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Youth Flag Football Plays Practice Plans & Drills



Introduction:

Coaching youth sports can be challenging. With a little guidance and organization your experience can be extremely rewarding. The key to successful coaching is being prepared and organized. It is important to take advantage of the limited time you get each week with the players. With a structured practice, easy to teach and learn plays, and a whistle can will quickly convert your group into a competitive team. I found that many coaches spend a lot of time on drills not associated with the types of plays they will run. By having a list of plays designed before you practice, this allows you to focus your drills around running perfect plays. The goal for the season should be teach every player their positions and football. This may look a little disorganized in the first week or two, but if you stay patient and continue to coach, the players and your games can become competitive and the experience for everyone can be enjoyable.

Product Information Statement:

Flag football plays designed for youth flag football. These plays have been used successfully and are created so that the coach can effectively communicate and the players can easily understand. There are 28 color pages of organized run and pass plays which utilizes 7 different formations. Each page provides one key play along with other play options on the same page. The positions are color coded so the play can be easily called and understood in the huddle. There are various options per play so you don't have to thumb through too many pages to find and call plays. The book has 28 key plays, each play has other options leading to a total of over 70 total plays in this manual.

Keys to Offense:

On offensive the key to success is getting the players to be patient while running the play so the play develops. Surprising, many plays, basic or advanced, can result in positive yards if the play is run *correctly*. It is important to get the timing down for the plays. Quick hit plays must be run quickly – meaning the runner and QB must execute their part as soon as the ball is snapped. In other plays the plays can be run at a comfortable pace to ensure fakes and hand-offs are completed without mistakes. Many of these plays consist of misdirection and fakes. It is important that the players not getting the ball take the fake correctly and the actual ball carrier is patient to let the play develop ahead of him so the lanes are open. Proper delays and clean hand-offs can be the difference between being competitive or not.

Keys to Defense:

On defense the key to success is also patience. Many teams will runs fakes and end-a-rounds, so the defensive players must stay in their position or zone until the player with the ball comes through their area, or cross the line of scrimmage. The goal is to keep the runner inside, meaning the defensive ends must not let the runner get to the outside of them. Defense should be designed to utilize every player regardless of their skill. Each player should be taught their position, and coached for improvement through out the year.

Recommendations:

The plays are in order of difficulty. I recommend teaching a few pages at a time. The most important thing is to execute the plays correctly. Once the players understand the plays their experience and yours will make great strides forward.

Disclaimer:

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Sample Drills

Flag Pulling:

Group the players into two groups based on skill set – Better players grabbing better player flags and beginner players grabbing beginner player flags. This will allow the players at all levels room to improve and gain confidence. As the season progresses your two groups will more than likely change quite a bit

The Drill: Set up two stations (Better and Beginner) – for each station align cones about 4 yards apart and 15 yards long. Select one player to be the flag puller first – the others will run the ball. Have a coach be QB and hand the ball off. (this is also a chance to teach correct hand-offs). Have each runner one at a time run the ball at the defensive player. The runner must stay in the cones. The defensive player will start about 5 yards back of the QB. The defensive player will focus primary on staying in front of the runner – moving left or right, and making a good grab at the flag (at the belt). It is important the defensive player not over commit and run up on the runner. The runner will more than like run past him/her every time. Running up on the runner will come with more experience. Have each runner run through 2 or 3 times before rotating a runner for the defensive player.

Passing Drill:

This drill is designed to get the receivers and QB in tune with each other. Timing in the pass plays are critical to success. The QB should know which receiver is going to be his first option, but should also be prepared to make quick decision. In the drill the QB will not look at the intended receiver until he is prepared to throw the ball. The coach will yell out which receiver is getting the ball once the play starts. I use this drill as my warm-up before games. It focuses on the fundamentals of running plays and establishes timing with the QB and Receivers.

The Drill: Set-up the Split Set Offense. QB, Center, two RB positions and receivers. All the remaining players will get in lines at the RC positions. Have a coach stand directly in front of the Center/QB and call out which RC is getting the ball, either left or right, along with any fakes. Call out the play and have the team run the play as is originally designed. During the play the QB should be prepared to throw to the designed receiver at the proper spot. Once this timing is established, start throwing to the optional receivers. Calling out the receiver while the play is running is a good addition to the drill. All players should focus on running their pattern each time.

The Proper Flag Pull:

Teach the players to grab the flag at the point the flag connects to the belt. It is much easier to grab this area as apposed to the end of the flag which has much more movement and more difficult to grab.



Sample Practice Plan

(based on 90 minutes)

10 minutes – Warm-up – Two equal rows one in front of the other. Spread out with enough room to due to the exercise.

2.5 minutes - Quick water break

30 minutes – Drills focused on fundamentals – both offense and defense. You can divide the team into two groups – offense and defense. Have your defensive coaches run the players through drills focused on defensive fundamentals. Do the same for offense. After 15 minutes switch groups.

2.5 minute - Water break

20 minute – Scrimmage – Offensive against defense

2.5 minute - Water break

20 minute – Scrimmage – Switch offensive and defensive teams

2.5 minute - Water break/closing comments

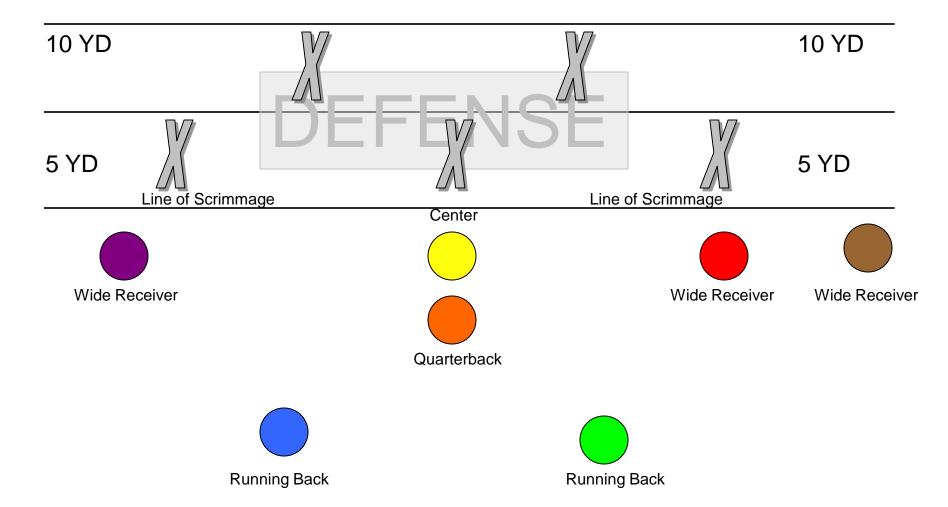
Sample Exercises

Cross-over Tow Touches – Starting position feet spread apart hands/arms pointed straight out to each side. Take you right hand and reach over the touch/hold your left foot. Hold position for count of ten. Then left hand to right foot. Do this two times each.

Picking Berries – Starting position feet spread apart, hands on hips. Reach out and touch the ground in front of you 3 times – each time getting closer to being right below you, then return to standing position (hands on hips). One set of 10 reps. 1, 2, 3, 1 - 1, 2, 3, 2 - 1, 2, 3, 3 - 1, 2, 3, 4 and so on.

