Shallow Concept

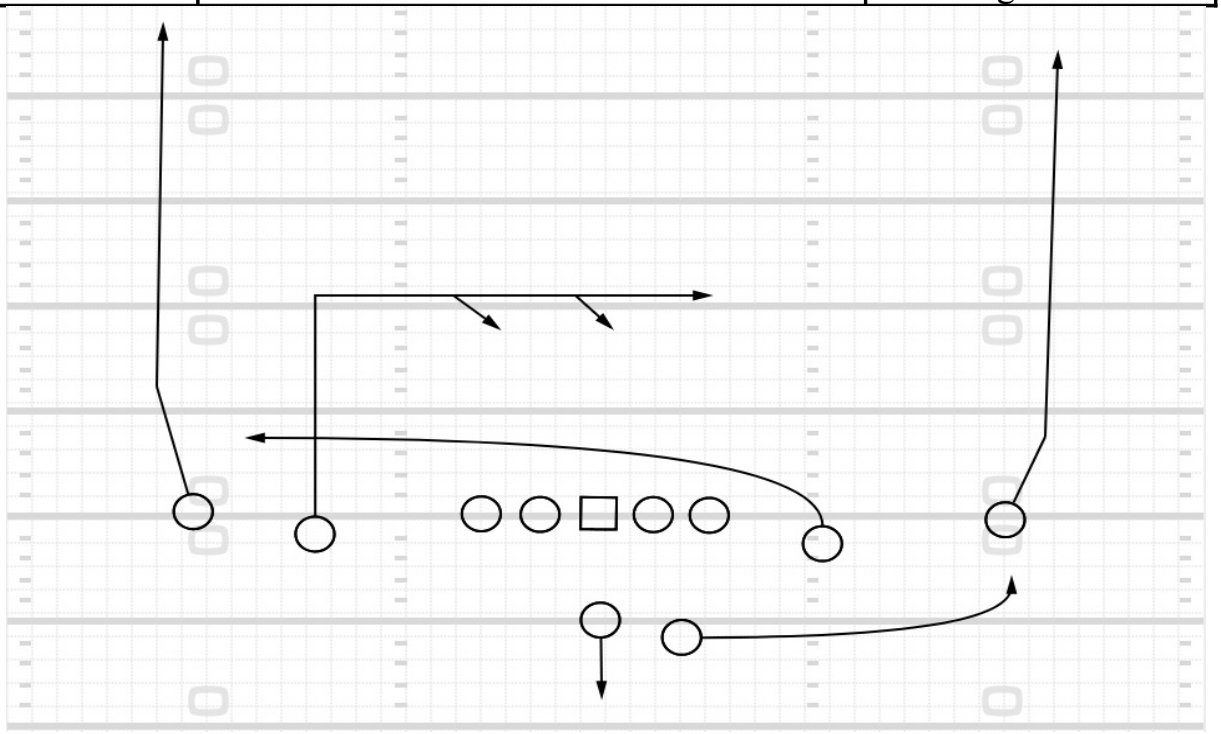


Shallow Cross

Our shallow cross concept allows us to attack the defense with a horizontal and vertical stretch. The shallow cross in the Burrell Bucs offense is a very versatile play that allows us to have success against both man, zone, and blitz defensive coverage attempts. As a quarterback we will be taking a three step drop in the shotgun and our initial read will be the Area Outside (A.O.) defender who is aligned to the side the shallow cross is running towards. We will talk further in this chapter about a few of the variations that we have to our shallow cross to provide us with answers to attack any defensive coverage that is deployed against our offensive attack.

Here is how we will call the Shallow Cross in 2019

Concept	Code Words	Signal
Shallow Cross	Lt=91,93,95,97,99 Rt=90, 92, 94, 96, 98	Fist off Head then # with fingers



90

Shown on the previous play is an example of our “90” call out of a base formation. If we would have called 92, 94, 96, or 98 this would have resulted in the exact same playcall. Before we go into your reads as a quarterback in great detail lets first take a look at all of the routes in the concept in detail so that you will have a total understanding of the play.

