
EPIC
COACHING
READ-OUT
PRESSURES
A SIMPLE ANSWER TO EMPTY SETS
with Coach Paddy Horlacher
SCHWÄBISCH HALL
UNICORNS

# ABOUT ME

31-year-old football coach from Germany with 10+ years of coaching experience

| | |
|---|---|
| 2005–2014 | Youth football player in Germany |
| 2015–2016 | Linebacker, German Football League (semi-pro) |
| 2017–2020 | DC, Schwäbisch Hall Unicorns U19 (GFL Juniors) |
| 2022 | DC, KIT Engineers (Karlsruhe) |
| 2023 | Defensive advisor for multiple teams |
| Since 2024 | DC, Schwäbisch Hall Unicorns U20 (GFL Juniors) |

Accomplishments

- 7-time GFL Juniors South Division champion
- Junior Bowl champion
- 2-time Junior Bowl runner-up

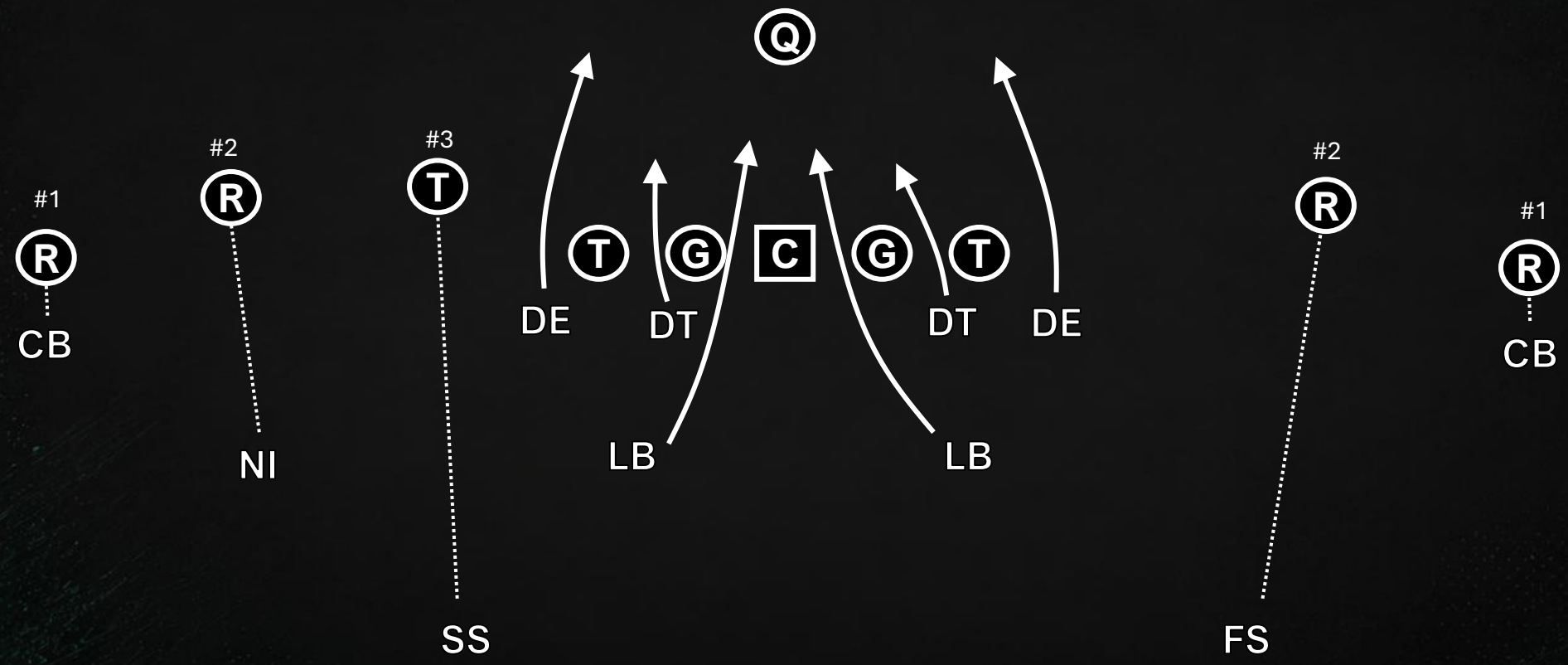
# CHALLENGES OF EMPTY SETS

1) Five potential receiving threats, short and deep
2) QB run threats against a spread-out defense
3) Tunnel and bubble screens against aggressive defenses
4) Variations: 4x1 (quads), motion, bunch and TE sets