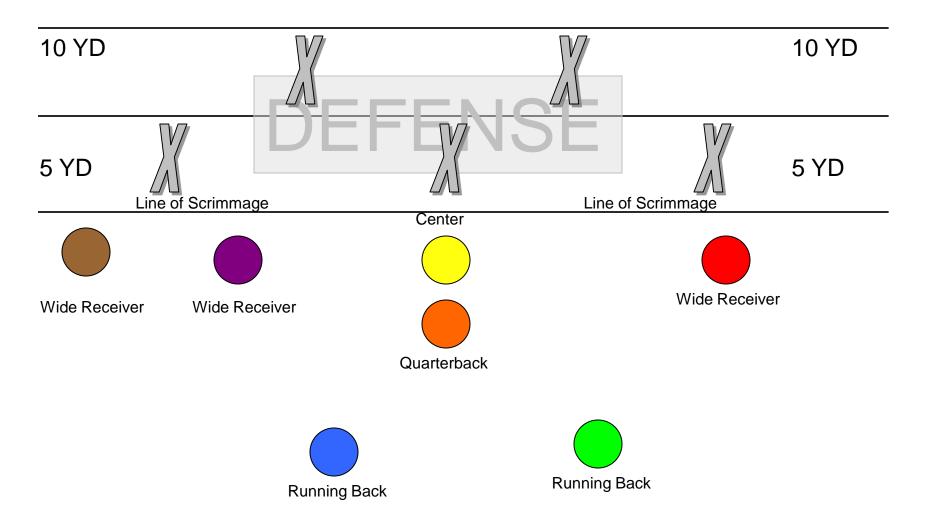
Run Sprints – Form two equal rows - one in front of the other. Coach move back so the players will have about 30 yards to run. Have the players get into a RB set. Coach will yell out – DOWN, SET, HUT (or what ever cadence you will use during games). The players will get into set position and run on HUT. One row at a time. Do this a few times and make sure the players do not leave early.