The base rules for our shallow concept are as follows. Our outside receivers align on the top of the numbers and will be running (FOR) Forced Outside Release Vertical Routes that do not convert of sit down on the base 90’s Call. If it is an even 90’s call the shallow will come from the closest receiver to the ball on the right side.

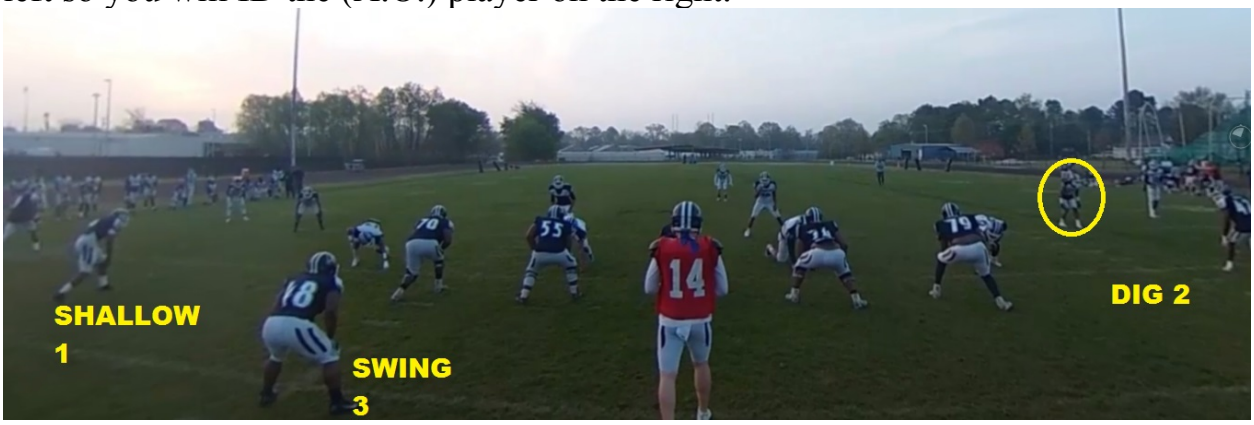
The running back will also align on the right side of the formation based on the 90’s number being an even or odd number. The running back will run a swing route stretching wide to the numbers. This will be an automatic “Florida” call for the back as we want him on a free release to stretch the defensive undercoverage. A key coaching point for the back is after he gets three hard steps in the ground towards the sideline if there is no defender in the area outside within 10 yards of him he will make a “BALL, BALL, BALL” call loudly to the quarterback. This tells us as a quarterback that we have a hot or uncovered situation and we should come off of our read progression and get the ball to the back right now so that he can make something happen in space on the perimeter of the defense.

As we earlier explained the shallow cross will be coming from the “call side” of the play and his route is to run “shallow” through the feet of the defensive linemen and building his depth to 3-5 yards as he crosses the field. He should stay on the move and will not look for the football until he crosses the center. The shallow cross wants to maintain his depth through the feet of the defensive linemen to ensure that the linebackers can not collision him on the route and slow him down. We need speed across the formation from the route and we can not afford to have this route held up. Now if the linebacker steps up to try and collision at a two yard depth he will be pulling himself out of his “Area Inside” coverage responsibility and will open up a “Shooting Gallery” for the quarterback on the dig route in the zones behind him for big chunks of yardage.

The dig route in the base shallow concept will come opposite the call side and the coaching points for the receivers are as follows. First we want an 8-10 yard split as a general rule from the tackle. We are going to be reading the “Area Outside” defender who will be aligned over this receiver and we want to place as much of a stretch on him as possible and try to force a potential spot drop zone defender to

have to revert to some man principles in his coverage technique making our read as a quarterback much cleaner. The receiver running the dig route will take a mandatory outside release on the (A.O.) defender. This is critical as we want to have this defender have to turn and run with you placing his back to the shallow cross coming into his zone. If as you stretch vertical attacking a zone spot drop defender he begins to expand wide outside of you, then and only then will you keep your route inside of him. We want speed on the route vertical to a depth of 10 yards and then we will snap the route off inside on a 90 degree angle flat towards the qb. Against zone coverage we will sit either in the 1st or 2nd window in the Area Inside Coverage zones. If we feel man coverage we will utilize an escape move at 10 yards and work flat inside and stay on the move running away from the defender in coverage.

