

Starr

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recorded seven tackles, one sack and three forced fumbles against an FBS program. It was only a sign of things to come — he would finish the season with 19 tackles for loss, 51 total tackles and 14 sacks.

“I was blessed to have a great team and a great defense,” Starr said. “We were in a system that I could take advantage of some things. Now we’re in a 3-4, and I don’t get as many chances to pass rush, but as a team, I think it’s more beneficial to put me all over.”

The birth of his son wasn’t the only change coming into the 2011 season for Starr, he — like the rest of his teammates — had to adjust to a new head coach (Joe Glenn), a new defensive coordinator (Jason Petrino), a new league (Missouri Valley) and a new defensive scheme (3-4).

“With the old style (4-3), it was more so him being limited as an end,” Williams said. “The 3-4 makes him more elusive, now people have to really find out where he’s out. It’s made him a smarter football player.”

Expression

The first thing people notice about Starr is his outer appearance. Not only does his long blonde hair

give him a kind of Clay Matthews look (linebacker with the Green Bay Packers), Starr boasts numerous tattoos — which, like his six pack abs, he doesn’t mind showing off.

In his words, “It’s all about expression.”

“What people see on the outside, if they want to judge me for what I have on my body and not take the time to get to me, that’s their loss,” Starr said. “A lot of it is family members, pictures and quotes that are near to my heart.”

Those who closely watch Starr during games will notice the letters ‘HJS’ on a towel he wears: It’s the initials of his son. Put another way, his child is always with him, even when Starr is pursuing the quarterback — like he did once in

last Saturday’s home loss to Northern Iowa.

“He’s able to turn it on and off, too,” Williams said of Starr’s prioritization. “He’ll bring Hunter to our outside linebacker meetings, and our guys love it; they have a great time with that little guy.”

“They’re mature and are able to focus on football when they need to be,” he added. “Just like Tyler does.”

What Starr does, and has done, on the field naturally leads people to wonder if he can play at the next level — either the National Football League or some other league.

“From what everyone has talked about, they say if he keeps progressing and can keep his weight up, there’s a

good chance we’ll see him on Sundays,” Lorenzen said.

On that subject, Starr says he has looked up to and modeled his game after Baltimore Ravens linebacker Ray Lewis.

“His intensity and his passion for the game is something I want to always have,” Starr said. “He does motivational speeches all the time, and he says, ‘In 15 or 16 years of playing football, I’ve never been consistently beat to the football.’

“You can’t coach effort, that’s inside you,” Starr added. “That’s something that has stuck with me.”

You can follow Jeremy Hoeck on Twitter at twitter.com/jhoeck

Coaches

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recreation degree from USD in 1971. Glenn spent the next two years in the U.S. Army, where his desire to coach grew.

“I did some coaching in the Army in various sports,” he said. “I knew then that I had a passion for it.”

Glenn returned to USD to serve as a graduate assistant and running backs coach under Joe Salem, helping the Coyotes to the North Central Conference title in 1974.

“What I appreciated from Coach Salem more than anything was that he had the trust in me to give me a position coach, and I took all the running backs,” Glenn said. “He gave me the opportunity to be a coach, and helped me learn the intricacies of offense and defense and special teams.”

At USD, Glenn also learned from Larry Donovan, who went on to coach at the University of Montana. Donovan, the Coyotes’ defensive coordinator during Glenn’s playing career, recruited Glenn out of Lincoln, Neb.

“All through my college years Coach Donovan was my surrogate father and my disciplinarian, all of the things that I really needed,” Glenn said. “He helped me get through some years where you need a real mentor.

“From that point on, Coach Donovan and I became really good friends.”

While Donovan taught Glenn plenty about the mechanics of the game, he taught Glenn just as much about the behind-the-scenes aspects of coaching.

“He taught me a lot about, certainly about X’s and O’s, but every bit as much, if not more, about the intricacies of being a football coach,” Glenn said. “Not just an assistant but a head coach: raising money, working on facilities and trying to better the school you are at: certainly through football and through coaching, but also through facilities and recruiting and fundraising, public relations, all those things Larry Donovan taught me.”

Glenn also drew from a solid example in his hometown, at the University of Nebraska.

“I grew up in Lincoln, and we had a guy come when I was maybe 13 years old by the name of Bob Devaney,” he said. “I watched what he did regarding motivating players at Nebraska. He inherited a team that was just about belly up, and in one year’s time he took the team that had been just about belly up and took them to a bowl game.”

“And the rest is history.”

One more individual who shaped Glenn’s approach to coaching and to life was even closer to home.

“Probably the most important person in my life as far as teaching me about people was my mother,” he said. “I tried to weave all the things she taught me about surrounding yourself with good people, hard work, those things, and blended it all together with the other people that I had so much respect for.”



P&D FILE PHOTO

SDSU head coach John Stiegelmeier addresses the Yankton Quarterback Club in 2010.

I can see the Lord’s hand taking care of me.”

At Northern, Stiegelmeier worked with Jim Kretchman, who served as both athletic director and linebackers coach.

“He had a huge impact in how I coach and who I am as a coach, that it’s about players and treating players right” Stiegelmeier said. “It could be something as simple as four positives for every negative thing you say on the football field. You listen to a football practice and all you hear is negatives, all you hear is, ‘Get you pads lower,’ ‘Catch the ball,’ ‘Do this better.’ His personality was one of build them up and they’ll play better, rather than being a negative person.”

Stiegelmeier said the NSU Hall of Famer was a big influence on how he dealt with criticism and praise.

