

Continuing the tradition

Linebacker Jason Glenn carries on Wrecking Crew, family legacies

BY BETH MILLER
The Battalion

No longer hidden in the shadows of his older brother and defensive greats Dat Nguyen and Warrick Holdman, junior linebacker Jason Glenn has stepped to the spotlight as a strong Wrecking Crew asset. Glenn started his career on the Texas A&M Football Team as a freshman and played in all games in 1997, scoring one touchdown, breaking up two passes and posting 20 tackles. During his sophomore year, he broke up one pass, posted a sack and compiled 26 tackles — six behind the line of scrimmage — a backup to Holdman. He has finally climbed the ladder to a starting position and leads the team in sacks with four in the Aggies' first three games. He has 20 tackles so far — seven for loss — and Glenn's teammates said they are impressed with his performance. "Everybody was worried about the void that Warrick Holdman left, but I think Jason has done a very successful job of picking up the responsibility of the team, coming off the edge and applying pressure to the quarterback," junior one of our linebackers Cornelius Anthony said. "He's the kind of guy that loves the game of football. Every day during practice, he is always saying, 'if you don't love it, then you shouldn't be out there,' and that's him. He plays every down hard and milks the whistle blows, and

that's the type of guy you want on your defense."

A&M coach R.C. Slocum said he has been impressed with Glenn since he joined the team. He said Glenn has been on a path to success throughout his college career and did especially well last year.

"In high school, he was defensive player of the year in the city of Houston as a safety, and he came here and has been on a path since he got here," Slocum said. "He made some great plays for us last year, and I think it has elevated his play."

"He will be an all-star caliber linebacker for us this year."

Glenn said he has surprised himself with his performance this year, but his main concern is the success of the team.

"I want to have the No. 1 defense in America," he said. "And I want a Big 12 championship and a national title."

"I want to go back to Louisiana to the Sugar Bowl."

Glenn, who is No. 10 in a family of 11 kids, said family support is a big part of his inspiration. He said although he is proud of his older brother Aaron, who graduated from A&M in 1993 and now plays cornerback for the New York Jets, he would not want to be his teammate.

"If I go to the pros, if I'm blessed, I will get a chance to play against my brother," he said. "We have always been on the same team, and I wouldn't mind playing with him, but I would rather have the chance to

play against him. We have always had a friendly competition between us."

He said his future aspirations include playing professionally, and his first choice would be the Miami Dolphins, although he would also enjoy playing for Pittsburgh Steelers coach Bill Cowher.

The competition between the brothers, Glenn said, goes back to when he was five and first started playing football. He said his older brother had scored nine touchdowns in one game, and he wanted to beat the record.

"In this one game, I had a chance to beat it," he said. "I had four touchdowns by halftime, and by the fourth quarter, I had nine touchdowns and I had to score one more to break it. On this one play, I ran to the left, then cut all the way back to the right. I was wide open, and there was nothing in front of me, and I tripped. I never had another chance to break it."

Although the Wrecking Crew lost some of its best players after last season, it leads the nation in rushing defense, giving up 22.7 yards per game.

Glenn said he expects the Aggies' defense to go beyond what last year's team did. He said the Wrecking Crew's major strength this season is depth.

"Everybody had concerns, but I knew that we had so much depth," he said. "In fact, I think we are a lot better now because we have so much depth at every position, that nobody gets tired."



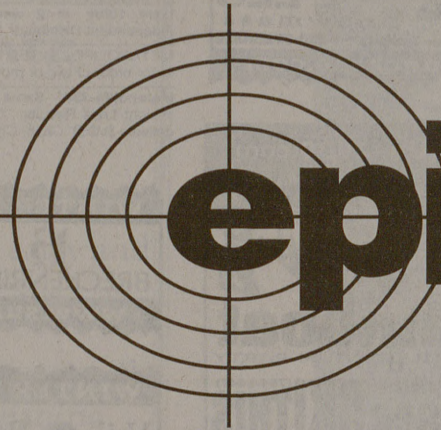
JP BEATO/THE BATTALION

Junior linebacker Jason Glenn has made the most of his first year starting for the Aggies. Glenn leads A&M this season with four sacks and seven tackles for loss.

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