As a quarterback you will be identifying the Area Outside Defender who is aligned away from the call side. So for example a 91 call the shallow is coming from your left so you will ID the (A.O.) player on the right.



As you see in the above diagram of a “91” call the shallow will be the first read coming from the left. The dig will be the second read read coming from the right and the back swinging to the left side will be the third read unless you get a “Ball” call from the back. You will take a 3-step drop in the gun reading the Area Outside Defender away from the call side (Circled in screen shot above).

The screenshot below illustrates the read progression on a “90” call and identification of the area outside defender.



As the quarterback gets into his drop he is immediately eyeing the Area Outside Defender key. If that defender turns and runs and green grass opens up the qb will get the ball quickly to the shallow cross in space giving him an opportunity to run after the catch with the ball. Do not throw the ball behind him or throttle him down we need a nice catchable ball here so he can continue on his path. We want to throw this route every single time unless the defense takes this away.



You can see in the above example the space that is created for the shallow as the dig route stretches the area outside defenders zone creating massive amounts of space for our shallow cross to operate.



In the above diagram showing a “95” call you can see where the Coverage zone has been stretched allowing space for the shallow route to come open as illustrated below. This will be a high percentage easy completion. As a quarterback you will pile up yardage on this concept by reading it properly and completing a 5 yard pass that turns into 75 yards and our touchdown cannon firing off at Burrell Buccaneer Stadium.



One thing that we want to be aware of as a quarterback as we make our read progress is the event that the corner is in a hard alignment as a potential area outside defender or may be in a “trap” coverage to try and give you a false read with the defender over the slot expanding while the corner is sitting in the flat waiting on the shallow cross. Through our proper ID of defensive coverages we will be alert for this possibility and read accordingly. Remember if your read is cloudy on the shallow immediately advance to the Dig route which is the next phase in your progression.


OFF PLAY
SHALLOW



In the above progression of coverage able you can see that this becomes an easy read for the quarterback to go to the shallow as the dig route has lifted the area outside defender from that zone and there is nothing but space for the shallow to attack. Notice how the quarterbacks eyes are only on his key in the initial phase of his dropback. Also of note look at the perfect depth of the shallow cross running through the feet of the defensive line.



The above screenshot illustrates the shallow being covered by the area outside defender which has then in turn opened the second read on the play the 10 yard Dig route to be wide open in the second window behind the Area Inside (AI) defenders as the qb readies to deliver the ball for a huge gain moving the chains. It is important for ball placement on the dig settling into a window to be placed on the body of the receiver. We can not afford a high pass in this situation over the middle. It is better to have the pass be lower and bring the receiver to the ground with a 10+ yard gain then to have a high pass sail over the middle and get tipped into the hands of a defender!

