

A STUDY OF DEFENSIVE FOOTBALL FORMATIONS

A Thesis

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Harry William Caughron

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CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

THE PROBLEM

The purposes of this study are: (1) to determine the basic defensive formations in use by leading colleges and universities throughout the nation, (2) to analyze these data in order to determine common elements and trends, and (3) to recommend sound basic defensive football formations for use against the various offensive formations in use today.

DEFINITION OF TERMS

Defensive football formation. A defensive football formation is the arrangement of eleven players on the field to stop the offense from advancing the ball.

Defensive line. The defensive line consist of players located on the line of scrimmage to meet the offensive line at the inception of the play.

Secondary defense. The secondary defense consist of players located behind the defensive line to meet plays that get beyond the line of scrimmage by run, pass or kick.

Shifting defense. In a shifting defense there is

a change of players on the line of defense and a complete change in the defensive formation before or after the ball is snapped. An example would be shifting from a 7-1-2-1 defense into a 6-2-2-1 defense.

Forward pass defense. A forward pass defense is the rushing of the passer at the inception of the pass and the guarding of all eligible receivers of a pass in the secondary. The objectives of the defensive players are to intercept or bat down the ball (if in the air) or tackle the receiver (if pass is completed).

Man-for-man defense. A pass defense where each defender has a definite assignment to cover a particular opponent who is eligible to receive a forward pass, wherever he goes.

Zone defense. A pass defense where each defender has a certain assigned definite zone or territory to protect against passes.

Combination defense. A pass defense which consist of a combination of the man-for-man defense and zone defense.

The 6-2-2-1 defense. A defensive formation composed of six linemen, two linebackers, two halfbacks and

a safety man.

The 7-1-2-1 defense. A defensive formation composed of seven linemen, one linebacker, two halfbacks and a safety.

The 7-2-2 defense. A defensive formation composed of seven linemen, two linebackers and two halfbacks.

The 5-3-2-1 defense. A defensive formation composed of five linemen, three linebackers, two halfbacks and a safety man.

The 6-3-2 defense. A defensive formation composed of six linemen, three linebackers and two halfbacks.

The 4-4-2-1 defense. A defensive formation composed of four linemen, four linebackers, two halfbacks and a safety man.

The 8-2-2 defense. A defensive formation composed of eight linemen, two linebackers and two halfbacks. This is primarily a goal line defense.

SCOPE AND LIMITATIONS

This study is concerned only with defensive football formations. It is further limited to the

defensive formations in use by the thirty leading colleges and universities in total defense for the year 1949. These top thirty defensive teams were listed in the official statistics released by The National Collegiate Athletic Bureau.

Through this representative group the writer has been able to determine the most popular and successful basic defenses being used against the various offensive formations.

The line and backfield spacing is shown for each defensive formation presented. The strong points and weaknesses of each defense are listed. The most successful pass defense being used in this age of the modern passing game is also presented. The study covers the modern trends in defensive football.

A brief history of American football is included in the study in order to form a proper background for the study.

SIGNIFICANCE OF THE STUDY

Modern football, in the past few years, has developed from straight power and brute force into a game of deception and speed. During the days of power football the 7-2-2 box defense or the 7-1-2-1 diamond defense was

used almost universally,¹ but it could never meet the needs of modern day football.

The day of using only one defense throughout the season or even throughout one entire game is over. In order to be successful in modern football a coach must be able to deploy his defensive man in the most strategic position to stop the geared-up offenses in use today.

One of the toughest problems facing the coach is that of adapting the defense to the particular game at hand.² Teams today use as many as four or five defenses in a single game. Every coach should have at least four sound basic defensive formations, from which he can make slight variations as the need arises.

SOURCES OF DATA

The sources of data upon which this study is based include reports of related studies, periodicals and bulletins, and a questionnaire.

The related studies used are: Notre Dame Football - The T Formation by Frank Leahy; Championship Football by Dana X. Bible; Functional Football by John DaGrosa;

¹ Robert C. Zuppke, Coaching Football (Illinois: Bailey and Hines, 1930) Chapter VI.

² Herbert O. Crisler, "Variable Team Defenses", Scholastic Coach, 19:10, June, 1950.

Coaching Football by Robert C. Zuppke; Modern Football by Herbert O. Crisler; Touchdown by Amos A. Stagg; Football Facts and Figures by L. H. Baker; Football by W. Glenn Killinger and Football by Lamont Buchanan.

The periodicals and bulletins used are Scholastic Coach and Athletic Journal.

A questionnaire (see appendix A) was sent to the thirty leading defensive teams in the nation to secure the remaining information needed to complete the study.

PROCEDURE

The primary source of information for this study is the questionnaire. The information for Chapter II, A Brief History of American Football, was gathered from related studies written by leading authorities in the field.

Chapter III includes a review of defensive football and was also obtained from the works of leading authors on American football.

A questionnaire was sent to the head football coach of the thirty major colleges and universities who lead the nation in total defense for the year 1949.

In this questionnaire every offensive formation in use today was drawn up and the coaches were asked to insert the defensive formation being used by them. In this way

the exact spacing for the various defensive formations was obtained. Special emphasis was placed on the 6-2-2-1, 5-3-2-1 and goal line defense against the "T", Split T, Balanced Single Wing and Unbalanced Single Wing formation.

The coaches were also asked to state their defensive preference in order against both the single wing and "T" formation. They were also asked to list their favorite defense against a strong passing attack and against a strong running attack from both of these formations.

Also included in the questionnaire were questions pertaining to special defenses such as the overshifted 6-2-2-1 and shooting linebackers. The coaches were also asked to list their favorite pass defense and also the defensive formations that had proven most successful against their offensive formation.

These questionnaires were mailed on May 19, 1950 and the first return was received on May 24, 1950. By July 4, 1950 twenty-two of the thirty questionnaires sent out had been received, giving the writer a high percentage of returns.

The questionnaires were carefully studied and the data compiled, showing the defensive formations being used by the leading coaches throughout the nation. This data was presented in Chapter IV. The most popular and

successful defenses against each offensive formation are listed. From this data the defensive trends are determined.

ORGANIZATION OF THE REMAINING CHAPTERS OF THIS THESIS

A brief history of American football is presented in Chapter two. Chapter three is a review of the defensive football formations and defensive football in general. Chapter four is the analysis of the data obtained through use of the questionnaire. Chapter five is a summary of the conclusions, and recommendations made after careful study of the data collected.

CHAPTER II

A BRIEF HISTORY OF AMERICAN FOOTBALL

Football came into this country with the Pilgrims when they landed in New England and with the colonists on their arrival in Virginia. In New England, in time, it formed part of the Thanksgiving Day festivities, but in Virginia the game was played only sporadically. Not many references to football have been found during the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries. It is likely that kicking an air-filled bladder was done as a pastime. As a sport football was almost nonexistent. Unlike England, little interest in the game was shown by any of the educational institutions. The answer to this may be that the first colleges in the United States were almost entirely of a theological nature and little time was permitted for extracurricular activities such as sports.¹

From 1827 on, Harvard class teams played an annual match but these became increasingly brutal and degenerated into the "Bloody Monday" rushes which bore no bona fide resemblance to football. Yale, Princeton and Brown turned their hands to occasional contests of this new sport but the game took on a violent and deadly nature that caused it

¹ L.H. Baker, Football: Facts and Figures (New York: Farrar and Rinehart, Inc., 1945), p. 9.

to be abolished in many places. There were no set rules and the makeshift ones added to the confusion.²

Many experts credit William S. Gummere of Princeton, in 1868, with conceiving the idea of starting intercollegiate football. He selected the "Association" code as his guide and proceeded to adapt from that a set of rules under which the first game of college football in his country was played - between Princeton and Rutgers on November 6th, 1869.³

Early football was neither too intricate nor too consistent. The first rules in 1869 provided, among other things, no throwing or running with the ball; twenty-five players to a side and no holding of the players. There were other restrictions equally vulnerable to the onslaught of revolutionary changes made during the next few years. The game that emerged was strictly an American product, eventually bearing no relationship to soccer or rigger. To tackle or, as it was known then, "collar," an opponent would have called for a most severe penalty imposed by an officialdom that, in 1869, consisted of four judges and two referees.⁴

² Lamont Buchanan, Football (New York: Stephen-Paul Publishers, 1947), p. 18.

³ Ibid., p. 19.

⁴ Ibid., p. 25.

