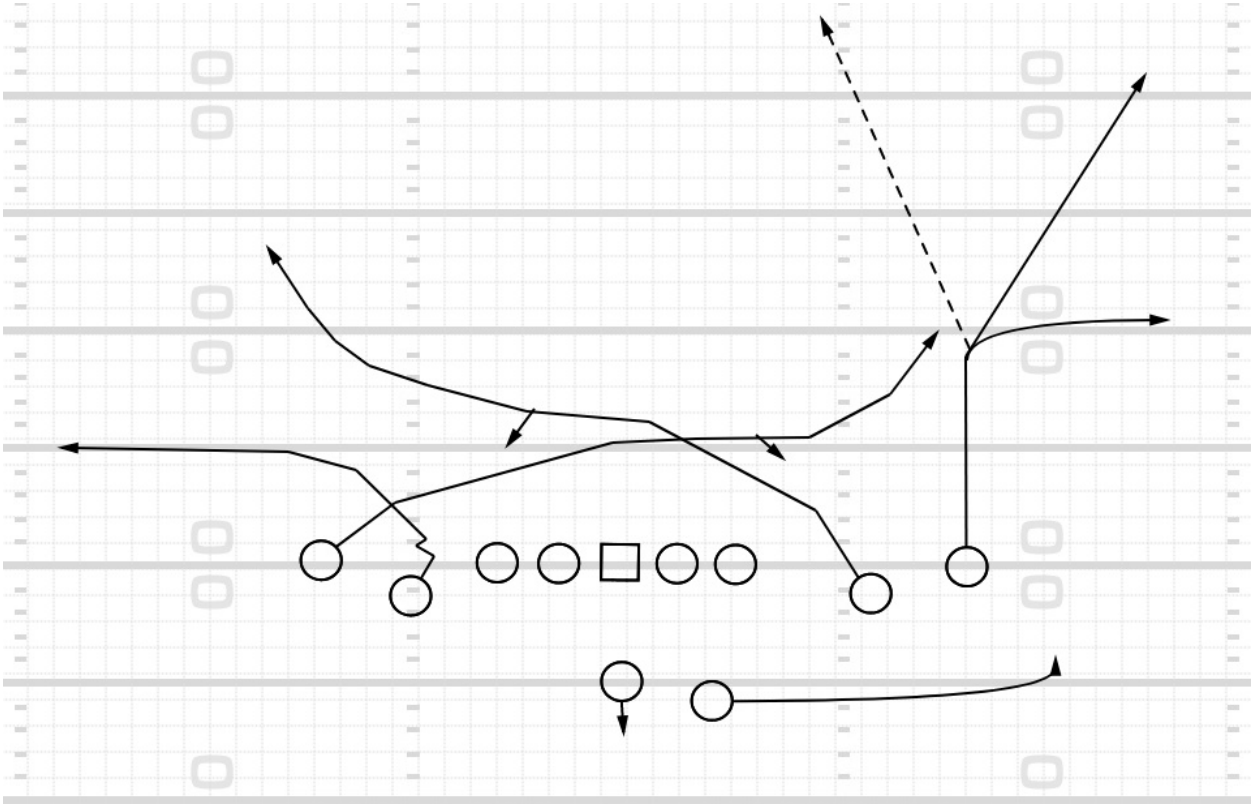
Mesh



Mesh

Our mesh concept allows us to effectively attack any defensive coverage attempt. Mesh has answers for man, zone, and blitz situations. It is important that we understand all of the complete specifics, reads, and adjustments to the concept. Four our quarterback on mesh we will be taking a one-step drop in the gun. Here is how we will call the Mesh route in 2019

Concept	Code Words	Signal
Mesh	Lt-71,73,75,77,79 Rt-70,72,74,76,78	Fingers Interlock then Number with fingers



"Base" 70

As we begin to examine the mesh play in our offense at Burrell High School lets take an in-depth look at each component beginning with you as the quarterback. The quarterback will be taking a one-step drop in the shotgun. His read progression is as follows. He will eyeball single receiver route (this route will vary) first. This is the initial read. He will then progress to the play-side running back swing route or slot receiver shoot route if to a trips alignment. If neither of those routes are open he will hitch up in the pocket and get your eyes on the mesh. This coaching point is critical. YOU DO NOT LOOK AT THE MESH UNTIL YOU LOOK AT YOUR FIRST AND SECOND READS FIRST! The reason for this is if you look at the mesh too early it will become cloudy for you and will not be able to identify what is happening on the mesh quickly (The diagrams below will illustrate this point for you). If the mesh is covered as a fourth outlet the backside receiver or running back may be an option.



As you see above the quarterback has started his one step drop. If the quarterback does not go through his progression and takes his eyes to mesh you will see that the read is very “Cloudy” at this time. If you take a look at the screen shot below you will see by going through the progression the mesh has had time to develop and a clear picture is present for the quarterback to deliver the ball to the open receiver.



We will explore many variations of mesh in great detail in this chapter, but the reads progression for the quarterback will for the most part remain unchanged. Remember this is truly a concept in our offense that if we execute as a unit cannot be stopped no matter what the defense attempts to do. If we are able to execute and read this correctly we will have the Burrell touchdown cannon running out of ammo with all of our trips to the endzone.

<u>Overview of Quarterback progression on Mesh (Review)</u>
One-Step Drop in Gun…#1, #2, Hitch up in pocket Look at Mesh #3
#1 Outside Route (Will Vary this Route)
#2 The Running back swinging OR the Shoot Route by Slot if Trips
#3 THE MESH
#4 Backside Flat

NOW THIS IS IMPORTANT- As with our earlier concepts if a back is uncovered as the swings he can make a “Ball, Ball, Ball” call that will get the quarterback to accelerate the progression and get the ball to that player in space.

Below is an example of the Progression for Mesh to the Right (70)

