



Late August 2023 Nick Starkel Interview Outtakes

Interviewer: Andrew Hutchinson

More on Starkel's work with QB Influence:

We've got some pretty big names. We've got a bunch of Polynesian quarterbacks. There was a kid Heliman, from Utah. We've got one of Mater Dei's young QB's Furian. And then we've got one of Bosco's younger guys named Matai. And so a lot of our kids are about to be high school starters, probably they're one snap away right now. But they've got a lot of offers, and a lot of interest, and stuff because they kind of put it all together.

And the philosophy with Coach Drew and I, our approach, is let's prepare these guys to be the best in terms of football IQ. And so they can go get throws with any quarterback coach around the country, just to get throws. If they're just throwing it, just throw cool. Anyone can do that, but we want to develop the person to build those habits to be a great team leader, a great teammate, and a great human being first.

And then we want to be able to set ourselves apart with how we prepare them in terms of the board work. And learning defenses, learning what an offense is really trying to do, and setting protections. And so we do a lot of really, really useful things that I think is missed a lot in the private quarterback coaching world. And so we keep it small. We don't have hundreds and hundreds of kids that we train.

More on Sam Pittman

I'll forever have a lot of respect for Coach Pittman. And especially, seeing what he's done at Arkansas. I know for a fact that he's a great coach to being able to get those guys to come together and fight for each other and be able to lead those guys.

More on mentoring Jalen Catalon in 2019:

We'd watch some film and stuff on the TV, and then we'd crash, and get up in the morning. I'd bring him over to workouts. But it was cool being able to sit with a young player and mentor him through that. Like, "Hey, look, you can't be in the dorms in the quads up all night, two nights before the game.

This is the most important night of sleep. Let's get in there. Let's go over what we got to go over. Let's watch some film. I'll kind of give you a breakdown on what they're doing offensively. We'll watch their defense, see if you can see some things and then let's get some rest.

I wish him the best of luck [at Texas]. Wish it would've worked out at Arkansas with him, but I think he's a special player and he'll end up making it out.

On humbling himself after the Mississippi State loss in 2019:

I was down the depth chart. And I was like, "Well, what am I doing over here sitting moping around when I could be on the scout team over there helping out Coach Chavis, helping out our defense?" And so I was like, "I don't care if I'm a grad transfer quarterback who was the starter two weeks ago. I'm going to go help out somewhere."

And so I popped down a scout team and I was scout team quarterback for the rest of the season. It was Ben Hicks and I. And when one of us was at quarterback and one of the receivers needed a break, Ben would hop in at receiver or I'd go hop in at receiver.

We were really out there just saying, "Hey, look, we got our shot. We missed our shot. Let's still help out this team inside." My hat's off to Ben for that as well. Ben did not give up on that team, and he did the exact same thing and said, "Hey, look, I'm going to hop over onto the scout team and help out."

On sticking around football through quarterback coaching:

I get my fix of football. I get to call some plays. I get to operate the flow of a game still in terms of calling an offense. And I get to do all the game plan, and the prepping, and the scouting that I would do just like I was a quarterback, and now I just get to do it for somebody else.

And so while the pressure isn't on me to go make the right play, the pressure's on me to prepare these guys so that they can go make the right plays. And I think that it's a really sweet deal that I have being able to do this.