A STUDY OF SEVEN, EIGHT, AND NINE MAN FRONT DEFENSES IN 1A AND 2A HIGH SCHOOLS IN THE STATE OF KANSAS

by

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Approved by:

Major Professor

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CHAPTER 1

DEFENSIVE EVOLUTION

To study defensive evolution, the author found that one had to study offensive evolution, for "...offensive football evolves in response to more sophisticated defensive football, and vice versa."[1] To look at one was meaningless without the other.

Modern football dates back to the 1920's when "the country was honoring its World War I heroes and colleges and universities were erecting football stadiums as war memorials."[2] During the twenties, the single wing and double wing formations were the most popular, and continued into the thirties with the forward pass being popularized during that decade. During that period of time the 60 and 70 defenses were popular and were fairly successful in defense of the slow developing offenses. In the forties, the T formation started to replace the single and double wing. Then came World War II.

> After World War II football changed greatly. During the war many coaches were thinking football and experimenting with service teams on offensive and defensive maneuvers which they had not had a chance to experiment with in college. Out of this period came the Don Faurot Split-T offense. Many coaches began using a multiple type of offense. The "pro set" (a wide flanker and a split end) became more common, with motion, extended motion and the quick fly of backs giving the defense many headaches.[3]

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[1]Ara Parseghian and Tom Pagna, Parseghian and Notre Dame Football, (Notre Dame, Indiana: Men in Motion, 1971), p. 4.

[2]Fred Russel, "This is the Century That Was," The Official Football Record Book, (Phoenix: College Athletics Publishing Service, 1969), p. 12.

[3]Ray Graves, Ray Graves' Guide to Modern Football Defense, (West Nyack, New York: Parker Publishing Company, Inc., 1966), p. 20.

Because of all the rapid offensive inovations, the 60 and 70 defenses were becoming obsolete and thus more emphasis was needed in developing the defense.

During the 1950's Bud Wilkinson developed the 5-4 defense at Oklahoma and Ray Graves adapted it into his 5-2 monster defense at Georgia Tech. For a time, the 50 defenses seemed to be the answer, but with the 1960's came the Power I and Pro-I formations and in the 1970's the Wishbone formation jolted the football world with its offensive potential. The Pro 4-3 and the 4-4 defenses were also developed during these periods of time.

We came to a place in the 1970's where defensive emphasis was mandatory to the winning football program with the wide variety of offenses a coach had to face from week to week. Ara Parseghian showed his feelings of the importance he placed on defense when he wrote, "...we believe our defensive unit should be given first choice of personnel..."[4] The winning coach had to face the fact that

> ...defense plays a greater role in football today than it ever has before. Adverse weather and other physical conditions can seriously affect a team's offense, yet have practically no effect upon a well coached defense. A team with a good offense is not going to defeat a team that has both a good offense and a good defense. A strong defense not only demoralizes the opposition by its unyielding tactics, but also gives a tremendous lift to its own offense by securing the ball in favorable locations on the field. There have been many teams whose offenses have been stopped but they won the games with the touchdowns scored by the defense. A brief survey of the methods of scoring in games during any football season will illustrate this point. One of the main reasons for upsets in football is

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[4]Parseghian, p. 19.

> that the favorite team fails to score when it has the opportunity to do so, and the underdog capitalizes on a "break" and wins the game. Many times a team will find it easier to stop the opposition than to score.[5]

PURPOSE

It was the primary purpose of this study to determine if nine man front defenses (nine men within five yards of the line of scrimmage) were more successful than seven and eight man front defenses in Class A and Class AA high schools in the state of Kansas in 1973. Secondary purposes were: (1) to find what defenses were most popular at the 1A and 2A level of play, (2) to find what defenses were most successful at the same levels, and (3) to determine if there was any connection between coaching experience and coaching won-loss performance.