The first rules conference was held in 1873 with representatives from Yale, Rutgers and Princeton attending. They compromised on twenty men to a side instead of twenty-five, no carrying or throwing of the ball, free kicks on fair catches and no babying, or dribbling, on the kick-off. Later in the season a team of Etonians played at Yale under mixed rules, and brought with them their Etonian practice of eleven men to a side. Thereafter Yale held out annually for eleven men and won its point finally in 1880.⁵

COLLEGE OF WILLIAM & MARY

By 1905 the heavy pile-ups and mass plays and wedges had begun to disappear. The close formations were about to give way to more open football and forward passing was just around the corner. Experiments in passing were carried on at all corners of the grid map.⁶

Early members of the Football Rules Committee credit Navy's Skinny Paul Dashiell with being one of the very first to propose a new rule to "permit the ball to be passed forward." Dashiell, becoming Navy grid coach in '04, was tired of seeing Army footballers tramp off the field triumphantly year after year with "another" win over Annapolis under their belts. In 1906 the story was

⁵ Amos A. Stagg, and Wesley W. Stout; Touchdown (New York: Longmans, Green and Company, 1927), p. 34.

⁶ Buchanan, op. cit., p. 59.

different, the Middies won 10-0 by using the forward pass.⁷

In the so-called dark ages of football, the early years, little attention was given to umpires or referees. All that really mattered was the winning of the game, and the precise way this came about didn't seem too important. But as the years passed it was evident that there must be more rigid supervision of play. Rules governing officials were strengthened, their powers defined, although their exact number changed almost yearly. In 1915 the four man lineup we still have today was prescribed. These officials were referee, umpire, linesman and field judge. Opinion was growing then that, aside from speeding up the game, careful officiating was a factor in avoiding injuries.⁸

As the twenties ended, football had grown through its period of roaring adolescence; it was colossal-size now, but carried itself with new dignity.⁹

In conclusion we may say that the American game of football actually dates from 1876, for it was from this point on that rules were first made to fit the variations, innovations and inventions that began to be injected into the game in this country. From 1876 onward the mechanics

7 Ibid., p. 60.

8 Ibid., p. 97.

9 Ibid., p. 128.

of the game have consistently tended more toward a "handling" of the ball, with running and deceptive tactics as features, and as the years have gone by, less emphasis has been placed on kicking as a prime feature. The game today is a distinct development in America, by Americans, while the European game still remains the same, at least fundamentally, as in the early nineteenth century.¹⁰

¹⁰ John DaGrosa, Functional Football (New York: A. S. Barnes and Company., 1946), p. 4.

CHAPTER III

A BRIEF REVIEW OF DEFENSIVE FOOTBALL

INTRODUCTION

Unlike the offense, the defense is not restricted by rule in its deployment. The only requirement is that the defensive players must be on side. While the attacking team must have at least seven men on the line of scrimmage, the defensive team may have seven, four, ten or none. This latitude encourages variations in the defensive pattern, and innumerable arrangements, have been tried down through the years.¹

Out of these experiments certain defensive principles and standard defensive formations have emerged. Defensive players cannot safely be deployed helter-skelter. Some of them must be in position to rush the passer and kicker and to stop running plays on or behind the line of scrimmage. Some must be in position to defend against the pass or kick. There must be defense in width, to cover the field laterally, and there must be defense in depth, so that if one line of defenders fails to stop the play, another will be in position to do so.²

¹ Dana X. Bible, Championship Football (New York: Prentice-Hall, Incorporated, 1947), p. 146.

² Loc. cit.

Like offensive formations, each defensive arrangement has its strong points and its shortcomings. The average modern team employs several different defenses in the course of a game and must be the master of at least two: an all-around defense such as the 6-2-2-1 or the 5-3-2-1, and a goal-line defense. It should also be prepared to defend against a spread formation - a wide, loose offensive arrangement that lacks inherent strength but may be fatally confusing to a team that is not prepared for it.³

HOW NAMES OF FORMATIONS ARE DERIVED

The outstanding and more popular defensive formations are named according to the number of players in each line of defense within the defensive formation. If seven players in the first line of defense, one in the second line of defense, two in the third line of defense, and one in the fourth line of defense it is a "7-1-2-1" defensive formation. Defensive formations are also named according to the figure the secondary resembles on the field, plus the number of players in the line defense. If looking at the 7-1-2-1 defense on the field, we get a "diamond" defense, seven-man line. If a "Seven-man Line",

³ Ibid., p. 147.

too backers-up and two wings, we get a 7-2-2 defense or a "box" with seven-man line.⁴

STANDARD DEFENSIVE FORMATIONS

The standard defensive formations are: (a) the 6-2-2-1 defense; (b) the 7-1-2-1 (diamond) defense; (c) the 7-2-2 (box) defense; (d) the 5-3-2-1 defense and (e) the 6-3-2 defense.

The 6-2-2-1 defense is generally considered the best balanced defensive structure of any yet devised and is the one most widely used when the opposition has a well-balanced attack.⁵ It is composed of six linemen, two linebackers, two halfbacks and a safety man. The strength of the formation is its balance against the running, passing and kicking games. It is strong against off tackle plays and end runs; affords good rushing of the passer and kicker; and gives adequate protection against a quick kick. The man-for-man, zone or combination pass defense will readily fit the formation and the alignment can be easily changed into a 6-3-2, a 5-3-2-1 or a 7-1-2-1 defense. The weakness of this formation is its lack of strength against line plunges.

⁴ John DaGrosa, Functional Football (New York: A. S. Barnes and Company, 1946), p. 222.

⁵ De Ormond, "Defensive Backfield Play," Athletic Journal, 29:10, October, 1948.

The 7-1-2-1 defense is composed of seven linemen, one linebacker, two halfbacks and a safety. This is a very old defense, used successfully for years, and still is favored by many coaches. This formation is strong against the running game and a quick kick. It is good for rushing the passer and if a zone pass defense is employed it gives adequate protection against passes. From this defense it is easy to change into a 6-2-2-1 and a 5-3-2-1 formation.

The formation is weak against quick opening plays and line plunges. If a play should break through the line it is liable to go to the halfbacks as it is difficult for one linebacker to cover the entire line. Its greatest weakness is pass defense, especially if the man-for-man defense is employed; it is particularly vulnerable to flat passes. The center must be able to drop back and protect against passes.

The 7-2-2 defense is composed of seven linemen, two linebackers and two halfbacks. This defense is exceptionally strong against running plays and is good against flat passes. It is also strong for rushing the passer. The formation is weak against long passes; it is almost impossible to cover three receivers running deep. It is vulnerable to a quick kick.

The 5-3-2-1 defense is composed of five linemen,

three linebackers, two halfbacks and a safety man. This defensive formation is widely used because of its strength against the running game and passing game. It is good against a quick kick and can easily be converted into a 6-2-2-1 and a 7-1-2-1 defense. The defense is vulnerable to wide plays and it is difficult to adequately rush the passer.

The 6-3-2 defense is composed of six linemen, three linebackers and two halfbacks. It is a powerful defense against a strong running attack.⁶ With this type of defense a great deal of pressure can be put upon the passer by rushing. It is weak against a quick kick and against long passes.

FORWARD PASS DEFENSE

The essentials of pass defense are: (a) Guarding receivers with the objective of intercepting the pass, knocking it down or tackling the receiver of the pass if the ball is caught, (b) Rushing the passer with the objective of spoiling the passer's accuracy or of keeping him from throwing the ball; (c) Chugging or delaying the receivers with the objective of ruining the timing of the pass plays.

⁶ W. Glenn Killinger, Football (New York: A. S. Barnes and Company, 1939), p. 74.

Guarding Receivers. In general there are three types of defenses, namely: the man-for-man defense; the zone defense and the combination defense. Of the three the latter is perhaps the most popular, but it is common knowledge that no pass defense has yet been devised which will defend perfectly against every pass play that an opponent may use. A substantial rule to follow is: If the defensive plan is not adequate in defending against the majority of passes let the opponents complete the short passes but not the long ones.

The Man-for-Man Defense requires each pass defender to cover a particular receiver wherever he goes. The strength of this defense lies in the fact that defenders know at all times whom they must cover. The defense is weak against crossing ends which cause the defenders to cross, and it requires players to move a great distance from their position in order to cover their men. It is comparatively easy for a clever receiver to outmaneuver a defender who is the least bit slower than the receiver.

The Zone Defense requires each pass defender to protect a definite zone or territory. The defenders fade back watching the passer and when the ball is thrown they move toward it, playing the ball, not the receivers. This defense is strong against most types of passes and it does

not require exceptional speed on the part of the defenders. It is weak against passes designed to flood a certain zone and at times the zones become too large to cover.

The Combination Defense requires each pass defender to cover a particular receiver or a definite zone, shifting from one responsibility to the other (from zone to man-for-man or vice versa) depending upon the path of the receiver. For example, the right defensive halfback may be assigned to cover the left offensive end or to protect a definite zone on his side. If the left end runs down and out the halfback would cover him man-to-man, but if the end runs down and across the halfback would remain and protect his zone (shift from man-to-man to zone). This is an extremely strong defense against all types of passes; its weakness is that the defenders may become confused as to whom to cover and when to cover. A strong personnel is necessary to effectively operate this type of pass defense.