WISH BONE RIGHT



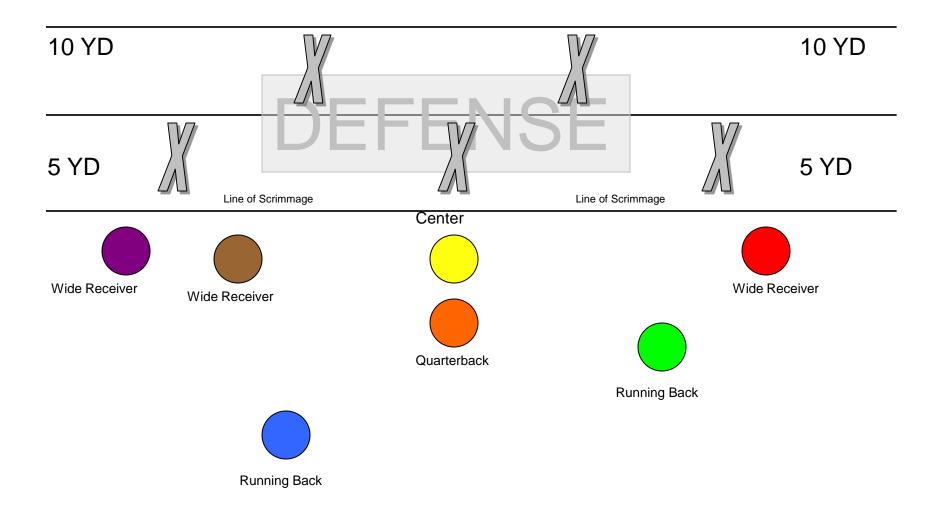


WISH BONE LEFT

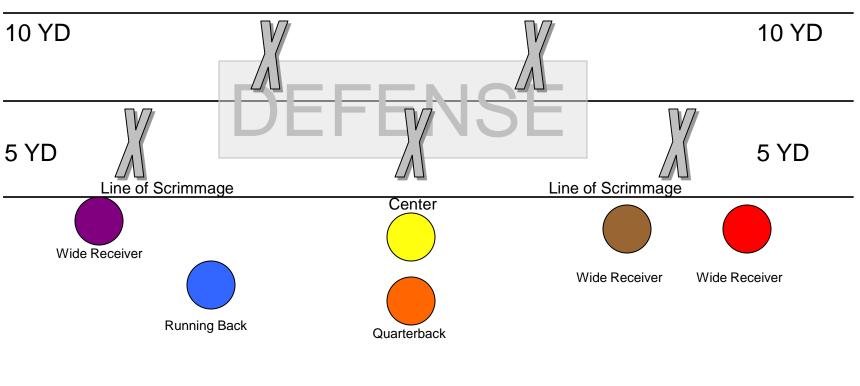




SPLIT SET - LEFT



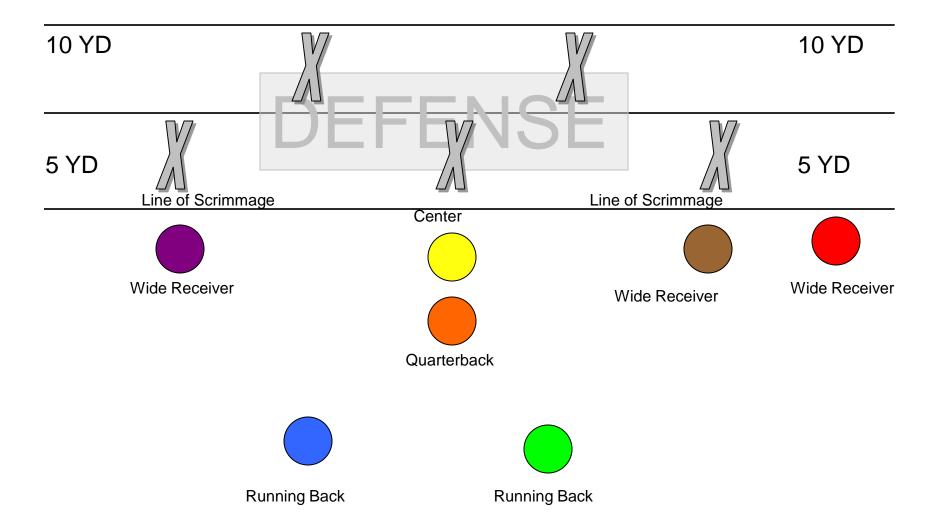
SPLIT SET - RIGHT





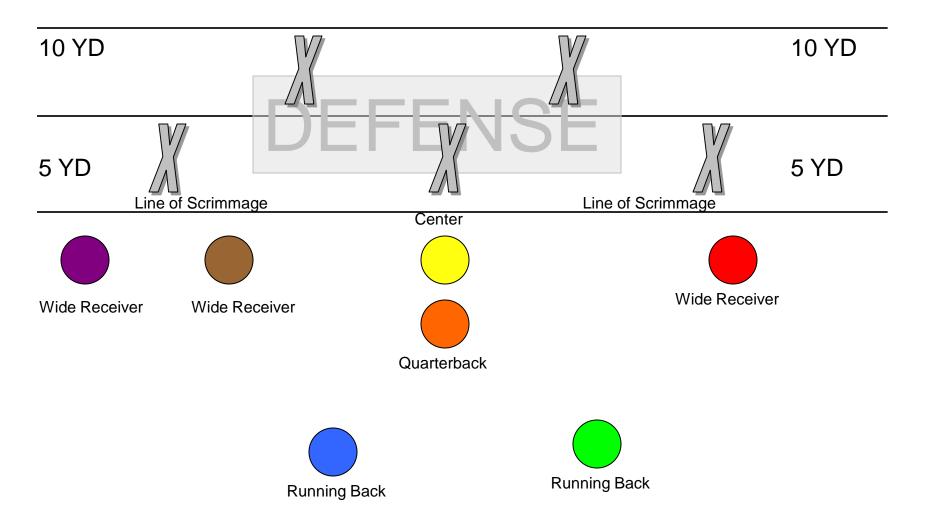


TWINS - RIGHT



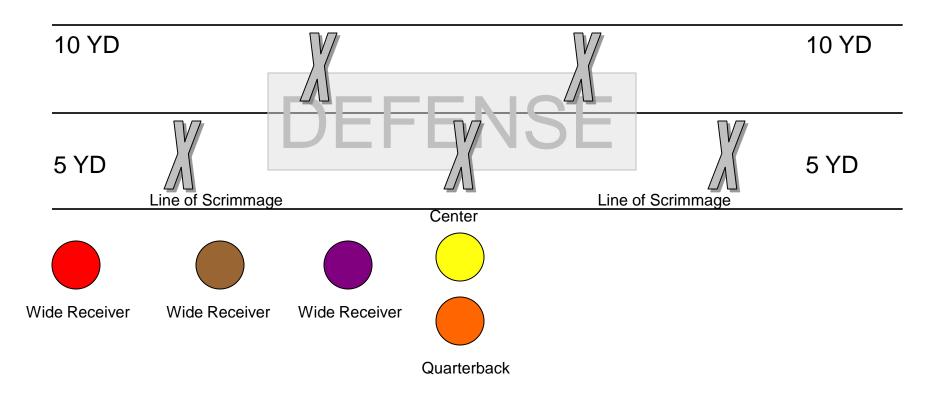


TWINS - LEFT





TRIPS - LEFT





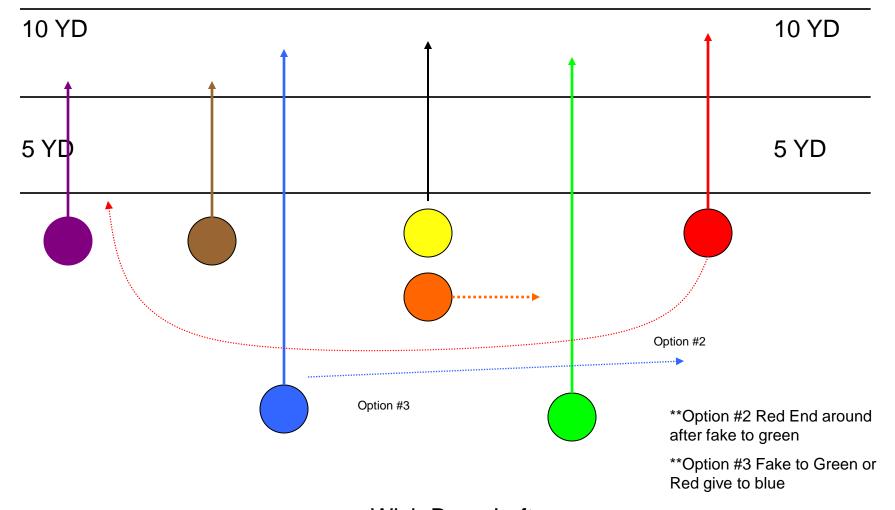






Speed Green - Right





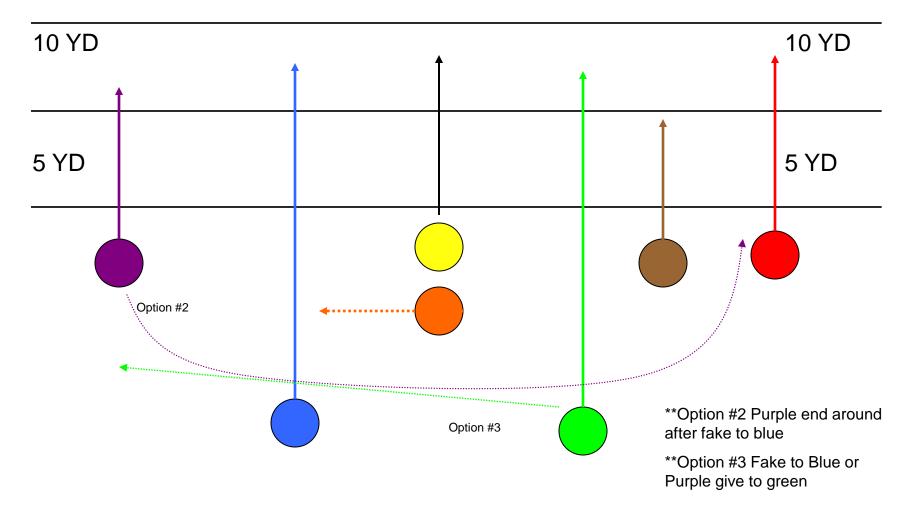
Wish Bone Left
Hand-off to Green – Run Straight





Speed Blue - Left





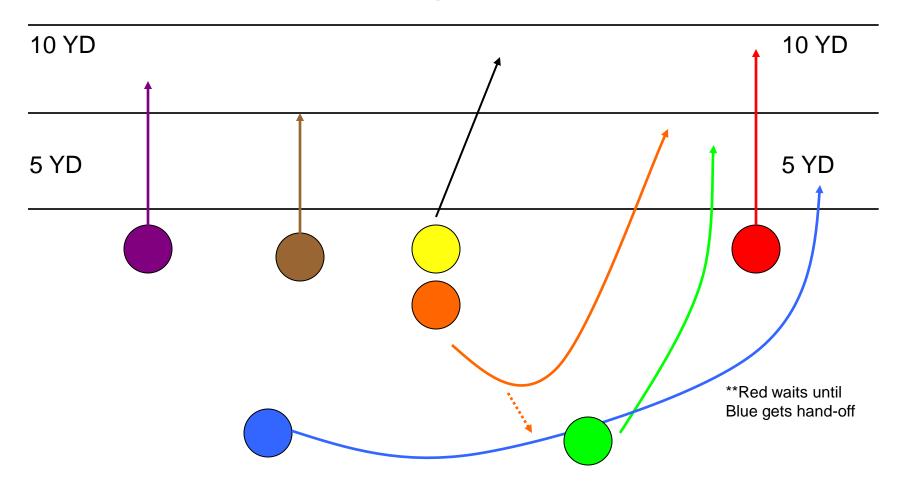
Wish Bone Right Hand-off to Blue – Run Straight





Blue Sweep - RIGHT





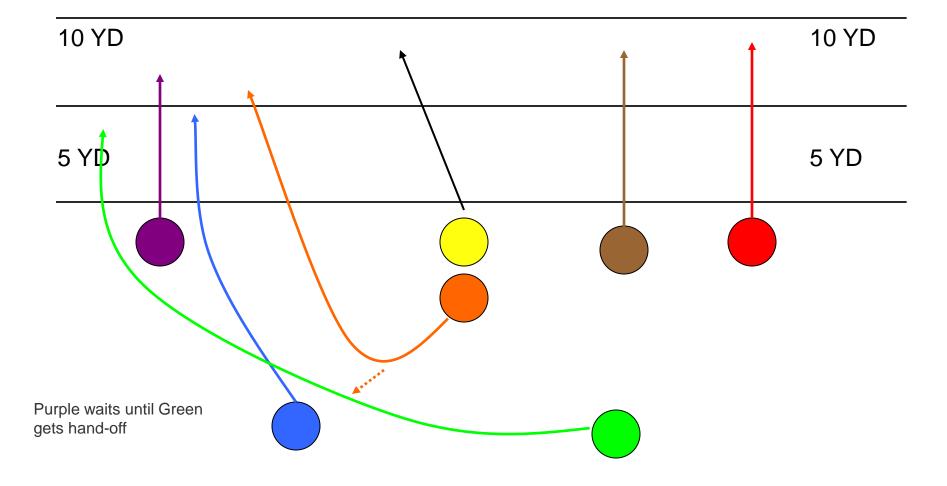
Wish Bone Left
Green Leads Right
Hand-off to Blue





Green Sweep - LEFT



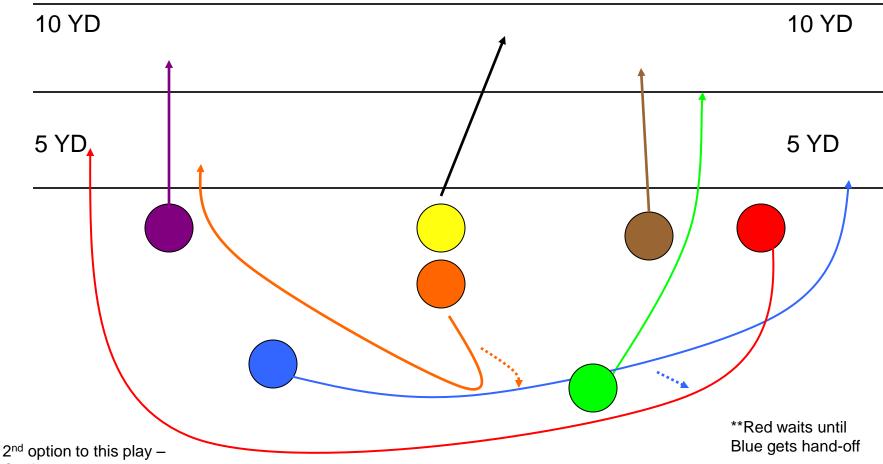


Wish Bone Right Blue Leads Left Hand-off to Green



End Around - Left





QB fakes to BLUE and hands the ball to RED

3rd option to the play – BLUE fakes the hand-off to RED Wish Bone Right Green Lead Right

