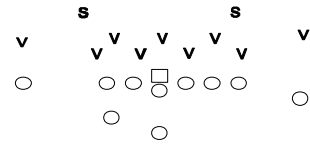


Off Tackle



Volume I

December 1997

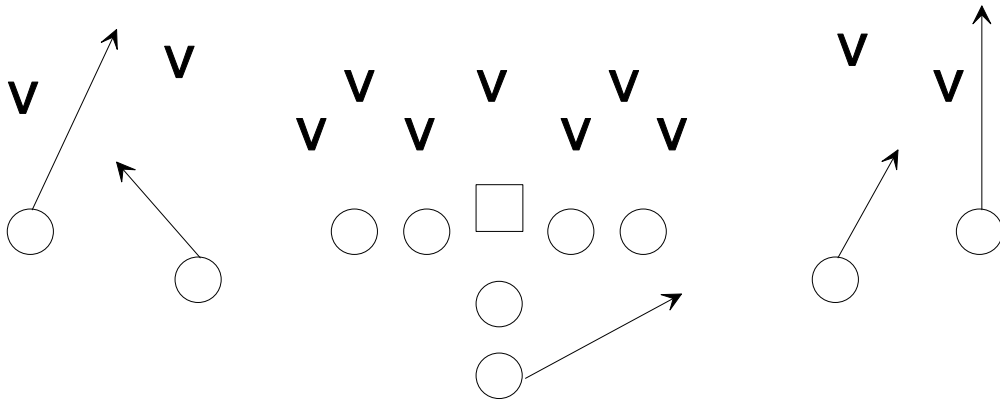
Issue 1

What's this another news letter? Yes it is and the best part about it is that it is free! That right free!! The intent of this publication is to release four issues a year. Each issue will come out randomly with no set publishing deadline (this translates to less stress on the editor, me). Each new release will be noted on Miggle's web page. All you have to do is drop me a email, snail mail or call. Feel free to copy it and give it to a friend.

In each issue we will cover various formations offensive plays and defensive sets that translate well to EFL. We'll also cover some of the top players and leagues around the country. There are plans to talk about painting techniques as well as player modification and what players work best at what position. We will also publish starting next month "Off Tackles Top 20 Coaches". This is sure to heat up the phone lines!

If you are new to the game or and old timer I'm sure that you will enjoy each issue. Should there be something you want covered please let us know or if you wish to submit an article that's great too. Remember all articles and comments are welcome!

The Run n Shoot EFL Style!



While the Run n Shoot is no longer used in The NFL (as a primary offensive scheme) many college and high schools still use this as their base offense. This offense translates well to the EFL world. This is an offensive scheme that forces the defense to defend the run and the pass on every down! The defense must cover the 4 wide outs. This in effect stops them from putting 8 men in the box or loading up to protect against the run. Yes this is an offense that uses the pass to set up the run!

So you might ask, how to we incorporate this into the EFL world? Well first and foremost you must be able to pass. If you play this game and don't pass you're missing

the boat! So practice, throw 50 balls to a receiver while you are watching your favorite team go up in flames or onto glory on TV. You'll be surprised how quickly your skill level will increase.

What do you need?

- + Five offensive linemen who can hold back a rush as well as be good run blockers.
- + The four receivers must be on "active" bases. This will mean that it will be harder to cover (block, hook, jam) those four wideouts. Hopefully the defense will have to deploy more defenders to stop the pass. This means less defenders to support the run!
- + The ace back must have a base that curves. This is to say that when he is angled in the backfield the base will curve as he gets close to the offensive tackle and go up field. By doing this you force the D to maintain contain on the side that the back is slanted. The D will also have to provide coverage for this back as he goes in to a pass pattern.
- + The quarterbacks base must be one that is not the fastest base you own. Have the ability to be angled to either side of the field and go fairly straight. As well as be strong enough to block when needed.

How do I make it work?

All right your now playing that nationally ranked opponent. The first play from scrimmage you set the QB in the Shotgun. Angle the Ace back out to one side and position the four receivers as pictured above. Turn on the power, now observe which back cannot contain the wideout they are covering. Try using short high percentage passes and knock 5 to 8 yards at a clip. Don't worry about the home run ball that will come in time.

If one or more wideouts get free your on your way. The key here is to find out which DB cannot cover their assigned wideout. At this point you attack this DB till he bleeds! Now you've force the D to either change a player or provide another defender to help in coverage. We are now starting to stretch the defense.

Should none of your receivers release as they are choked off by the defense try to line them up next time in a "stacked" set. One wide behind another. This will certainly get your wideouts open. Then again attack the weak link.

In the event that the defense is getting a good pass rush. Set the QB to roll out to the side that cannot consistently cover the wide out. Or use the inside wide receivers to "chip" the pass rushing LB or DE. You can do this by setting up the slotbacks as wingbacks. This will allow you to get a better angle on the charging LB or DE. If your offensive line is holding up don't change a thing. Just peck away at your opponent.

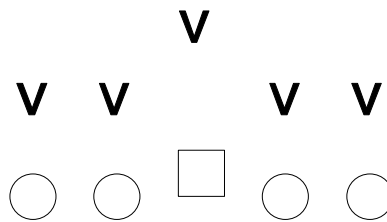
As the defense commits more men to support the pass it's time to run. If you feel that you can over power the defensive line run a blast up the middle or else go for a off tackle

type of run by pitching out to the ace back. The run is now used to keep the defense honest as the must be prepared for either the pass or the run. Just keep him off balance!