Rushing the Passer. The first essential of a good pass defense is consistent, hard rushing of the passer by all linemen, excepting those given other assignments, such as dropping back into a zone or covering a particular receiver. A mediocre passer if given time would be able to pass to completion while a good passer might pass poorly if put under constant pressure by the opposing line. The ends should rush from an outside angle, keeping the passer

abreast of their inside shoulders to prevent him from running around them on a fake pass. The tackles and guards should drive straight for the passer. The rushers should not jump in the air to block the pass, thereby allowing the passer to fake a pass and duck around them, but should tackle the passer high in an attempt to enclose his arms. Many a successful pass that could have been stopped by a high tackle, has been made with an opponent hanging on to the passer's waist or legs. If the passer has the ball when a rusher is near enough to tackle him, he should be tackled and tackled hard; the rusher must not be fooled into stopping his charge by the faking of a throw.

Chugging or Delaying the Receiver is the slowing up or momentary delaying of a receiver by legal defensive use of the hands and arms before the ball is in the air. As far as the defense is concerned, pass receivers are potential blockers until the ball is thrown; therefore defenders can use defensive measures to ward them off. Delaying the receiver is an effective measure in disrupting the timing of a pass play and in materially aiding the defensive backs in covering a fast, clever receiver. Linemen should not be expected to check a receiver and also effectively rush the passer.

SHIFTING DEFENSE

A well coached team today should be prepared to

use the various defensive formations mentioned earlier in this chapter and should know their value for certain game situations. These various game situations that arise are such things as location of the ball on the field, down and distance to gain, the score and remaining time to be played, changing offensive formations, the threat of an outstanding player, or the offensive team's strong attack that continues in one department, such as a passing attack, or running to one side continuously.⁷

In modern football the defenses are continually changing.⁸ Shifting defenses are very essential to a defense and a weapon against any offense because they allow the defense to shift their lines of defense to meet the offensive situation effectively from play to play. An example here is the down and distance to gain. If it is third down with one yard to gain, the defense should be in a seven man line, or if not in one, shifting into it, thus shifting the first and second lines of defense to meet the probable play of the offense (run). If it is third down with nine yards to gain the defense should be prepared for the air, by pass or kick, or wide end run, and should be in a five or six-man line, or if not in one, shifting into

⁷ DaGrosa, op. cit., p. 127-128.

⁸ Herbert O. Crisler, Modern Football (New York: McGraw-Hill Book Company, Incorporated, 1949), p. 102.

one, thus shifting the lines of defense.⁹

The defense to be used depends a great deal on the location of the ball on the field. If the ball is located in the territory of the defensive team (within the 15-yard line) there is no fear of long passes, quick kick, or punt; therefore a fourth line of defense (safety-man) is not needed. Strength is needed on the line of scrimmage and in the second line of defense (linebackers). The defensive formation should be 7-2-2- or 6-3-2. If the ball is within the five yard line, then an 8-2-1 defense is needed to rush the passer and stop the running attack. If the ball is located in the territory of the offensive team then a defense should be used, such as 5-3-2-1 or 6-2-2-1, to play for long passes, quick kicks, and runs, laterals or any open trick plays. A safety should be back as a fourth line of defense to meet such possibilities as these.¹⁰

The score of the game at the time of shift is also very important. If a team is leading, with a few minutes left to play, it should strengthen its secondary for passes (aerial attack), because the chances of scoring are greater in the air than by running, and the team should shift into

⁹ DaGrosa, loc. cit.

¹⁰ Loc. cit.

¹¹ Loc. cit.

into a 5-3-2-1 or 6-2-2-1 defense.¹¹

DEFENSIVE COORDINATION

In all defenses there must be unity and coherence among all players, resulting in complete coordination of responsibilities and movements. Players should be impressed with the importance of protecting their own territory; the man who leaves his territory before the play has developed will find the offense taking advantage of his mistake to the disadvantage of the entire team. For instance, if an end insists on chasing every play moving away from him he may be surprised by a naked reverse or some other delayed play back over territory that he should be guarding. Halfbacks should not be concerned with plays on the other side of the defense until they are sure that they have adequately defended their own territory.

The control of the first yard of territory is the foundation of defensive line play. Defensive linemen must avoid being moved backward or laterally. They should capture one yard on the opposing team.¹² After gaining their objective and locating the ball carrier they can move laterally. The linebackers should work as a team with one

¹¹ Loc. cit.

¹² Frank Leahy, Notre Dame Football - The T Formation (New York: Prentice-Hall, Incorporated, 1949), p. 199.

playing the man coming to his side who accepts the ball or fake, while the other plays the spinner back. Against a play outside of the defensive tackle, the linebacker on the side of the play should keep the ball carrier directly in front of him, the off linebacker should trail the play watching for cutbacks, with the halfback on the side of the run moving up quickly to the outside. The safety should move up and toward the vacated halfback position and the removed halfback should move over and backward, becoming a second safety man. Any play coming through inside of the defensive tackle should be met by a converging secondary.

CHAPTER IV

PRESENTATION OF DATA

INTRODUCTION

The purpose of this chapter is to present the information, concerning current defensive football formations, obtained from the returned questionnaires. The frequency of use of each defensive formation will be presented, along with the special defensive tactics and pass defense being used by the colleges and universities in this study.

DEFENSES AGAINST SINGLE WING

The head football coach of each school was asked to list the defensive formations in the order of his preference. Of the twenty-two coaches answering, seventeen listed the 6-2-2-1 defense as their first preference against the single wing formation. Three coaches listed it as their second preference and one coach listed it as his third choice while the last coach placed it fourth on the list. This count placed the 6-2-2-1 defensive formation as the number one defense against the single wing offensive formation. Ten coaches chose the 5-3-2-1 defense as their second choice against the single wing but not one of them

preferred it as first choice against the single wing. Three coaches placed it as third choice, one as fourth and five as their fifth choice.

The 6-3-2 defense against the single wing was given as first choice by two coaches, second by three coaches, third by five coaches, fourth by eight coaches and fifth choice by two coaches.

The 7-2-2 defense against the single wing was selected as first choice by only one coach. It was also chosen as second by one coach, third by six coaches, fourth by five coaches, fifth by three coaches and sixth choice by one coach.

The 7-1-2-1 defense against the single wing was ranked first by two coaches, second by four coaches, third by three coaches, fourth by two coaches and sixth by four coaches.

The 4-4-2-1 defense did not prove popular as a defense against the single wing. Only one coach named it as second choice, one as third, four as fifth and seven coaches picked it as their last choice.

From these statistics we find that the 6-2-2-1 defense is by far the most popular defense against the single wing. The 5-3-2-1 defense ranked second in popularity, the 7-2-2 defense ranked third, the 6-3-2 defense ranked fourth and the 4-4-2-1 defense ranked last.

DEFENSES AGAINST THE T

The 5-3-2-1 defense is generally considered the best defense against the T formation.¹ The results of this study show that sixteen of the twenty-two coaches preferred the 5-3-2-1 defense as their first choice against the T formation. It was ranked second by three coaches, third by one coach, fourth by one coach and fifth by the last coach. Four coaches selected the 6-2-2-1 defense as their first preference. It was ranked second by nine coaches, third of four coaches, fourth of two coaches and fifth by only one coach. The 6-3-2 defense against the T was the first preference of only one coach. Three coaches selected it as their second choice, three coaches as their third choice, four coaches as their fourth choice, one as fifth and three placed it last on their list.

The 7-2-2 defense did not prove popular as a T defense. It was not selected as first preference by any of the coaches. Only three coaches preferred it as second choice. It was ranked third by five coaches, fourth by two coaches, fifth by four coaches and last by four coaches. The 7-1-2-1 did not fare any better than the 7-2-2 defense. It failed to receive a first place vote and only two

¹ Dana K. Bible, Championship Football (New York: Prentice Hall, Incorporated, 1947), p. 157.

coaches placed it as high as second choice. It was ranked third by four coaches, fourth by one coach, fifth by four coaches and last by four coaches. The 4-4-2-1 defense was the first choice of one coach, second of two coaches, third of four coaches, fourth of six coaches, fifth of one coach and the last choice of only one coach.

From these statistics we find that the favorite defenses against the T formation and the single wing formations are reversed. The 5-3-2-1 defense is by far the leading defense against the T formation while the 6-2-2-1 defense ranks second against the T. The 7-2-2 was third in popularity, the 4-4-2-1 ranked fourth and both the 7-2-2 and 7-1-2-1 defenses received the highest number of votes for fifth and sixth places.

