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Game Day Kaimin, September 16, 2000

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GameDay
KAIMIN
Not your average Joe
MONTANA vs. Cal Poly
The rise and fall and rise of Joe Glenn

Story By Casey Temple

On a recent afternoon, 14 years ago, a couple of high school kids approached Joe Glenn with a simple request: "They needed a coach for their Little Grizzly football team.

One can't dispute their logic. Why not get a fun high school coach to run your pee-wee team? They had the credentials: four years as head coach for Doane College in Nebraska, six years as a Griz assistant, four of which were spent as an offensive coordinator at a time when the Griz broke 89 offensive school records.

But despite this success, when the boys approached him, Glenn wasn't coaching football. He had been fired along with the rest of Larry Donovan's staff after the Griz went 3-8 in 1985. Glenn left the profession altogether and took a job at Zip Beverage, working as a wine and beer salesman. His heart was no longer in football and he didn't want to seek other coaching jobs until his wife, Michelle, finished her degree in education at UM.

When the super little grizzlies came to his door asking for a coach, Glenn was still "devastated" from being fired and wanted to spend more time with his family. And how do you say "no" to a job as offensive coordinator of a college football program to coach a pee-wee team?

After rejecting their offer, he shut the door and looked around the room. "I had that look on my face, that puppy dog look, and she said, 'Tell them you'll coach,' " Glenn says, and I quickly opened the door and I yelled, "What time's practice already on and I was out the door."

In 1986, Glenn as their offensive coordinator, the Burger King Falcons lost in the Little Grizzly championship game.

"It was a priceless season," Glenn says. "It kick-started my heart again towards knowing (as a coach) you have the chance to impact people's lives." And interpreting people's lives is why Glenn got into coaching to begin with.

"I knew after coaching pee-wees that something was missing in my life," Glenn says. "And it was giving back to youth that I missed."

After all, he owes an education and career to the game of football and he fully intends to give back to the game—to give other young men the experiences he has had. He wants to be a role model, a positive influence in their lives— to be more than just their football coach, be their buddy, someone who will provide support as well as confidence and discipline.

"He's the first one to pat you on the butt after you've done something good," says junior running back Vah sono Humphrey. "And if there's anything bothering you or any problems, everyone on the team knows they can go to him to talk."

No regular Joe

Glenn is definitely not your ordinary linemen. He's got bone-crushing hits and war analogies to fire up the team. He's straight forward and isn't afraid to tell you what he thinks, without excuses or the sports cliches that usually spew from the mouths of those in his line of work. His office is simple, housing family photos, scouting reports and one team photo— the 1986 Burger King Falcons.

"He's definitely not your typical football coach," says Glenn's son, Casey, who played two seasons for his dad at Northern Colorado before transferring to Carroll College, where he's starting left tackle. "The way he is at practice and work is the way he is at home. He's always upbeat, always confident and that confidence rubs off, no matter if it's in football or day-to-day life."

Glenn's former boss, Northern Colorado athletics director Jim Fallis agrees.

"Joe won't give up on you," Fallis says. "You'll give up on yourself before he'll give up on you. And once you get to know Joe, you love Joe and you don't want to disappoint Joe."

The Griz responded to Glenn's outgoing, personable style from day one.

"We liked him from the get-go," Humphrey says. "I definitely like him better than (Mick) Donahuey. He relates to the players better. He's definitely a player's coach."

"He's our guy," says UM defensive coordinator Mike Breske, who has coached with Glenn for 14 years. "In football there's a lot of peaks and valleys, and he's the guy that keeps the staff headed straight ahead, regardless of what happens."

When you meet him, as UM athletics director Wayne Hogan explains, "You feel like you have known him your whole life."

Where it all started

Glenn will tell you he's the archetypical sixth child out of 12 children. He'll tell you that his mom was Catholic and his dad was Protestant, and that growing up was hard recruiting athletes to play for the small school. Glenn says. "And we got all the marks."

