## DICK OLIN

## THE BUBBLE SCREEN PASSING PACKAGE ROBERT E. LEE HIGH SCHOOL, TEXAS

It is great to be here to talk about our program. A lot of people have questions about Texas High School football. I will be glad to share some of those things with you while I am here this weekend.

I went to Texas in 1983. I was from Iowa. I played quarterback at the University of Northern Iowa. I knew John Burks the Clinic Director of the Denver and Las Vegas Clinics when I coached in Iowa. Then I went to Texas and found out that was where the game of football was invented. There are two points you need to write down right away. First is this. The game of football was not invented in the state of Texas. The second thing is this. If you ever come to the state of Texas you must always say it is nice to be in the state where the game of football was invented.

Let me tell you a little about our school. The city of Baytown is on the eastern part of Houston, Texas. We are a town of about 70,000 people. We only have two high schools. We have 2,300 students in grades 9 through 12. We compete in a school district that has schools in it as large as 4,000 students. In Texas they decided to have two classifications for the State Championships. They decided to take the largest school in each district and place it in Division I. The rest of the teams in your district were placed into Division II. The fallacy of this system is the fact that you have a lot of large schools competing against schools that are not nearly as large. We ended up
losing to a school one year in the Semi-Finals of the small schools that had 4,700 students. There is a discrepancy in this system. But Texas is a great place to coach.

Let me tell you how I got to Texas as a coach. I was at Clinton High School in Iowa. It is an industrial town and was drying up. I went to a Texas High School Coaching School in 1983. It is the largest association of high school coaches in the country. I went to the Coaching School and that is where I got my job. Let me tell you about the Coaching School so if any of you are interested in coming to Texas to coach.

When you go to the Coaching School you will see that there are 400 or more vendors that have displays. They have all kinds of clinics going on at the time. In the lobby they have a job room set up. You go into the room and put your resume on a big board on the wall. On the other side of the wall are the open jobs and the qualifications and other information about the job.

In the clinic sessions they will call the names of the schools that are interested in interviewing coaches that are looking for jobs. You go down to a room and the school personnel have interviews with those coaches interested in jobs.

The reason $I$ am telling you about this is because the number of quality people applying for coaching jobs has diminished. We need for more coaches to come to Texas to
coach high school football. There are teacher shortages all over the state. Texas pays very well for teaching and coaching.

The President of our association told me to make sure I told everyone that when you apply for a job in Texas there are only two questions they ask you in the interview. You do not need to fill out a resume or send in any references. They just ask you two questions. The first question is this. "Have you ever had sex with a farm animal?" If the person answers NO they hire you on the spot and do not ask the second question. If the person being interviewed answers YES they ask the second question. The second question asked is this. "When you had sex with the farm animal did anyone see you?" If the answer is NO you are hired on the spot. We do need additional coaches in our area of Texas.

In Texas there is no state income tax. That is a good thing. If you were coaching in Baytown, Texas this is what you would be making. If you had zero years of experience and Bachelors Degree this is what you would get. Our base is $\$ 35,739$. As a coach you get 10 days extra pay which means you would get \$2009 added on the base pay. They divide the base pay by 187 days and that is what you get for starting coaching before school starts. The coaching stipend is $\$ 4,800$. That means a coach with zero experience would make $\$ 42,450.20$. If you have a Masters Degree you would make \$44,807. 80 .

In my situation $I$ do not have to teach a single class. I have an office and we have a 16,000 square foot field house. It is used by football only. If the principal wants me he has to call me. They will not walk across the street. I have caller ID so I don't have to answer them if $I$ do not want to.
(Ha- ha) If anyone is interested you can contact me at Robert E. Lee High School in Baytown. We always have a lot of openings in our area. We have over 75 schools in the Houston area. We have a great football coaches association. I am the vice president of the organization at the present time and will be the president in May.

We have a lot of advantages coaching in our school. I deal with our athletes all year round, every single day. In our sixth period of athletics we have all freshmen. In our seventh period of athletics we have all varsity players. They do not go to any other sports first. They come to us first. They go to all other sports after school. The only sport we release our players to is basketball if they are a varsity starter. After the season they must return to football. My title is listed as Head Football Coach and Campus Coordinator in charge of Athletics. I get paid $\$ 80,400.00$ for that position. I do not teach any classes.

