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# Mason makes big changes in coaching staff at Kansas

By Mitch Sherman  
Senior Editor

From the looks of the off-season changes made by Kansas football coach Glen Mason, one would think Kansas is completely overhauling its program.

The Jayhawks have modified their 3-4 defense to resemble a 4-3, the defensive alignment run by Nebraska and adopted last spring by Colorado and Oklahoma.

With two new quarterbacks, one of whom is Ben Rutz, a former Nebraska signal caller, Kansas' powerful running attack will become a much more balanced offense, Mason said.

Mason hired two new assistant coaches in the off-season, Mike Hankwitz and David Gibbs. Hankwitz, who will coach outside linebackers, and Gibbs, the Jayhawks' secondary coach, are both leftovers from Bill McCartney's staff at Colorado.

Five of Mason's eight other assistant coaches have switched duties since last season.

"We're not making wholesale changes," Mason said. "I think it gave that appearance because I made staff changes and technical changes at the same time. But I would have made those technical changes regardless because I think it better suits our players."

Vic Adamle, formerly Mason's running backs coach, is now the wide receivers coach. Mitch Browning, who has coached tight ends since 1991, has taken over coaching the outside linebackers.

*"If you can't stop us running the football, we are going to run the football."*

**GLEN MASON**

Kansas football coach

Former Nebraska recruiting coordinator Dave Gillespie, who was hired last season as Kansas' tight ends coach, will coach the Jayhawks' defensive line.

Reggie Mitchell has switched from running backs coach to defensive ends coach, and Tim Phillips, who has coached Kansas' wide receivers for the past year, now handles the outside linebackers.

"For all intents and purposes, I have a whole new defensive staff," Mason said.

Rutz, a 6-foot, 190-pound junior, left Nebraska after two years in 1993. He was in the same recruiting class as Tommie Frazier and is listed second on the depth chart behind Mark Williams, who has backed up Ashieki Preston for the past two seasons.

Mason said Rutz, who transferred to Kansas from Northeastern Oklahoma A&M last winter, looked impressive when practicing with the Jayhawks in the spring.

"I was very pleased with the way he played," Mason said. "He came in at mid-year. Mark Williams is listed No. 1, but I think it's just a matter of time

before Ben is even more competitive. He performed well enough in spring practice, where if Mark wasn't playing well, I wouldn't hesitate to make a change in a game."

Mason said the presence of Rutz and Williams, who completed 21 of 30 passes for 336 yards and two touchdowns last year, gave Kansas its best one-two punch under center in years.

"Right now on offense," Mason said, "we've got quarterbacks who can throw the ball a lot better than any quarterbacks I've ever had."

But the Jayhawks, whose rushing attack ranked eighth in the nation last season, will still run the ball, Mason said.

"We want to be able to run the football," Mason said. "But we have to be effective throwing the ball, so we work a lot harder on the passing game."

Senior L.T. Levine and junior June Henley headline Kansas' backfield. The duo combined to run for 1,403 yards and 15 touchdowns last year.

"If you can't stop us running the football," Mason said, "we are going to run the football."

# Jayhawks want to get back on track after being derailed

By Mitch Sherman  
Senior Editor

When Kansas won eight games in 1992 and beat Brigham Young in the Aloha Bowl, the Jayhawks appeared to be a football program on the rise.

Two months later, Tony Blevins, a heavily recruited defensive back from Kansas City, signed a national letter of intent to play at Kansas.

Blevins, who attended Rockhurst High School, one of the most notori-

ous football factories in the Midwest, was accustomed to winning. He has started since the first game of his freshman season, and now, as a junior, he is one of the most experienced members of the Kansas defense.

But Blevins still hates to lose. Beginning with a 42-0 loss to Florida State in the first game of Blevins' freshman season, Kansas has been a disappointment. In 1993, they won only five games, and last year, the Jayhawks posted a 6-5 record.

"We were awfully close to being 8-3," Coach Glen Mason said. "We need some fine tuning. We need to do a better job, but at the same time, we've got a program that's on solid ground. We're not so far off that we can't be where we want to be."

Blevins said the Jayhawks' attitude needed a little fine tuning at some points of the 1994 season.

"Toward the end of the season," Blevins said, "there seemed to be some people getting accustomed to losing. I'm not used to it, and I don't want to get used to it. I don't like to lose. I can handle it, but I don't like it."

But this spring, Blevins said he noticed a spring in the step of many of his defensive teammates, in part because of slight adjustments Mason installed.

"There is a new enthusiasm, and we are all looking forward to the season," Blevins said. "Everyone is working a little harder because we have to prove ourselves again."



**Blevins**  
letter of intent to play at Kansas.

Blevins, who attended Rockhurst High School, one of the most notori-

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## Kansas Jayhawks

Offense		Defense	
WR 86 Matt Vandree	6-0 185	OLB 16 Keith Rodgers	5-11 205
LT 54 Rod Jones	6-4 300	LT 83 Dewey Houston	6-4 245
LG 62 Chris Banks	6-2 285	NT 70 Brett McGraw	6-0 275
C 55 Jim Stiebel	6-2 270	RT 57 Kevin Koop	6-3 235
RG 77 Cleve Roberts	6-6 290	OLB 59 Derrick Fairchild	6-1 225
RT 79 Scott Whittaker	6-6 290	LB 60 Steve Bratten	6-1 215
TE 89 Jim Moore	6-3 245	LB 38 Jason Thoren	6-2 232
QB 15 Mark Williams	6-1 180	CB 17 Dorian Brew	5-10 175
RB 20 June Henley	5-11 205	SS 24 Maurice Gaddle	5-9 185
RB 22 L.T. Levine	5-10 210	FS 28 Tony Blevins	6-0 175
WR 6 Ashaundai Smith	5-6 160	CB 26 Avery Randle	6-0 178
PK 36 Jeff McCord	5-9 215	P 19 Darrin Simmons	6-1 205

## Kansas Jayhawks

1995 Schedule	
Date	Opponent
Sept. 2	Cincinnati
Sept. 9	at North Texas
Sept. 14	Texas Christian
Sept. 23	Houston
Oct. 7	at Colorado
Oct. 14	Iowa State
Oct. 21	at Oklahoma
Oct. 28	at Kansas State
Nov. 4	Missouri
Nov. 11	Nebraska
Nov. 18	at Oklahoma State

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