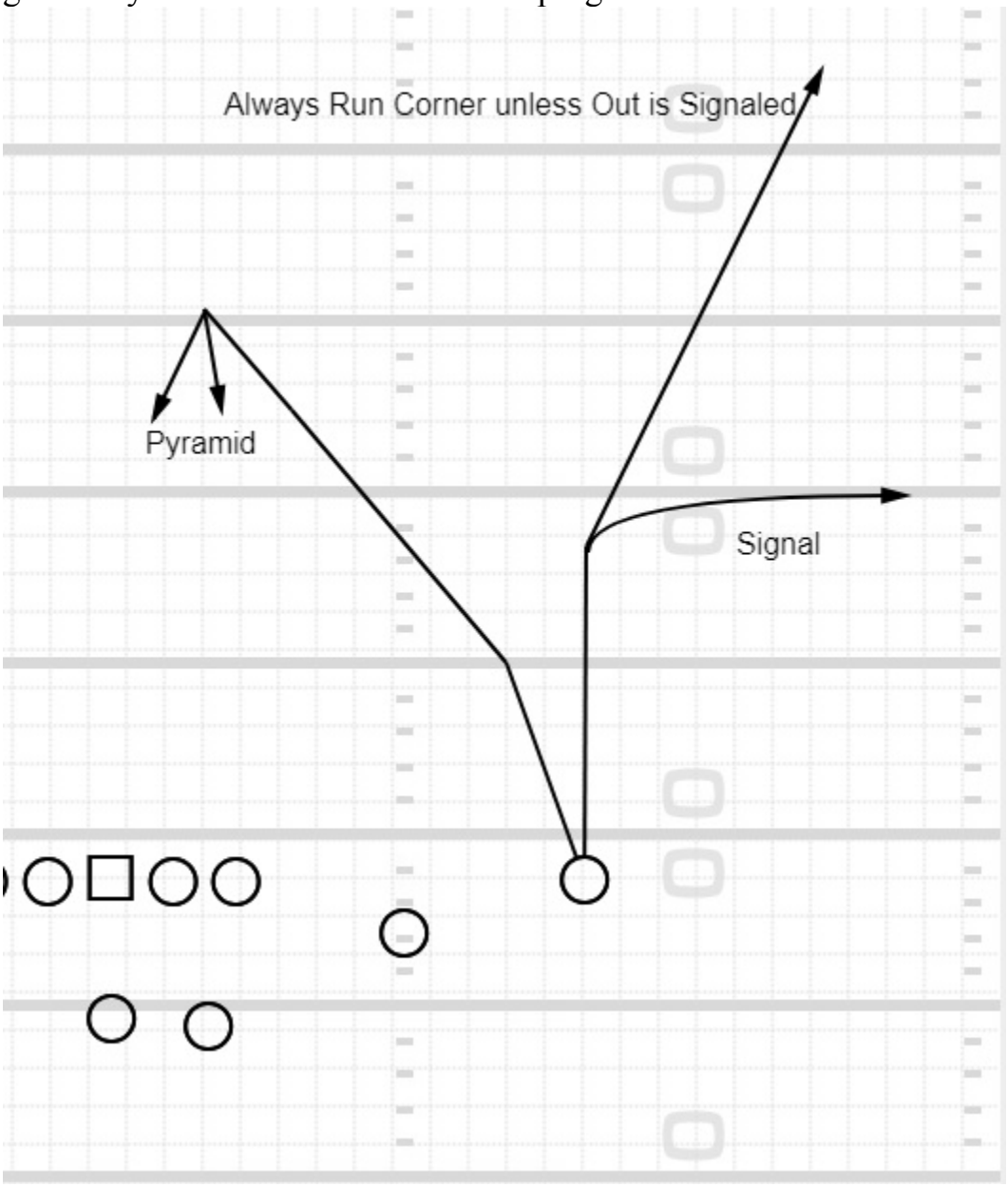


Below is an example of the Progression for Mesh to the Left (71)



Outside Route - #1 Read

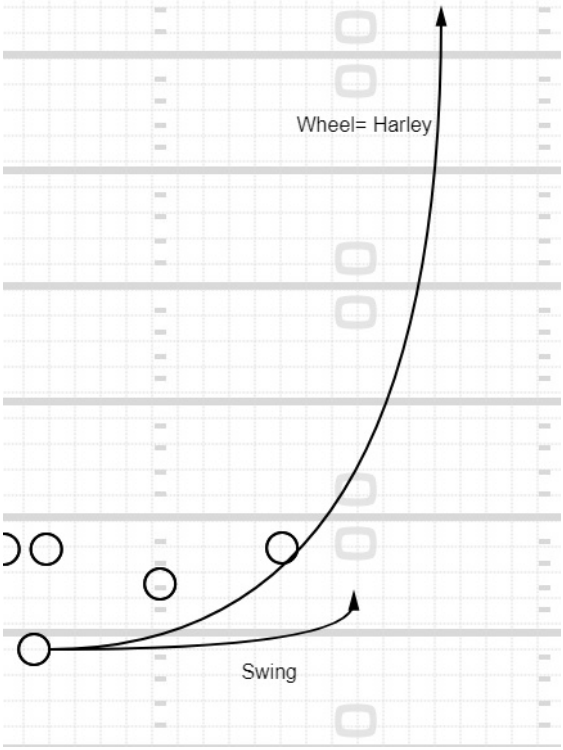
Our outside receiver to the call side will take a split at least 3 yards off the top of the numbers and will execute one of several routes that will be given to him. He can run a 4 step corner route, a vertical route, a 5 step speed-cut out, a 5 Step post Route (We will tag this "pony"), a deep choice route (covered in earlier DC chapter), or our Pyramid concept where he will be running a split route into the middle of the field and at 14 yards snapping the route off and working downhill to a window to the quarterback. The qb will look at this route first. If we do not like the look on this route (we do not want to force the ball here) we will immediately get our eyes to the second read in the progression.



Below is an example of the quarterback taking advantage of the green grass to the outside and hitting his first read on the corner route on a 75 call.



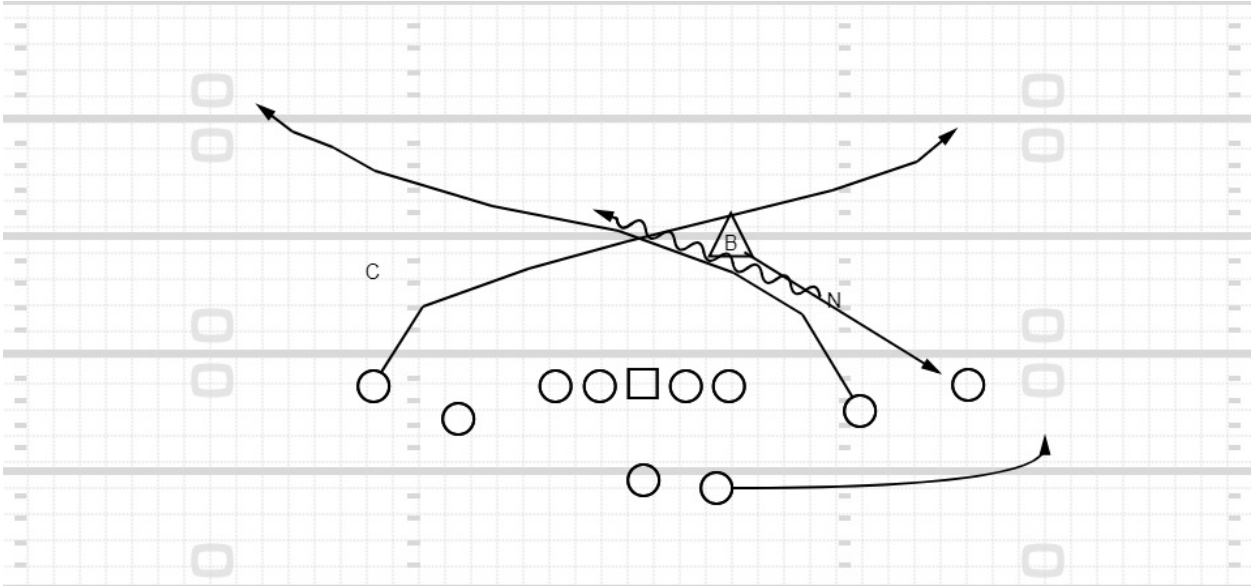
As we work through the mesh progression the second read will be the running back swinging or the slot receiver running a shoot route to the flat in trips.



Lets take a look at a few different defensive reactions to this route. In the example below you can see that the area outside defender has lifted and allowed the running back to enjoy nothing but green grass in front of him. You will quickly deliver the ball to the running back and allow him to make something happen in the open space.



Another potential is shown below where a blitz situation or a man to man coverage situation leaves a defender running for his life in an attempt to get there to cover the back on the swing or potentially a wheel route if we have a “Harley” tag to the mesh call.



Below is an example of where the defender who is assigned to the running back is pinned inside and has to fight through traffic and our crossing routes in an attempt to cover the back out of the backfield.



