

Coach Tex
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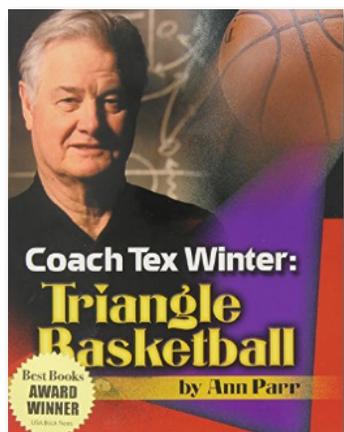
Triangle Basketball

by Ann Parr

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Legendary Coach Taught Championship Basketball the Old Fashioned Way

Fred "Tex" Winter Helped Jordan, Kobe, and Shaq to NBA Greatness with Triangle Basketball



DALLAS, Texas – Fred “Tex” Winter was an innovator in the game of basketball with his triple-post offense, commonly referred to as Triangle Basketball. Originally implemented during Winter’s college coaching years and later perfected at the NBA level, the Triangle was the key component in helping head coach Phil Jackson win 11 NBA titles with the Chicago Bulls and Los Angeles Lakers. Tex was at Jackson’s side for 10 of those championships.

“We’ve watched a lot of game tape together,” Jackson said. “We’ve argued. We’ve cajoled each other, and he’s been a real mentor and compatriot to me.”

In her Best Books Award Winner, ***Coach Tex Winter: Triangle Basketball***, celebrating its 10th anniversary since being released, author **Ann Parr** introduces readers to another side of Tex – the star athlete, family man, teacher, leader, and respected coach. Ann’s late husband, Jack, played for Tex at Kansas State University and experienced the life-changing, life-encouraging experience of having Tex Winter as a mentor and coach. **Ann Parr’s** personal perspective of this larger than life coach is beautifully depicted in her book honoring his legacy.

As great an innovator of X’s and O’s on the court, Tex Winter has left an indelible reputation as a friend, mentor, and confidant to the many he impacted from his days as coach at Kansas State to the superstars he coached on the NBA floor. The list is a who’s who among NBA players who bought in to his Triangle offense and reaped the championship rewards – the likes of **Michael Jordan, Scottie Pippen, Dennis Rodman, Kobe Bryant, and Shaquille O’Neal**.

“The reason I love Tex so much is that he’s just so open, and all he sees is basketball,” Bryant said. “I mean, that’s all he cares about. The first thing he said was, ‘I don’t criticize the individual. I criticize the act.’ He’s constantly on me about the game. He’s on everybody about the game, but that’s what he cares about, and that’s what I love about him.”

The nuances of the Triangle are still being used by NBA and collegiate teams today. Tex Winter is revered by coaches and players alike. His contributions and impact to the game of basketball were highlighted with his induction into the Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame in 2011.



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Media Contact: Brian Briscoe | 972-248-9500
Brian.Briscoe@TheAgencyAtBB.com

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Meet the Author



Ann Parr

Ann Parr has seen the Triangle Offense up close and personal. Her husband, Jack, played basketball at Kansas State University, where legendary coach Tex Winter had his soon-to-be famous triple-post offense on full display. Jack provided Ann with many details of the intricacies of Tex's coaching while she observed Winter's personality and style beyond the game. It is this engaging aspect of his coaching genius that she shares with readers in *Coach Tex Winter: Triangle Basketball*.

Upon graduation from college, Ann taught elementary music, married Jack, and joined him in their training and development company, Jack Parr Associates, Inc., for 30 years. Along the way, her fascination with writing flourished, resulting in the writing, compiling or editing of 13 books. She continues to contribute to local newspapers and has several book manuscripts ready for their next steps.

Ann makes her home in Lindsborg, Kansas.



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Q&A with author Ann Parr

1. Coach Winter was a great innovator in the game of basketball and he changed what the game looks like on the court today. What is Triangle Basketball?

Simplistically stated, Triangle Offense is a team-oriented system of playing the game as compared to an approach that identifies and places players based on their abilities or developed talents. In Triangle, each player is charged with making points when the most opportune shot presents itself. There are preferred offense player positions, but all are to be scorers. The Triangle players maintain 15 feet distance from each other. If a Triangle player for some reason moves out of the pattern, one of the two remaining players might take his/her place.

Another important aspect of Triangle that I somewhat understand is that the opposing team determines how the triangle is used. If the defense goes to the right, so does the triangle, etc. The intricate plays Tex developed and coached centered around what the competition presents. That's one reason the Triangle is hard to learn and is easily dismissed by those who learn and apply it superficially.

2. Was it difficult in the early years for Tex to get the Triangle Basketball technique accepted into the game as a winning strategy?