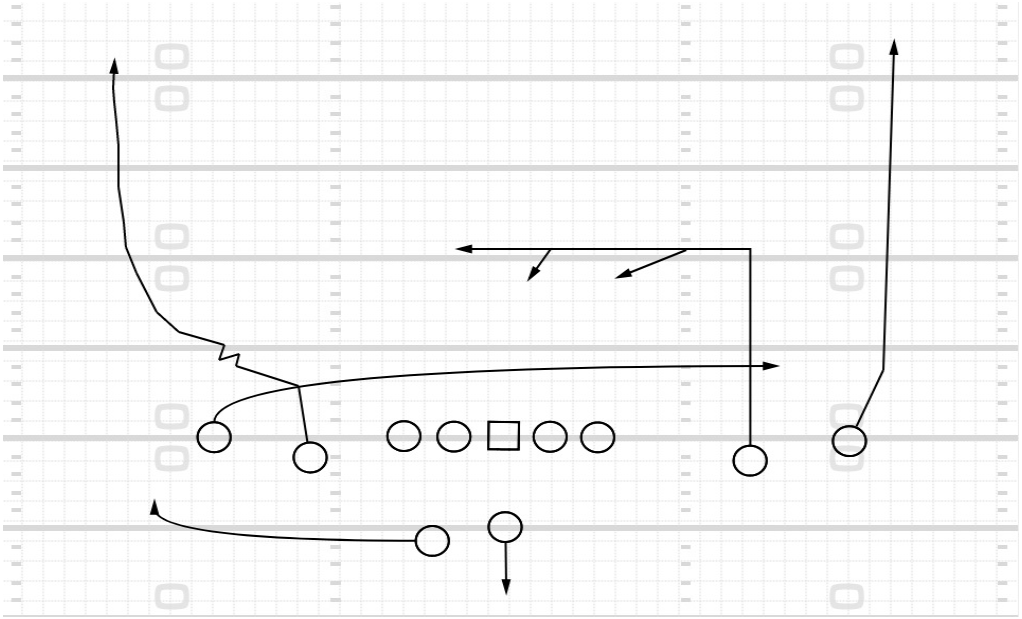


It is critical that the dig route runs his 10 yard dig to the proper depth and takes the forced outside release on the A.O. defender. In the screen shot above you can see our dig route on the left side work inside of the area outside defender and cut his route depth short of 10 yards. The quarterback initial read tells him there is grass

for the shallow route and he is correct but he is given a false read because of the fact that the dig route did not properly lift the area outside defender and he was able to get his eyes on his zone area rather than having to defend the vertical stem in his zone from the dig route. This allows the defender to keep his eyes right and identify the shallow cross and come up and make a play for a minimal gain (See Below).