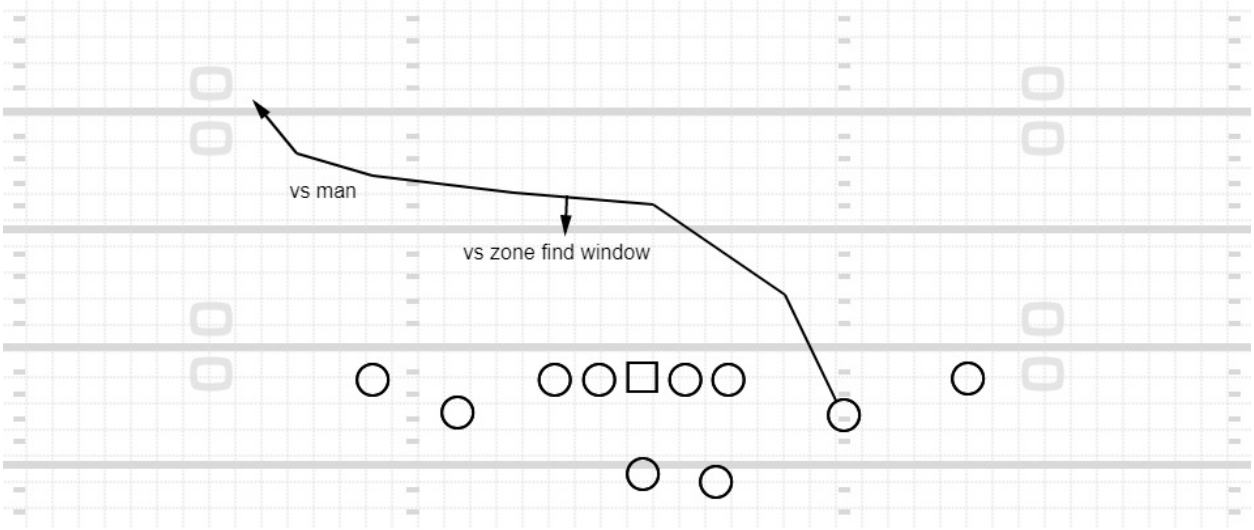
It is important that the running back get a good three hard steps into the ground "WIDE" before looking for the football. We must get a horizontal stretch on the defense. We want the area outside defender in a zone defense to have to stretch to cover you. That will open up space for our crossing routes to work into for big gashes of yardage.



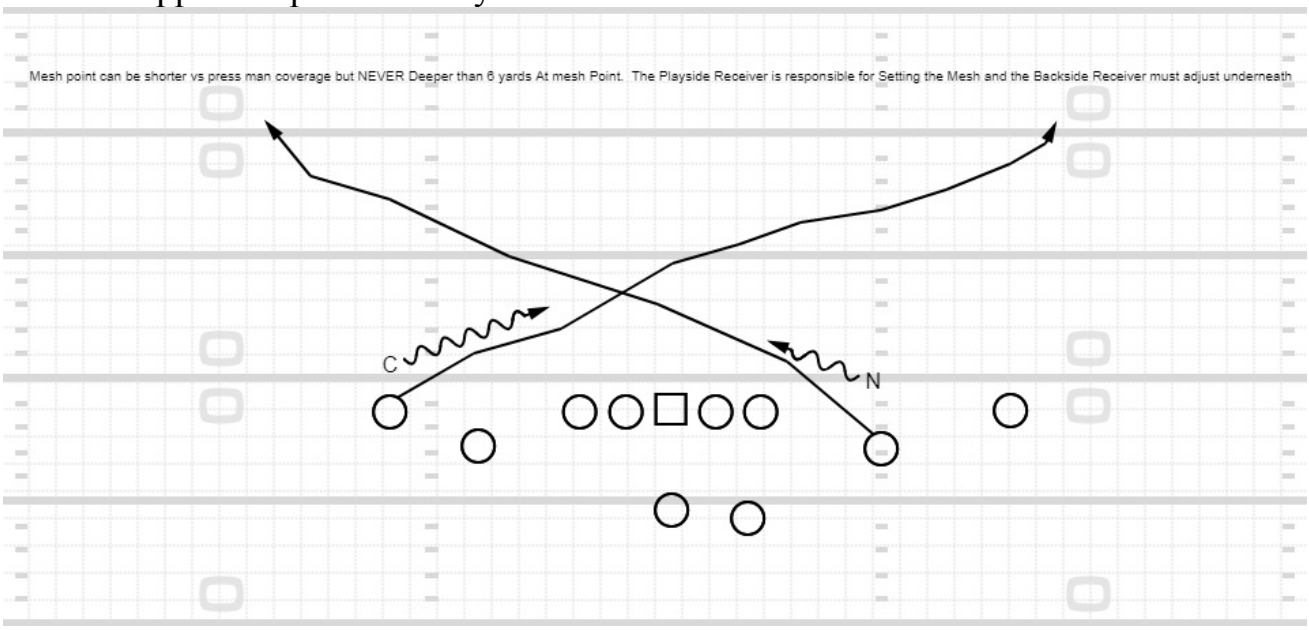
In the above example you can see the effect of the horizontal stretch of the running backs swing route and the effect that it has on the defense.

If the read is cloudy on the first two reads in the progression the quarterback will now be able to hitch up in the pocket and read the mesh route. We will take a look in-detail at the different things that can happen on the mesh but no matter how the defense tries to defend this- They will be wrong! It is important that we read this correctly and quickly. This is why as a quarterback you CAN NOT look at the mesh too early the read will be too cloudy for you to effectively read.

On our base mesh play we will be meshing the #2 receiver to the frontside of the play and the outside receiver on the backside of the play. The receiver to the "call side" is responsible for setting the mesh over the top and getting to an area 6 yards deep directly over the center. The outside receiver on the backside will mesh underneath the frontside receivers path and these players should pass through so tightly at the mesh point of 6 yards max that they are able to touch hands. It is important that this mesh is tight and happens quickly.

