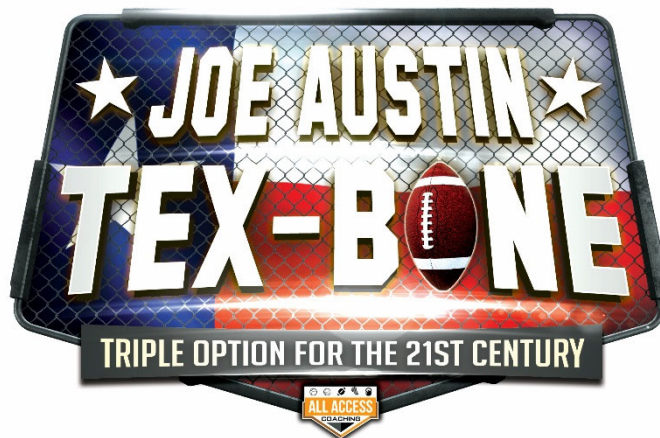


The

TEX-BONE: Triple Option for the 21st Century

Joe Austin



PREFACE

We were in the third quarter of my first game as a collegiate head coach. I was the head coach at Hanover College and we were playing Centre College; a very good team and a national playoff contender. They were loaded. We were starting eleven true freshmen. The game was going as you would expect.

Midway through the third quarter we had somehow matriculated the ball down to the Centre three yard line and had first and goal. Our young team responded by snapping the ball over the head of our quarterback making it second and goal from the 18 yard line.

In addition to being the head coach I was also the offensive coordinator. I looked down at my play sheet. Somewhere on this menu of options there must be the perfect call for second and goal from the 18 yard line. Right? There wasn't. I knew there wasn't, but I kept looking anyway.

The play clock was running down and the players were looking to me for the personnel, formation and play call.

At that moment there was a tap on my shoulder. A part-time assistant coach that I had inherited from the previous staff had done the tapping. When I turned to him he said, "Joe, the pizza delivery guy is here and wants to get paid."

That's football. It is so unpredictable that folks that aren't in our world can't even imagine the number of variables that affect victory or defeat. If you try to describe the number of variables that play into the success or failure of a football team most folks will quickly lose interest in the minutia.

This is not a book for those folks that lose interest in details. This is a book for the folks that love the minutia of football. Every now and then there is a team that is so physically dominant that they can roll out the ball and say, "Go get 'em boys!" I've played that team, but God has never called me to coach that team. If you haven't been called to coach that team I pray that this system will help you become a giant killer. In my first twenty years of coaching we have certainly taken down our share of teams that, on paper, we weren't supposed to beat.

It seems to me that when I started coaching 20 years ago our industry was more open to the exchange of information. When I attended clinics in the 90's there were presentations with a lot of game film and playbook diagrams. Now, it seems to me that most clinics are about philosophy or rudimentary schematics because coaches are scared to share their systems for fear of giving their opponents an advantage. Rest assured that I am not worried about that. Besides, in our league we share every game so my opponents know plenty about the Tex-Bone already. The purpose of this book is to place the Tex-Bone offensive system into the collective body of knowledge that is available to all coaches at all levels.

Joe Austin, August, 2019

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WHY THE TEX-BONE?

The Tex-Bone is triple option for the 21st century. In this book you will learn how implement this new offense with your team. Everything to coach the players is included: playbook diagrams, rules, drills, coaching points, game planning and play calling strategies, etc.

So what is the Tex-Bone system?

The Tex-Bone system is the marriage of traditional triple option and the modern spread into one Texas-sized offense that leaves your opponent scrambling to cover it all.

The Tex-Bone features **two innovative strategies** for modern triple option execution: (1) the Tex-Bone is the first option system to feature the Power Run as the foundational scheme and (2) the Tex-Bone has made every formation imaginable a formation that can be used for executing option.

We still run option from the Flexbone, but that is just the tip of the iceberg. When teams run option for the Flexbone formation they are almost certain to face a defense designed specifically to counteract your offense. On the other hand, spread formations offer more predictable alignments. This means that you will likely have a very good idea as to how the defense you are facing will defend you. **This is the advantage of the Tex-Bone!** You can now run triple option with a high degree of certainty as to what you are up against: who will cover the dive, who will cover the quarterback and who will cover the pitch.

In addition to these **game planning and play calling advantages** the Tex-Bone features new advantages for triple option execution. For example, you will no longer need to motion your pitch player pre-snap. This is important because not motioning conceals the direction of your option play.

All of the **Tex-Bone schemes are rule based**, which means your players can be aggressive. In addition, players that are well versed in the Tex-Bone rules will not be thrown by slanting or shifting defenses and **blitz countermeasures are built in** to the schemes. These results can be achieved through what we call our **economy of techniques**. This means that only a hand full of individual skills are needed by each player to be able to execute the entire system.

WHAT'S IN THIS BOOK

In this book you will learn that this system is adaptable to your players and allows you to play to their strengths. We only ask our players to be in roles that suit their skills, and you can to. In addition, you will learn to choose the elements of the Tex-Bone system that are best for your team on a season to season or week to week basis.

Look at it this way: **the Tex-Bone is a tool box for coaches**. Every week or year you might use a different tool, but the system never changes.

If you have ever wanted a system that is hard to defend, moldable to your players and has all the answer built in the Tex-Bone is for you.

SECTION 1: Tex-Bone Overview

The study of the Tex-Bone system begins with a review of the history of option football. From there we dive into the philosophy and structural components of the system. The formation families, personnel, tempos, backfields actions and number system are all discussed.

SECTION 2: Run Game

Everything you need to master the Tex-Bone run game is contained in Section 2. In-depth explanation of the rules and techniques for each player on the field is outlined for all of the Tex-Bone run schemes:

- Power Option
- G Load Option
- Double Pull Power
- Speed Option
- Veer Option
- Isos & Counters

SECTION 3: Pass Game

The emphasis that opponents of the Tex-Bone must place on stopping the run leads to big plays in the pass game. Each Tex-Bone run has passes that compliment it:

- Power Option Pass
- G Load Pass
- Double Pull Power Pass
- Power Read Pass
- Iso Pass

SECTION 4: Coaching the Tex-Bone

Once you know the schemes, Section 4 outlines drills for each position. Great detail is paid to blocking technique for the perimeter and the offensive line. A systematic way to install triple option is detailed so even the most novice of triple option coaches can get the Tex-Bone up and running in just a few minutes.

The last chapters of the book prepare the offensive coordinator for administering the system and both pre-season and in-season duties are outlined. Finally, tips and strategies for game planning and play calling are discussed, as well as suggestions for organizing your coaching staff during practice and games.