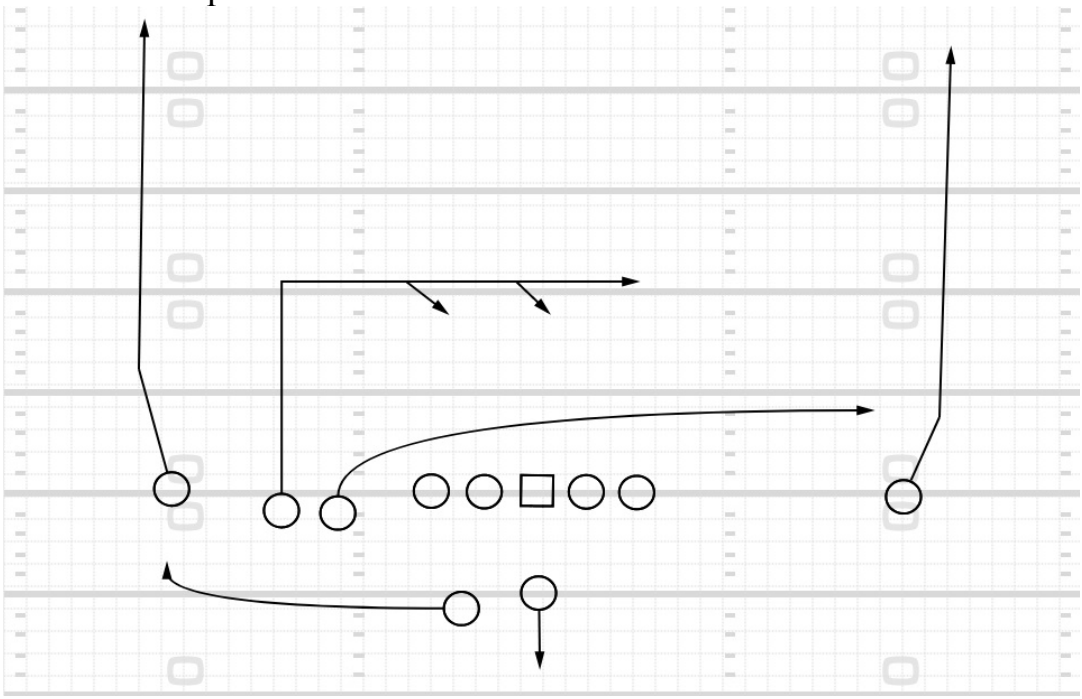


We also have many other variations of our shallow cross that we can use for window dressing but keeping the same basic reads for our quarterback. If we were to make a switch call such as 91 switch (See Diagram Below). That will tell the outside receiver to the left to tighten his split and he is now the shallow cross receiver. The inside receiver will run a switch release at the upfield shoulder of the corner creating a natural rub in man to man coverage and will continue up the bottom of the numbers on the vertical route. On this switch call the inside receiver will go first and the outside receiver will rub underneath this route on the shallow. It is important the the outside receiver tightens his split so that he can get across on the route. All of the other routes in the progression remain the same.