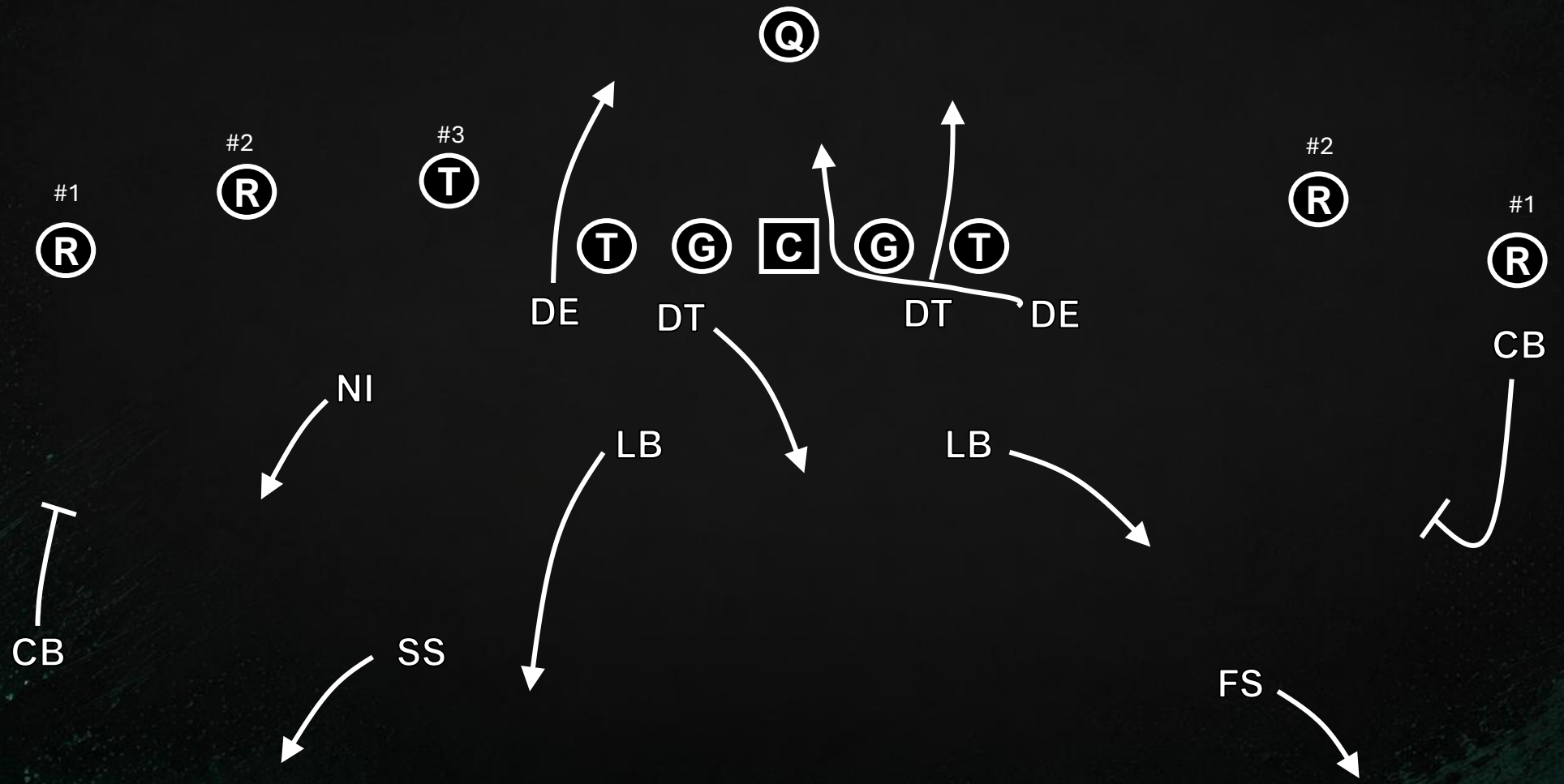
# COMMON ANSWERS TO EMPTY SETS

A six-man rush creates a numerical advantage against five-man protection.