METHOD OF STUDY

A simple, short answer type of questionnaire was constructed to collect information pertaining to school classification, coach's name, coach's experience, won-loss record, points allowed, fumbles recovered, interceptions made, points scored by defense, defensive front used and defense or defenses used. All information except coaching experience was for the 1973 season.

The questionnaire consisted of a three-page form and had completion type answers. The first page contained the questions and the

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[5]Donald E. Fuoss, Championship Football Drills for Teaching Offensive and Defensive Fundamentals and Techniques, (Englewood Cliffs, New Jersey: Prentice-Hall, Inc., 1964), p. 207.

succeeding two pages contained diagrams of different defenses and were labeled. This was done to reduce confusion resulting from conflicting terminology.

The Directory published by the Kansas State High School Activities Association was also consulted. Questionnaires were sent to all of the 128 Class 2A high schools and to 65 of the larger Class 1A high schools. It was felt that the schools polled would give an accurate indication of what was being done in competition at the lower end of Class 2A.

TABLE I

RESULTS OF THE RETURNED QUESTIONNAIRES

	Class AA	Class A	Both Classes
Questionnaires mailed	128	65	193
Questionnaires returned	101	52	153
Percent of return	70.31	78.46	73.57
Percentage of classification	70.31	33.76	60.25

The return was ample. Information on 70.31 percent of the Class 2A high schools was returned. Only 33.76 percent of Class 1A high schools returned information, but 51 of the 154 Class 1A high schools played eight man football, and three Class 1A high schools did not have football programs at all. Thus, the return in Class 1A high schools was 52 of 100 or 52 percent. Also, the percentage of Class 1A

and 2A high schools that played eleven man football and responded to the questionnaire was 67.11 percent.

LIMITATION OF STUDY

The limitations of this study were as many as the variables involved in the game of football. Did the defense allow only X amount of points because of the defense used, because of the personnel used, because of a lack of competition, or because all of their games were played in the rain and the scoring was held down. Another limitation was that this study represented but one season of play, and the more seasons studied, the more valid the results of the report would have been.

THIS BOOK CONTAINS NUMEROUS PAGES WITH DIAGRAMS THAT ARE CROOKED COMPARED TO THE REST OF THE INFORMATION ON THE PAGE.

THIS IS AS RECEIVED FROM CUSTOMER.

CHAPTER 2

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Point Allowance and Point Production

Was there a relationship between the average number of points allowed and the average number of games a team had won? If such a relationship existed, the teams with more wins allowed progressively fewer points than teams with fewer wins.

TABLE II

WINS COMPARED WITH POINTS ALLOWED PER GAME
CLASS 1A

Wins	Season Pts.	# Teams	Average Pts.	Average Pts.per game
9	131	2	65.5	7.27
8	182	2	91.0	10.10
7	456	5	91.2	10.13
6	641	6	106.8	11.86
5	1,518	12	126.5	14.05
4	384	4	96.0	10.60
3	1,071	7	153.0	17.00
2	1,050	6	175.0	19.40
1	742	4	185.5	20.61
0	1,082	3	360.6	40.06

1 did not report points allowed

The progression did not show up as well in Class 1A because of the smaller sample. Thus, teams that won four games allowed a fewer average points than teams that won five and six games. Class 2A was a larger sample and the progression was more evident.

TABLE III

WINS COMPARED WITH POINTS ALLOWED PER GAME
CLASS 2A

Wins	Season Pts.	# Teams	Average Pts.	Average Pts.per Game
9	559	8	69.9	7.76
8	732	10	73.2	8.13
7	661	9	73.4	8.16
6	1,576	17	92.7	10.30
5	1,816	17	106.8	11.86
4	1,116	9	124.0	13.70
3	1,666	11	151.5	16.83
2	1,672	9	185.7	20.63
1	1,016	5	203.2	22.57
0	1,718	6	286.3	31.81

In Class 2A high schools, a team could give up an average of almost 107 points per season or almost 12 points per game and have a winning season. There was a very small average point allowance difference between those who won seven, eight, or nine games.