The 5-3-2-1 defense is the latest and newest defensive innovation in football and has taken its place among the modern football defenses. It is a radical departure from the time-honored six-and seven-man line defenses, in that it uses only five men on the line of scrimmage. It also combines orthodox and unorthodox football in its variations of play, whereas six-man and seven-man line defenses are always played in the orthodox manner. The five-man line is a very good defense today against any kind of forward or lateral passing attack. In diagnosing the good and bad features of the five-man, six-man, and

seven-man lines, it will be found that the five-man is the most ideally suited to cope with all the styles of play used in modern football.²

DEFENSE AGAINST T FEATURING STRONG PASSING ATTACK

The 5-3-2-1 defense was selected by thirteen coaches as their number one defense against a strong passing attack by a T formation team. Only three coaches selected the 6-2-2-1 defense in this situation.

DEFENSE AGAINST T FEATURING STRONG RUNNING ATTACK

The 6-3-2 and 7-2-2 defenses lead in popularity against a strong running attack from the T formation. Both were selected by six coaches. Five coaches preferred the 6-2-2-1 defense while only three preferred the 5-3-2-1 defense against a strong running attack from the T formation.

DEFENSE AGAINST SINGLE WING FEATURING STRONG PASSING ATTACK

The 6-2-2-1 defense proved to be the most popular defense against a single wing offense featuring a strong passing attack. It was preferred by twelve coaches. The 5-3-2-1 defense ranked second as the choice of six coaches.

² John DaGrosa, Functional Football (New York: A. S. Barnes and Company, 1946), p.241.

The various other defenses failed to receive a vote.

DEFENSE AGAINST SINGLE WING FEATURING STRONG RUNNING ATTACK

The 6-2-2-1 defense and the 6-3-2 defense received eight and seven votes respectively as the favorite defenses against the single wing formation featuring a strong running attack.

DEFENSE AGAINST SPECIAL OFFENSIVE FORMATIONS

The 6-2-2-1 defense proved to be the most popular defense against the double wing offensive formation. Nine coaches picked this defense as their first choice. Next in popularity was the 5-3-2-1 and 5-2-2-2 defenses, each received two votes while the 7-2-2 defense received only one vote.

The coaches were evenly divided in their choice of defenses against the short punt formation. The 6-2-2-1 defense and the 5-3-2-1 defense each received eight votes. One vote each went to the 7-1-2-1 and 5-2-1-2-1 defenses.

The 6-2-2-1 defense was used almost universally against the deep wing formation. Twelve coaches selected this defense as their first preference against the deep wing. The 5-3-2-1 defense received two votes as did the 6-3-2 defense. Only one coach used the 7-2-2 defense in this situation, and one coach preferred the odd 5-2-3-1

defense.

The popularity of the 6-2-2-1 defense was again shown as fourteen coaches selected it as their first choice against the winged T with unbalanced line. The four remaining coaches selected the 5-3-2-1 defense against this formation.

The 6-2-2-1 defense and the 5-3-2-1 defense were again the leading defenses as they received eight and seven votes respectively against the T formation with unbalanced line. The 7-2-2 defense, the 7-1-2-1 and the 5-4-2 defense received one vote each.

The 5-3-2-1 defense was the leading defense against the spread formation as it received nine first place votes. The 6-2-2-1 defense was second in popularity with five votes. The 6-3-2 defense, 7-1-2-1 defense, 6-1-2-2 defense and the 5-2-2-2 defense each received one vote as first preference against the spread formation.

Through these statistics we again find the 6-2-2-1 defense leading in popularity as an over all defense. The 5-3-2-1 was close behind while the various other defenses were seldom used against the special offensive formations. Four coaches failed to insert their defensive formations against the special offensive formations with the explanation that the defensive formation used would depend entirely upon their own personnel and the personnel of their

opponents. The writer can easily see how this could be true.

FORWARD PASS DEFENSE

The combination pass defense requires coolness and quick thinking on the part of defenders to avoid confusion. Once mastered, it is the most effective method of guarding pass receivers.³ This study indicates that the combination pass defense is by far the most popular pass defense in use today. Nineteen of the twenty-two coaches answering preferred the combination pass defense. The three remaining coaches selected it as their second choice.

The zone pass defense was second in popularity, although receiving only two first place votes. It was the second choice of sixteen coaches and the third choice of two coaches.

The man-for-man pass defense was the least popular of the three pass defenses. It received one first place vote and one second place vote. Eighteen coaches selected it as their last choice. One coach indicated that he used only the combination pass defense, giving no consideration what-so-ever to the zone and man-to-man pass defenses.

This study substantiates the writers belief that the combination pass defense is the most effective scheme

³ Bible, op. cit., p. 151.

that can be employed in defending against a well conceived and properly co-ordinated and executed type of pass attack. Although passes may be completed, this defense makes it more difficult for them to get away for long gains, because it stresses the following of the ball. In the zone defense the backs are held in position by the nature of the defensive plan, while in the case of the man-to-man style of defense the backs may be drawn out of position by decoys. The combination of both defenses, with special emphasis on keeping the eyes on the ball rather than on the man, makes for a sounder defense.⁴

SPECIAL DEFENSES

The overshifted 6-2-2-1 defense proved to be the most popular of the special defenses being used today. Nineteen of the twenty-two coaches use this defense. In the overshifted 6-2-2-1 defense the entire defensive line overshifts a full man thus getting the results of a seven-man line toward strength and that of the five-man line to the short side.⁵

The undershifted 6-2-2-1 defense also proved to be very popular. Fifteen coaches use this special defense.

⁴ Robert C. Zuppke, Coaching Football (Illinois: Bailey and Himes, Publishers, 1930), p. 288.

⁵ DaGrosa, op. cit., p. 250.

In the undershifted 6-2-2-1 defense the line shifts a full man to the weak side of the offense. The undershifted six is equivalent to a seven-man line on the short side and a five-man line on the strong side.⁶

If the scout reports that the opponents' strong side attack is much better than their weak side attack, the coach may decide on an overshifted 6-2-2-1 defense. On the other hand, if the opposition's short side attack is especially feared, the answer may be an undershifted 6-2-2-1 defense. When the line shifts in one direction, the linebackers compensate by shifting in the opposite direction. The halfbacks position themselves directly behind their respective ends, which means they shift with the line.⁷

The overshifted and undershifted sixes may be used handily as sideline defenses in conjunction with the regular six: overshift to the long side of the field when the offensive formation is strong that way; undershift to the long side of the field when the offense is strong toward the sideline.⁸

The slanting defensive line was used by fifteen coaches, thus proving its popularity as a special defense.

⁶ Bible, op. cit., p. 153.

⁷ Loc. cit.

⁸ Loc. cit.

The slanting defensive line is a coordinated line and linebacker movement, with the entire line charging at an angle; the linebackers moving opposite to the direction of the line charge. The purpose of this maneuver is to confuse offensive blockers. The weakness of this plan lies in the fact that if one man fails in his angle charge or is cut off by a blocker, a large hole is created in the defensive line. Such a defense is vulnerable to well designed cut plays and veer plays.

The looping defensive line did not prove too popular as only nine coaches used it. This is a maneuver executed by the linemen taking a lateral step parallel to the line of scrimmage, then charging forward, the linebackers moving in the opposite direction of the initial step of the linemen. This maneuver also proves to be confusing to the offensive blockers. It is weak against a quick thrust and proves especially damaging if there is lack of unity in the charge of the line.

Shooting linebackers proved to be the second most popular special defense. Eighteen coaches used this type of defense. In this defense the linebackers charge through the offensive line with the snap of the ball. They usually penetrate into the opponents backfield and break-up the play before it can form. This type of maneuver has proven more successful against the single wing formation. The

quick hand-off in the T formation makes the use of this maneuver unwise against the T.

Cross-charging linebackers was the least popular of all the special defensive maneuvers. Only six coaches use this type of defense. While it may prove confusing to the offense, it is too much of a gamble to be used often in sound defensive football.

DEFENSES PROVING MOST SUCCESSFUL AGAINST TEAMS POLLED

Ten of the coaches returning questionnaires used the single wing offensive formation. When asked what defensive formation had proven to be the most successful against their team, seven coaches using the single wing listed the 6-2-2-1 defense as the most successful. Two coaches picked the 5-3-2-1 defense while the remaining coach found the 6-3-2 defense as the most difficult.

The twelve remaining coaches answering used the T formation. Six of these coaches picked the 5-3-2-1 defense as the most successful defense against their T coached teams. The 7-2-2 defense received two votes while the 6-3-2 defense, the 7-1-2-1 defense, the 4-4-2-1 defense and the 5-3-3 defense received one vote each. Here we see that odd defenses are much more popular against the T formation than against the single wing. This is due to the fact that coaches are still experimenting with defenses against the

modern T formation. The one big significance here is the fact that the 6-2-2-1 defense was not mentioned by a single coach. From this information it may be assumed that the T formation coaches prefer to play against the 6-2-2-1 defense.