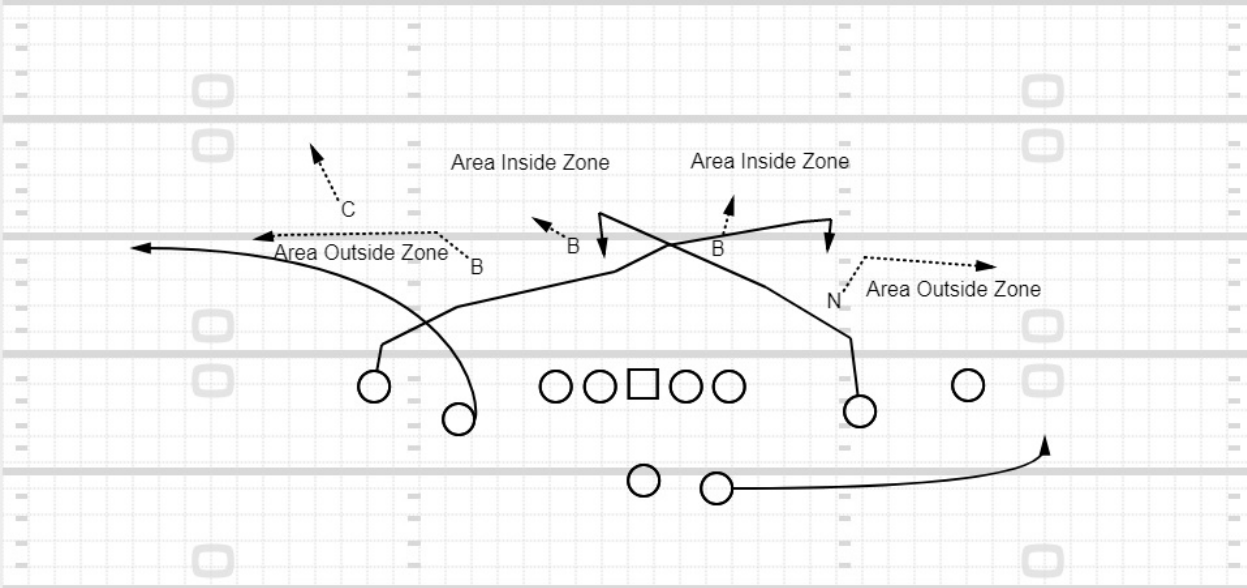


Above is an example of the “over” route on the mesh
A key coaching point of the “under” route on the mesh. Note that the backside receiver must tighten his split to our 7 yard rule to ensure that he can reach the mesh point quickly. Also as seen in the diagram below if the receivers are facing press coverage the mesh can happen quicker and at a depth of under six yards but can not happen deeper than six yards.



The Mesh Vs. Zone

As the receivers are running to the mesh point they will be reading the reaction of the defender over the player meshing with them. It will either be man to man or zone coverage. If it is zone coverage after the players reach the mesh point they will look to sit in the first available window and stay there (do not move) give qb a target. Example of Mesh vs. Area Inside and Area Outside Zone Below.



It is important as the receivers reach the mesh point that they understand that if it is zone coverage there will be area inside defenders (inside linebackers) who will be attempting to re-route and collision them on their routes. This is often what will open up one of the receivers to be able to sit in the hole that has been vacated by the linebacker trying to collision and not spot drop to his coverage.



You can see in the diagram above receivers about to reach the mesh point vs a zone defense



The inside linebacker has tried to collision the under route which has allowed the over route to sit in green grass on the left side of the screen shot above.



Lets take a look at how the swing of the running back can pull the area outside defender outside allowing a large hole for the mesh route to sit in. You can see from the screen shot above and below the progression of the play and how the back is being covered by the area outside defender which has opened up a huge window for the quarterback to find the mesh.



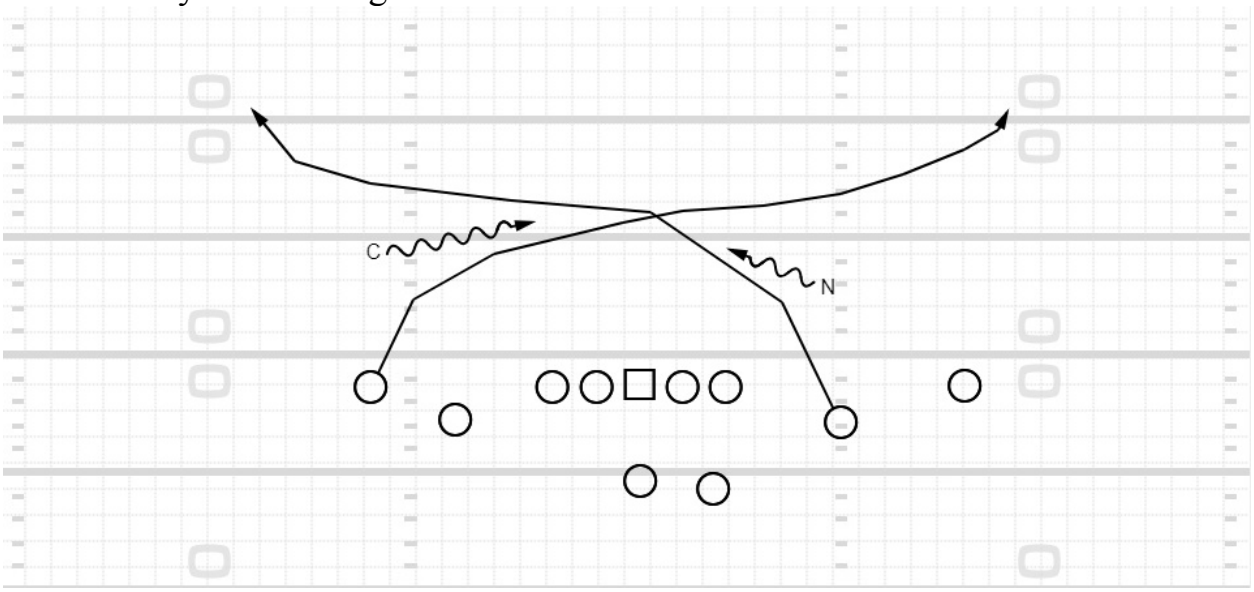
As you see above the area outside defender is expanding to the perimeter of the field to cover the back. You can see below all of the space that opens up for the mesh and the importance of taking your eyes to the outside receiver, then the running back and then the mesh so that you are able to read and influence these defenders with your eyes.

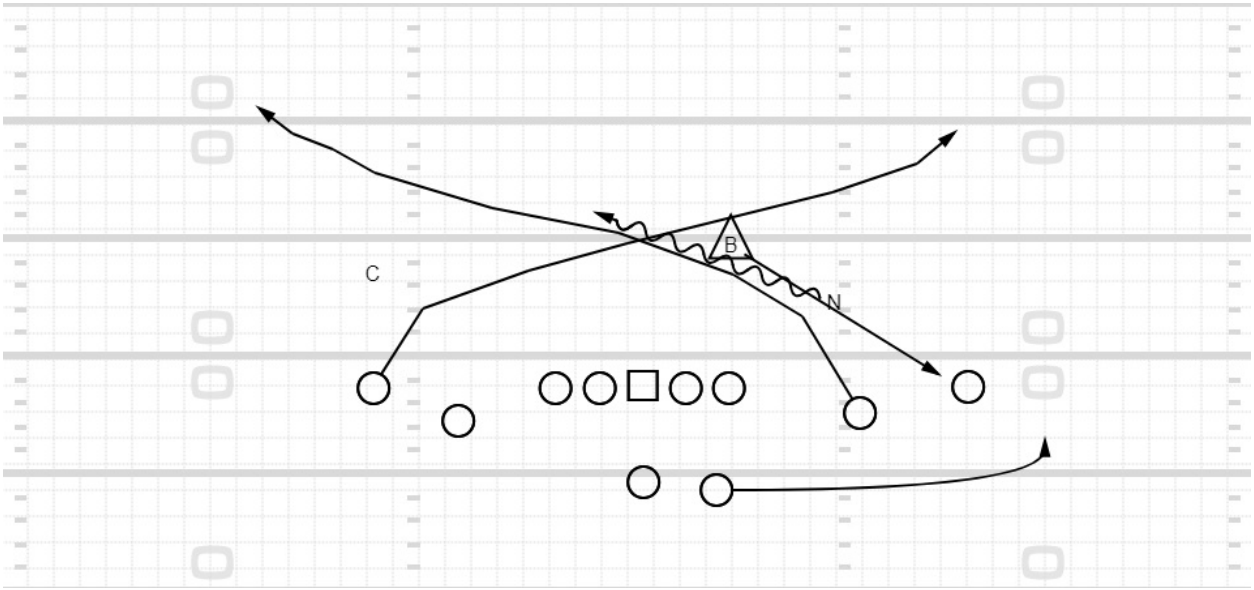


The Mesh vs. Man

If man to man after the mesh point the receivers will stay on the move and will "run away" from the trailing defender in man coverage bending the route up the field.