Because I came from Iowa everyone calls me Yankee. Just because I went south they think $I$ am a Yankee. Hell, I did not fight in the Civil War. I had to raise the culture level when I went to Texas. I do not say "Yaw" and I do not say "sickem." I still think I talk like I am from Iowa. But, we have a great situation at Robert E. Lee. As Campus Coordinator I get to hire and fire coaches. We do not have to fight the battle to get players. I do have one of my coaches with me today. He is the Special Teams Coordinator, Troy Rogers.

I want to talk about our offense. I am going to cover the Bubble Screen and the Uncovered Philosophy. Our offense is a One-Back Set. Our objective is to never, never run the football. That is the truth. It is plain and simple. I have reached an
age where there are two things that are extremely important in life to me. One is regularity and the other is "Pass Skelton Offense." Those are the two things I worry about. We like to throw the ball as much as we possibly can.

I want to talk about the "Uncovered" situation first. We are in a bubble 2 by 2, a bubble 3 by 1 , or tendencies all of the time. We can go from the shotgun or at times can go under the center.

This is how we approach the "Uncovered" situations. The most important aspect of the offense is the first thing we teach. That is the uncovered philosophy. What that means is this. If you are uncovered we are going to throw you the ball right now. If we are in a wide slot and no one is on the slot man outside, we are going to throw him the ball immediately. The uncovered man takes precedent over any huddle call. We will get him the football. If we are in the shotgun we call "Hike" and throw him the ball. If we are under center we call "Hike" and throw him the ball. He will get the football. Again, anytime a receiver is uncovered we get them the football. If the defensive man is 10 yards from the receiver he is going to get the ball. That is the first thing that we teach. Uncovered takes precedent over any huddle call. It does not matter what we have called.

Silent communication between the quarterback and the receivers is important to us. The quarterback must acknowledge the uncovered man. If you have coached receivers you know how receivers feel. They are always uncovered and they are always open. They are never covered. They can be covered by three defenders and they will still say, "No one is on me." The quarterback has to determine if the receiver is uncovered or not.

Here is a very important coaching point. You must practice Uncovered for it to be effective. We will take it anytime it appears in practice. When we go in our Pass Skelton Drill, if the defense does not line up correctly, we will throw the ball to the uncovered man regardless of what has been called in the huddle. The reason we do this is simple. If you do not practice it all of the time, soon it will not be a part of your offense. That is the reason we insist on throwing to the uncovered man in practice, so we will be able to do it in a game.

Go back and look at some of your films. See how many times you spilt a receiver out and the defense did not line up on him. If you will look inside you will see the defense has at least seven defenders in the box. It does not make any sense to me not to throw the ball to the uncovered man.

The next coaching point is this. If a receiver is uncovered and he does not get the ball thrown to him, he should re-accelerate and get back into the route called. At times the quarterback may not see that a receiver is uncovered. Or a defender may come down to cover the receiver late, so he must get into his route and get deep.

Now, having said all of this, I need to tell you the reasons we have been able to do all of these things on offense. It has been because of the quarterbacks we have had over the last several years. We had a quarterback by the name of Jermaine Alfred. He started for Baylor and is now playing for the Dallas Desperadoes. We had a quarterback named Clint Stoerner. He started three years at Arkansas and was with the Cowboys. We had Ell Roberson, III. He played for us and now he is playing at Kansas State. Hopefully Ell Roberson is going to be a Heisman Award Candidate next year.

The last quarterback we had is my step-son, Drew Tate. He has committed to the University of Iowa. That was an interesting experience for me. That was the first time $I$ had ever coached my son. It was also the first time $I$ ever slept with one of my player's mother. (Ha-Ha) That was an interesting four years coaching my son. He passed for more yards than anyone in high school in the state of Texas. In four years he threw the ball 1,576 times and completed 970 passes, for a total of 12,183 yards. That is a lot of yardage and that is a lot of time to accumulate those totals. But passing is what we do with the football. We did not do it just because he was my son. This is what we believe in.