Hand-off to Blue

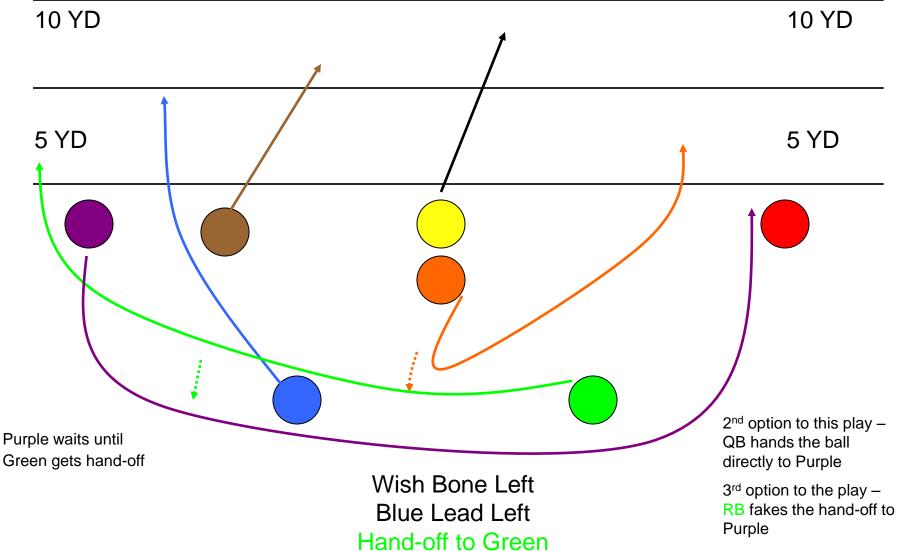
Blue hand-off to Red

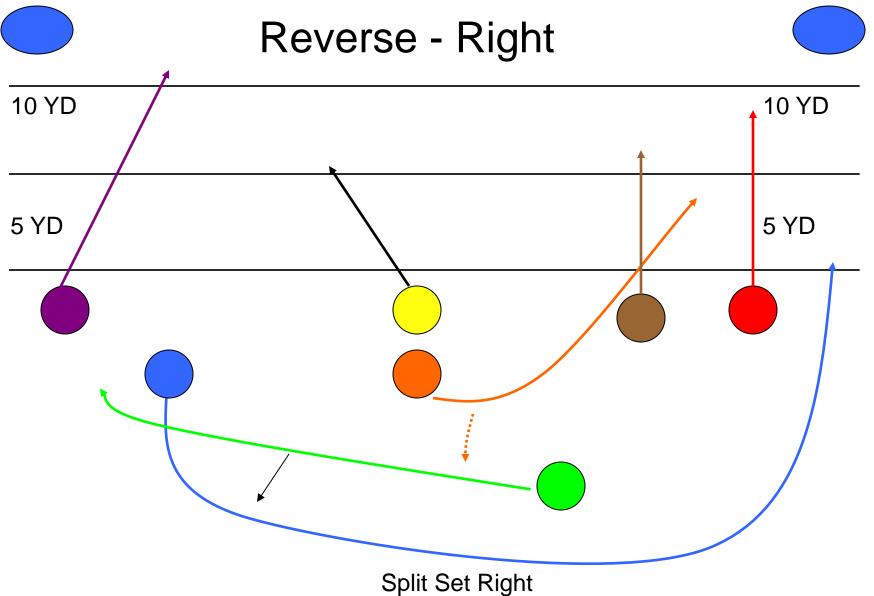




End Around - Right







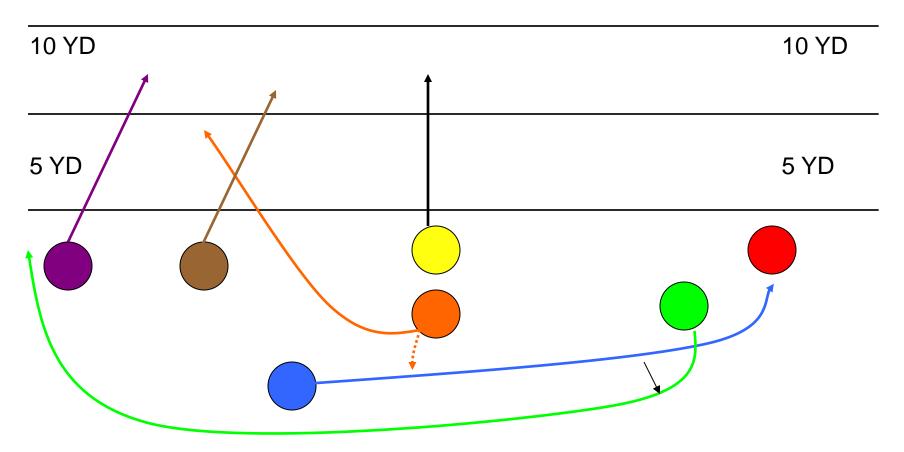
Hand-off to Green Run Left
Green hand to Blue Run Right





Green Reverse -Left





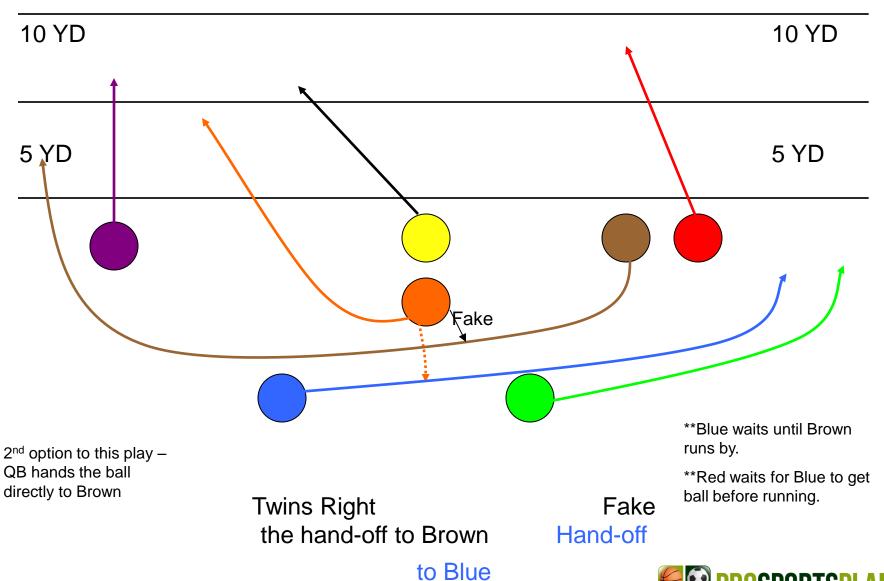
Splits Set Left
Hand-off to Blue Run Right
Blue hand to Green Run Left