At age 27, he was offered a job at Doane College.

"I had a lot to learn," Glenn says about his experience at Doane. "But (I) learned so much. It's one of those schools where you teach, you coach, you recruit. You fund raise, you hire your own officials, you hire people to park the cars and turn lights on and off in the stadium. You wash your own equipment. You basically learn how to do everything."

Then came the days at UM as the quarterbacks/receivers coach. There were a few good seasons, but it was the post-Washington Grizzly Stadium days under Glenn and saying it was hard recruiting athletes to play in sub-par facilities.

"It's a lot of work and growing up that has been something bothering you or any problems, everyone on the team knows they can go to him to talk."
Chad Dundas

GameDay Harris

"If Portland State head coach Tim Walsh isn't acting like the happiest man on the planet this week, it might be time for Jimmy Blanchard and the boys to start price checking Prozac.

It's been less than a year since the Vikings (2-0) mauled Montana in overtime and, except for a few minor setbacks along the way, Mr. Blanchard has been camping out on Walsh's shoulder happily ever after. Somehow PSU has been able to harness the momentum from the victory over the Grizzlies in vault and vault into the national spotlight.

This season the legend of the Viking horse is still on the rise. Two games into the season, PSU traveled to the Big Island and whipped Division I-A Hawaii 45-20 in front of 45,455 of the Rainbows' own.

In the process, strong safety Steve Morse garnered co-player of the week honors in the Big Sky by almost single-handedly turning the tide against Hawaii. In the first half, while Portland was still struggling to jump-start its offense, Morse stripped Rainbow receiver Craig Stutzman, allowing the Vikings' defense to score a touchdown.

If anything (other than results) could convince PSU fans to stop whistling while they work this year, it would be a trouncing of a schools that are 10 Montana, behind the Vikings in the line for the Division I-AA honors.

PSU's senior leaders have certainly given Walsh every reason to whistle while he works this year. Running back Charles Dunn moved into second place on the Big Sky Conference's all-time rushing list this week after adding 154 yards to his personal collection at Hawaii. Quarterback Blanchard is 28 of 48 for 644 yards passing. Range receiver Terry Charles, who tormented the Grizzlies in their meeting last season, has allotted 306 yards and three touchdowns. Charles was also huge against the Rainbows, hauling in 15 passes for 168 yards.

If anything (other than Montana's 3-0) upsets PSU's plans for a victorious post-season pizza party, it'll likely happen during the next three weeks. The Vikings begin conference play Saturday, and their first two opponents just happen to be the two very same teams who fouled up PSU's march toward a conference title last season: Sac State and Northern Arizona.

Following that pair of grudge matches, the Vikings will take a respite from the Sky. During their "weekend off" they have the pleasure of hosting Hofstra's Flying Dutchmen to a night on the town in Hillsboro. Misomnia fans know all too well what kind of guests the Dutchmen are -- they divided our house faster than Puck from "Real World" San Francisco.

This Saturday, PSU treks to Sacramento to face a 2-0 Hornet squad that has been getting scarier with each passing week. The clash with the Vikings will mark the debut of Sac State's newest acquisition, Santi Hall, a linebacker who defected from the UCLA Bruins at the end of August.

Hall, a 6-2, 240-pound junior, was no bench warmer at UCLA, seeing extensive action in 21 games during the last two years and leading the Bruins in sacks last year.

"Santi is ballistic out there," Hornet linebacker coach Lou Baiz told the Sacramento Bee. "I mean, it's exciting. We think he can come in and dominate."

Hall departed UCLA when he saw it on ESPN2's "Bottom Line," are so high on the Moreno Valley, Calif, native that they plan to start him against PSU, despite the fact that he's practiced with the Sac State team for less than two weeks.

Hall himself said he has designs on becoming the greatest linebacker ever to play at the Division I-AA level. He was originally slated to make his first appearance last week in the Hornets' game versus Cal Poly, but UCLA was tardy in sending his transcripts, so the Sac State admissions office. Even without his help, the Hornets bested the Stangs 37-18. The win propelled him into the I-AA top 25.

