

## Brister teaches passing skills in Denham

Posted: Wednesday, June 9, 2010 7:38 am | Updated: 7:39 am, Wed Jun 9, 2010.

By Mike Dowty |

DENHAM SPRINGS - If Yellow Jacket quarterback Tanner Wells has a breakout season in 2010, he may have to thank a former Louisiana star in the NFL.

Walter Bubby Brister III, the blue collar signal caller from Monroe best known for his years with the Pittsburgh Steelers and Denver Broncos, was in Yellow Jacket Stadium last week instructing Wells and several other south Louisiana high school quarterbacks in the art of throwing the football.

The ex-Neville High standout and son of a high school coach has made a name for himself as a sought-after camp instructor and private tutor since retiring from pro football.

His number one tip for passing accuracy: Pay attention to mechanics.

"You throw the ball with your feet, not with your arm," Brister said, noting footwork and balance contributes to good throws, while lack of it leads to bad ones.

Brister was an NFL quarterback for 15 years, the first seven with the Pittsburgh Steelers. He earned two Super Bowl rings as a backup to John Elway at Denver in 1997 and 1998. He started four games in 1998 while Elway was injured, leading the Broncos to a 4-0 record in that span.

He finished his career with the Philadelphia Eagles, the New York Jets, and the Minnesota Vikings.

He was known as a tough and heady quarterback with a solid work ethic, one instilled in him by his father. A star athlete at Neville High School in football, baseball, basketball and track, he was recruited by Paul "Bear" Bryant to play football at Alabama, but chose instead to play professional baseball after being drafted by the Detroit Tigers out of high school. After two injury-plagued seasons in the minors, he decided football was his future and enrolled at Tulane, where he played two years before transferring to Northeast Louisiana University. He led the Southland Conference in passing and total offense his senior year with the Indians in 1985.

Brister moved with his family to Mandeville after retirement and began a number of business ventures, including private training and quarterback skills camps.

He also represents Homeland Health Care, a health insurance provider headquartered in Dallas with a branch office in Denham Springs. He also organizes private hunting and fishing trips and corporate retreats and has appeared in outdoor hunting and fishing cable shows.

In addition to Wells, Brister has been training quarterbacks at St. Paul, Covington and Mandeville High schools this year. He is frequently an instructor at other clinics such as the Archie Manning Camp and the Eddie DeBartelo Camp.

"I just enjoy watching kids and teaching them to get better," Brister said, noting that as a youth he was motivated by the likes of north Louisiana quarterbacking icons Terry Bradshaw, Joe Ferguson and Doug Williams.

The young quarterbacks he tutors discover talents they didn't know they had. Brister said many of them have never been exposed to time-proven techniques that would make them better and more consistent in throwing the ball.

"It works and they see it works," He said.

Information on Brister's camps and tutoring is available at [www.bubbybrister.com](http://www.bubbybrister.com).

© Copyright 2010, The Livingston Parish News, Denham Springs, LA. Powered by the Blox Content Management System.