CHAPTER V

RECOMMENDED DEFENSIVE FORMATIONS

The purpose of this chapter is to present the recommended basic defenses selected after a careful study of the returned questionnaires. Only those defenses that proved to be the most popular defense against a particular offensive formation are presented.

The defensive formations are diagrammed and applied to the various offensive formations without consideration as to material, personnel, or tactical situations.

Each of the eleven defensive players has a more or less specific assignment on every play depending on the type of defense being used. Some of the factors that will influence an individual defender's actions are the defensive arrangement and plan; the offensive formation; the tactical situation such as down, yardage to go, position on the field, time and score; condition of the field; special defensive plays; and the known abilities of the offensive team.¹

Due to all these variable factors affecting individual actions, the writer will not attempt to give the

¹ Dana K. Bible, Championship Football (New York: Prentice-Hall, Incorporated, 1947), p. 137.

individual assignments in the various defenses presented.

6-2-2-1 DEFENSE AGAINST UNBALANCED SINGLE WING FORMATION

The spacing of the various defensive players in the 6-2-2-1 defense is shown in Figure I. The ends play two yards from their tackles. The strong side tackle plays on the outside shoulder of the end. The weak side tackle plays on the inside shoulder of the end. The strong side guard plays on the inside shoulder of the right offensive tackle. The weak side guard plays in the gap between the center and the left offensive tackle.

The strong side linebacker plays on the inside shoulder of his own defensive left tackle. The weak side linebacker plays on the inside shoulder of his right defensive tackle. Both linebackers play three yards deep. The halfbacks play directly behind their ends about seven to ten yards deep. The safety plays ten to twelve yards deep and in line with the offensive fullback. On kicking downs he naturally plays much deeper.

6-2-2-1 DEFENSE AGAINST BALANCED SINGLE WING FORMATION

The individual spacing in the 6-2-2-1 defense against the balanced single wing is shown in Figure II. The ends play two yards from their tackles. The strong side tackle plays on the outside shoulder of the right offensive

6-2-2-1 DEFENSE AGAINST UNBALANCED SINGLE WING FORMATION

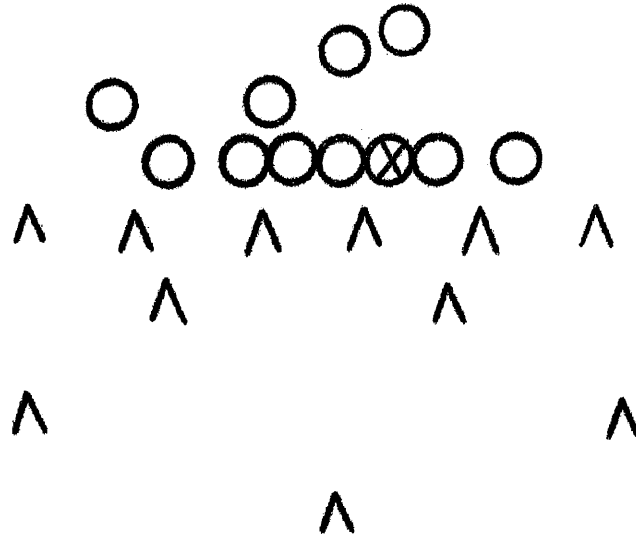


Figure I

6-2-2-1 DEFENSE AGAINST BALANCED SINGLE WING FORMATION

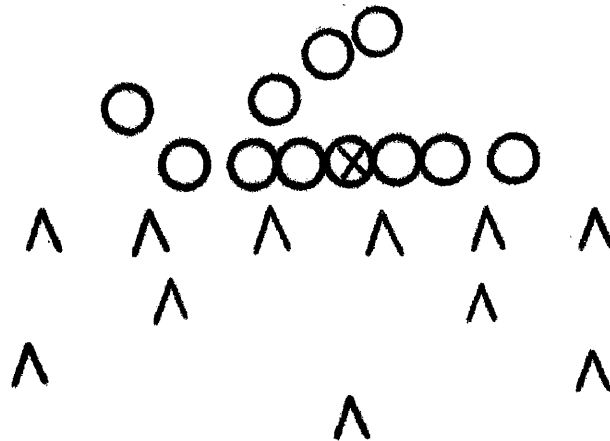


Figure II

end. The weak side tackle plays on the inside shoulder of the left offensive end. The strong side guard plays on the inside shoulder of the right offensive tackle. The weak side guard plays on the inside shoulder of the left offensive guard.

The strong side linebacker plays on the inside shoulder of his own defensive left tackle. The weak side linebacker plays almost directly behind the right defensive tackle. Both linebackers play three yards deep. The halfbacks play directly behind their ends about seven to ten yards deep. The safety plays ten to twelve yards deep and in line with the offensive center.

5-3-2-1 DEFENSE AGAINST T FORMATION

The 5-3-2-1 defense proved to be the most popular defense against the T formation. The recommended spacing for this defense is shown in Figure III. The left defensive end plays one yard to the outside of the right offensive end. The left defensive tackle plays directly in front of the right offensive tackle. The guard plays directly in front of the offensive center. The right defensive tackle plays directly in front of the left offensive tackle. The right end plays one yard to the outside of the left offensive end.

The two outside linebackers play directly behind

their defensive ends about three yards deep. The center linebacker plays directly behind the defensive guard about two and one-half yards deep. The left halfback plays on the outside shoulder of his left end while the right halfback plays on the outside shoulder of his right end. Both halfbacks play eight to ten yards deep. The safety plays ten to twelve yards deep and in line with the center linebacker.

5-3-2-1 DEFENSE AGAINST SPLIT T FORMATION

The spacing of the defensive players in the 5-3-2-1 defense against the split T formation is shown in Figure IV. The two defensive ends play one yard to the outside of the offensive ends. The two defensive tackles play directly in front of the two offensive tackles. The guard plays directly in front of the offensive center. The left defensive linebacker plays on the inside shoulder of the left defensive end about three yards deep. The center linebacker plays directly behind the defensive guard about two and one-half yards deep. The right defensive linebacker plays on the inside shoulder of his right defensive end about three yards deep. The two halfbacks play on the outside shoulder of their ends about seven to ten yards deep. The safety man plays directly behind the center linebacker ten to twelve yards deep.

5-3-2-1 DEFENSE AGAINST T FORMATION

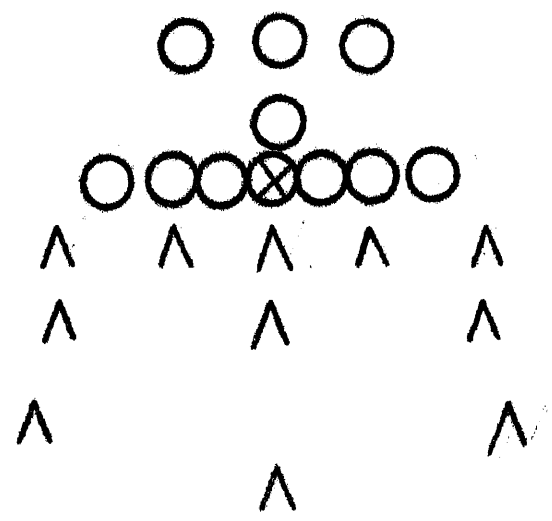


Figure III

5-3-2-1 DEFENSE AGAINST SPLIT T FORMATION

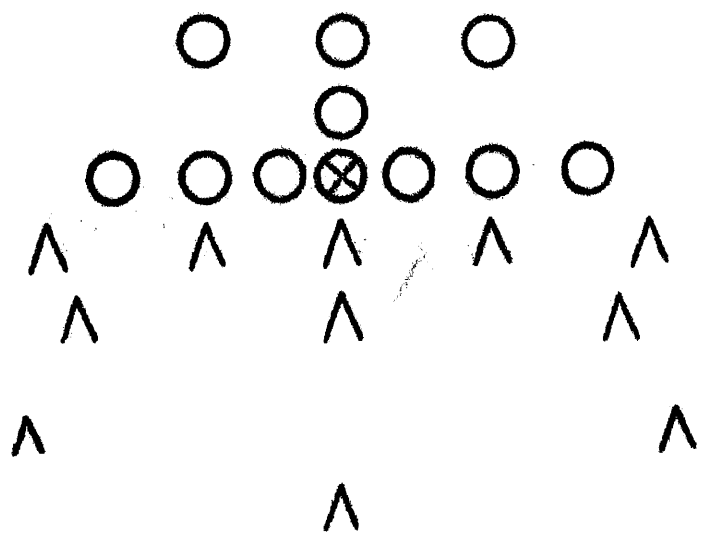


Figure IV

6-2-2-1 DEFENSE AGAINST DOUBLE WING BACK FORMATION

The 6-2-2-1 defense again showed its popularity in being chosen as the number one defense against the double wing back formation. The spacing of the players in this defensive formation is shown in Figure V. The defensive ends play one yard to the outside of the wing-backs. The strong side tackle plays practically in front of the right offensive end, but favor the outside slightly. The strong side guard plays in front of the offensive right guard. The weak side guard plays straight on the offensive center. The weak side tackle plays directly in front of the left offensive end.