Fake End Around - Left



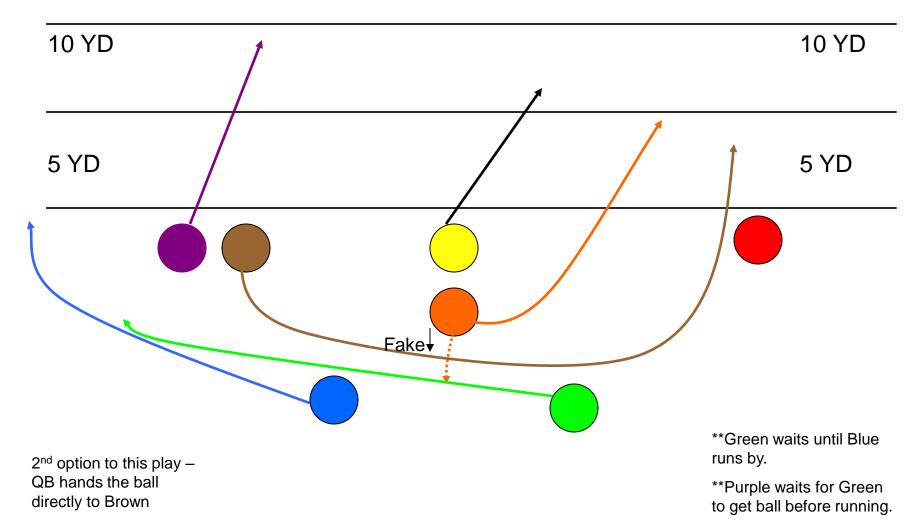


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Fake End Around - Right





Twins Left Fake the hand-off to Brown

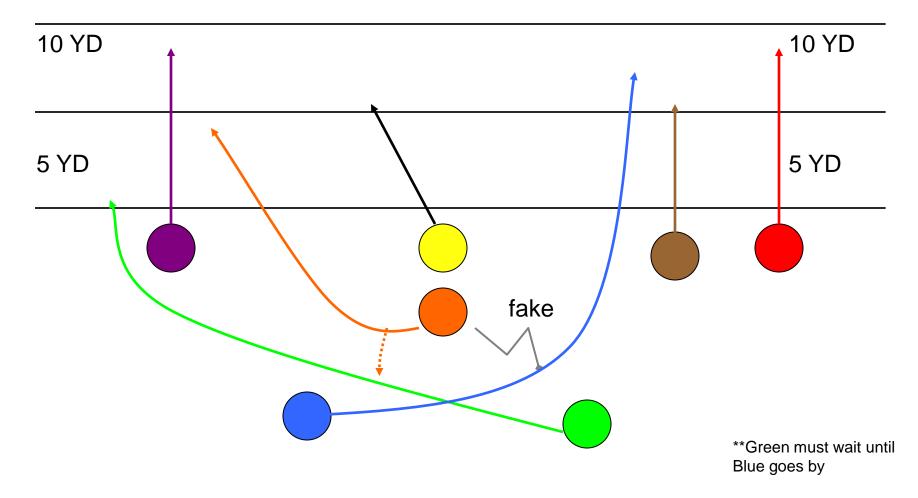
Hand-off to Green All Rights Reserved





Bull Rush - LEFT





Wish Bone Right Fake to Blue Right

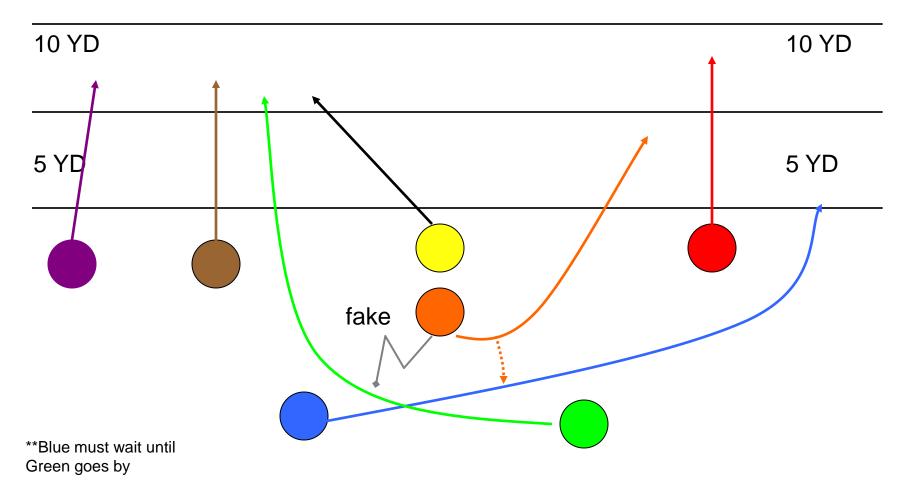
Hand-off to Green Rush Left





Bull Rush - RIGHT





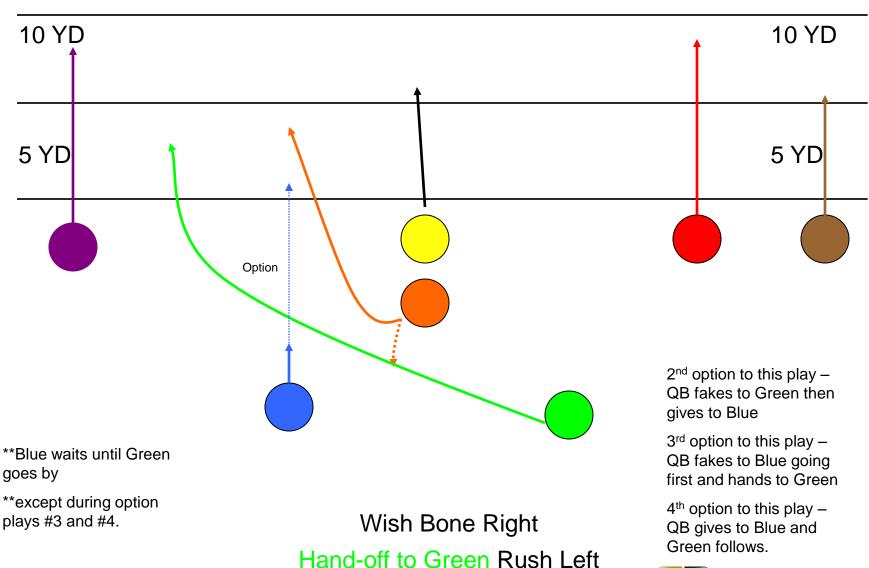
Wish Bone Left
Fake to Green Rush Left
Hand-off to Blue Rush Right





Green Missile - LEFT

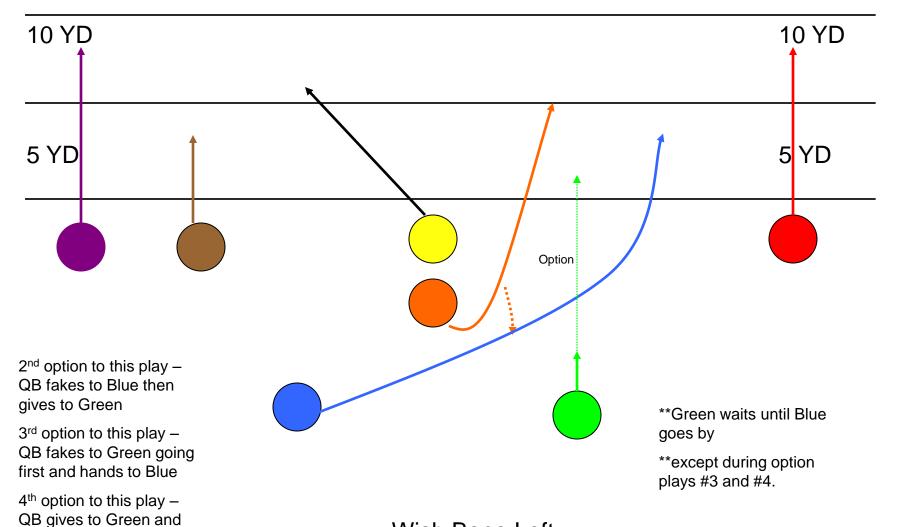




Blue follows.