# COMMON ANSWERS TO EMPTY SETS

Drop eight into coverage, often combined with stunts up front.



# READ-OUT PRESSURE

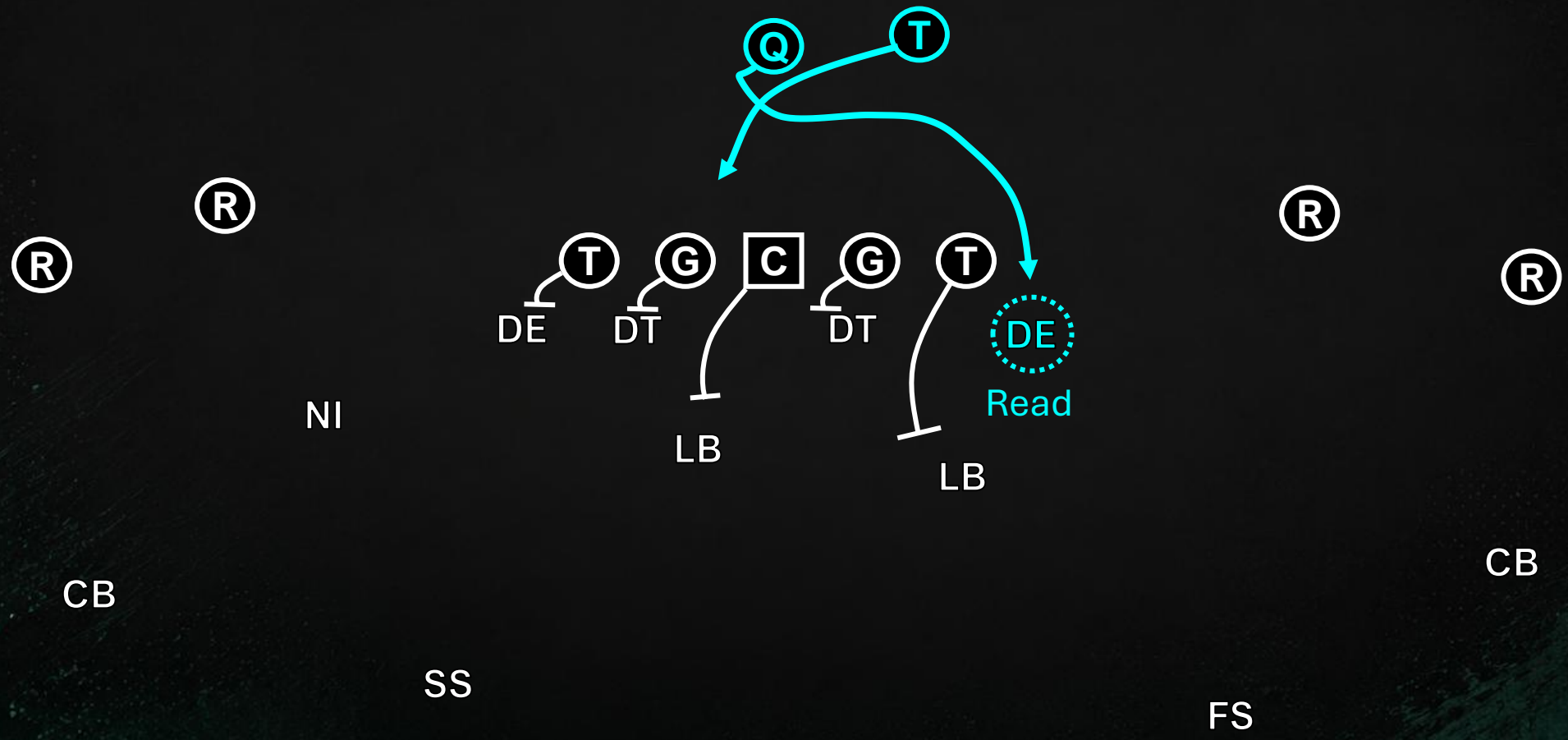
An aggressive check against empty sets

- Sound against screens and the quick passing game
- Adaptable to different defensive personnel packages
- Cover 0 or Eyes/Hot coverage (3 deep, 2 under)
- Our version of “option football”