Let me move on with this. This is how we use to do things on the uncovered situations. If someone was uncovered we would run straight off the ball and run the offense called. We would take off and the defense would start their back-peddle. We would catch the ball and keep running. That is our Uncovered Old.


## UNCOVERED - OLD <br> STRAIGHT OFF BALL, RUN TO DEFENSE

Secondary players have started "sitting" for a count to see what the offense will do before they start into their back-peddle.



Here is want we tell the covered receiver. If the defender is
eyeballing the receiver he is playing man to man coverage. In that situation we want to run him off the ball as hard and as fast as we can. If the corner is looking into the backfield he is playing zone coverage. We want to get on him immediately. We want to get to his outside and grab him by the jersey and hold him. The defense gets their hands inside and grabs the receivers and it is not called holding. It is called locking on. So we want to use the same technique.

Our receivers can be uncovered by defensive depth. Anytime a defender is more than 10 yards off the receiver we are going to get him the football right now.



Receivers can become uncovered by the defensive man running a stunt or blitz. We work with the quarterbacks on any stack situation we see in a game. If the up man starts to sneak up before the ball is snapped they are going to blitz.

We realize this and we look for it. If the up man on the stack outside comes, we throw the hot route behind him. The receiver does a shuffle-shuffle-catch and then takes off. We always look for those situations. We are going to take advantage of the defense and get the uncovered receiver the ball.



One thing I do need to mention. We play by NCAA Rules. We teach our wide outs to stalk a "standing defender" and to cut a "charging defender." I know the high school rules do not allow most teams in the country to cut block.

How many of you use motion in your offense? If we send a man in motion and the defense does not adjust to the motion we will throw the ball to the motion man. The motion man goes across the formation. When he gets outside the end the motion man shuffles-shuffles and turns back and looks for the ball. We throw him the ball between the two receivers.


Next I want to cover our practice organization and how we teach our Bubble Screen Passes. How many of you go to "Seven on Seven" Games? Are the rules the same from area to
area? In 1996 our state association allowed us to have seven on seven tournaments. The coaches can not get involved but we can do a lot of the other things associated with the players. Our state association has made the seven on seven rules uniform across the state. If you would be interested in those rules I will send them to you if you call me. My number is (281)420-4644. I will be glad to send you one of our packets that we use with our seven on seven leagues. It has become big in our state. We have leagues going every Tuesday and Thursday and we have tournaments on Saturdays all over the state. In July we have our State Championship Seven on Seven Tournament. We were fortunate in that we won the 1991 Championship. Players are throwing the football in the summer now in Texas.

What is happening in the state of Texas is the fact we have added a lot more sports in the high schools. When I first went to Texas we only had football, basketball, baseball, and track. We did not have other sports. Now they have added soccer, swimming, wrestling and all of the other sports. What $I$ am saying to you is the fact that we have to compete for players, now that we have all of the additional sports in the schools. If you go out and look in your neighborhood you will see young kids playing. They will be playing soccer, baseball, and basketball. You will never see an elementary aged kid running the midline offense or running the wishbone. They do not play with the football.

So with the Seven on Seven Leagues, it has helped us sell our programs. Our kids enjoy it and have taken to it with a lot of enthusiasm. If you drive through some of the towns in Texas today you will find players throwing the football and catching the football.

We do have Pee Wee Football and that is not a good thing. Some of the young kids learn at an early age that it hurts when you run into someone. We want to incorporate the Seven on Severn game with our young kids instead of playing tackle football. There will always be fat guys and there will always be a need for offensive linemen. They will get a chance to run and catch the football as well at a young age.

This is how we work our practice organization. We work on Screens for 10 to 15 minutes everyday. We work on our Weekly Screens, Bubble Screens, Screens with Motion, and our Hot Routes. We tell the players we are always going to run screen plays.

We work another 10 minutes on uncovered. We will script this part of the practice. If you do not practice it when you get in the games it will not be any good. The defensive cards show the coverage and the uncovered. The play is called in the huddle. The quarterback comes to the line and looks for the uncovered. If no one is uncovered we run the play. The receivers must recognize when they are uncovered and catch the ball when it comes to them.

Next we run the Barrel Drill. We use blue barrels that have come from refineries. They are about six feet tall. We are located in a refinery town so we can get the plastic barrels. We set up the barrels as the defenders. We can set up any defense we want with the barrels. We can get a lot of reps in against the barrels.