Lets take a look at how the receivers will identify man to man or zone coverage by reading the reaction of not only the defender over them but of the defender over the player meshing with them. In this example below you can see how the receiver could identify man to man coverage by the defender trailing and running with the receiver they are meshing with.



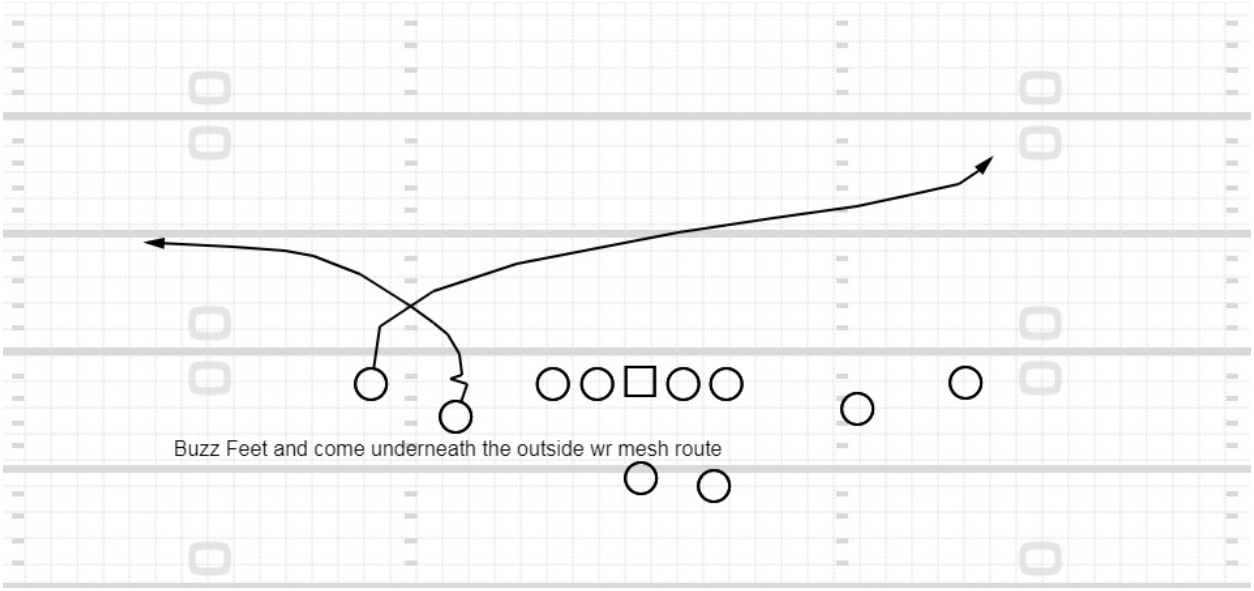


In the above diagram the backside receiver meshing under on the 70 play can read the defender over the receiver he is meshing with running with that receiver as well

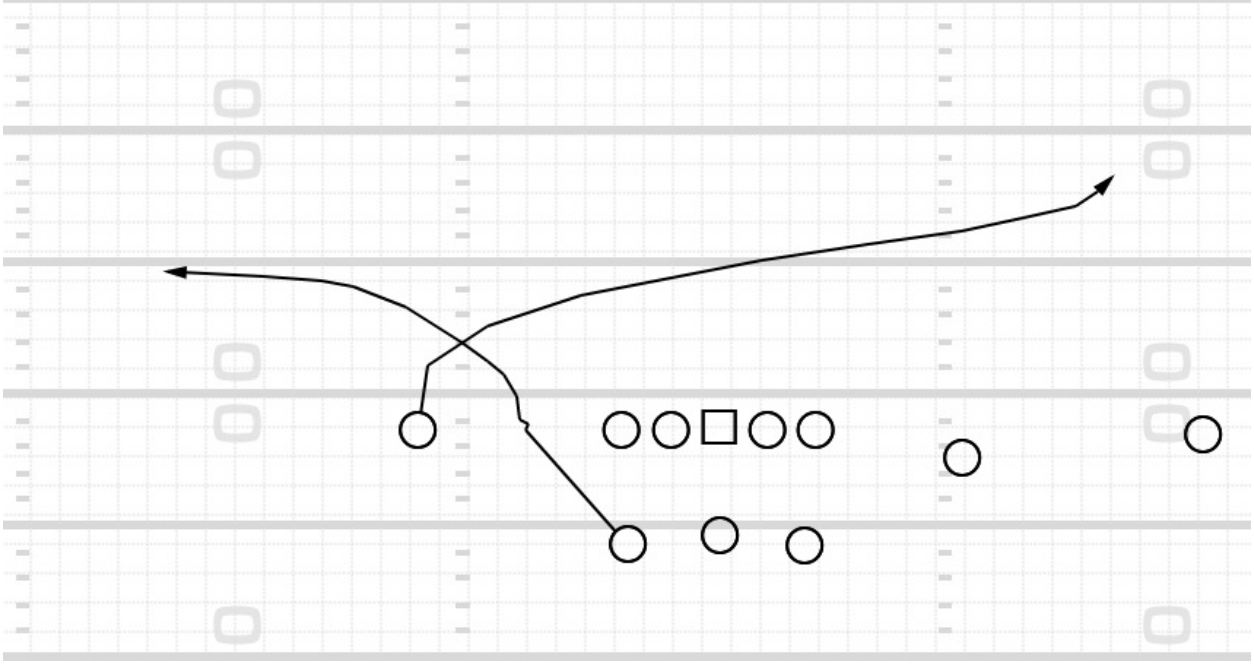
as the linebacker sprinting to cover the running back out of the backfield (this is not a spot drop- but a sprint towards the line of scrimmage). This is an easy key that they are in man coverage and you need to start to bend your route up the field and stay on the move. You will find some screen shot examples of our receivers bending up the field and running away from man to man underneath coverage on the Mesh.



The fourth option on the base mesh play will be the second back or the slot receiver running a shoot route to the flat. This route should build 3-5 yards. It should be noted that this player could also be tagged on a Wheel route up the bottom of the numbers if “Harley” is added to the mesh call.



Backside route from a slot alignment. Note the importance of buzzing your feet and letting the under route go first.
Below is an example of the same route only ran from a running back alignment.