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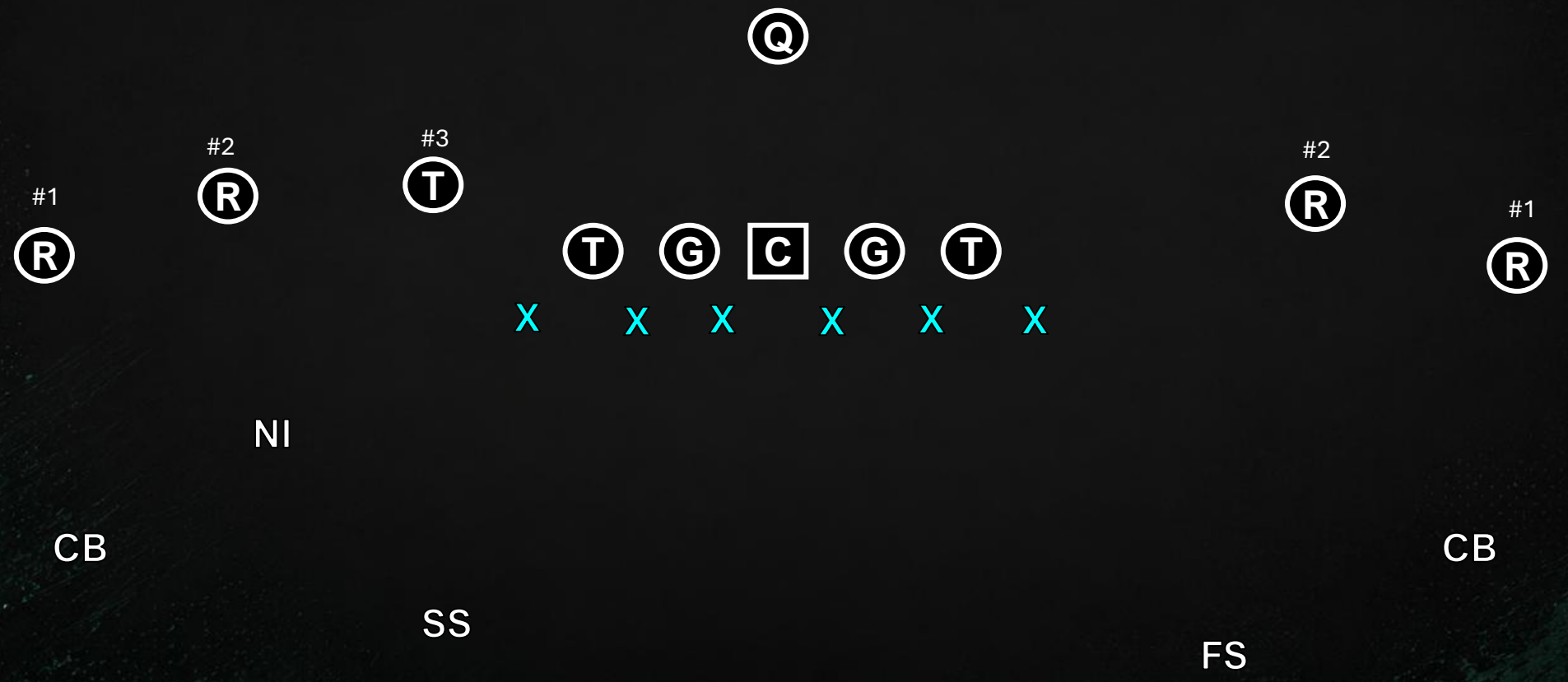
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# READ-OUT PRESSURE