We line up five quarterbacks across the field as if they were setting up on a pass play. We call the play out and five receivers all run the particular route for their position. Every receiver is going to get a ball thrown to him on the drill. We
are working on the receivers catching the ball and we are working on them running their routes. All of the quarterbacks get to throw a pass on the drill each time. We move the quarterbacks over on each play. We throw the ball on progression.

We number the receivers as the number one receiver, the number two receiver, and all the way to the number five progression on the play. We run each route five times so each quarterback gets to run the play to each receiver position. We have five receivers going all of the time and we have five quarterbacks throwing the ball each time. It is a great warm-up drill. It does not have to be run at full speed. The quarterbacks may get knocked around with each other. That is ok because they get knocked around in the game. We are simulating everything.

Here is our Bubble Screen Pass. It is a great play and it is an easy play to run. The uncovered is called as part of our screen package. We can call the bubble screen to both sides in the huddle. The quarterback can call the bubble screen on the line. If the quarterback sees the bubble screen is open he can call it on the line. Everyone passes the signal on to the other players. Our signal is very simple. We just have the offensive players touch their leg with their hand. The outside receivers must see the signal. You must practice the signal in practice. We just call "Pass it on." We do other things as well to signal plays. The defense will not always know that we are throwing the bubble screen pass.

Players that can catch the bubble screen pass are the inside receivers, backs, and motion man. They are used on the bubble play.

We run the $J$-Step or Step-and-go. This is the J-Step. We teach our receivers to keep the outside leg
back. We want them to take a crossover step with the inside foot and run as hard as they can to the sideline. That is a J-Step. Some receivers have a hard time running this route. They have a hard time taking that crossover step and running. Some kids will step with the inside foot and then open up and then run. We do not want them to open up at all. We want them on a full sprint. We want to throw to the outside shoulder. Do we get it all of the time? No! But we try to get it to the outside shoulder.

We do not want a "bubbling" back to worry about gaining depth. We want to run wide and get outside of the defenders. We want to gain 5 yards on the play. We want to catch the ball and get to the sideline. How many of you would take a 5 yard gain on each play? We get 5 yards about 99 percent of the time when we run it.

Here are our Bubble Rules. First is our Bubble 2 X 2 rule. On the bubble side we block number 1. Man-Run, Loose-Option (Corner/Safety), Press Turn Out. We use the terminology for our eligible receivers.


The left end is $X$, the slot on that side is the A Back, the One Back is our B Back, the split end on the right is the $Y$ receiver, and the Slot is our $Z$ receiver. The Z
receiver is the fastest man. The $X$ receiver is our quickest man. The A Back and our $Y$ receivers are our best receivers. Why do we tag them this way? The defender covering the $Z$ receiver is wearing a neck roll. Are you going to tell me that a defender wearing a neck roll is going to cover our fastest receiver?

On the backside this is our rule. We run the slant with the wide receiver. The A Back runs the bubble. If something happens to the bubble we still can throw the slant on that side.

The offensive line will cut the 5 technique defender. Everyone else runs their regular play on track. The tackle must get to the 5 technique. The quarterback wants to make sure we secure the a-Gaps. We tell the receivers to never stop on the play and never cut back on the play. We do not care if they go out of bounds, we want them outside.

Normally our split for our receivers has been the bottom of the numbers on the field. On the 2 X 2 the middle receivers will split the difference between the wide receivers and the tackle. We have added a few things to help us on the play. If we call vice we want the slot to come inside and cut the split down. Now we can run the Bubble to a fast receiver and see if he can get around the corner for the score. If we call Mustang the outside man comes down inside and blocks the defender inside.

Next is the 3 X 1 Bubble Screen. Here are the rules. First, we block the number one man from the outside. Next, we block the most dangerous defender. It could be the linebacker or the safety. If we face 3 on 3 Man Coverage we are going to bring one more receiver by using motion.

If the man is not covered we run the screen to him. Here the inside man
is uncovered. We are going to block the two near defenders. We are not going to worry about that deep man. We want to out flank the man and run the play non-stop to the outside. We hope the deep defender is caught up in the wash. It is a down hill play. If the defender takes a bad angle, we can get around him.