Blue Missile-RIGHT





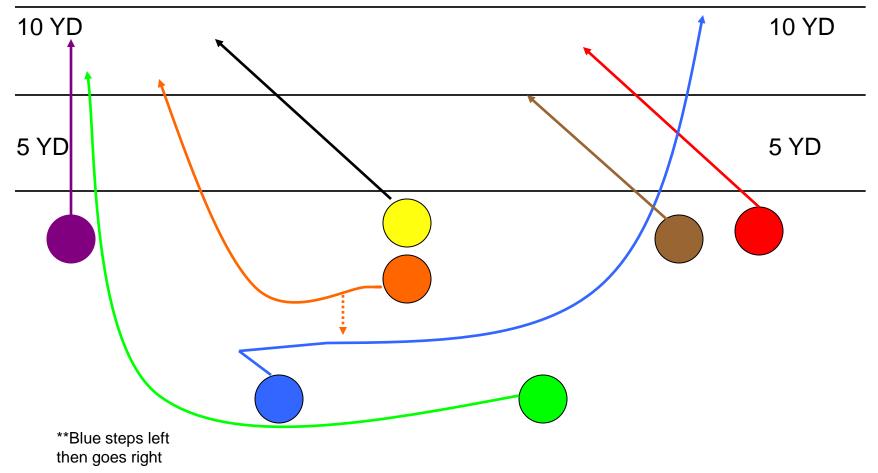
Wish Bone Left
Hand-off to Blue Rush Right





Blue Rocket - Right





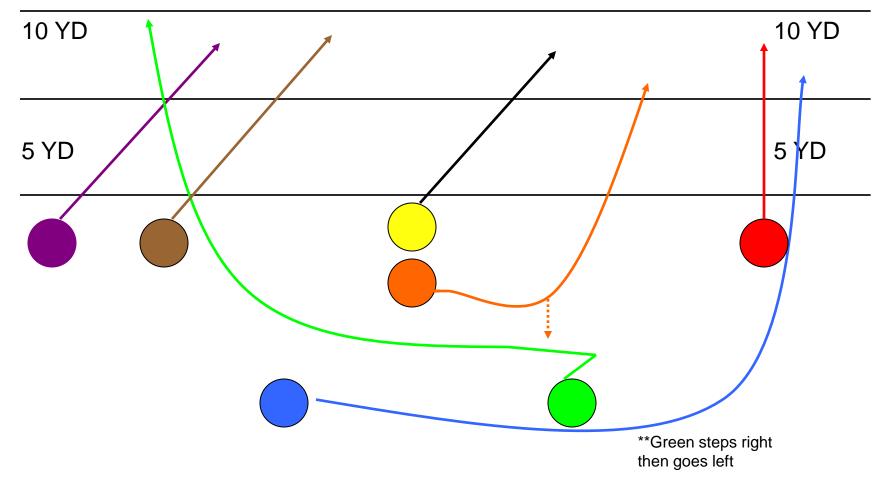
Wish Bone Right
QB Run Left
Hand-off to Blue Running Right
Green Run Left





Green Rocket - Left





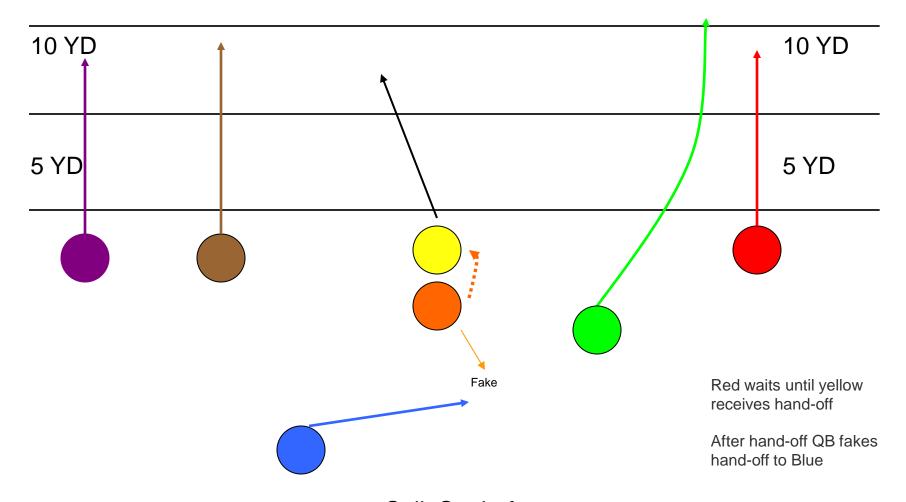
Wish Bone Left
QB Run Right
Hand-off to Green Running Left
Blue Run Right





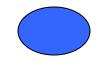
Center Sneak





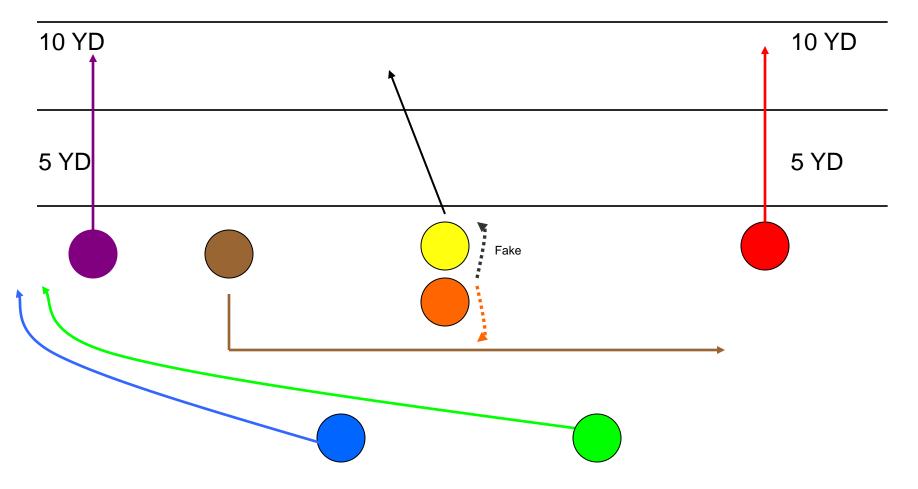
Split Set Left Quick Hand-off to Yellow Green and Blue run Right





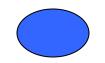
Fake Center Sneak





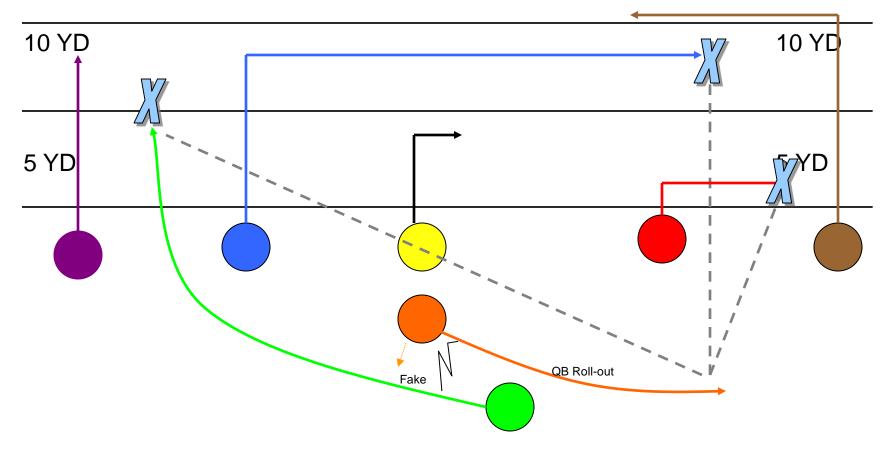
Wish Bone Left
Quick Fake Hand-off to Yellow
Hand the ball to Brown run Right





Roll-out Pass- Right





Split Set Right
QB Roll-out Right
Blue - 5 yard out pattern
Fake to Green Running Left