Base alignment and rules

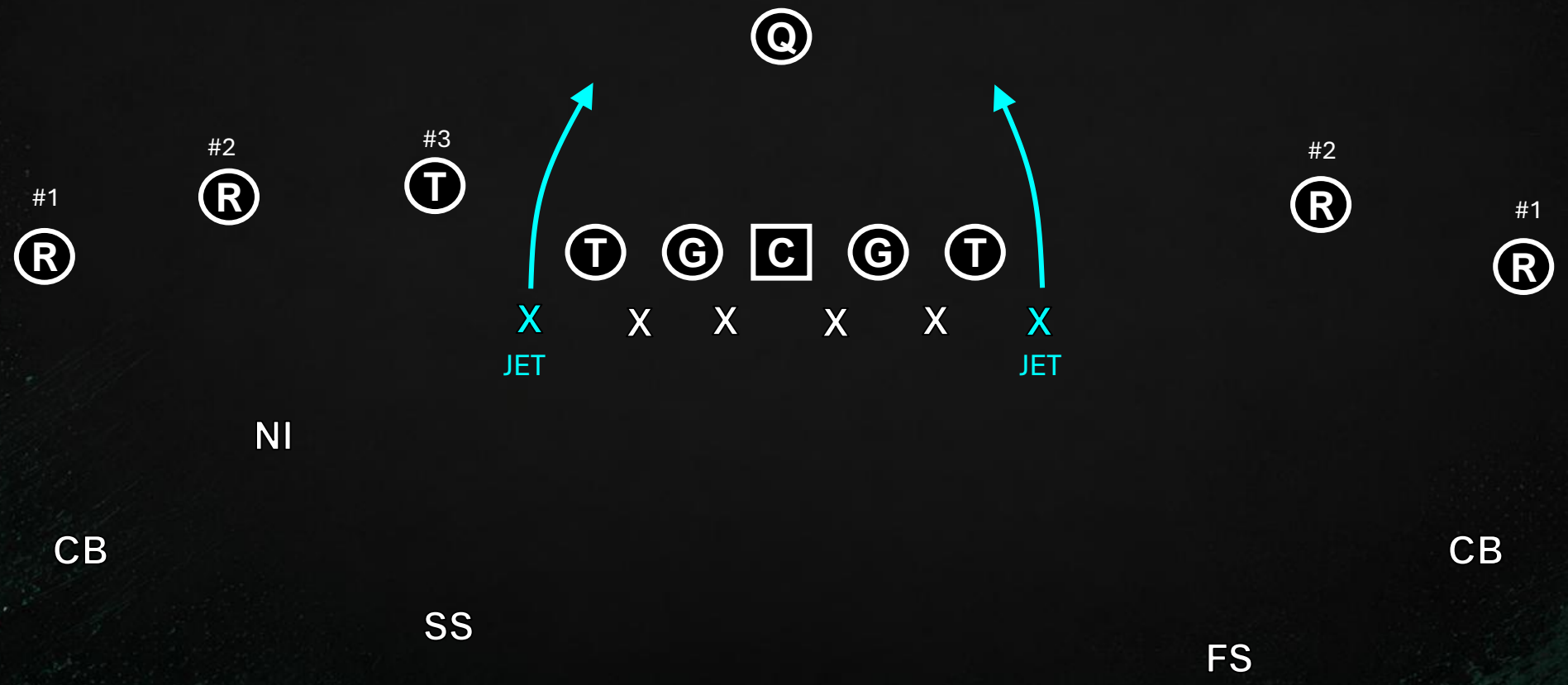
- Align six defenders on the LOS



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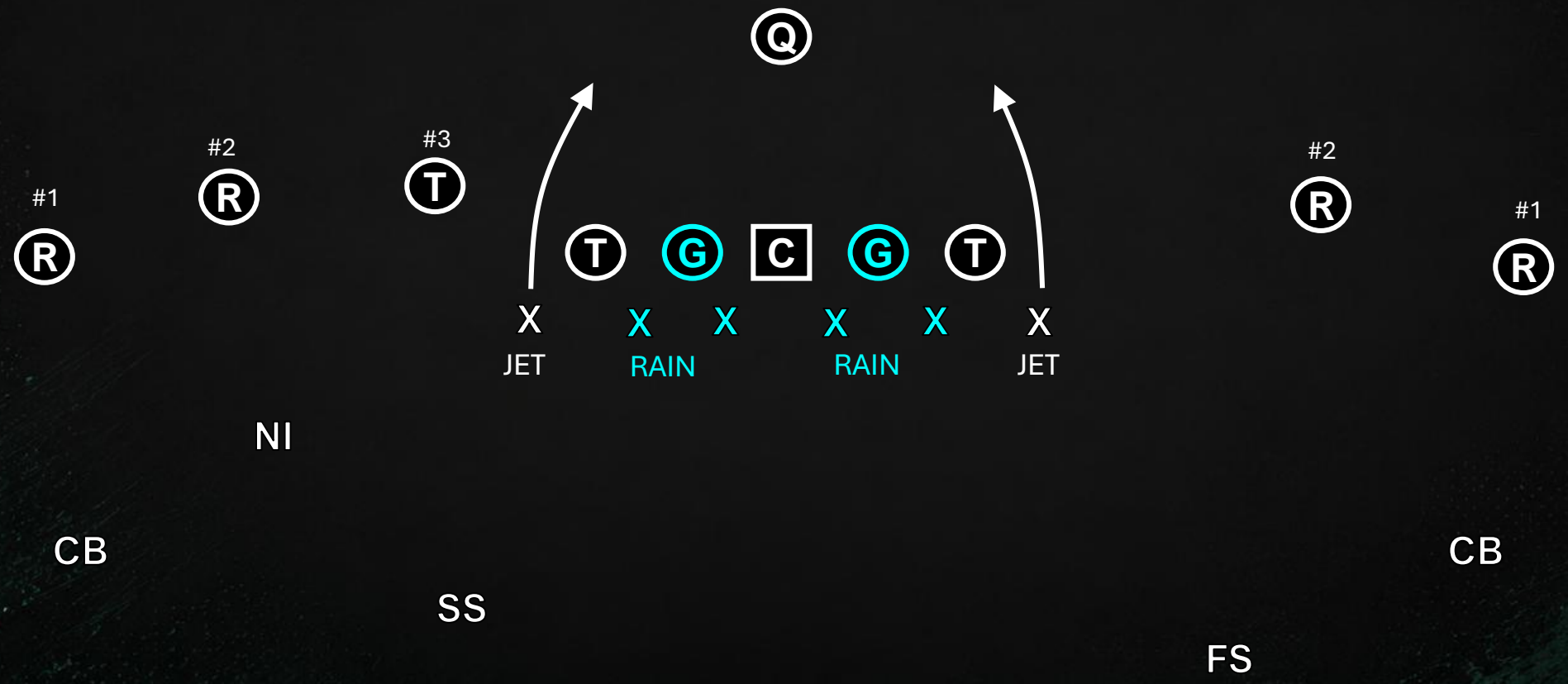
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- Outside rushers attack the C gaps and maintain contain (“JET”)



