

# School's in Session

**Ex-NFL and current Blizzard QB Chris Greisen teaches the little things at his quarterback academy**

**By Brett W. Meach**  
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**C**hris Greisen's passion in life extends far beyond football.

The former Sturgeon Bay High School standout and NCAA Division II College Football Player of the Year at Northwest Missouri State has the smarts to do just about anything he puts his mind to.

Putting two and two together, Greisen, who recently signed as quarterback for arena football's Green Bay Blizzard, realized he could be as influential as a teacher as he has been productive as a player.

Chris Greisen's Quarterback Academy, according to the seventh-round draft pick of the Arizona Cardinals in 1999, separates the average quarterback from an elite one.

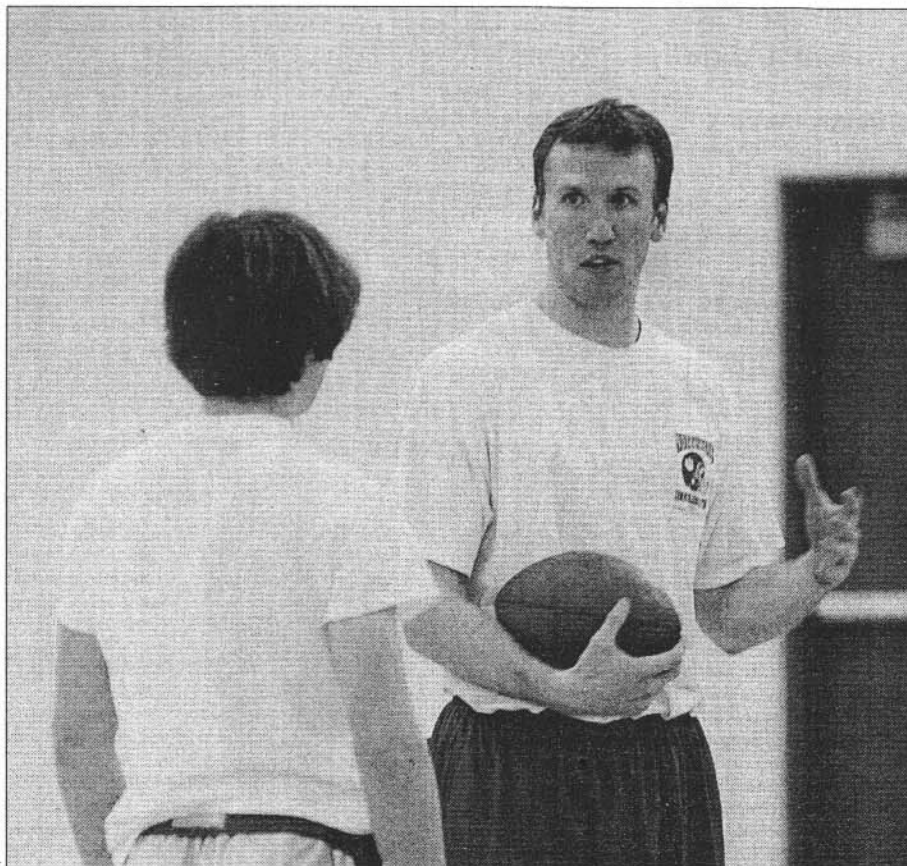
He cited the example of taking quarterback Abe Phillips under his wing in the fall, when Greisen aided head coach John Nowak at Notre Dame Academy. Phillips helped lead the Tritons to the WIAA Division 3 state title.

"What I found when I started working here at Notre Dame Academy, I noticed how the little things that I was able to learn throughout the years in college and professional football, I was able to communicate them to (Phillips)," Greisen said.

"It seemed to make quite a world of difference. After the season, it really hit me — 'I can do this.'"

Greisen's academy, which is held in the Notre Dame gymnasium on Sunday and Wednesday evenings, extends to youth quarterbacks in grades 7-12.

Its two options — both eight-week sessions, varying from eight to 10 classes — give no more than four quarterbacks at a time the chance to work with a quarterback who has played in the NFL and who has been a part



Tina M. Gohr / The News-Chronicle

**CHRIS GREISEN**, a quarterback with the Green Bay Blizzard and formerly of the NFL's Arizona Cardinals, has been sharing his expertise with the area's young passers during his eight- and 10-week quarterback academies.

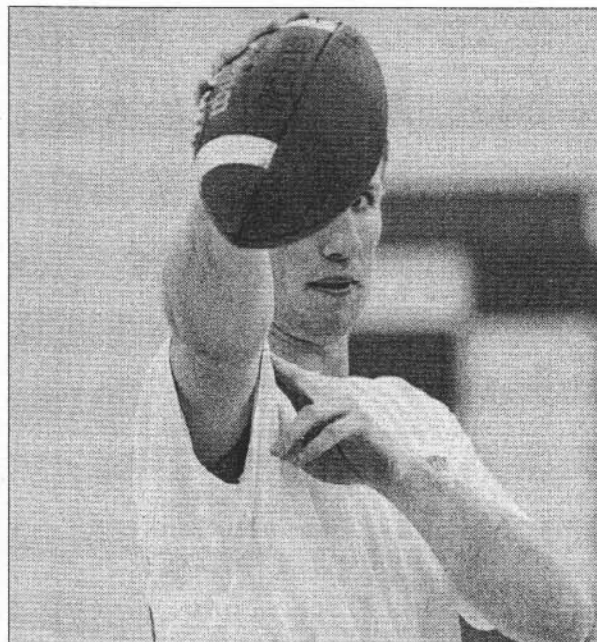
of numerous camps around the country, including the Jeff Trickey Quarterback Camp.

What's different under Greisen's leadership, however, is the amount of work he can do with individuals.

Rather than having a group of 10 or more to teach, such as the Trickey camp, Greisen gives more attention to the individual than the group.

"What I try to do here is spread it out to eight weeks," Greisen said. "It's more of a school than a camp; I try to teach them."

"I'm really able to focus in on



the little things, and we focus on almost everything."

The skills Greisen teaches are

the stance, footwork, throwing mechanics, ball handling and drops, as well as the option.

To learn more about Chris Greisen's Quarterback Academy or to enroll, call 497-4678 or send e-mail to [cgqbacademy@sbcglobal.net](mailto:cgqbacademy@sbcglobal.net). Space is limited.



movement drills and defensive recognition and reads.

Two other dimensions Greisen brings to the table are chalkboard discussions and game film, which he brought over from his days in NFL Europe.

"A lot of kids, they don't understand football from a quarterback's perspective," Greisen said. "They don't understand defenses and how to read them, and that's particularly what I'm able to give them where they can't get it at any other camp."

His first eight-week session, which included Phillips, has just wrapped up. Greisen's second session, consisting of Oconto's Dustin Haas among others, is halfway through.

Greisen says he has seen the progressions of these quarterbacks into more fundamentally sound athletes.

"A lot of these young kids, you can see them just progress every time," Greisen said. "And, you can see that the kids practice at home because those little things start coming around and you can just build on them."

One of Greisen's academy members is Vince Skarda, who will attend Green Bay Southwest High School next fall with hopes of landing a starting quarterback role on the freshman or junior-varsity squad.

Skarda said learning from an athlete the caliber of Greisen has made a world of difference in his game, which will take on a new level as he leaves Lombardi Middle School.

"I polished up my passing game," Skarda said. "I had been going to a couple of camps before, and I had most of it down, but (Greisen) helped me to get on point. He has a different way of doing his drops and that type of thing."

"Obviously, he knows what he's doing; He played in the NFL and NFL Europe, so he's pretty good."