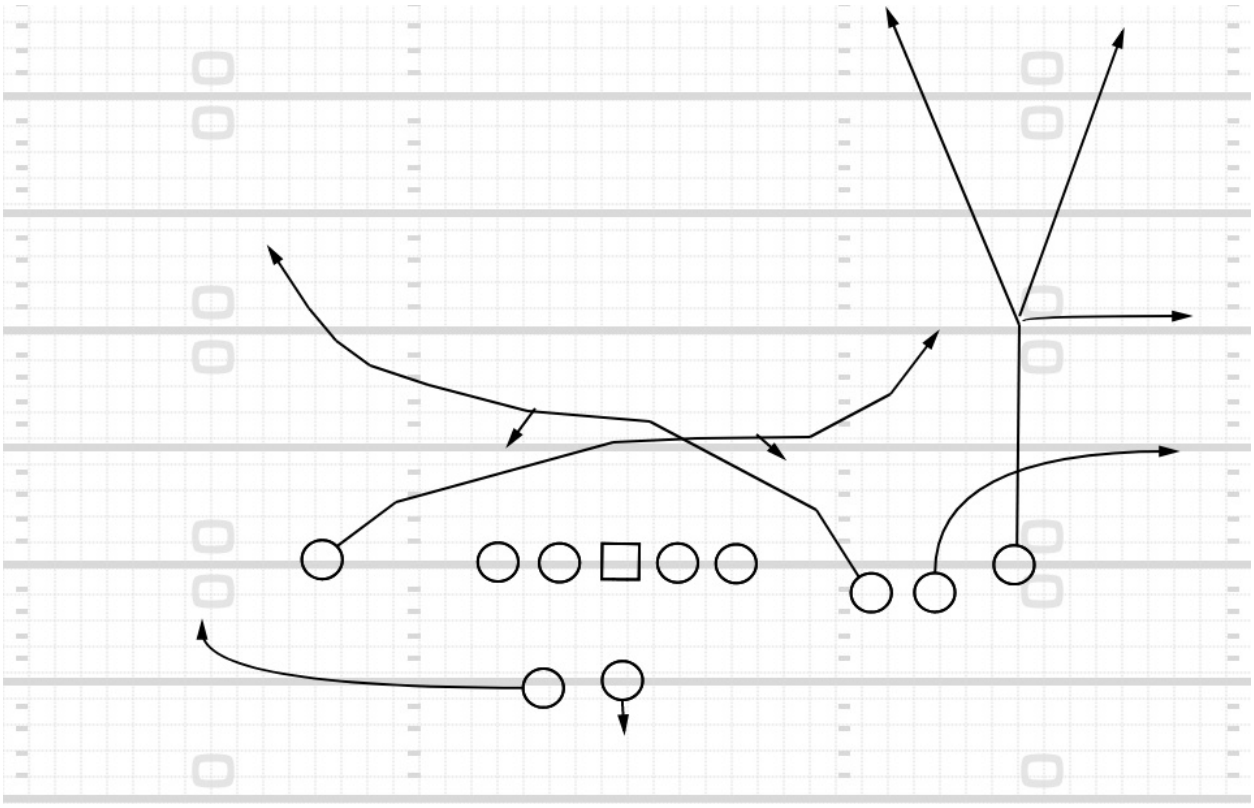
Now lets take a look at some variations of the Mesh concept in our offense here at Burrell. The first variation will be a trips alignment. When running from a trips alignment the running back will now align to the backside in protection and will check release to the shoot route backside. The slot on the frontside will now run a shoot route building to 3-5 yards that will replace the swing of the running back from the backfield as the second read in the progression.





You can see in the following screen shots the progression out of trips remains the same and the quarterback will go outside receiver to the shoot route to the mesh. Below you will see the mesh open up in a large window of zone coverage for the quarterback.