If we come out with three wide receivers and the defense give us man coverage, we can still run the bubble. We use motion to get the extra blocker to the three man side. He comes in motion and blocks the nearest defender inside. We run the bubble to the slot man and he tries to get outside.


The motion man can come across the formation or he can come from the tailback position. The quarterback can look at the defense and turn to the tailback or A Back and call "3 on 3 - Bring One." We bring motion to the three receiver side and still run the Bubble Screen Pass.

The best part of the Bubble plays are the plays we run off the bubble. We call them Bubble Supplement Plays. The first play we look at is called Drop. We run this play out of empty. The tailback motions across the formation. We use this after we have run the Bubble Screen several times in a game. We call Motion Cross Bubble. Here are the rules on the Drop play.


The wide receiver on the backside runs a vertical route at 22 yards deep. The inside slot man on the three man side runs a drag route anywhere from 12 to 22 yards deep. He is going to go out of bonds at 22 yards deep. He is behind the drop linebackers and in front of the deep safety. The second man from the outside is going to run a skinny post at the outside upright on the goal post. We do not want him to come across the ball. We want him at the near upright on the goal post. The outside receiver runs a vertical route to the outside.

The next Bubble Supplement we run is called Army. We tell the tailback to out flank the tackler. We have a 5 techniques tackle on defense. We want our tailback to line up splitting our tackle. We tell the tailback to get depth and get outside. The quarterback takes the snap and turns and throws the ball to the tailback. You can put the tailback in the $I$-Set or line him up as a fullback. He turns and gets depth and looks for the ball. We are not pulling anyone. We tell the linemen they can block downfield on the play because the ball is passed behind the line of scrimmage and blocking downfield is legal on the play.


Another thing we can do is to call "Crack" on the play. Now the two outside receivers block down and the inside man goes outside to block the outside defender. We are trying to create leverage on the play.


This is our middle screen play. We call B Go - Y Bubble. This is how we teach our middle screen. Once you teach the concept you can have any receiver run the middle screen. We drop both tackles and have them lock on the defenders and push the 5 techniques past the flow. They are going to stay with the defensive man once they make contact with them.


We tell the guards all they have to do is to run straight up the field at five yards. We get the five yards depth and then we turn our butts inside and look for the defenders from the outside. We make the defenders come to us. We do not go outside after the defenders. We tell the center to go straight down the field and to block anyone in the middle of the field. We are trying to create a tunnel for the receiver that catches the middle screen pass. The receivers know when they catch the ball they must get inside that tunnel.

We run a Jail Break Screen like a lot of other people run. The wide receiver is going to run the hitch route on the backside. He takes two steps downfield and then comes back and catches the ball. He wants to get underneath the tackle on his side of the ball. The tackle is coming outside and blocks the number one man from the outside.


The onside guard comes outside and looks for the linebacker. The center comes outside and goes down the hash mark. The right guard pulls down the line and peels back and picks up any garbage. The right tackle is going to come inside and set a wall and block the first man that comes to him. We do not want him to chase defenders. The back goes in motion away from the play to the three receiver side.

We run the bubble to the motion side one time. The next time we bring the man in motion and fake the bubble and run the Jail Break to the split end.

I am going to show you a film on our Bubble Screen plays. If you have any questions $I$ will be glad to answer them.

I will close with one funny story. A blind rabbit meets a blind snake. They run into each other. The blind rabbit ask the snake "What am I. I would like for you to see if you can tell me what $I$ am? The snake said, "You have a cold nose, you have big ears, and you have a fluffy tail. You must be a rabbit. The rabbit said, "Man that is great that is what I always wanted to be."

The blind snake asked the blind rabbit to see if he could feel of him and tell him what he was. The
rabbit said, "You have a forked tongue, you have a smooth belly but no guts, you have no spine, and you have no testicles. Hell, you are a School Administrator!"

I am very fortunate to have the job I have. I love football and I love working with kids. I do not teach school, $I$ just coach football. What more can you ask for.

Remember if you want to get a job in Texas you only have to be able to answer two questions. If $I$ can help I will be around. Thank you.

