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and offensive coordinator — is promoted or someone else is brought in will likely be decided within the next couple weeks.

“Obviously I want to respect the process and everything, but it’s something I’ve been working toward since I showed up in 2001,” Beschorn-er said.

During Monday’s 40-minute press conference, Glenn said the USD administration had promised him three things: The current staff will all receive an interview with the next coach, they will all remain on contract, and they will attend a coaches convention to help “position themselves for future employment.”

Although he came short of outwardly campaigning for Beschorn-er, Glenn certainly endorsed his associate head coach — a “farm kid from Iowa who is so in-tuned with the values of people of South Dakota.”

When USD was in the market for a new head coach in 2011, it was Glenn who had called to suggest Beschorn-er as a candidate. Instead, USD had asked Glenn to consider the job, which he eventually did.

“The powers that be, decid- ed that he (Beschorn-er) was too young and needed to see a new style of leadership,” Glenn said. “Perhaps he needed more Division I experience.”

Beschorn-er is now four years older, with four years having coached in the Missouri Valley Football Conference, Glenn added.

“Now I say, Wesley and I have been connected at the hip since I came here,” Glenn said. “We have shared thousands of



South Dakota associate head football coach Wesley Beschorn-er, center, watches the announcement of Joe Glenn’s retirement on Monday. Beschorn-er, like Glenn a former Coyote, has expressed interest in being the next head coach for USD.

JAMES D. CIMBUREK/P&D

stories, thousands of experi- ences on the road recruiting, talking about everything I’ve ever learned about this game.”

The veteran coach also compared Beschorn-er’s posi- tion — having only coached at one place — to USD president Jim Abbott, himself an alum- nus. Glenn, in calling Abbott the best president he’s ever worked for, pointed out that USD is the only institution Abbott has ever led — a clear sign that it would be the same with Beschorn-er.

“That doesn’t make him a bad guy, does it?” Glenn asked, rhetorically.

Like with any coaching search (particularly in foot- ball), a handful of names are

bound to be thrown around, but for those involved in the actual decision-making process, you’re typically talking about people who already have a job.

“The difficult part is, many people we’ll probably talk to are also in the middle of their seasons,” said athletic director David Herbster, who compared it to last year’s hiring of Craig Smith.

The process is rather simple: The search is opened publicly. Applications start flowing in. USD identifies who it wants to pursue further. A final decision is made.

“It sounds like it could be a long, drawn-out process, but it can’t be,” Herbster said.

Herbster used an old John Wooden adage to describe the coaching search: ‘Be quick but don’t hurry.’

From those coaches already on staff to those around the country, everyone will be considered.

“We’ve got quality coach- es,” Herbster said. “But I’m also a realist and I understand the next coach is going to want to bring in their own guys, and they might already have ideas who they want.”

For those USD players who will be suiting up for a new coach in 2016, they weren’t about to say when asked Mon- day one way or another who they would prefer.

“I don’t have anything

to say about that,” junior linebacker John Wessel said. “Whoever comes here or who- ever gets promoted, I’ll give everything I have to them.”

What does the program need?

“To continue to see im- provement,” Wessel added. “To continue to commit ourselves fully in the off-season and con- tinue to grow as a team.”

The last thing the Coyotes want is a regression from this season’s progression to five wins and legitimate play- off contention late into the season.

“That kind of stuff I’m not really worried about,” junior running back Trevor Bouma said. “We’ll leave that up to the

administration.

“They’ll do the best job of hiring someone.”

Asked about the hiring process, Herbster said that, yes, there could be a need to raise the salary of the head coach to attract the candidate USD wants — as was the case when Smith was hired.

According to the most recent state data, Glenn’s base salary was \$145,000. That will likely increase, as could the salaries for assistant coaches.

“We’re going to have to be competitive if we want to bring someone in here and win,” Herbster said.

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Glenn

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and another at Montana, is leaving his alma mater after guiding the Coyotes to a 12-34 record in four seasons. His career record will stand at 200-134-1 over 28 seasons, making him the 76th coach in NCAA history with at least 200 wins.

Despite some struggles during his tenure in Vermil- ion, Glenn’s true legacy with USD will be measured in ar- eas beyond wins and losses, as was evident Monday. The passionate alumnus rattled off names of many notable former Coyote coaches and officials, cracked a couple jokes and concluded the press conference with a ren- dition of the school song.

“Joe has elevated this program in ways that aren’t easily seen from those out- side the department,” said Herbster, now the athletic director.

There had been rumblings about Glenn’s eventual retire- ment, but it was a decision he battled with a “hundred times.”

“I couldn’t get it figured out,” Glenn told the crowd. “We just had to let it play out.”

Ultimately, the desire to spend more time with his family — wife, Michele, two children and four grandchil- dren — was the deciding factor.

“I’ve had my chances; I’ve had my turn at being a head coach,” Glenn said. “It’s time for somebody else to do this

job. And we’ll get the right person.”

The news of Glenn’s retirement was relayed to his players via text message on Sunday afternoon, and asked Monday about their initial reactions, players sounded more appreciative of Glenn’s impact than they were sur- prised.

“He’s been like a dad to all of us,” junior linebacker John Wessel said. “He’s the guy when you come on your official (visit), you sit down and talk with.”

“He’s the one you immedi- ately commit to. He was the guy you wanted to play for.”

But just as it would be with any coaching change, the idea that Glenn won’t be there to wrap an arm around players during practice or high-five them after a big play will take some getting used to, players said.

“It didn’t quite set in for a while, but it has now,” junior running back Trevor Bouma said. “I feel like I could’ve gone to him about anything in life.”

“I’m thankful for all he’s done for me, but at the same time, we have to move on and get ready for the next season.”

And now, for the second time in four years, USD is in the market for a new football coach.

Stopping short of openly advocating for his associate head coach Wes Beschorn-er, Glenn certainly backed the 33-year-old. It was Beschorn-er who Glenn had supported during those 2011 conversa- tions with the USD adminis- tration.

“Wesley and I have been connected at the hip since I came here,” Glenn said. “We have shared thousands of experi- ences, thousands of experi- ences on the road recruiting, talking about everything I’ve ever learned about this game.”

The administration has also promised the staff,

Glenn said, that they will all receive an interview with the next coach, will remain on contract until they find something else, and will attend a national coaching convention.

Ask Beschorn-er, though, and he’ll give you a straight answer: He wants the job.

“Obviously I want to re-

spect the process and every- thing, but it’s something I’ve been working toward since I showed up in 2001,” he said.

And likewise, the USD program has been working toward the FCS playoffs since Glenn came aboard before the 2012 season. The Coyotes were likely one win short of the post-season — having

either beaten South Dakota State or Illinois State.

At the end of the day, that was Glenn’s goal, he said.

“It didn’t happen as quick as we hoped it would,” he said. “But I know this team’s on the right path. Just keep on keeping on.”

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—Phillips Brooks

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