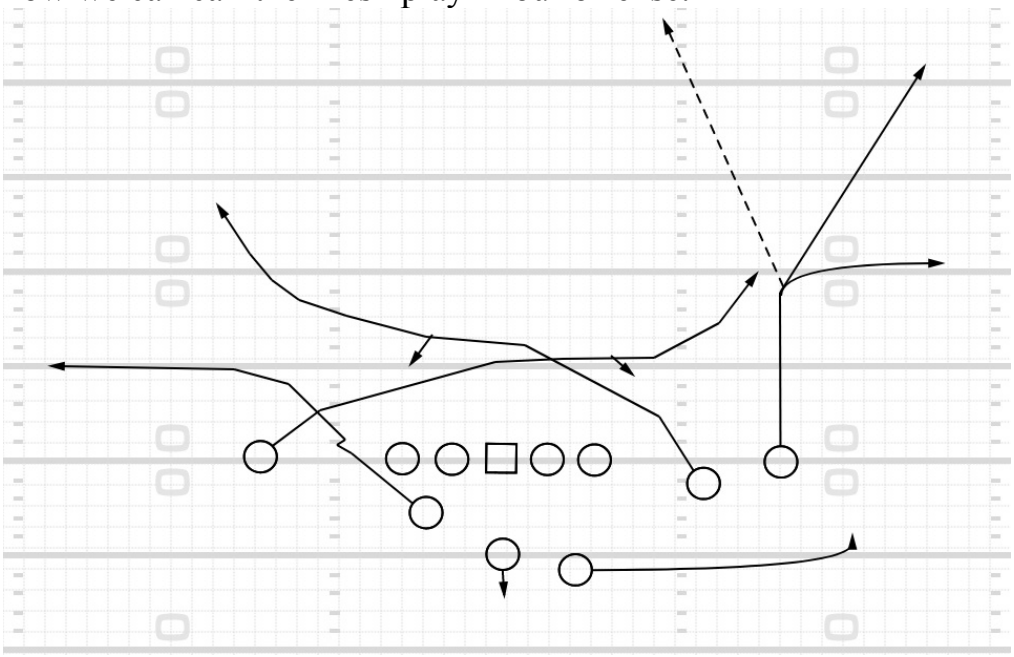




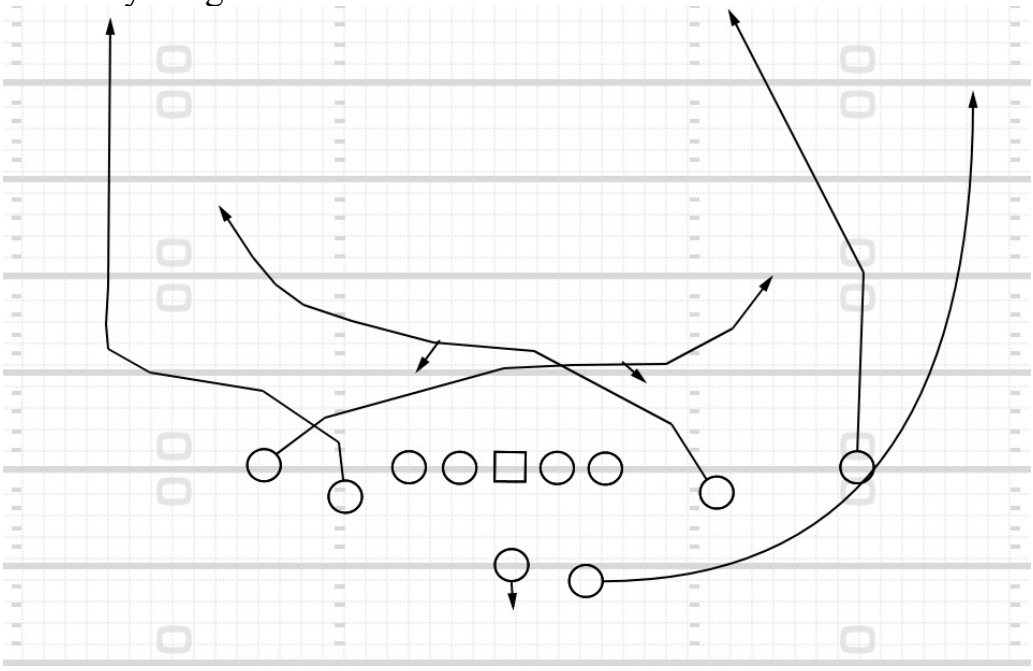
Trips Rt 72

Mesh Variations

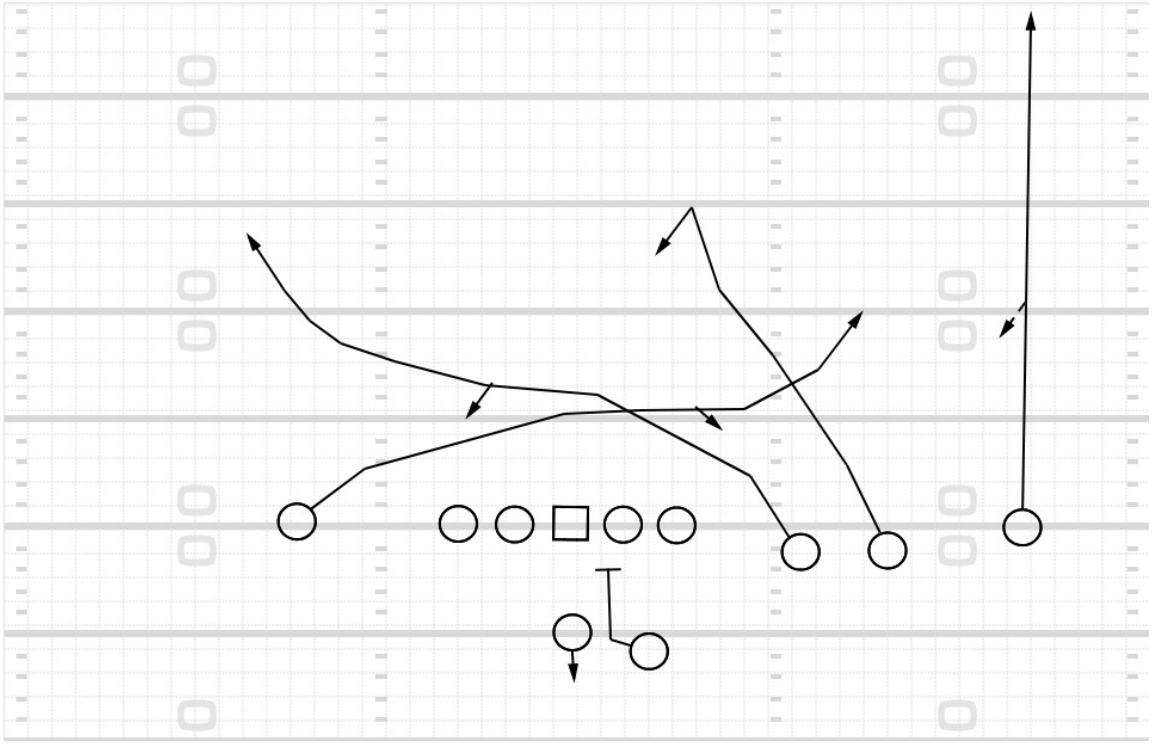
On the following pages you will find a number of our variations and flexibility of how we can call the Mesh play in our offense.