It was probably not any harder than it is now. Most teams and coaches prefer a modification of “run and shoot” strategies. The Triangle works when the basic fundamentals of the game are second nature to all players, when the players are willing to invest themselves in taking cues from the defense, and when they are intelligent enough to form the plays as they are making them. It is hard, hard work. For example, Tex insisted that players spend significant amounts of time every practice drilling on fundamentals. Highly successful and high profile players often rebelled against that approach. Tex was adamant about fundamentals and that players play team ball, not “hot-shot” ball.

3. How did Tex's Triangle Basketball technique revolutionize the game and its players?

In the Triangle's early days, the idea of having an organized offense was an unknown concept. As Tex's success became obvious, others became curious. Tex did not keep his ideas to himself. He shared, fascinated at what others might add to his approach. The game had become technical for the first time in its history. This led to an evolution among players, too.

They became equally or more valued for their ability to learn the plays, think on their feet, make decisions at every moment of the game, and work very hard.

4. During his incredible college and NBA coaching career, Tex coached and mentored many players and coaches who became household names. Who are a few of those high profile coaches/players, and how did he influence them?

Tex realized his age was an advantage. The players perceived him as a demanding father or grandfather who didn't hesitate to both correct them and expect compliance because he knew it worked. I heard stories like this about Michael Jordan, Shaq, and Kobe. They were good; they knew it; and here was this old man telling them they had some things all wrong. Tex loved that process. He also loved his players.

Dennis Rodman is a very interesting story in the book. Tex said Rodman was one of the most talented players he ever coached. He was a natural, who seemed perhaps lazy. Tex had another view. Rodman had so much trouble with his free-throw shots that Tex took on daily free-throw practices with him. Tex determined that Rodman was self-conscious, and when he realized every eye in the arena was on him as he prepared to shoot, he lost his focus. Tex spent each practice session doing whatever he could to distract Rodman—yelling, jumping up and down in his line of vision—anything he could do to strengthen Rodman's ability to focus and shut out the environmental distractions.

Many coaches have been influenced by what Tex did. First, Coach Phil Jackson. Tex is quick to talk about the Triangle being an evolution that goes back to the coaches he played with or watched as a teenager in California. Jimmy Needles at Huntington Park High School called his approach "Reverse Action", and Sam Barry at Compton Junior College, Huntington Park, California, called his technique "Center Opposite Offense". Both influenced Tex's Triangle.

Many coaches have attempted to use the Triangle, some successfully, some not. Tex welcomed coaches to come observe his teams, and he visited my hometown of Lindsborg, Kansas, several times to give pointers to the Bethany College basketball team and their coach, Clair Oleen.

5. What made Triangle Basketball a system that "stuck" with great teams and players?

It stuck with success when they were willing to persevere and learn the system. Also, observing and learning about the Bulls' and the Lakers' success propelled other teams to attempt it.

6. The book quotes many famous NBA stars whom Tex coached from Kansas State University to the Chicago Bulls and the LA Lakers, including players such as Michael Jordan, Kobe Bryant, and Dennis Rodman. What are some of your most memorable quotes about Tex from the legends of the game?

I really like what Phil Jackson said about Tex being "a great teacher of life through basketball." I can only imagine that Jordan and Rodman would talk about how hard Tex was on them and that it paid off in the end. Rodman gave Tex much credit as they were inducted the



same year into the Basketball Hall of Fame in Springfield, Massachusetts. Kobe's comment on that day was, "He's constantly on me about the game. He's on everybody about the game, but that's what he cares about, and that's what I love about him." That quote is one of my favorites that sums up the legend of Tex Winters.

7. You mention that Tex was more than just a basketball legacy and that the book represents the life story of a great man. Can you give a few examples of Tex's impact on lives off the court?

Tex has been a team player from his youngest days, especially when his family managed to pull together and survive during the Great Depression after his father died. Tex has never been a show person. He credits his players or fellow workers, no matter what the output. He's humble, yet strong in his beliefs about what basketball should be—a team sport.

I don't know much about his impact off the court. I imagine those who know him well would say he didn't spend much time off the court. However, I can attest to how he impacted my life. He was gentle, kind, and attentive, no matter what the circumstance. He never failed to ask about Jack if he were talking to me; vice versa, he never failed to send greetings to me.

I don't know what impact this might have had, but he is one of the best looking fellows I've ever met, mostly because he couldn't be less impressed with himself. He has/had movie star appeal. Great square jaw, beautiful black, then white hair, and a great, in-shape body until a few years back. (He loves to eat!) And never much attention to what he wore. Jack and his KSU teammates razzed him about his "ugly ties" and his famous "brown suit."

8. What is one of the most impactful quotes or awards bestowed upon Coach Winter?

He was proud of the championship rings—10 in all. He carried them around in a cloth bag and spread them out whenever someone wanted to see them. Thousands of dollars worth of precious metals and jewels, just out loose! He trusted that no one would take advantage of his generosity, and they didn't. I think he was proud of one particular ring that featured a triangle to represent his offense. He surely was proud of being inducted into the Basketball Hall of Fame after years of being nominated, but not voted in.