Hall rounds out a linebacker corps that also includes pre-season All-American Anthony Dinsley.

The Hornets' bolstered D should help the team establish itself as more than just the "Charles Roberts Show." Roberts, who needs just 1,571 yards to become the all-time rushing leader in college football for all divisions, typically succeeds in grabbing nearly all the headlines wherever his team plays. In recent years, Sac State had become something of a one-trick pony, which proved not to be good enough in the Big Sky, even if the team's pony can fly.

The Big Sky on the whole is busy this weekend with every team except Montana State beginning conference play. Idaho State, off to a hot 1-0 start after crushing Montana Tech 56-10, travels to Cheney to take on Eastern Washington (1-1). EWU's two-pronged attack features backs Jesus Chatman and Jowan Griffith who have combined for almost half of the Eagles' dreadful 511 total yards of offense. EWU will have to stop up its attack if it wants to protect its eight-game home winning streak.

Northern Arizona (1-0) travels to California to meet Cal State-Norridge (1-0). Weber State (1-1) is in Bozeman taking on the winless Montana State Bobcats.

If Portland State head coach Tim Walsh isn't acting like the happiest man on the planet this week, it might be time for Jimmy Blanchard and the boys to start price checking Prozac.

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Montana
2000 Record: 1-1
1999 Record: 9-3 Overall, 7-1 Big Sky (1st)

Offense

Jimmy Farris
Wide Receiver
6-0, 190 Senior from Lewiston, Idaho.

Jimmy Farris sure wasn't contained by the team he grew up cheering for. His salary didn't help him in Lewiston as a youngster. Farris had a career day in his first start in his second year, catching a season-high five passes for 193 yards and two touchdowns.

Matt Steinau
Linebacker
6-1, 220 Junior from El Toro, Calif.

Steinau was named one of the three Griz "Outstanding Sophomores." He's known as "The Claw," becoming quarterback Drew Miller's favorite target. Some may say it's his speed or great hands, but GDK thinks it's the hairdo he's been sport­ ing this season.

Defense

Yohance Humphrey
Defensive Back
21

Yohance Humphrey was named one of the three Griz "Outstanding Sophomores." He's known as "The Claw," becoming quarterback Drew Miller's favorite target. Some may say it's his speed or great hands, but GDK thinks it's the hairdo he's been sport­ ing this season.