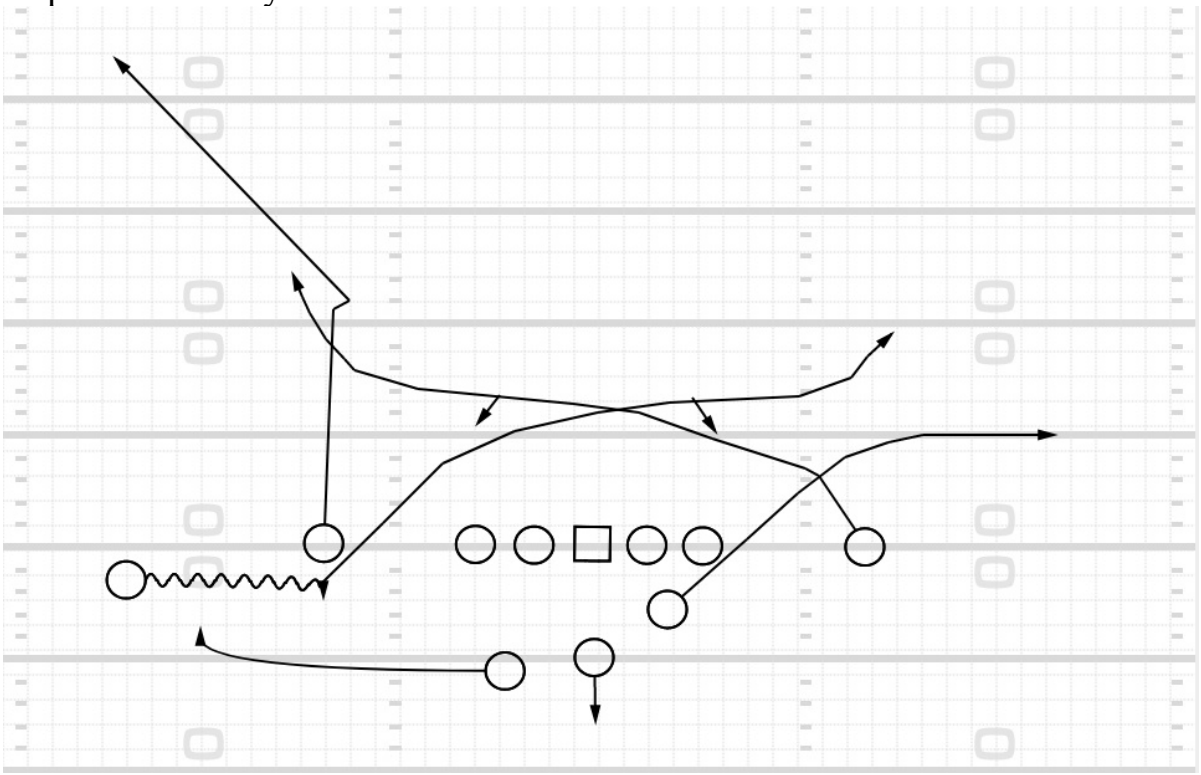
70 “Pony” Tag = Post



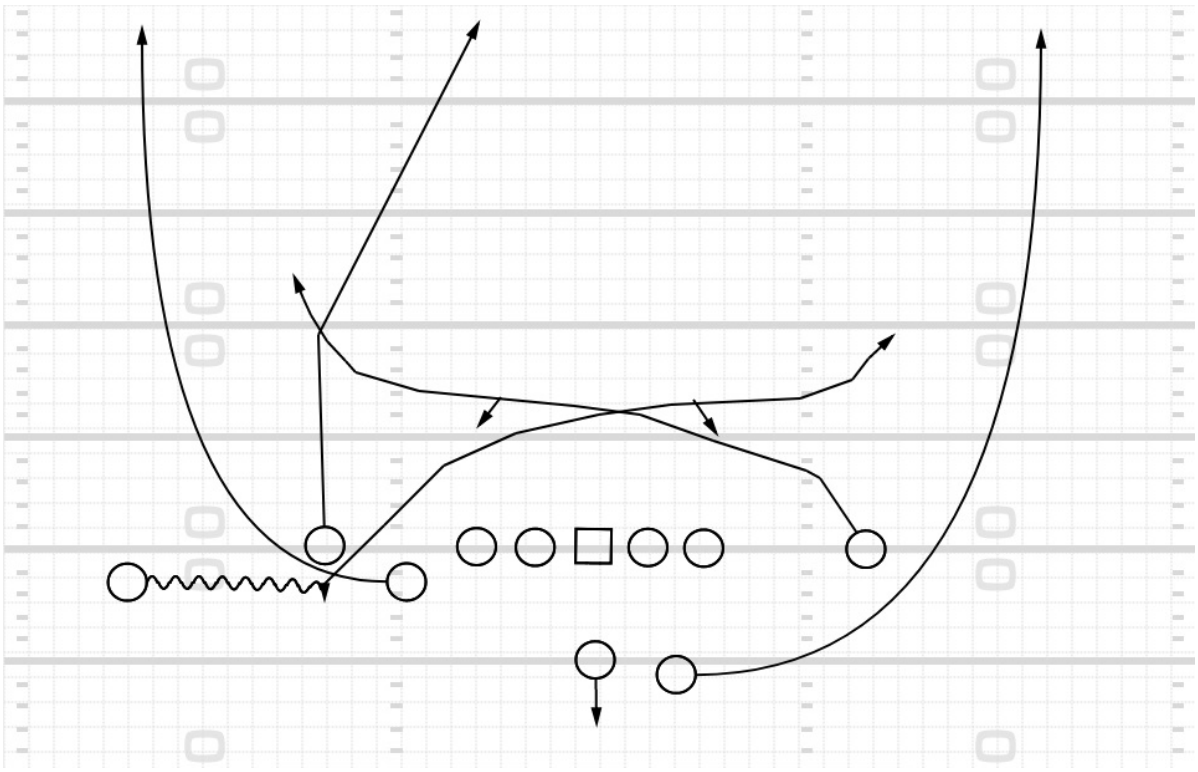
72 Harley



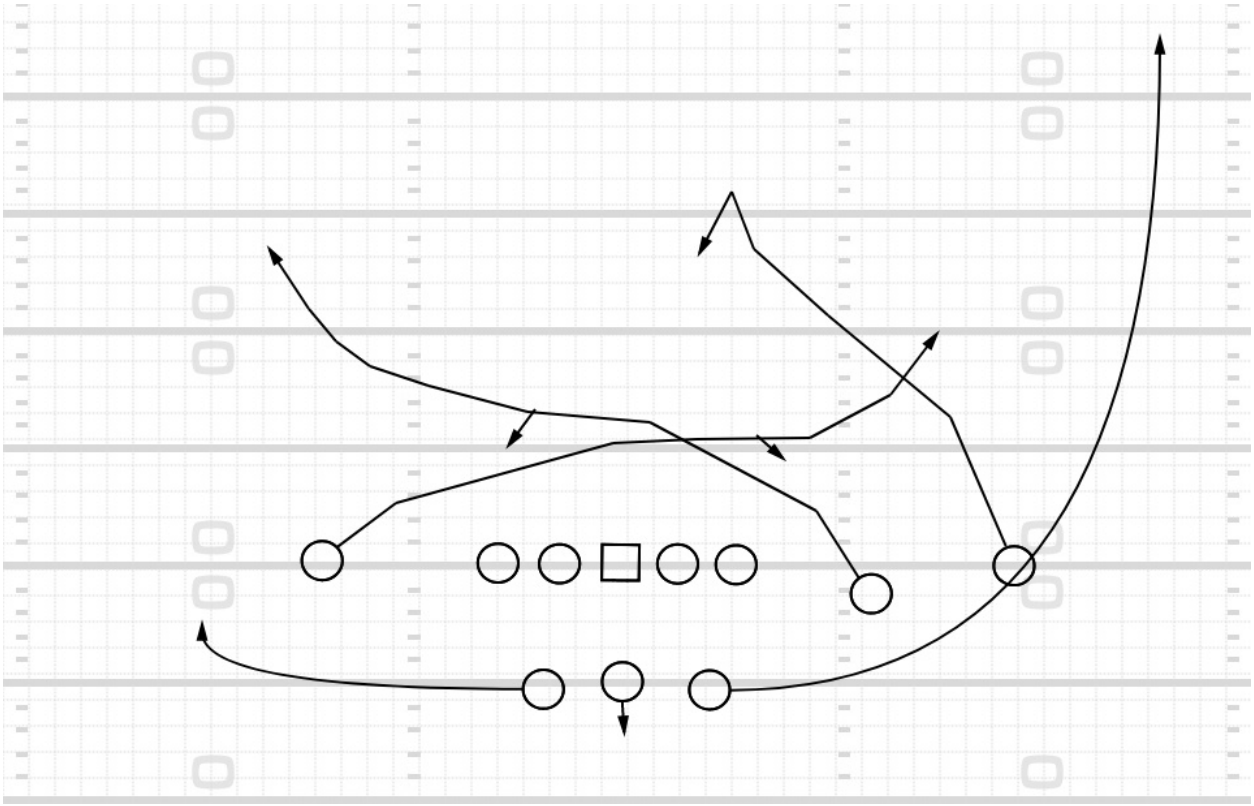
Trips Rt 70 DC Pyramid



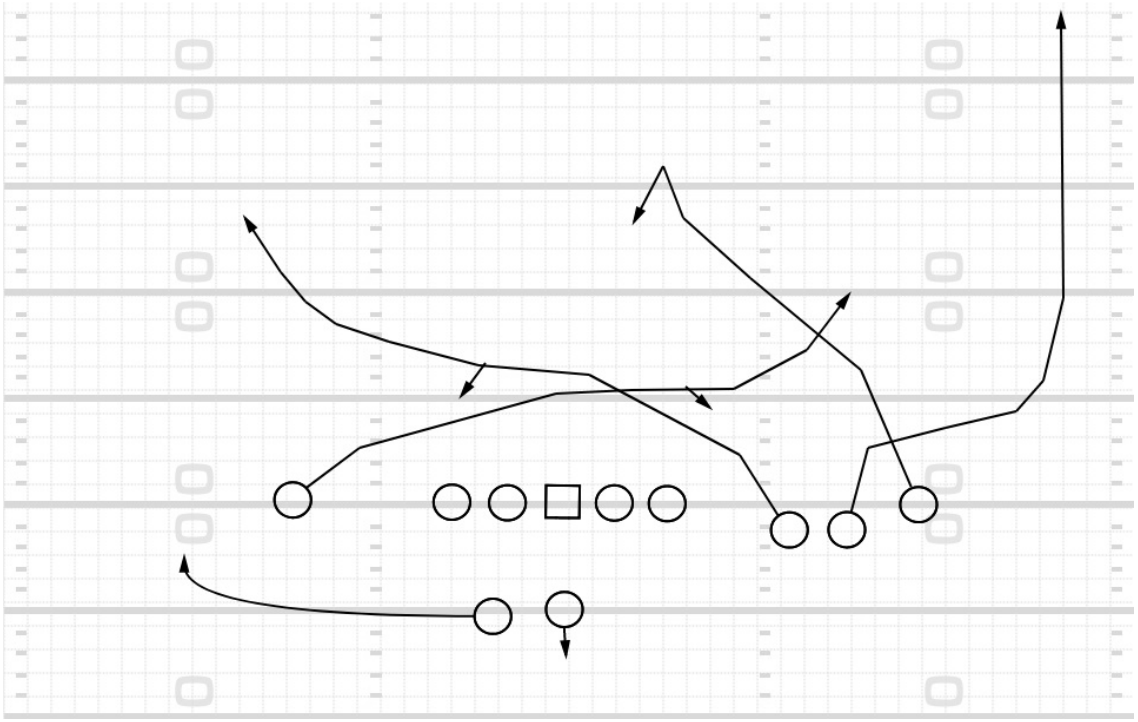
Ray 75



Flex Ray 71 Harley



Tails Rt 74 Egypt Harley



Trips Rt 70 Pyramid Harley