

## **Bucksweep Alternatives in the Wing-T**

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I would like to discuss two alternatives to the bucksweep, the belly second man through and the fullsweep. Why are they alternatives? Simply put, they use similar backfield action as other wing-t plays and the blocking scheme is consistent with wing-t blocking. They also attack the same off-end hole (the one hole for the Delaware guys, the six hole for evens right guys). In essence, they are ways to run the bucksweep without using bucksweep action in the backfield.

All coaches are plagiarists in one way or another. These two plays were plays I picked up while watching other teams play. We used the first play, the belly second man through (off down action), after watching Bellevue Prep (Bellevue, WA) use it in their third straight state title game. The other, the fullsweep, I picked up watching a local high school (Parkland Marjorie Stoneman Douglas HS) in their spring scrimmage. After the scrimmage, I sat down with one of their offensive line coach and personal friend, Jeff Molinaro, to see how they ran it. Both plays were modified to fit our needs and both were instrumental at Lasalle this season.

As a refresher to those already familiar to the wing-t and so that those not familiar with it can understand how these two plays can be used as alternatives, I'm going to briefly describe the bucksweep. The bucksweep is a great play because of the backfield action attacking three points of attack. Also, it puts on the defensive end in a great deal of conflict by being outflanked. Linebackers who read backs also have issues with this play. Do they attack the diving fullback, pursue the sweeping halfback or drop back into coverage for the waggle? This play has withstood the test of time and is a staple in the offense. Starting with the base Wing Right formation and running it to the right our rules are as follows (figure 1):

WB: Gap – down – backer

TE: Gap – down – backer

PST: Gap – down – backer  
 PSG: Pull, kick out first man past WB's block.  
 C: Reach  
 BSG: Pull, seal area off PSG's kick out.  
 BST: Reach, fill for BSG's area, cut off.  
 SE: Cut off  
 FB: Dive; fill back side A gap  
 QB: Reverse pivot, hand off to HB, fake waggle  
 HB: Carrier, turn up off WB's block

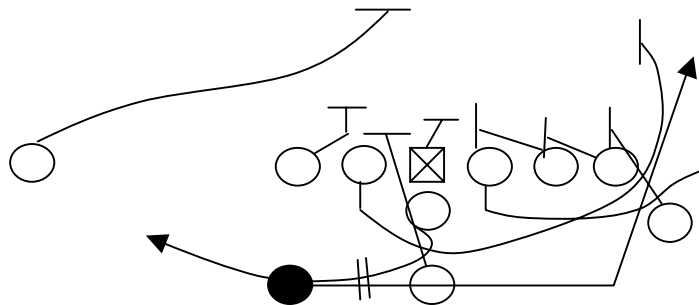


Figure 1

Now, let's look at the belly second man through. Many coaches have referred to this play as the down sweep, double dive, belly double, etc. We decided to put in this play because we were going to focus on being a belly/down series team. Our fullback was going to be our workhorse and we wanted to a fullback dominated series. We felt the belly second man through would compliment him better than the bucksweep. We're going to use the same front side blocking as the bucksweep and the same backside blocking as the down. In addition, one coaching point to make is having the fullback cutback towards center. This is to get the fullback out of the way and prevent him from tripping the PSG. It should freeze the ILB who tries to run down the down play. Using the same formation and direction criteria as the previous play, these are the rules (figure 2):

WB: Gap – down – backer  
 TE: Gap – down – backer  
 PST: Gap – down – backer  
 PSG: Pull, kick out first man past the WB's block  
 C: Reach

BSG: Reach

BST: Reach

SE: Cut off

FB: fake down, cutback towards C upon passing QB

QB: Reverse pivot, ride fullback. Pull out, hand off to HB, fake belly pass.

HB: Carrier; arc step, turn up off WB's block

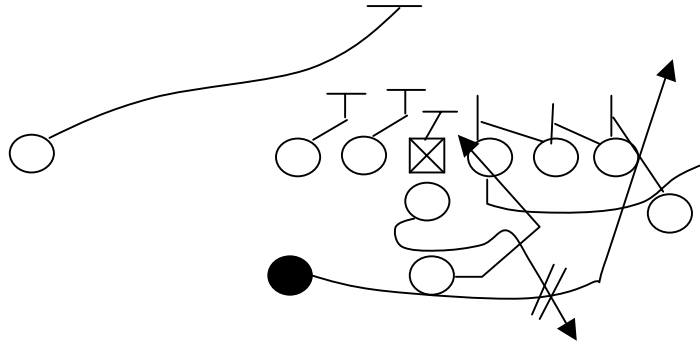


Figure 2

At Lasalle, there are certain concepts we feel are not consistent in the Wing-T offense. One of them is flip-flopping running backs to have a fulltime halfback and a fulltime wingback. I'm not criticizing those who do run it that way, nor am I saying that the way we run it is better. Flip-flopping backs made me predictable. We felt that personnel would dictate which plays we were running to whom. At Lasalle, the need for depth is important. By having a fulltime halfback, a fulltime wingback, and a fulltime fullback, this created three separate running back positions. Making sure that the wingbacks and halfbacks knew each other's responsibilities allowed us to have depth and thus created only two different backfield positions. There was also no need to have our halfback switch to wingback on special plays, telegraphing who the ball carrier was going to be on the next play. As a staff, we felt it gave us a greater advantage to have a left and right halfback.

This is where we thought of using the fullsweep. Our left halfback was not as strong a runner as our fullback and right halfback. This prevented me from running the bucksweep or

belly second man through effectively to the right off-end hole, the one hole. This is where we modified the fullsweep. Originally, the play was designed to go off tackle. We needed to get wider – like the bucksweep! To begin the play, we simulate belly (not down) action. HB leads up the B gap and FB takes a lateral step to the left. WB and the entire offensive line run their bucksweep blocks. The HB fills for the pulling guard much like the FB would fill on the bucksweep. Once FB takes his counter step, he receives the ball and runs off the WB's block.

Here are the rules (figure 3):

- WB: Gap – down – backer
- TE: Gap – down – backer
- PST: Gap – down – backer
- PSG: Pull, kick out first man past WB's block
- C: Reach
- BSG: Pull, seal area off PSG's kick out.
- BST: Reach, Fill for BSG's area, cutoff
- SE: Cut off
- HB: Fill for BSG
- QB: Reverse pivot, hand ball to FB, fake waggle
- FB: Carrier; jab step left, turn up off WB's block

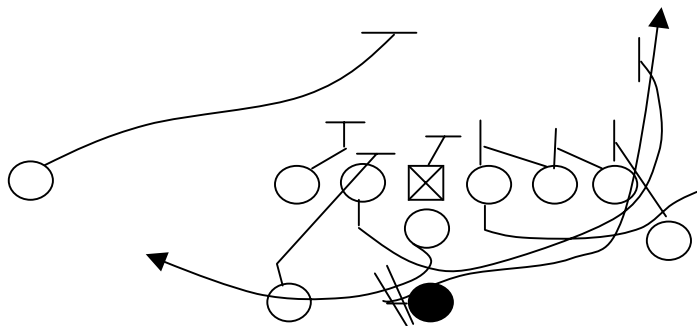


Figure 3

Add in all the formational variations and line calls that can be made and it can be seen that there are almost limitless ways to attack the off-end hole without introducing new series into the offense. For questions or comments, I can be contacted at [CoachMetz@aol.com](mailto:CoachMetz@aol.com).