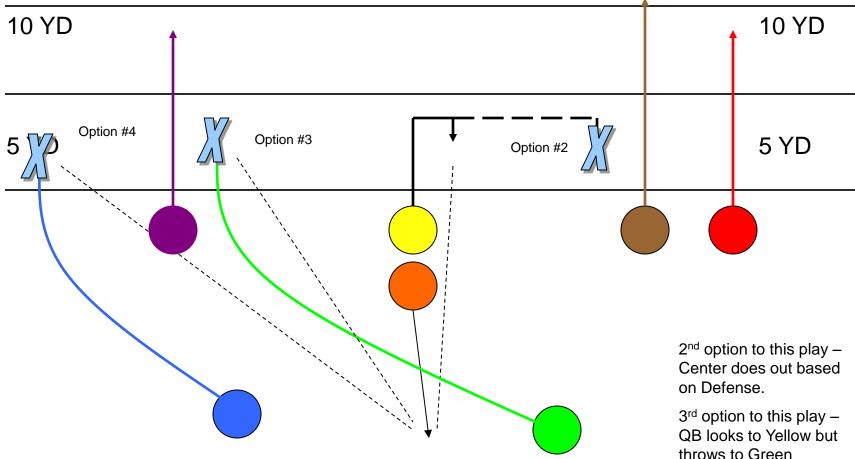
Blue 1st option Red 2nd option Green 3rd option





Center Pass





Twins Right QB Drop back pass to Center Green and Blue run Left

throws to Green

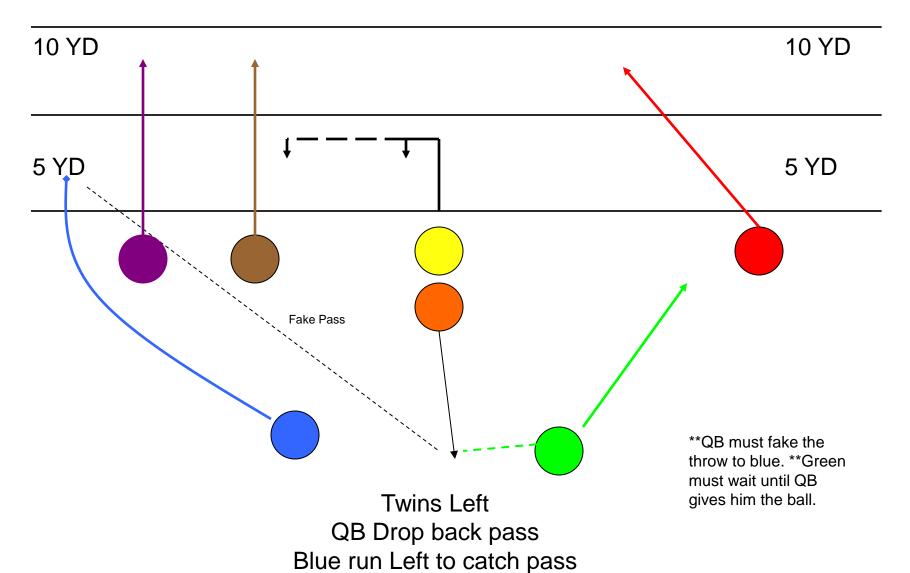
4th option to this play -QB looks to Yellow but throws to Blue.



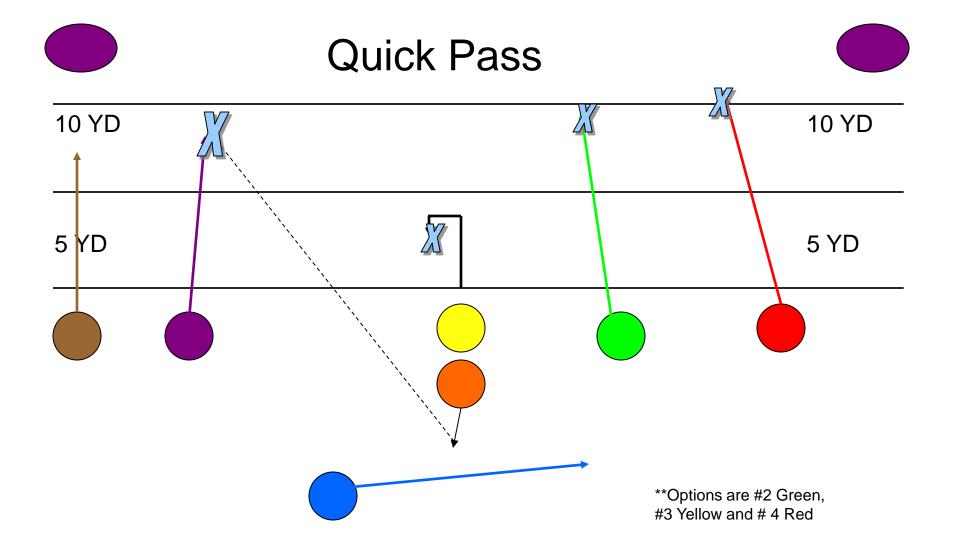


Fake Pass - DRAW





Green stay to get hand-off



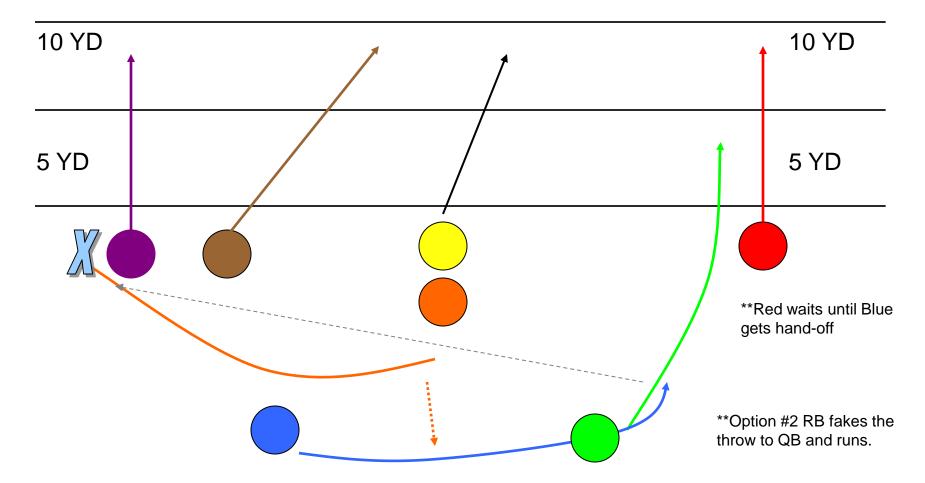
Split Set Left Twins Right QB Quick Pass to Purple





QB Pass - Left





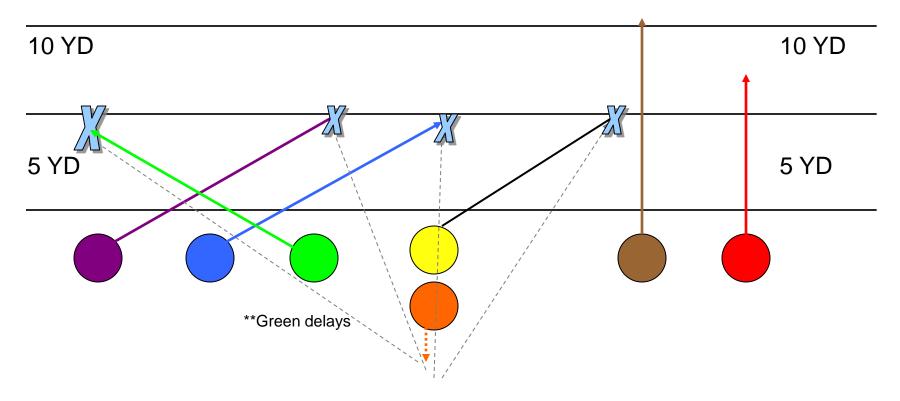
Twins Left
Hand-off to Blue – Run Wide Right
Blue passes back to QB





