

STARS & STRIPES

A QUARTERLY PUBLICATION OF FIRST AMERICAN BANK AND TRUST

SEPTEMBER 2023



ON DECK *with Jim Henderson*

Another pre-season training camp has come and gone for the New Orleans Saints...maybe the last locally for awhile. Next summer may see them train out of town as has been frequently the case. When they go elsewhere, the isolation and the tedium was once described by a Saints assistant as “wall-to-wall ball.”

During my 40 year association with the team as a reporter and play-by-play voice as I look back, I'm reminded that the combination of remote locations often accompanying a head coaching change produced some of my most indelible memories.

I arrived in New Orleans in 1978, two years into an 8 year association that had the Saints training at Dodgertown in Vero Beach, Florida. Hank Stram had just been fired during the previous season after compiling a 7 and 21 record over two years.

Some of his players who remained shared some vivid memories of the Stram regime. Three-a-day practices was one. And the coaching outfits the sartorially-splendid head coach designed for his staff and himself to wear to them was another. Hank, whose father was a tailor, came up with the idea of a “coaching one-sie”...a tank-top stitched to coaching shorts so it wouldn't pull out of the waistband and look unkempt.

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The ensemble may have been ridiculed in private by both the coaching staff and the players, but Hank thought it displayed his best physical attributes – one of which was his tanned and toned legs. To make sure it did, he ordered a seamstress to hem the length of his shorts upwards to nearly “Daisy Duke” levels to better display his thighs. “When you’ve got a big gun, you’ve gotta shoot it boys” was his retort to any sartorial second-guessing.

Hank’s 5 feet, 7 inches of height was topped by a hairpiece...both of which he was sensitive about and determined to conceal. Fewer players ever saw him without his “piece” than saw the Loch Ness Monster and Big Foot holding hands. Of course the veteran players delighted in uttering the coaching axiom “you’ve got to pay (toupee) the price to win” in his vicinity.

As one player told me, Hank didn’t leave his office for a much-appreciated post-practice shower until all the players had left so he could remove the piece and bathe au naturel. On one such occasion he had just begun soaping up in private when he was surprised by a player who had been in the training room unbeknownst to the head coach.

As the player entered the showers, Hank had nothing to camouflage his naked pate from detection. Reflexively he squeezed out a massive handful of shampoo and feverishly lathered up his head in a panic, hiding the evidence of his baldness if not the team-wide suspicion of same.

Recognizing his good-fortune and what a celebrity it would make him with his teammates, the tardy player decided he would simply wait for Hank to wash and rinse, coming clean in every way. Hank waited for the player to finish first and depart. When it finally became evident that the player had won the waiting game, Hank plodded from the shower back to his office without removing the shampoo toupee...the “secret” safe for another day.

It would later be my pleasure to share a CBS broadcast booth with Hank for an entire season. He wore high-heeled Beatle boots to obscure his lack of height, a corset under his shirt to off-set the effects of gravity which accompanies age, while calling the game essentially off a huge television monitor inches from his face after the ravages of diabetes would severely limit his ability to see the playing field from such a distance.

He never gave in to those challenges just like he didn’t give in to the player that day in Dodgertown. “Win the game” was the credo with which he lived his life every day. And until he faced the opponent that eventually beats us all, he largely did.

Among his successors I covered Bum Phillips’ disarming folksiness, Jim Mora’s volcanic temper, Mike Ditka’s cluelessness, and Sean Payton’s micro-management. All had greater success here than Hank. But none was as memorable a character as “The Little Mentor” – Hank – was to me.

God Bless,

Jim Henderson



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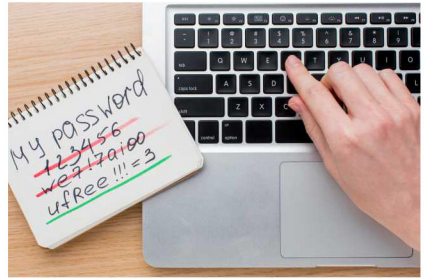
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Are Password Managers Secure?

The recent LastPass breach reminds us there is no way to stay 100% safe online and highlights some of the risks associated with using a central vault to store passwords and other secrets. However, password managers (PMs) remain the most secure way to protect passwords, even though they are not perfect.



PMs allow you to store strong, unique passwords for all the dozens or hundreds of websites, web applications, and services a user utilizes regularly. Additionally, PMs:

- Enable the user to log in without typing the password every time, protecting them from keyloggers.
- Allow users to utilize stronger passwords that don't need to be written down.
- Encourage users to use different passwords for every account.
- Provide some protection against credential harvesting phishing emails, as they will not populate credentials into spoofed sites.

While keeping all your passwords in one location is an inherent risk with PMs, the trade-off is worth the risk. Most PMs utilize 256-bit Advanced Encryption Standards, zero trust (your master password is encrypted before leaving your device), and two-factor authentication (2FA) to protect password vaults.

Learn more at sbscyber.com/resources/are-password-managers-secure

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