9. What is Tex doing today?

He and Nancy are in their elder years and cared for by their youngest son, Brian, in Manhattan, Kansas. Tex suffered a stroke about 10 years ago that left him unable to communicate fully. He cannot read or write. Brian says he watches basketball every day, mostly NBA.

Coach Jackson and others call him now and then. He goes to Kansas State University sports and is quite happy in his limited condition. He answers his cell phone, can carry on a limited conversation in his usual gracious, generous manner. I love the guy and always will!



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What People Are Saying about *Coach Tex Winter: Triangle Basketball*

“In our business, Tex Winter is an icon at a level that transcends professional basketball or any level for that matter. He is Hall of Fame material and should be in the Hall of Fame, period. His contributions are so great that they cannot be measured. If I talked only about his relationship with the Lakers, I would demean his contribution to the sport. His value is so very much more than that. To have him in our office is a treasure and a treat.”

-Mitch Kupchak, General Manager, Los Angeles Lakers

“Ann Parr has captured some of the essence of Tex Winter. We all will be richer for the picture she has painted of a great teacher of life through the experience of basketball.”

-Phil Jackson, Head Coach, Los Angeles Lakers

“This book by Ann Parr will give you a glimpse of Tex Winter as one of the greatest basketball coaches ever, as well as an even greater man and role model.”

-Bill Guthridge, Head Coach, University of North Carolina

“Readers of all ages will find in these pages all the right stuff—integrity, grit, and honor. In her fast moving prose that reads like a game in play, Ann Parr has gotten to the heart of what it means to be a great coach. This book is a winner.”

*-Kathi Appelt, Faculty Chair,
Writing for Children and Young Adults: Vermont College*



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Excerpts from *Coach Tex Winter: Triangle Basketball*

“The reason I love Tex so much is that he’s just so open and all he sees is basketball. I mean that’s all he cares about. The first thing he said was, ‘I don’t criticize the individual. I criticize the act.’ He’s constantly on me about the game. He’s on everybody about the game, but that’s what he cares about, and that’s what I love about him.”

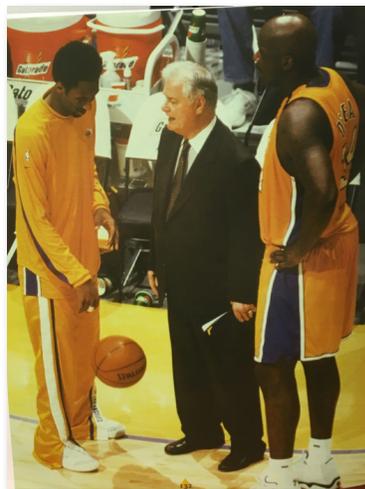
–Kobe Bryant, *Los Angeles Lakers*

“Tex Winter’s the innovator of the sideline triangle offense. We’ve watched a lot of game tape together. We’ve argued. We’ve cajoled each other, and he’s been a real mentor and compatriot to me. He’s gonna be the one guy I really miss when I hang this up.”

–Phil Jackson, *Los Angeles Lakers*

“Dad had a real sense of responsibility and dedication to his family. He would schedule time with each of us sons. He did a weekly coach’s broadcast about an hour’s trip away from home. He would take one of us. He’d engage us, talk with us, driving in the dark. He’s a remarkable man, unpretentious. I think he allows himself to be taken advantage of because he believes in people’s goodness so much.”

–Russ Winter, “Tex’s” oldest son

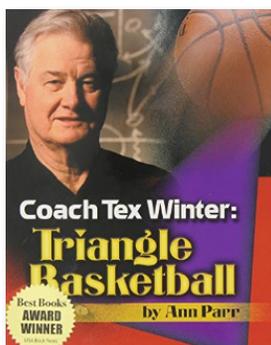


Coach Winter tutors two of his prize pupils, superstars Kobe Bryant (left) and Shaquille O'Neal (right).

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Synopsis

Experience the remarkable life story of legendary Coach Tex Winter in this Best Books - USA Book News award-winning title. At the age of ten, Tex experienced the untimely death of his father. What resulted was an awakening belief in the coordinated efforts of family members to work together as a team. His family experiences and resulting skills laid the foundation for what became known as his Triangle Offense, a strategy that revolutionized college and professional basketball. *Coach Tex Winter: Triangle Basketball* is an inspiring story of overcoming hardship to develop the attitudes and relationships for success at home, school and career. It contains 160 full-color pages of news clips, personal notes, photographs, and Tex's chalkboard sayings. Quotes from family, friends and legends such as Kobe Bryant, Phil Jackson and others are also included throughout.



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