The combined Class 1A and 2A comparison showed the point allowance progression the best, but it was contended that it might have been even more evident if more coaches with losing seasons had returned the questionnaires. There was a 57.8 - 42.2 percent ratio return between coaches who had winning or losing seasons respectively.

TABLE IV

WINS COMPARED WITH POINTS ALLOWED PER GAME
CLASSES 1A & 2A COMBINED

Wins	Season Pts.	# Teams	Average Pts.	Average Pts. per Game
9	690	10	69.0	7.60
8	914	12	76.1	8.45
7	1,077	14	76.9	8.54
6	2,217	23	96.3	10.70
5	3,334	29	114.9	12.76
4	1,500	13	115.3	12.81
3	2,737	18	152.0	16.88
2	2,722	15	181.5	20.16
1	1,758	9	195.3	21.70
0	2,800	9	311.1	34.56

The most important statistic pertaining to defense was points allowed. The strong relationship between point allowance and season record was shown when average points allowed per game and games won were compared. In both classes combined, the teams that went undefeated allowed an average of 7.60 points per game, while the teams that lost all of their games allowed 34.56 points per game. The steps for the teams with records in between those two were progressive. The comparison showed that, on an average, a team that was to win seven games did not allow more than one touchdown and one field goal per game. Also, a team that was to have a winning season could not allow more than two touchdowns and one extra point per game.

Were any of the defensive fronts more successful in their ability to keep opponents from scoring?

TABLE V

7, 8, & 9 MAN FRONT POINT ALLOWANCE COMPARISON
CLASS 1A

	7 man front	8 man front	9 man front
Total points allowed	559	4,578	2,120
Number of teams	5	31	15
Season point average	111.8	147.6	141.3
Average points per game	12.42	16.40	15.70

1 did not reply

In the Class 1A high school sample, the seven man front averaged almost 30 points better on the season than did the eight or nine man fronts.

TABLE VI

7, 8, & 9 MAN FRONT POINT ALLOWANCE COMPARISON
CLASS 2A

	7 man front	8 man front	9 man front
Total points allowed	1,213	9,134	2,185
Number of teams	9	74	18
Season point average	134.7	123.4	121.4
Average points per game	14.96	13.71	13.48

In the larger Class 2A sample, the seven man front was an average 12 point loser to the other two fronts.

TABLE VII

7, 8, & 9 MAN FRONT POINT ALLOWANCE COMPARISON
CLASSES 1A & 2A COMBINED

	7 man front	8 man front	9 man front
Total points allowed	1,772	13,712	5,383
Number of teams	14	105	33
Season point average	126.5	130.5	130.5
Average points per game	14.05	14.50	14.50

In the combined Class 1A and 2A 7, 8, and 9 man front point allowance comparison there was no marked difference. The seven man front averaged 3.5 season points off the mean season points allowed of 130 points. The eight and nine man fronts were only .5 points off the mean at an identical 130.5. It was noted that the eight man front was the most popular with 69 percent of the overall sample using it.

In determining if particular defenses were superior in low point allowance, seven basic alignment categories showed up. They were the five-three, the five-four (which included the five-two monster), the four-four (which included the split-six), the six three, the six-two (which included the wide tackle six), the six-one, and the multiple defensive system.

