

Installing the Double wing at Two School in Two Years

First, let me prefaced this by saying I have a defensive minded coaching style. I always have been and always will be. That is the reason I started running this offense in the first place. I looked at the double wing and thought how would I defend it, I wasn't sure. When I first looked at the double wing on tape I was intrigued. After researching the offense I was amazed. When I installed the double wing at both schools, I was very satisfied.

In 2005 we finished with a record of 6-5 at Frankfort High School (3A school 900 students) in Frankfort, Indiana. It was our eighth straight season with out having a losing record. I had been at the school for ten seasons and had a good bit of success. We had won two sectional championships and also set the record for most wins by a football coach in Frankfort school history. I was absolutely in no danger of losing my job. Frankfort was a "Tubby" Raymond, wing-T school. I started running the wing-T because I didn't like defending it!

We were beginning to get stagnate in our offense, and my coordinator, Tom Potts, asked me to look some tape and tell him what I thought. In a couple days we were on the phone with Jason Mensing of, at that time Owosso, Michigan. Tom and I made the trip up to Michigan and found the system easy to understand and very similar to the wing-T that we had run for the past eight seasons. We then called Tim Murphy at Clovis East High School in California. Murph made the trip to Frankfort over our Christmas break, and we had clinic for our staff. They were immediately SOLD. This is a must; you have to have a completely loyal staff!!! This is a very unconventional offense and very easy to bash. The staff has to sell it to the kids, and once they buy in, the wins will start.

At Frankfort in 2006 it was fairly easy to get the kids to buy in. We had a great group of seniors and they would have been successful running many styles of offense. However, when we beat our opening opponent 28-6, and they only ran 12 plays in the first half, everyone was on board. The pounding this offense puts on an opposing team is incredible. When first researching this offense, I read of a school in California who had

scored over one hundred points multiple times running this offense, and I didn't understand how that could happen until we played our first game in the double wing. Players get so beat up defending the power, they just give up trying.

Don't be in a hurry when putting this offense in. In our first four games of 2006 we only ran five different plays. You must first master your "core" plays. When this happens, move forward, but never get tired of running your "core". We ended up winning our sectional in 2006 at Frankfort. In two games in '06 our opponents ran ONE play in a quarter (one on these games was in our sectional championship game), and in two other games, our opponents ran THREE plays in a quarter. It is imperative that you don't get tired of getting three yards every play. This is so demoralizing to a defense. Don't ever be afraid of a 4th and 2 situation. Pound into your players heads everyday in practice we must have 2.5 yards per play. Now, 4th and 2 is just another down to run power.

In March of '07 I took a job at Kokomo High School (5A School over 2000 students). My wife and I grew up in Kokomo, and we were ready to come home and be close to our families. This was a very risky move leaving the security of a job that I would never get fired from, and going to a school that had not had a winning record in eight seasons. Kokomo was a spread team with no real offensive system. They possessed tons of athletic potential, but had very little discipline and tradition with the current players. However, the worst thing about Kokomo was they had no structured weight training in place.

I met with the students in the auditorium in mid March and showed them a tape of Clovis East. After my introduction to them, I told them this was a team in California that plays at the highest level and has won three state championships running this offense. I told the room of potential players they had no idea what they were in for if they accepted the challenge of playing for Kokomo High School in the fall of '07. They were excited about the challenge and **ready to win**. This helped me sell the offensive system to the players.

Next, I started interviewing for my staff. I demanded total loyalty in our new system. Under no circumstance would any wavering to a player be tolerated. We ended up losing one coach over this after our first game. As you know, in running this system there are some techniques used on the line that are different than many other offenses. These techniques are key in the success of this offense and any deviation from these techniques would result in a substandard performance. This can not be tolerated.

We spent hours on footwork (first, second and third steps) and coming out of our stances with the offensive line. They were a pass blocking team and didn't have much technique in run blocking. Finishing blocks and playing until the whistle were a big emphasis for us too. We were not very good at these key points until week 3 or 4 of the season. It took this long to get this taught. Once the light bulb turned on, we started dominating the line of scrimmage. We did this with players who honestly could not parallel squat 300 lbs, but were technically sound with blocking technique. I would read in the paper the next day how we dominated the line of scrimmage, how strong our players were, and how physical we were. This offense works, but again, go slow with putting in plays. Too much offense to fast will work against you. 92% of Kokomo's offense was our 5 "core" plays in '07. .

We ended up going 7-0 in our conference and 8-2 overall. Set the single game rushing mark of 502 yards for the team, set an individual single game rushing mark of 293 yards, and had two running backs rush for over 1000 yards for the season. This was Kokomo's first conference championship since 1996. Our staff, players, and community are all tremendously excited about this upcoming season. We went to a weight lifting contest a month ago and had 9 players parallel squat over 400 lbs and 8 players power clean over 225 lbs. Those are big numbers for us, considering we did not have a squat rack in our weight room until June of '07!!!