The strong side linebacker plays between his left defensive end and tackle. The weak side linebacker plays on the outside shoulder of his right defensive tackle. Both linebackers play three yards deep. The halfbacks play on the outside shoulder of their ends about seven to ten yards deep. The safety plays ten to twelve yards deep and in line with the inside shoulder of the offensive fullback.

6-2-2-1 DEFENSE AGAINST SHORT PUNT FORMATION

The spacing of the individual defensive players in the 6-2-2-1 defense against the short punt formation is shown in Figure VI. The defensive ends play two yards from the defensive tackles. The strong side tackle plays on the

6-2-2-1 DEFENSE AGAINST DOUBLE WING BACK FORMATION

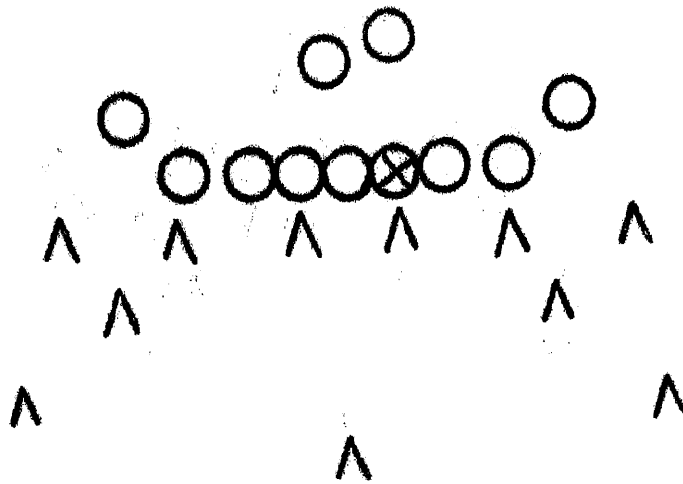


Figure V

6-2-2-1 DEFENSE AGAINST SHORT PUNT FORMATION

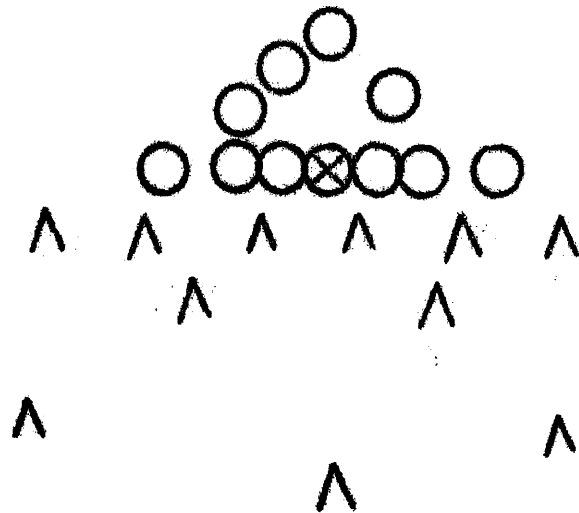


Figure VI

outside shoulder of the right offensive end. The strong side guard plays in the gap between the right offensive tackle and guard. The weak side guard plays on the inside shoulder of the left offensive guard. The weak side tackle plays on the inside shoulder of the right offensive end.

The strong side linebacker plays between the defensive left tackle and guard. The weak side linebacker plays on the inside shoulder of the right defensive tackle. Both linebackers play three yards deep. The left halfback plays on the outside shoulder of the end about seven to ten yards deep. The right halfback plays directly behind the right defensive end about seven to ten yards deep. The safety plays twelve to fifteen yards deep and in line with the offensive center.

6-2-2-1 DEFENSE AGAINST UNBALANCED WINGED T FORMATION

The 6-2-2-1 defensive spacing against the unbalanced winged T formation is presented in Figure VII. The defensive ends play two yards from their defensive tackles. The left defensive tackle plays directly in front of the right offensive end. The left defensive guard plays directly in front of the right offensive guard. The right defensive guard plays directly in front of the offensive center. The right defensive tackle plays directly in front of the left offensive end.

The strong side linebacker plays between his defensive end and tackle about three yards deep. The weak side linebacker plays on the inside shoulder of the defensive right tackle about three yards deep. The left halfback plays on the outside shoulder of the left defensive end while the right halfback plays directly behind the right defensive end. Both halfbacks play seven to ten yards deep. The safety plays on the inside shoulder of the left defensive guard about ten to twelve yards deep.

6-2-2-1 DEFENSE AGAINST UNBALANCED DEEP WING FORMATION

The recommended spacing for the 6-2-2-1 defense against the unbalanced deep wing formation is presented in Figure VIII. The two defensive ends play two yards from their defensive tackles. The two defensive tackles play directly in front of the two offensive ends. The strong side guard plays in front of the right offensive guard and the weak side guard plays directly in front of the offensive center.

The strong side linebacker plays on the inside shoulder of the left defensive tackle. The weak side linebacker plays on the outside shoulder of the right defensive tackle. Both linebackers play three yards deep. The left halfback plays on the outside shoulder of the left defensive end while the right halfback plays directly

6-2-2-1 DEFENSE AGAINST UNBALANCED WINGED T FORMATION

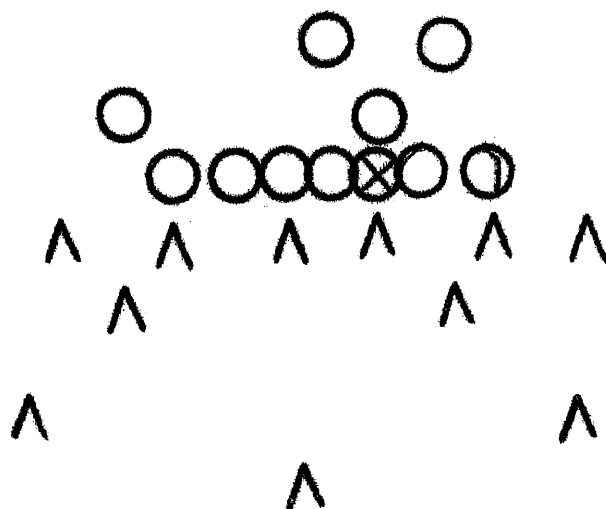


Figure VII

6-2-2-1 DEFENSE AGAINST UNBALANCED DEEP WING FORMATION

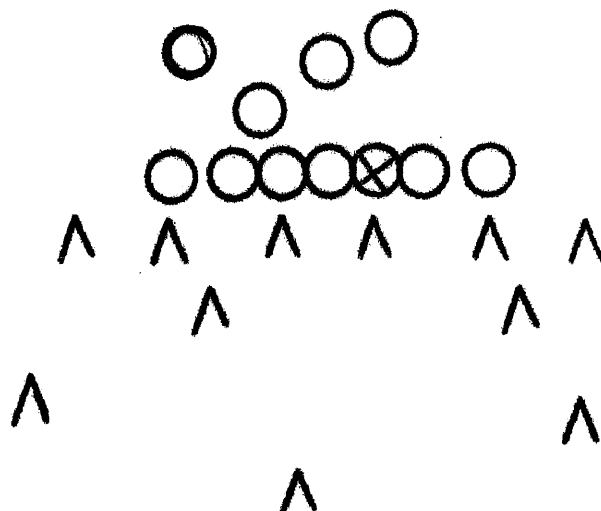


Figure VIII

behind the right defensive end. Both halfbacks play seven to nine yards deep. The safety play ten to twelve yards deep and in line with the inside shoulder of the strong side guard.

6-2-2-1 DEFENSE AGAINST UNBALANCED T FORMATION

The 6-2-2-1 defense against the unbalanced T formation is presented in Figure IX. The two ends play two yards from their defensive tackles. The two tackles play directly in front of the offensive ends. The left defensive guard plays in front of the right offensive guard while the right defensive guard plays directly in front of the center.

The left linebacker plays between the left defensive tackle and guard while the right linebacker plays between the right defensive tackle and end. Both linebackers play three yards deep. The two halfbacks play directly behind their defensive ends about seven to ten yards deep. The safety plays between the two defensive guards about ten to twelve yards deep.

5-3-2-1 DEFENSE AGAINST SPREAD FORMATION

The 5-3-2-1 defense proved to be the most popular defensive arrangement against the spread formation. The individual spacing for this defense is shown in Figure X.

