** Sioux Falls Inv. at Willow Run (YHS, 9 a.m.)

**TRACK & FIELD, PREP** Randolph Inv. (Crofton, Laurel-Concord-Coleridge, Ponca, Randolph, 2:30 p.m.)

## May

**Tuesday, May 1**

**BASEBALL, CLUB HIGH SCHOOL** Corsica-Stickney-Armour at Parkston

**BASEBALL, CLUB 9TH-10TH** West Central at Yankton (DH, 5 p.m.)

**GOLF, GIRLS'** Winner Inv. (Parkston); Dakota Valley at Vermillion; Elk Point-Jefferson at Canton

**TENNIS, BOYS'** S.F. Lincoln at YHS (4 p.m.)

**TRACK & FIELD, PREP** S.F. O'Gorman at YHS (4 p.m.); Beresford Lions Inv. (Alcester-Hudson, Beresford, Elk Point-Jefferson, 4 p.m.); Don Diede Relays at Freeman (Centerville, Freeman, Freeman Academy, Gayville-Volin, Irene-Wakonda, Marion, Menno, Viborg-Hurley, 1 p.m.); Lennox Inv. (Parker, 4 p.m.); Little Missouri Valley Conf. at Scotland (Andes Central, Avon, Bon Homme, Ethan-Parkston, Scotland, Tripp-Delmont-Armour, Wagner, 2:30 p.m.); South Central Relays (Marty, Platte-Geddes); Stuart Inv. at Atkinson (Niobrara-Verdigre, 9:30 a.m.)

**Wednesday, May 2**

**GOLF, BOYS'** McCook Central-Montrose Inv. at Salem (Freeman, Marion, Parker, 8:30 a.m.); Niobrara-

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## Coyotes

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Dakota State and Western Illinois in Summit League play, as well as doubleheaders against North Dakota and Nebraska-Omaha in non-conference action.

"It's awesome to be at home," Klyse said. "We still had to travel a ton, but we like playing close. It's nice to drive only two hours instead of having to fly across the country. I'm loving it, and I know they love it too."

A back-loaded home schedule — with 13 of the final 18 games in Vermillion — means the Coyotes have a shot to play in front of their friends and family, Loe said. "At our first home game, we

had a lot of people show up, and we don't always have that," she said. "It's nice to play here, because we can actually go to classes and not miss so much time."

With eight of their 15 players being either freshmen or sophomores, the Coyotes are again a rather young team — especially, as Klyse put it, in "high-pressure spots in the field and at the plate."

Freshman Katie Dinning leads the team in hitting (.311), while senior Alexa Rudeen has a team-

high three home runs and 13 RBI.

"It's a stepping stone, because we have all these young players, but they have so much to offer," Loe said. "It's exciting to see that; it means the team is getting better each year."

With so many opportunities to do that in Summit League play, USD can make a name for itself, Klyse said.

"Home or away, we're looking to compete in every series," she said. "It'll be awesome to do that at home, so hopefully we continue to get better."

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