Numerical Roster

1 Tanner Hancock WR 5-8 175 SR
2 Michael Westbrock WR/KOR 6-0 190 JR
3 Trey Young WR 5-10 190 FR
4 Dave Doccie FS 5-11 175 FR
5 John Edwards GB 6-1 200 SO
6 Andy Thompson GBRS 6-3 195 SO
7 Drew Miller GB 6-1 195 JR
8 Joe Farris WR/Rb 6-0 190 SR
9 Jason Miller WR 6-2 200 SO
10 Chris Lumpkin WR 6-1 195 FR
11 Courtney Lohr WR 5-10 195 SO
12 Brandon Malcolm WR 5-10 175 JR
13 Calvin Coleman CB/KOR 5-10 189 JR
14 Demetrious Williams RB 5-10 185 JR
15 Howard Wallen WR 5-11 185 SO
16 Tate Hancock WR/KOR 5-10 190 JR
17 Etu Molden WR/KOR 5-10 185 JR
18 T.J. Olleker WR 5-10 180 JR
19 Dayone Humphrey RB 5-10 190 JR
21 Mike Connor FS 6-0 200 FR
22 Ken Schich SS 6-0 194 FR
23 Tony Brown BS 6-1 190 SR
24 Damon Parker CB/KOR 5-7 175 SR
25 Danny Williams RS 6-1 210 FR
26 Chris Snyder K/P 6-0 190 FR
27 Ted Hancock RB 5-10 170 FR
28 Brandon Majewski CB 5-10 175 FR
29 Jake Robinson CB 5-10 185 SO
30 Brad Weston LB 6-1 220 FR
31 Ben Brown DR 6-1 195 FR
32 Andy Petes DE 6-3 235 SR
33 Pete Harp WR 5-11 220 JR
34 Mike Mahoney RB 5-10 170 FR
35 Hei Ming WR 6-1 220 JR
36 Matt Steinau LB 6-1 220 JR
37 Adam Boomer LB 6-1 230 SR
38 Spencer Frederick TE 6-3 240 JR
39 John Fizgerald TE 6-2 230 JR
40 Matt Steinau LB 6-1 220 JR
41 Jacob Yoro LB 5-10 225 JR
42 John Fizgerald TE 6-2 230 JR
43 Damon Parker CB/KOR 5-7 175 SR
44 Ben Brown DR 6-1 195 FR
45 Jason Miller WR 6-2 200 SO
46 Bob Keane LB 5-11 200 JR
47 Chris Pelc LB 6-0 225 FR
48 Jeff Nokelso LB 5-10 220 FR
49 Mike Connor FS 6-0 200 FR
50 Adam Hoge LB 5-11 220 FR
51 Dale Morgan DL 6-3 220 FR
52 Chris Webb LB 6-3 220 FR
53 Joel Robinson LB 5-11 220 FR
54 Chris Connors LB 6-2 215 FR
55 Jimmy Verona LB 6-5 240 JR
56 Dan DeColle LB 6-1 240 JR
57 James White OG 5-10 220 FR
58 Jason Coleman LB 6-3 220 JR
59 Kevin Rose CB 5-10 225 FR
60 Chris Pelc LB 6-0 225 FR
61 Kevan Ross CB 5-10 220 FR
62 Lee Decker OG 5-10 225 FR
63 Matt Thuesen C 6-4 230 FR
64 Brian Pelc LB 6-1 230 JR
65 B.J. Coleman LB 6-1 230 JR
66 Matt Thuesen C 6-4 230 SR
67 Brian Pelc LB 6-1 230 JR
68 Kamakana Kaimuloa LB 6-1 230 JR
69 Joseph Szalay LB 6-1 230 FR
70 Cory Short LB 5-11 225 JR
71 Matt Thuesen C 6-4 230 FR
72 Dylan McNall LB 6-0 225 FR
73 Thatcher Sleazy LB 6-5 295 JR
74 Beau Hart CT 6-3 225 FR
75 Tim Mayer CT 6-5 225 FR
76 Rob Keane LB 5-11 220 JR
77 Adam Boomer LB 6-1 230 SR
78 Matt Thuesen C 6-4 230 SR
79 Brian Pelc LB 6-1 230 JR
80 B.J. Coleman LB 6-1 230 JR
81 Rin Zangun WR/KOR 5-10 185 SO
82 Mike Reddy WR 5-10 185 FR
83 Dave Doccie WR 5-11 185 FR
84 Connor Malloy TE 6-5 215 FR
85 Ryan Aikins WR 5-10 180 FR
86 Jeff Raneser WR 5-10 175 SO
87 Brad Fastham TE 6-2 215 FR
88 Curt Caul DT 6-2 225 FR
89 T.J. Olleker WR 5-11 195 FR
90 Tyler Martin NT 6-2 290 SR
91 Corey Marie DE 6-4 220 FR
92 Justin Klein DE 6-4 220 FR
93 Cole Petes DE 6-4 225 FR
94 Joel Henderson DE 6-2 225 SO
95 Jason Francis NT 6-2 250 JR
96 Justin Brannon DE 6-3 255 SR
A former defensive back, Vic Greco was win on the team in locker last year, including one against which was a career-high for the senior. Greco had a fine recovery last season against the Bird.