“When you praise a guy, do it in front of everybody. When you criticize a guy, when you really want to get into his heart, take them aside, don’t embarrass them,” he said. “You make sure you get your point across, not symbolically rip a guy in front of the whole team.”

After three years, Stiegelmeier returned to the state of Wisconsin, continuing his graduate work and serving as a graduate assistant at the University of Wisconsin. After a year, SDSU head coach Wayne Haensel brought Stiegelmeier back home.

“I knew Coach Haensel was understaffed, and I knew Donny Charleson, who was the defensive coordinator,” Stiegelmeier said. “In coaching it’s who you know, and I knew those guys.”

Haensel made way for Mike Daly in 1990. Six years later, Stiegelmeier was handed the reins of the Jackrabbit program. Fifteen years in, only one other coach has helmed SDSU longer, Ralph Ginn from 1947-1968.

Glenn Comes Home

Glenn had spent two years away from coaching after being let go at the University of Wyoming. When USD let go of Ed Meierkort last November, Glenn was hesitant to jump back in the saddle.

“I was very comfortable in a situation

outside of coaching,” he said. “It would have had to be about a perfect deal for me to get back into coach. I understand how many hours it takes to be effective. You leave home at 6:30 in the morning, you get home at 9:30 at night. I did it for a long time.”

Glenn had suggested another individual for the USD helm, but athletic director David Sayler and the Coyotes were persistent.

“They finally said that they couldn’t hire the other person and they thought I had some Coyote in me and would be willing to help the program,” he said. “I then realized that I owed it to my school and if they thought I was the guy, then I better go try and be the guy and see if I could help.”

“They might be questioning that now,” he joked, “but I’m glad I’m here, and I’m doing the things I think will make the difference for us the right way. We’ll just have to see if, in the end, it works out.”

Offensive coordinator Wesley Beschoner had known Glenn briefly, as Glenn’s son Casey served as an assistant coach at USD in 2004 when Beschoner was quarterbacking the Coyotes. From the point Glenn stepped onto campus to take over, his presence was evident.

“As soon as he stepped on the job he helped me and guided me and the rest of the coaches — not just myself but all of us — in what he’s done to be successful in his career, and he’s had a lot of success,” Beschoner said. “I think it’s with a personal touch that you don’t see in college athletics.”

“The Jackrabbit Way”

One of the things that Stiegelmeier has tried to do during his tenure is establish high standards for the program, on and off the field.

“We recruit kids who work hard, who are academically motivated, who don’t need to have a coach babysit them to make sure they’re going to class,” said SDSU wide receivers coach Josh Davis, who played for Stiegelmeier and the Jackrabbits from 2001-05. “We try to recruit mature, self-motivated athletes to come in here and be part of our pro-

gram. He stresses the word “family” very often. He talks about family almost every meeting, the Jackrabbit family, and that’s very special for our program.”

Among the pillars of the “Jackrabbit Way” is giving back to others. Under Stiegelmeier, the program has made it a requirement that a player completes three service projects throughout the school year as part of the requirement to earn a letter in the sport. Davis credits this for a number of things, including the Jackrabbits’ connection to its fans.

“We create a strong community, a strong support system all throughout the town of Brookings, and that’s the reason why our stands are full. Our football team, we care more about the community and South Dakota State than we do just our football program,” Davis said. “I think that is extremely important to our football players, all the young men that come into our football pro-

gram. It really teaches them how to give back, how to be involved in the community, and how important it is to do those things.”

Stiegelmeier has placed great value on the growth of the individual, not just the player.

“True victories, my greatest victories aren’t on the field, but in the hallways and my office, when you connect with a past player, and they introduce you to their two kids and they talk about the experience they had,” he said. “That, to me, far outweighs this victory or that victory, because that’s lasting, that’s a lasting feeling for both of us.”

But Davis said not to let Stiegelmeier’s attitude about the growth of student-athletes make you think he doesn’t care about winning.

“He is an extremely competitive coach. Winning a championship is our ultimate goal, and that’s why we work the way we do, but we want to do it the right way,” he said. “If we had to cut any corners or cheat the system to do win a championship, we wouldn’t do it. That’s not the Jackrabbit way, that’s not what Coach Stig wants.”

Hard Knocks

While this season will mark a low point in terms of victories for Glenn — regardless of the outcome against SDSU — the veteran head coach has kept a positive outlook on the future of the program and those within it.

“The guys on the staff and Coach Glenn, they have the same outlook for the program, and he does a great job with his enthusiasm and how he handles us to let everyone see it,” Beschoner said. “I think as long as we’re all working in the same direction, you’re going to have mutual respect and a lot of trust in one another. And he’s created that in our whole coaching staff and, within our coaching staff towards him.”

The 63-year-old Glenn said that a season like the one the Coyotes are experiencing has the potential to be a strong learning experience, whether it’s an old coach or a younger coach.

“Believe me, seasons like this make you a better coach, whether you’re a young coach or an old coach,” he said. “We’re fighting and scrapping and kicking and gouging, turning over every stone and trying to find a better way. We’ll all be better for it, but we’re all in there fighting together. I’m really am proud of our coaches, and proud of our kids that have laid it on the line so hard, trying to get a win here.”

You can follow James D. Cimburek on Twitter at twitter.com/aceman904

AREA SPOTLIGHT: EARV ARCHAMBEAU



JEREMY HOECK/P&D

USD running back Earv Archambeau, 27, blocks during a drill this past fall. Archambeau, a junior from Avon, has played in nine games this season. In 2011, he had a career-best 35 all-purpose yards against Missouri S&T.

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