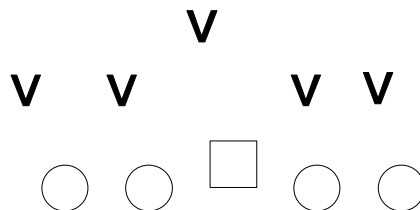
Base Technology

Let me just put to rest one myth to rest. "All bases do not need to go straight!" Time and time again I here people complaining about that bag of bases they just purchased and how all of the bases don't go straight. While it is nice to have some of those bases go straight. I want to talk about how to use the bases that hook immediately go maybe 5 yards then hook left or right. You these I'm sure that you have a bunch of them laying around. Well now you can use them just follow along.

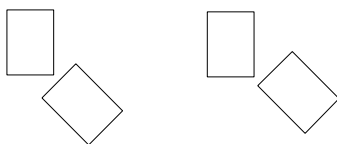
The game of football is a game based upon blocking and tackling. To be successful at either of these two basics you must also understand angles. I'm sure that you have all seen a play were smaller player was able to block a bigger more physical player. Well either he was lucky or he understood the angle at which to block the bigger opponent. Just think about some of footballs terms, shading, inside shoulder, outside shoulder, off hip, inside out, outside in, etc. Look at the 49ers until recently they had one of the smaller lines in the NFL. Were they successful? You bet they were. How did they do it? Speed, execution and understanding attack angles. The same holds true to EFL. A weaker base can take on a stronger base by attacking it at an angle as opposed to head on. Listed below are a few ideas for you to try.



Run or pass blocking Vs a two gap scheme. Take some strong bases and use them on the D side. Use the 5 yard and hook bases on the O line.

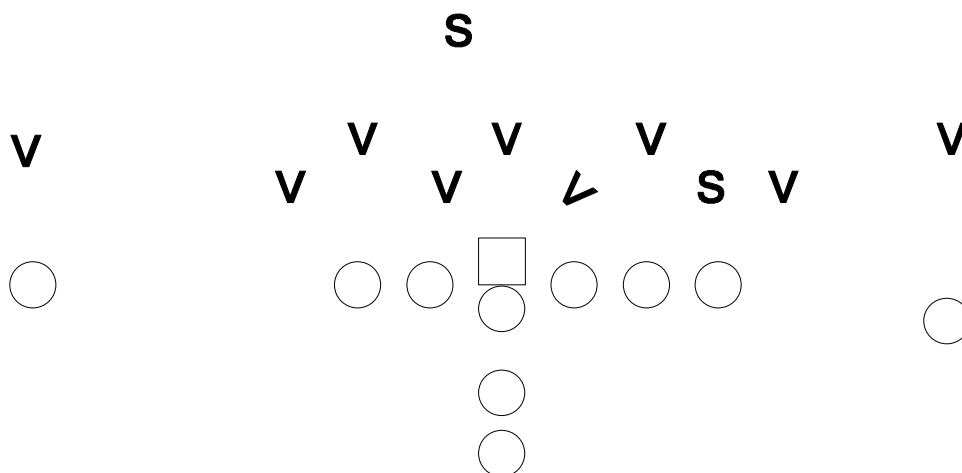


Run or pass blocking Vs a one gap scheme. Do the same as above.



Right at the front corner or just behind it is the perfect angle. This action will push that defender right out of the play. Try it!

Angle Tackle D



This defense is used to stop that opponent that loves to run the Power I up the middle. To make this work you need strong DT's who can hold there own against the two OG's and the center. The left DT is angled at the front of the centers base. He will knock the center off direction and cause the middle to start jamming up. The right DT aggressively attacks the gap between the LG and center. The MLB adds support and helps to stuff the middle. The Sam and Wil LB's control the gaps between the OG's and OT's. The safety jams the TE and tries to control the OT/TE gap. The DE's are programmed to hook and get after the I back.

What do you need?

- + Two strong bases for your tackles. The players that work best for this scheme are the guard figures as they work well to help jam up the middle.
- + A fairly strong MLB who will help jam up the middle. Use the figure that you like for this position. We find that the tackle figure works best.
- + The DE's should be fast and strong. As the middle gets clogged up the I Back will typically skirt left or right. You want the DE's to loop in fast and take the back for a loss!

How do I make it work?

Remember the keys here, Strong DT's and a MLB as well as fast DE's that loop consistently. To play this defense you must do your homework! You must understand the capabilities and tendencies of your players to make this work.

From the Editors Desk

One thing that has caused great concern me are the complaints on Miggle's web page. Please remember the Landsman's had the vision to resurrect this game we all love. They have allowed us to continue to play this game as well as pass the game on to our children. They have listened to us and have worked diligently to resolve any problems. They have put on a convention the last three years for all of us to enjoy. Did Tudor do any of this? I don't think so! So please remember that "the glass is half full not half empty".

In closing I hope that you enjoyed this first issue. Also please understand that I am not the definitive expert on EFL. The ideas that are expressed in this newsletter are techniques that have worked for me. I hope that you will find success in implementing them. I welcome your comments.

Regards,

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Next Issue

- + Red Zone Offense
- + More Base Technology
- + Jimmy Johnsons 4-3 Triangle D
- + Plus more!