Cal Poly Defense

Ameer Ross 24

CB

Billy Beltz 98

LB

Joe Martinez 48

DT

Adam Armstrong 85

DE

Steve Prejean 72

LB

Isaac Dixon 36

SS

Brett Baker 32

FS

Kurt Rubin 8

1999 Record • 3-8 Overall

Montana vs. Cal Poly

Offense

Seth Burford
Quarterback

6-3, 225, Junior from Oakland, Calif. Burford played for the Mustangs before transferring to Cal Poly. The senior is known for his strong arm and leadership.

Defensive End

6-0, 253, Senior from Los Angeles, Calif. Going into this season, Prejean had 18 career sacks, enough to put him among the best in the Big Sky Conference. Burford transferred to Cal Poly with the decision to play football.

Numerical Roster

1. Kasim Osgood WR 6-4 220 SO
2. Jessie Wilson DB 6-0 185 FR
3. Chris Jones WR 6-5 190 SO
4. Travis Mora WR 5-10 175 FR
5. Whegum Jarrett DB 6-4 190 SR
6. Raj Thompson RB 5-1 180 FR
7. Spencer Fields CB 6-0 190 SO
8. Kurt Rubin DB 6-0 200 JR
9. Jonathan Micham DB 6-1 185 FR
10. Dave Wood CB 6-1 190 SO
11. Adam Berndt CB 5-10 180 SR
12. David Richardson CB 5-3 225 JR
13. Jeff Glover WR 5-11 165 FR
14. Larry Wingo WR 5-10 180 FR
15. Nick Foia DB 6-0 175 FR
16. Dave Rogge CB 5-11 175 FR
17. Adam Herzog WR 6-3 195 JR
18. Ruben Berndt WR 6-3 185 JR
19. Kurt Hardy DB 6-1 190 FR
20. Daniel Berndt DB 5-10 180 FR
21. David Richardson DB 6-1 190 SO
22. Adam Berndt RB 5-11 200 FR
23. Adam Berndt LS 6-4 210 JR
24. Ameer Ross LB 6-4 210 SR
25. Ryan Blasich LB 6-3 225 SO
26. Demetrious Washington LB 6-2 235 JR
28. Jeff Shaw LB 5-10 230 JR
29. Brett Baker DB 5-11 185 JR
30. Kelly Turbin RB 5-11 215 FR
31. Matt Schraik LB 6-2 225 FR
32. Justin Shinkman WR 5-11 180 JR
33. Isaac Dixon LB 6-3 230 SO
34. Ken Pickett WR 5-10 185 FR
35. Blake Cleveland LB 6-2 215 FR
36. Mike Hayes FB 5-11 220 FR
37. Taylor Williams LB 6-0 180 FR
38. Ryan Becker LB 5-11 200 FR
39. Santo Riccobono LB 6-1 175 FR
40. Nick Culpan LB 6-0 195 FR
41. Ron Cooper LB 5-11 230 JR
42. Mike Thomsen LB 6-0 175 SR
43. Joe Martinez LB 6-2 225 SO
44. Jesse Villanueva LB 6-0 185 JR
45. Brian Durner LB 6-1 230 JR
46. John Jones LB 6-0 180 FR
47. Tim Collins OL 6-5 280 SR
48. Greg Senes LB 6-0 200 FR
49. Tim Kirkagor OL 6-5 270 JR
50. Dan Mount OL 6-2 225 SR
51. Ryan Becker OL 6-0 225 FR
52. Matt Merritt OL 6-3 255 JR
53. Dan Howie OL 6-4 250 FR
54. Ben Cobban OL 6-5 250 SR
55. Dan Howie OL 6-5 250 FR
56. Nick Ricks OL 5-11 225 JR
57. Ron Cooper OL 6-1 210 FR
58. Joe Martinez OL 6-2 225 SO
59. Travis Wight OL 6-2 255 FR
60. Brian Walsh OL 6-2 250 JR
61. Matt Merritt OL 6-3 255 JR
62. Dan Howie OL 6-4 250 FR
63. Ben Cobban OL 6-5 250 SR
64. Dan Howie OL 6-5 250 FR
65. Nick Ricks OL 5-11 225 JR
66. Ron Cooper OL 6-1 210 FR
67. Joe Martinez OL 6-2 225 SO
68. Travis Wight OL 6-2 255 FR
69. Brian Walsh OL 6-2 250 JR
70. Matt Merritt OL 6-3 255 JR
71. Dan Howie OL 6-4 250 FR
72. Ben Cobban OL 6-5 250 SR
73. Ryan Becker OL 6-0 225 SR
74. Matt Merritt OL 6-3 255 JR
75. Dan Howie OL 6-4 250 FR
76. Ben Cobban OL 6-5 250 SR
77. Ryan Becker OL 6-0 225 SR
78. Matt Merritt OL 6-3 255 JR
79. Dan Howie OL 6-4 250 FR
80. Ben Cobban OL 6-5 250 SR
81. Ryan Becker OL 6-0 225 SR
82. Matt Merritt OL 6-3 255 JR
83. Dan Howie OL 6-4 250 FR
84. Ben Cobban OL 6-5 250 SR
85. Ryan Becker OL 6-0 225 SR
86. Matt Merritt OL 6-3 255 JR
87. Dan Howie OL 6-4 250 FR
88. Ben Cobban OL 6-5 250 SR
89. Ryan Becker OL 6-0 225 SR
90. Matt Merritt OL 6-3 255 JR
91. Dan Howie OL 6-4 250 FR
92. Ben Cobban OL 6-5 250 SR
93. Ryan Becker OL 6-0 225 SR
94. Matt Merritt OL 6-3 255 JR
95. Dan Howie OL 6-4 250 FR
96. Ben Cobban OL 6-5 250 SR
97. Ryan Becker OL 6-0 225 SR
98. Matt Merritt OL 6-3 255 JR
99. Dan Howie OL 6-4 250 FR
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  - Bob Wards Price $69