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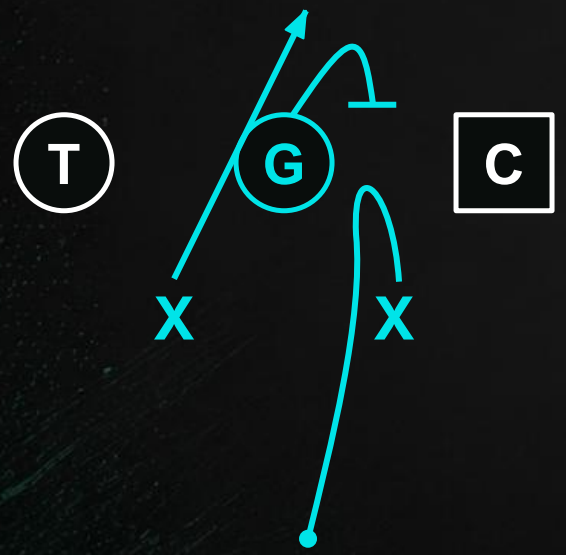
- Align six defenders on the LOS
- Outside rushers attack the C gaps and maintain contain (“JET”)
- A- and B-gap defenders read the guard: rush or spy/rat (“RAIN”)



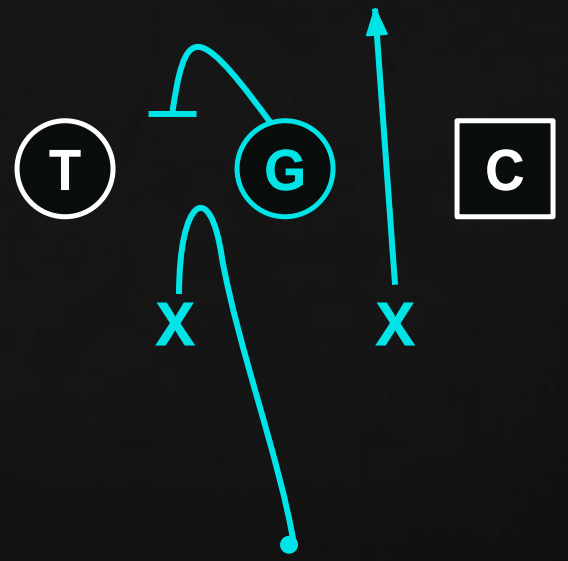
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**Spy / Rat**
**5–8 yards**