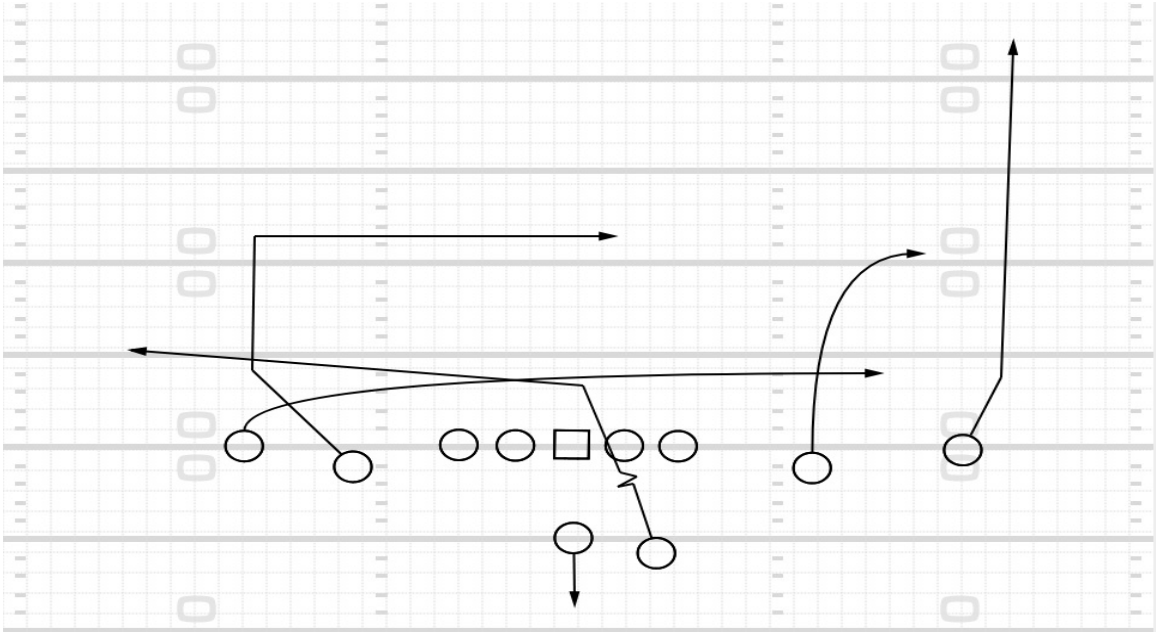


91 SWITCH

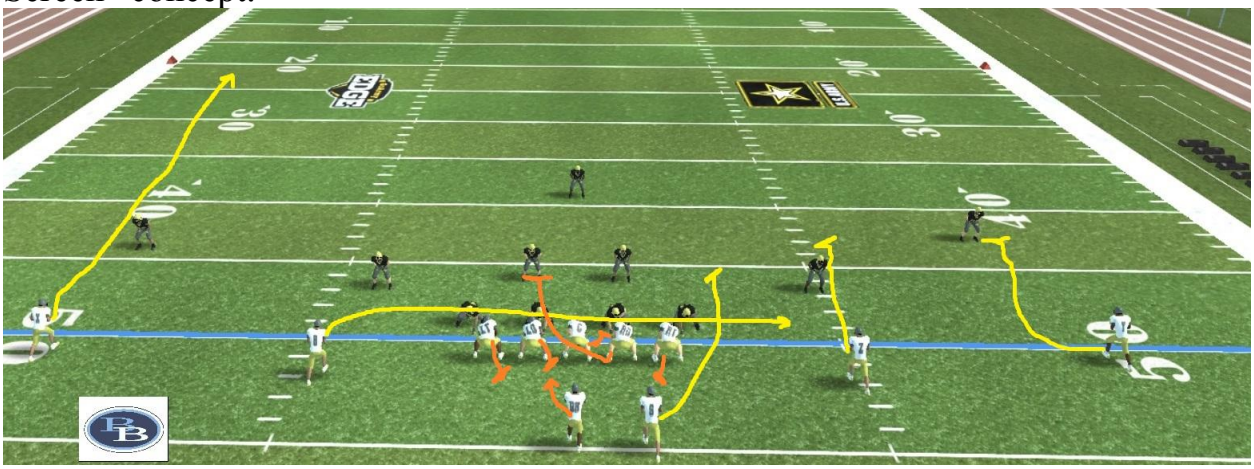
We will also run our shallow concept from a Trips Alignment with both the dig and the shallow coming from the same side of the formation. The reads will remain the same for the quarterback.



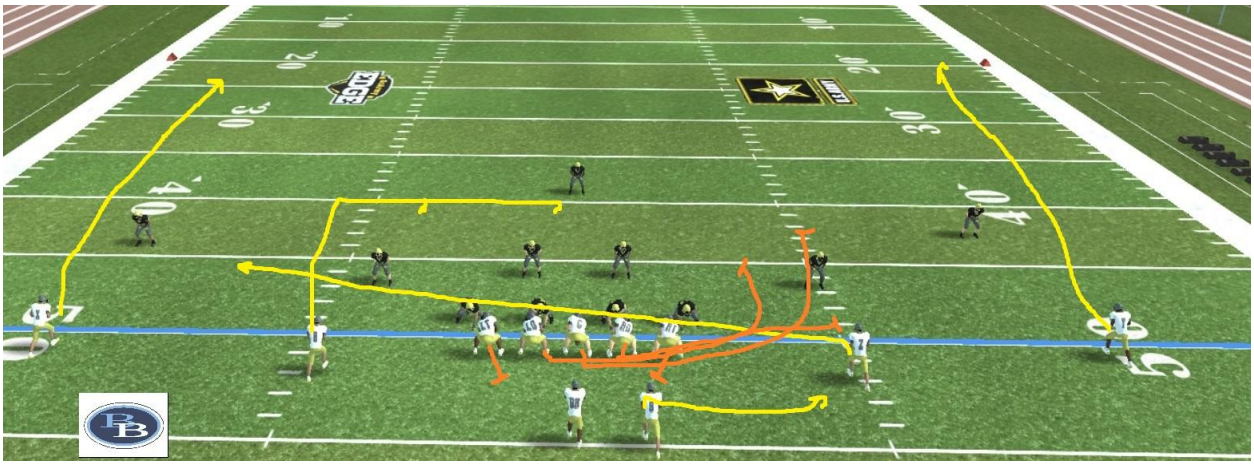
Some additional variations of the shallow cross that we will detail in much more depth as we progress in our installation are the Miami Concept with a Sail route on the frontside with a Shallow/Dig on the backside with our running back on a leak route.



We will also utilize our shallow cross as a screen concept by tagging “reno” to the play call. This turns the play into a shallow screen with all receivers blocking the most dangerous man in their area with the shallow cross receiver catching the ball at 3 yards or under with the defenders in that area being blocked as a “Shallow Screen” concept.



We will also use our shallow in conjunction with our slip screen series that we will detail in the screen section of our install. We call this concept Rox/Liv and here is a brief illustration of what you will be learning at a later time.



ROXY