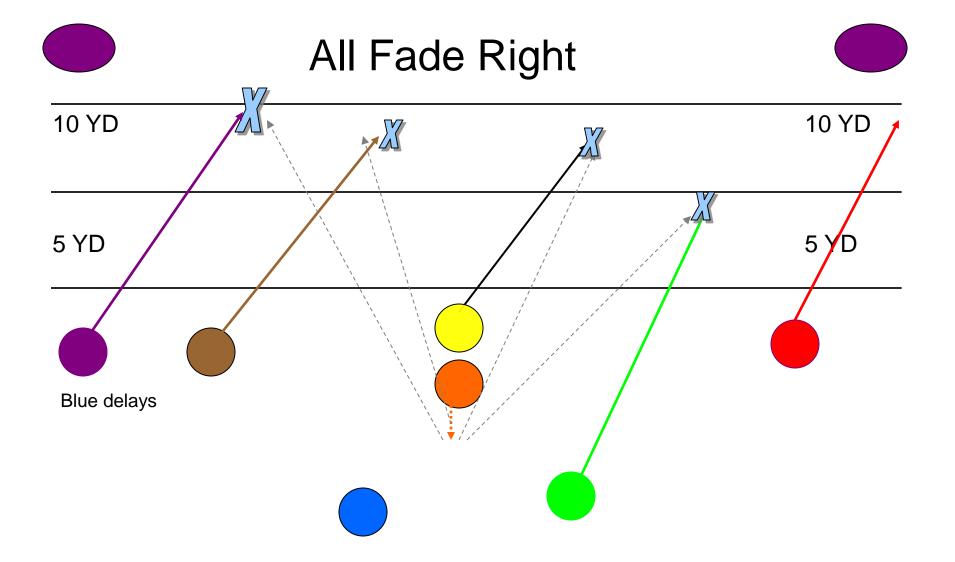
Green Fade Left





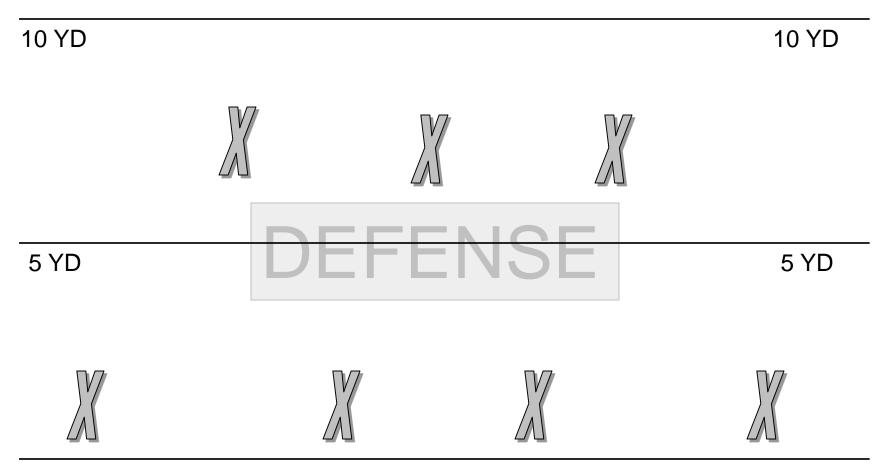
Trips Left
First option is Green





Twins Left First option is Purple

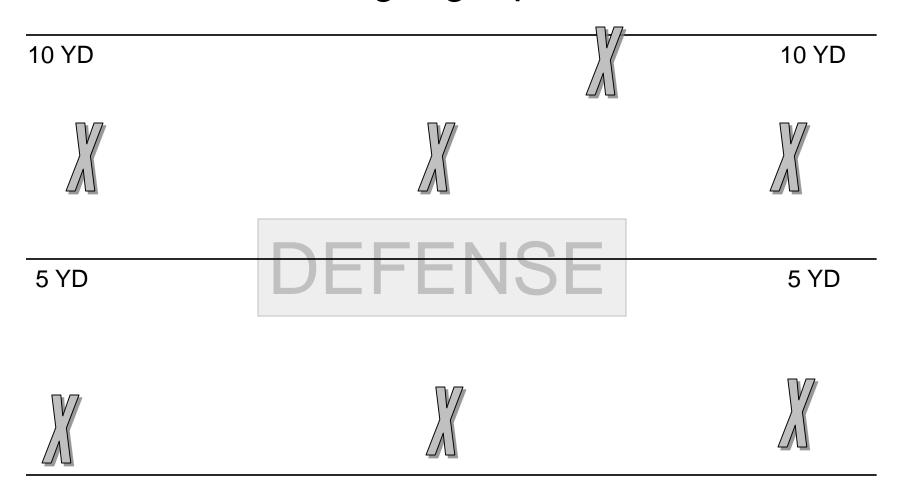




Line of Scrimmage



3 - 3 - 1



Line of Scrimmage



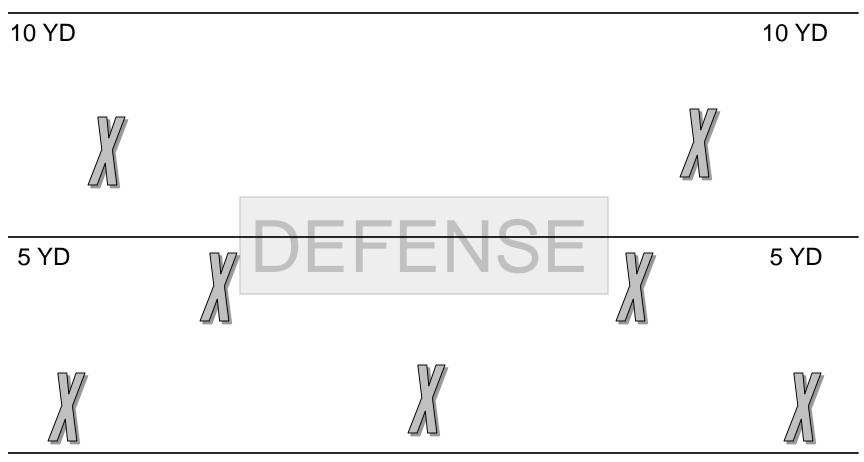
3-2-2 Inside

10 YD 10 YD

Line of Scrimmage

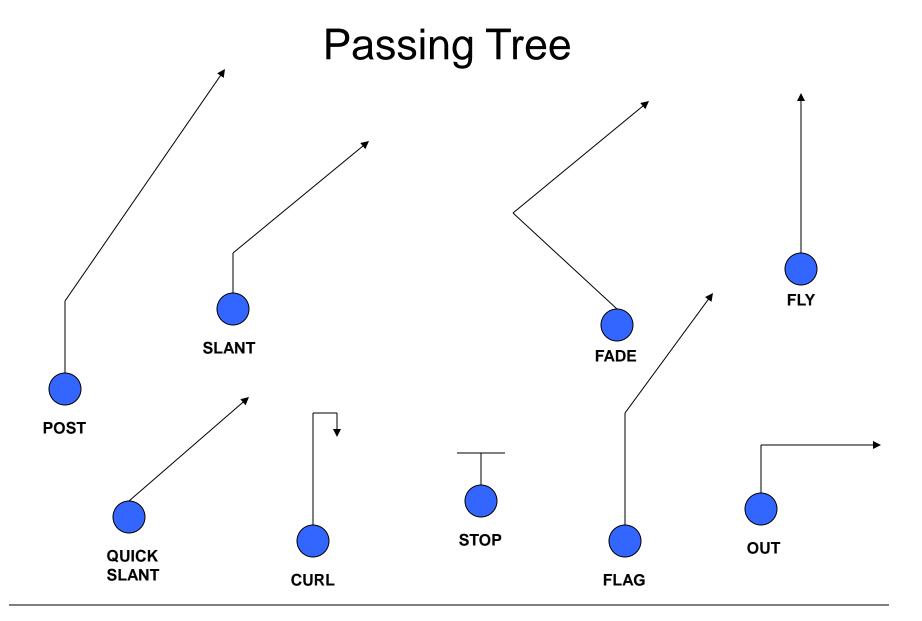


3 - 2 - 2 Outside



Line of Scrimmage









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