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Football Concepts and Ideas

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RULES for the VERTICAL PASSING GAME

Identifying the *Backside* High Safety & the *Hot* Defender

The quarterback's primary concern is to find the *backside* high safety (away from the call side) vs. a *Green* secondary, the alignment of the single high safety vs. an *Amber* secondary, and the recognition of no high safeties down the field vs. a *Red* look. The quarterback's next concern is accounting for the *hot* defender in every route. By *hot* defender, we mean the 8th defender when we are in BoB or Load protection and the 7th defender when we are in Scat protection.

READING SAFETIES

In our vertical pass game (5 and 7 step), we want to read the backside safety vs and 2-high look (Green). If that safety rotates to the middle of the field (MoF), we must throw the post route behind him (where he came from). All of our Vertical Routes have backside posts built into the route package. If that safety does not rotate, we have an advantage to the call side and must then go through the read progression for the called route. THE SAFETY DECISION MUST BE MADE BY THE TIME THE QB HAS COMPLETED WHAT WOULD BE A 3-STEP DROP.

Vs. a 1-high look (Amber), we look to see if the safety will tilt his alignment towards the trips in a 1x3 or 3x1 formations. If the safety rotates to the trips, you have a clear pre-snap look at the backside post. If that safety does not rotate, we have an advantage to the call side and must then go through the read progression for the called route. Again, all of our Vertical Routes have backside posts built into the route package.

READING HOT DEFENDERS

The quarterback must understand protection schemes in order to facilitate identifying the *hot* defender. We can block 7 in BoB and Load protection and can block 6 in Scat protection. The quarterback is responsible for blitz rushers with his hot reads. In 7-man BoB and Load protection, the hot read is the defender over our inside receiver. In 6-man Scat protection, the hot read is the defender over our scat (4th) receiver.