TABLE VIII

DEFENSE POINT ALLOWANCE COMPARISON
CLASS 1A

	5-3	5-4	4-4	6-3	6-2	6-1	Mult.
Total points allowed	255	1685	923	618	996	115	2665
Number of teams	2	12	4	5	6	1	21
Season point average	127.5	140.4	230.7	123.6	166.0	115.0	126.9
Average points per game	14.1	15.6	25.6	13.7	18.4	12.7	14.1

CLASS 2A

	5-3	5-4	4-4	6-3	6-2	6-1	Mult.
Total points allowed	1046	3738	3482	633	504	398	2731
Number of teams	9	27	29	5	5	3	23
Season point average	116.2	138.4	120.0	126.6	100.8	132.7	118.7
Average points per game	12.9	15.4	13.3	14.1	11.2	14.7	13.2

None of the defenses showed superiority in Class 1A high schools. In the Class 2A sample, the only significant variance from the mean was shown by the six-two defense which was almost 30 season points below the average. However, in the combined Class 1A and 2A defense point allowance comparison, the six-two defense was second from the last in point allowance.

TABLE IX

DEFENSE POINT ALLOWANCE COMPARISON
CLASSES 1A & 2A COMBINED

	5-3	5-4	4-4	6-3	6-2	6-1	Mult.
Total points allowed	1301	5423	4405	1251	1500	513	5186
Number of teams	11	39	33	10	11	4	44
Season point average	118.2	139.0	133.5	125.1	136.3	128.2	122.3
Average points per game	13.1	15.4	14.8	13.9	15.1	14.2	13.6

Again, there was no markedly superior defense in the allowance of points. The five-three defense was the furthest from the mean at 11.8 average season points or 1.31 average points per game.

It was often noted that there were more ways to score on defense than on offense. A defense's ability to score points was also important in evaluating it.

Was any defensive front better in the scoring of points than the others?

TABLE X

7, 8, & 9 MAN FRONT DEFENSIVE SCORING COMPARISON
CLASS 1A

	9 man front	8 man front	7 man front
Total points scored	168	394	60
Number of teams	15	32	5
Average season pts. scored	11.20	12.31	12.00

CLASS 2A

	9 man front	8 man front	7 man front
Total points scored	210	933	68
Number of teams	18	71	9
Average season pts. scored	11.66	13.14	7.55

3 did not reply

CLASSES 1A & 2A COMBINED

	9 man front	8 man front	7 man front
Total points scored	378	1,327	128
Number of teams	33	103	14
Average season pts. scored	11.45	12.88	9.14

3 did not reply

No defensive front was singularly superior in scoring points, although the eight man front did average about three points more a season than the seven man front in the overall survey.

Was any particular defense unusually successful in the area of scoring points?

TABLE XI

DEFENSE SCORING COMPARISON
CLASS 1A

	5-3	5-4	4-4	6-3	6-2	6-1	Mult.
Total points scored	24	80	38	68	84	18	310
Number of teams	2	12	4	6	6	1	21
Average season pts. scored	12.0	6.7	9.5	11.33	14.0	18.0	14.8

CLASS 2A

	5-3	5-4	4-4	6-3	6-2	6-1	Mult.
Total points scored	118	237	340	30	74	36	362
Number of schools	9	26	29	5	5	3	21
Average season pts. scored	13.1	9.1	11.7	6.0	14.8	12.0	17.2

3 did not reply

CLASSES 1A & 2A COMBINED

	5-3	5-4	4-4	6-3	6-2	6-1	Mult.
Total points scored	142	317	378	98	158	54	672
Number of schools	11	38	33	11	11	4	42
Average season pts. scored	12.9	8.3	11.5	8.9	14.4	13.5	16.0

3 did not reply

The multiple defenses showed extremely well, scoring an average of 3.88 season points over the mean of 12.12 and scoring almost 8 season points over the five-four defense.

Turnovers

One area in defensive football that appeared to be extremely important in deciding the outcome of football games was the ability of the defense to cause turnovers. It was noted that the hidden yardage lost through turnovers was equal to the offensive team's punting average per turnover. That meant that a team that turned the ball over three times in a game and averaged 33.4 yards per punt, would have lost over a hundred yards of field position per game.

Were any defenses exceptionally adept at recovering fumbles?