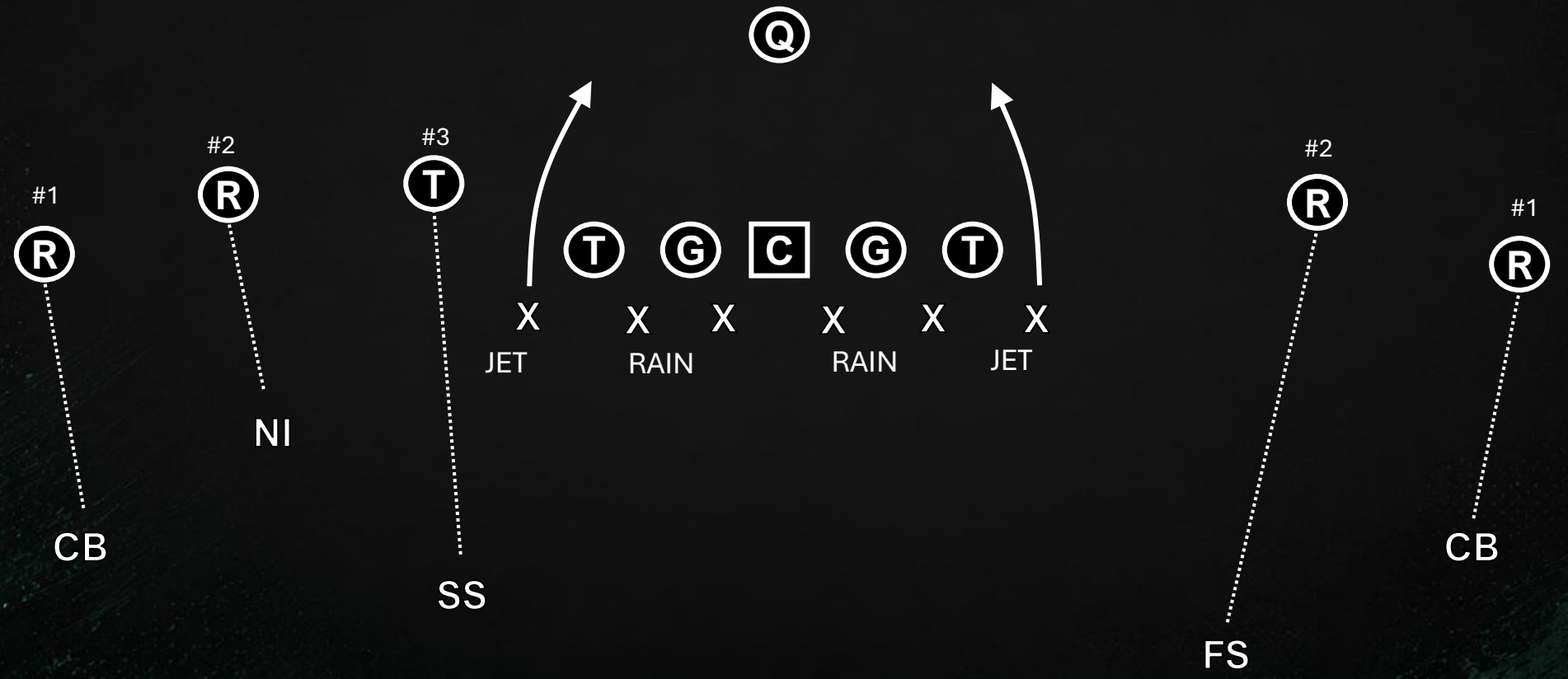

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- Coverage must work independently of the spy/rat (e.g., Cover 0)



# KEY TAKEAWAYS

1) Show six potential rushers.
2) JET: Rush the QB and maintain contain.
3) RAIN: Rush unless the guard clearly commits to you. When in doubt, rush.
4) Coverage must work independently of the RAIN drops.