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Cal Poly will try to run the football out of the two back set with redshirt freshman Raj Thompson. The Mustangs will also utilize a West Coast short passing game that revolves around their mammoth wide receivers.

The Mustangs' top four receivers all stand 6 feet tall or higher and will give the shorter UM secondary plenty of problems. Defensively, Cal Poly is a veteran team led by senior defensive end Steve Prejean. "He gave us a lot of trouble last year," Glenn said of Prejean. "I looked at the film of last season's game. And the first 12 times Montana threw the ball, seven of the times Drew was flat on his back. And those weren't just shovel down hits. They were blasts in the face."

While protecting Miller will be a key for the Grizzlies this game, Glenn hopes that an inconsistent running game will return to last season's form to take some of the pressure off the receivers.

"I'm hoping that we pick up the running game a little bit," Glenn said. "We need to." UM's depth took a hit earlier this week when Jacob Yoro was found to have a torn ACL and is out for the season. Starting defensive tackle Corye Mertes is not expected to suit up because of broken ribs and neither is starting defensive end Justin Klein (ankle). Starting linebacker Dan DeCoite remains questionable with a bad shoulder along with reserve receiver Brock Sunderland who is fighting a bad knee.

Regardless of past records or last week's victory over Idaho, Glenn still considers Cal Poly a very dangerous team. "They look to have the potential to be a good team," Glenn said. "When they totally arrive remains to be seen, but they made some big steps in the first game they played against Sac State."
Scouting Report:

Troy State Trojans

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2

The rise and fall and rise of Joe Glenn

Denneny had left for the head coaching job at Utah State.

"I just laid down and turned light out and phone rings and it's the Kaimin," Glenn says. "That was the first I heard about it and I didn't know what to think. I didn't know if I was awake or not."

By this time, Erin was married and working in Washington, D.C. as a director of the National Association for Children's Museums and Casey was in college, so the morning after the phone call, Glenn consulted Michelle about the prospect of moving back to Missoula.

For Glenn, Michelle was the ideal candidate to be the Grizzly head coach.