6-2-2-1 DEFENSE AGAINST UNBALANCED T FORMATION

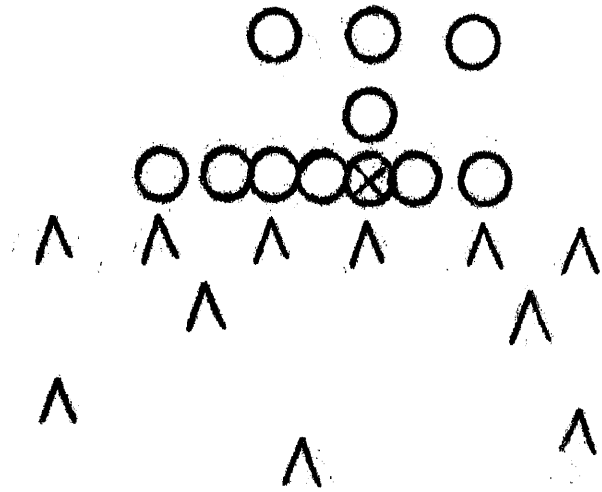


Figure IX

5-3-2-1 DEFENSE AGAINST SPREAD FORMATION

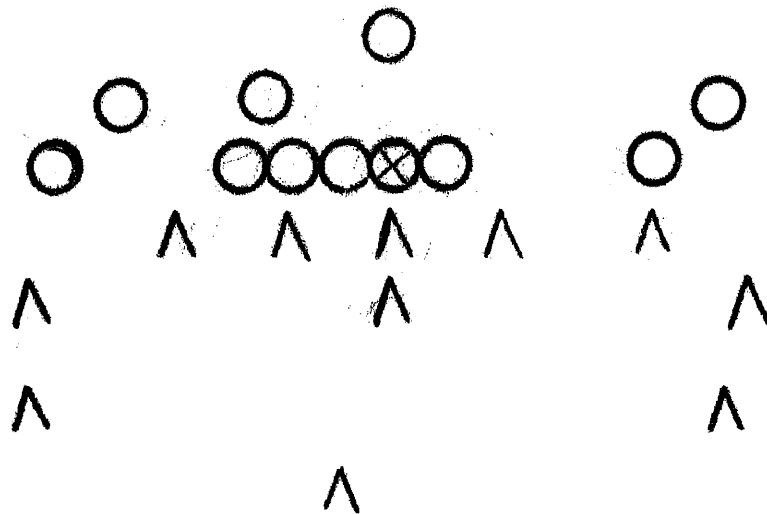


Figure X

COLLEGE OF WILLIAM & MARY

The left defensive end plays one yard to the outside of the right offensive tackle. The left tackle plays in front of the right offensive guard. The defensive guard in the five man line plays directly in front of the offensive center. The right tackle plays one yard to the outside of the left offensive guard. The right end plays directly in front of the left offensive end.

The left linebacker plays on the outside shoulder of the right offensive end about three yards deep. The center linebacker plays behind the defensive guard about two and one-half yards deep. The right linebacker plays on the outside shoulder of the left wingback about three yards deep. The left halfback plays behind the left linebacker about seven to ten yards deep. The right halfback plays on the inside shoulder of the right linebacker about seven to ten yards deep. The safety plays ten to twelve yards deep and in line with the left offensive tackle.

GOAL LINE DEFENSE AGAINST UNBALANCED SINGLE WING FORMATION

The goal line defense against the unbalanced single wing formation is shown in Figure XI. There are seven linemen, two linebackers and two halfbacks in this defensive formation. The ends play two yards from the defensive tackles. The strong side tackle plays on the

outside shoulder of the right offensive end. The strong side guard plays in front of the right offensive tackle. The defensive center plays on the inside shoulder of the right offensive guard. The right defensive guard plays in the gap between the left offensive tackle and center. The right tackle plays on the outside shoulder of the left offensive guard.

The strong side linebacker plays between the left defensive tackle and guard while the weak side linebacker plays on the outside shoulder of the right defensive tackle. Both linebackers play three yards deep. The two halfbacks play on the outside shoulder of their defensive ends about four yards deep.

GOAL LINE DEFENSE AGAINST BALANCED SINGLE WING FORMATION

The recommended goal line defense against the balanced single wing formation is presented in Figure XII. The two ends play about two yards from their defensive tackles. The strong side tackle plays on the outside shoulder of the right offensive end. The strong side guard plays in front of the right offensive tackle, lining up on his outside ear. The center plays in the gap between the right offensive guard and center. The weak side guard plays directly in front of the left offensive guard. The weak side tackle plays in the gap between the left

GOAL LINE DEFENSE AGAINST UNBALANCED SINGLE WING FORMATION

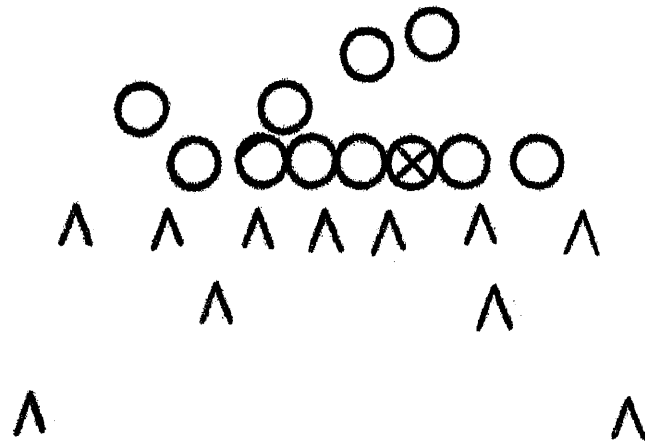


Figure XI

GOAL LINE DEFENSE AGAINST BALANCED SINGLE WING FORMATION

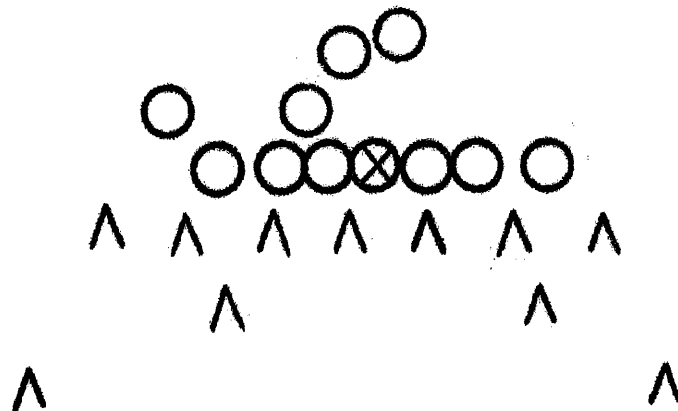


Figure XII

offensive tackle and end.

The left linebacker plays in the gap between the left defensive tackle and guard. The right linebacker plays on the outside shoulder of the right defensive tackle. Both linebackers play three yards deep. The halfbacks play about one yard to the outside of their defensive ends and about four yards deep.

GOAL LINE DEFENSE AGAINST T FORMATION

The defensive formation, as shown in Figure XIII, is the recommended goal line defense against the regular T formation. The defensive ends play about one yard to the outside of the offensive ends. The defensive tackles play in the gap between the offensive end and tackle. The guards play in the seam between the offensive tackle and guard. The defensive center plays directly in front of the offensive center.

The left linebacker plays between the left defensive end and tackle while the right defensive tackle plays between the right defensive tackle and end. Both linebackers play three yards deep. The two halfbacks play two yards to the outside of their defensive ends about four yards deep.

GOAL LINE DEFENSE AGAINST SPLIT T FORMATION

The recommended goal line defense against the split T formation is presented in Figure XIV. The defensive ends play one yard to the outside of the offensive ends. The tackles play in front of the offensive tackles. The left defensive guard lines up on the inside ear of the right offensive guard. The right defensive guard lines up on the inside ear of the left offensive guard.

The left linebacker plays between the defensive end and tackle about three yards deep. The center linebacker plays directly in front of the offensive center about two and one-half yards deep. The right linebacker plays between the right defensive tackle and end about three yards deep. The two halfbacks play two yards to the outside of their defensive ends and about four and one-half yards deep.