"In this day in age, a head coach must have a variety of different skills, not just the x's and o's," Hogan says why he chose Glenn. "They must be community-oriented, be a salesperson, experienced with the media. Joe brought all of these things to the table, as well as being upbeat and having the skills to do it."

It was a no-brainer for Breske to follow Glenn to Missoula as his defensive coordinator.

"He's the best boss a coach could have," Breske says. "I've been fortunate to have worked with him for 14 years. He lets his coaches coach and that's what makes this fun."

Hofstra

The first major decision of the Joe Glenn era began on a fourth and short call at about mid-field during the first half against Hofstra. The Griz could either punt the ball and put the Dutchmen deep in their own territory or go for it and keep the drive going. Glenn decided to go for it. The Griz didn't get the first down.

"The players really wanted to go for it and you have to have faith in your team," Glenn says. "And I think the fans wanted it, too. I don't regret the decision I made and I'll make it again."

Despite the cold rain that day, the football stadium housed the largest attendance ever at a Griz football game, and the crowd had talk of an undefeated season on their lips.

"There was so much hype for that game, but we just didn't get the scoreboard right," Breske says, of the 10-9 loss to then No. 11 Hofstra.

"The pain hasn't stopped yet," Glenn says. "Heart-breaking is the best way I can explain it. To have it slip away at the end is not how you imagine the game will turn out."

What followed was the thunderous noise of people jumping off the Griz bandwagon. There were complaints about the law offensive output. The play-calling. Attacks on Glenn's job.

And if we win, we celebrate. It's my philosophy that we need to have our victory behind us and we know the Griz have work to do before they are a national championship-caliber team. He'll talk about how the Griz need to improve their short-yardage passing game and running attack, though he points out that a win over Hofstra will remain a passing team.

Even while talking football Glenn is calm and confident, all smiles and jokes. He's a quick to turn the conversation away from football. When asked Ambrose novels or Colorado Rockies baseball or fishing... Or his experiences as a Little Grizzly football coach.

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Troy State University's assistant coach Wayne Bolt wants to make sure the Trojans play on their home field in December.

"Hopefully you guys (Montana) will be down here," Bolt said referring to the possibility that the Trojans and Griz could meet in the I-AA playoffs. "My guys don't like playing in the snow."

But if anybody has a chance to hit the mark, it's Alabama State - and they are shooting this weekend. Alabama State will be the toughest game of the season for the Trojans, Bolt said.

Troy State is fixin' to move up to Division I in a new season, so if they win the national I-AA championship this year, they will be only the second team in history to win a championship in three divisions. Montana State was the first.

But first, the Trojans have some kinks to work out. The 2000 season leaves the Troy State offensively sound with three-star senior broker North at quarterback, but the loss of five defenders and an offensive tackle leaves the Trojans needing protection in order to stay on top.

"We are playing a lot of young, inexperienced players, but we've got kids we think are going to do great things and they are getting better every week," Bolt said.

My family has a tradition," Casey says. "If we lose, we spend Saturday feeling bad. And if we win, we celebrate."

But Sunday, it's right back to the drawing board because you have to prepare for another game."

Glenn's positive influence kicked in, the Griz refocused, prepared and defeated Division I-A rival Idaho, 45-38.

"This means so much for the kids and Joe," Bolt says. "If you saw Joe after the game you know how big that win was. Everyone was going nuts. It's much better to begin the season 1-0 than 0-2."

But Glenn's philosophy remains the same -- celebrate the victory Saturday night and then return to the drawing board Sunday to prepare for a feisty Cal Poly squad.

Glenn is glad to have the first victory behind him, and he knows the Griz have work to do before they are a national championship-caliber team. He'll talk about how the Griz need to improve their short-yardage passing game and running attack, though he points out that a win over Hofstra will remain a passing team.

Even while talking football Glenn is calm and confident, all smiles and jokes. He's a quick to turn the conversation away from football. When asked Ambrose novels or Colorado Rockies baseball or fishing... Or his experiences as a Little Grizzly football coach.

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