GOAL LINE DEFENSE AGAINST T FORMATION

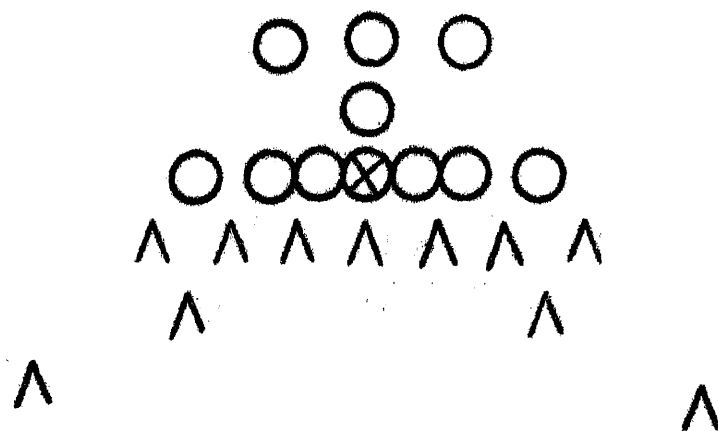


Figure XIII

GOAL LINE DEFENSE AGAINST SPLIT T FORMATION

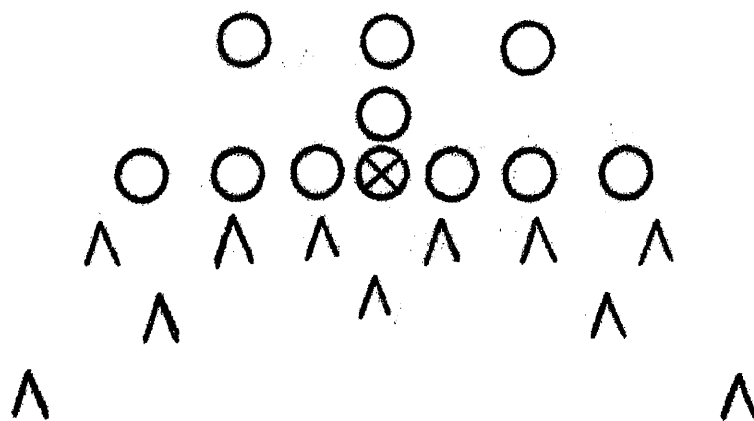


Figure XIV

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APPENDIX A

May 19, 1950

Dear Coach:

Congratulations on the outstanding defensive record compiled by your team during the 1949 football season. According to the official football statistics released by the National Collegiate Athletic Bureau your team ranked near the top in total defense.

My purpose in writing to you is to ask for your cooperation in a study I am making of defensive football formations being used by successful coaches throughout the nation. I am a graduate student at the College of William and Mary and plan to write my thesis on the above topic. I have chosen defensive formations for my study because there is nothing in football I enjoy more than watching a well coached and smoothly coordinated team defense in action.

I realize the defensive formation used is determined by a great many things such as team personnel, game conditions, play situation, etc. In order to be as economical with your time as possible, I have made the enclosed questionnaire brief, and therefore, must limit my study to standard basic defenses.

I would appreciate it very much if you could find time to fill out the enclosed questionnaire and return it to me at your earliest convenience as I hope to complete the study this summer. It should require very little of your time, but your answer will mean a great deal to me, as the study is limited to the top 30 teams in total defense for 1949. Without your help I will be unable to complete the study.

I realize your time is valuable and, therefore, I would like to repay you in some way for your cooperation. If the returns are sufficient to enable me to complete the study, I will be happy to send you a mimeographed copy of the results if you should care for one.

Any information you give will be kept strictly confidential unless otherwise requested, in which case you will receive full recognition for information submitted.

Thanking you in advance for your cooperation in this study, and wishing you continued success, I am

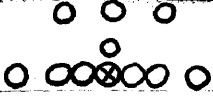
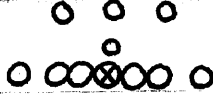
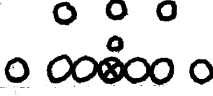

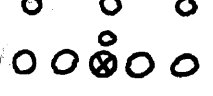
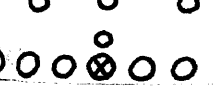
Sincerely yours,

HC/te



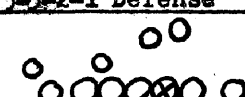



Harry Caughron

QUESTIONNAIRE

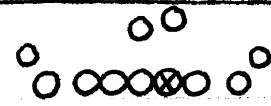
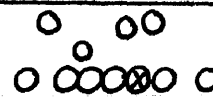
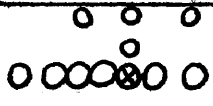
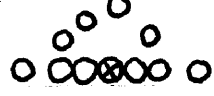
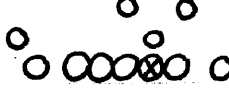
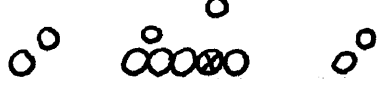
DEFENSIVE FOOTBALL FORMATIONS

Please insert defensive formations	Please check the correct statements in reference to the defensive formation on the left.
 <p>6-2-2-1 Defense</p>	<p>Guards and Tackles (a) Hit and hold until play is diagnosed. (b) Crash, tearing down interference.</p> <p>Ends (a) Take regular steps and diagnose play. (b) Crash, tearing down interference.</p> <p>Linebackers (a) Does not move until play is diagnosed. (b) Crash into opponents backfield.</p>
 <p>5-3-2-1 Defense</p>	<p>Guards and Tackles (a) Hit and hold until play is diagnosed. (b) Crash, tearing down interference.</p> <p>Ends (a) Take regular steps and diagnose play. (b) Crash, tearing down interference.</p> <p>Linebackers (a) Does not move until play is diagnosed. (b) Crash into opponents backfield.</p>
 <p>Goal line defense</p>	<p>Guards and Tackles (a) Hit and hold until play is diagnosed. (b) Crash, tearing down interference.</p> <p>Ends (a) Take regular steps and diagnose play. (b) Crash, tearing down interference.</p> <p>Linebackers (a) Does not move until play is diagnosed. (b) Crash into opponents backfield.</p>
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1. Please insert the defensive spacing and illustrate the line charge you would use against the following offensive formations:

		
<p>Double Wingback</p> 	<p>Deep Wingback</p> 	<p>"T" Formation Unbalanced Line</p> 
<p>Short Punt</p>	<p>Winged "T" Unbalanced Line</p>	<p>Spread Formation</p>

2. Please list the following standard defensive formations in the order of your preference against the Single Wing, against the "T".

(a) 6-2-2-1 (b) 5-3-2-1 (c) 6-3-2 (d) 7-2-2 (e) 7-1-2-1 (f) 4-4-2-1

Defense against Single Wing

Defense against the "T"

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.
- 6.

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.
- 6.

3. Please list your favorite defense against:

- | | |
|-----------------------------------------------|-----|
| (a) "T" formation with strong passing attack | (a) |
| (b) "T" formation with strong running attack | (b) |
| (c) S.W. formation with strong passing attack | (c) |
| (d) S.W. formation with strong running attack | (d) |

4. Please list the following types of forward pass defense in the order of your preference.

- | | |
|-----------------------------|-----|
| (a) The Man-for-Man Defense | (1) |
| (b) The Zone Defense | (2) |
| (c) The Combination | (3) |

5. Please check the following special defenses used by your team.

- | | |
|----------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| (a) Undershifted 6-2-2-1 defense | (d) The Looping Defensive Line |
| (b) Overshifted 6-2-2-1 defense | (e) Cross Charging Linebackers |
| (c) The Slanting Defensive Line. | (f) Shooting Linebackers |

6. Please list your offensive formation, followed by the defensive formation which has proven to be most successful against it.

- | | |
|-----|-----|
| (a) | (b) |
|-----|-----|

7. Please use the back of this sheet to draw any defensive formation you wish to add or to list any further information that may be of value to this study.

8. Please check one: 1. This information should be kept strictly confidential.
2. You may use my name and school in this study.

Harry Caughron

APPENDIX B

DEFENSIVE RANKING OF COLLEGE FOOTBALL TEAMS FOR 1949

The thirty leading defensive teams of the nation as released by the National Collegiate Athletic Bureau for the 1949 season are:

University of Kentucky
United States Military Academy
University of Maryland
University of Wyoming
Villanova College
University of Oklahoma
University of Texas
University of Minnesota
Louisiana State University
Drake University
University of Notre Dame
University of Georgia
University of Tennessee
Texas Western College
University of Michigan
Georgia School of Technology
Baylor University
Tulane University
Brown University
University of Virginia
Rutgers University
Duke University
University of Pennsylvania
University of Alabama
Boston University
Miami University
Lafayette College
University of California
Colorado Agricultural and Mechanical College
University of Oregon

VITA

The author was born in Sevier County, Tennessee, January 7, 1922. His elementary education was received at the Martha Wilder Grammer School and his secondary education at the Science Hill High School, Johnson City, Tennessee.

The writer entered the College of William and Mary, Williamsburg, Virginia in September, 1942. His education was interrupted in February of 1943 by a three year period of service with the United States Army.

The writer returned to William and Mary in June, 1946 and received the Bachelor of Science degree with a major in Physical Education in June, 1949. On graduation the author remained at William and Mary and began his graduate work in Physical Education while serving as assistant coach in football and track.