TABLE XII

DEFENSE FUMBLE RECOVERY COMPARISON
CLASS 1A

	5-3	5-4	4-4	6-3	6-2	6-1	Mult.
Total fumble recoveries	17	155	51	77	93	18	335
Number of teams	2	12	4	5	7	1	21
Average season fumble recoveries	8.5	12.9	12.8	15.4	13.3	18.0	15.9

CLASS 2A

	5-3	5-4	4-4	6-3	6-2	6-1	Mult.
Total fumble recoveries	71	330	424	96	29	70	312
Number of teams	8	26	28	5	2	4	22
Average season fumble recoveries	8.9	12.7	15.4	19.2	14.5	17.5	14.2

6 did not reply

CLASSES 1A & 2A COMBINED

	5-3	5-4	4-4	6-3	6-2	6-1	Mult.
Total fumble recoveries	88	485	475	173	122	88	647
Number of teams	10	38	32	10	9	5	43
Average season fumble recoveries	8.8	12.8	14.9	17.3	13.6	17.6	15.1

6 did not reply

All of the defenses were fairly close in average recovery of fumbles, with the six-three and six-one defenses averaging about three fumble recoveries per season above the mean of 14.14. However, they represented only 9.93 percent of the total sample.

Were any of the three basic fronts more proficient in the recovering of fumbles than their counterparts?

TABLE XIII

7, 8, & 9 MAN FRONT FUMBLE RECOVERY COMPARISON
CLASS 1A

	9 man front	8 man front	7 man front
Total fumble recoveries	257	440	49
Number of teams	15	32	5
Average season fumble recoveries	17.13	13.91	9.80

CLASS 2A

	9 man front	8 man front	7 man front
Total fumble recoveries	295	953	84
Number of teams	18	68	9
Average season fumble recoveries	16.39	14.01	9.33

6 did not reply

CLASSES 1A & 2A COMBINED

	9 man front	8 man front	7 man front
Total fumble recoveries	552	1,393	133
Number of teams	33	100	14
Average season fumble recoveries	16.72	13.93	9.50

6 did not reply

The nine man front showed well in fumble recovering by averaging 2.58 above the mean for fumble recoveries and 2.79 over its nearest competitor. The nine man front was 21.8 percent of the total sample.

The second area of turnovers was interceptions.

TABLE XIV

DEFENSE INTERCEPTION COMPARISON
CLASS 1A

	5-3	5-4	4-4	6-3	6-2	6-1	Mult.
Total interceptions	21	107	43	40	72	12	241
Number of teams	2	12	4	5	7	1	21
Average season interceptions	10.5	8.9	10.7	8.0	10.2	12.0	11.48

CLASS 2A

	5-3	5-4	4-4	6-3	6-2	6-1	Mult.
Total interceptions	74	286	332	75	57	45	283
Number of teams	9	26	28	6	6	4	23
Average season interceptions	8.2	11.0	11.8	12.5	9.5	11.2	12.3

2 did not reply

CLASSES 1A & 2A COMBINED

	5-3	5-4	4-4	6-3	6-2	6-1	Mult.
Total interceptions	95	393	375	100	122	48	524
Number of teams	11	38	32	10	12	4	44
Average season interceptions	8.6	10.3	11.7	10.0	10.2	12.0	11.9

2 did not reply

No defense showed definite superiority in the ability to intercept passes.

Did any of the defensive fronts have special interception abilities?

TABLE XV

7, 8, & 9 MAN FRONT INTERCEPTION COMPARISON
CLASS 1A

	9 man front	8 man front	7 man front
Total interceptions	154	334	48
Number of teams	15	32	5
Average season interceptions	10.2	10.4	9.6

CLASS 2A

	9 man front	8 man front	7 man front
Total interceptions	235	799	87
Number of teams	18	72	9
Average season interceptions	13.1	11.1	9.7

2 did not reply

CLASSES 1A & 2A COMBINED

	9 man front	8 man front	7 man front
Total interceptions	389	1,133	135
Number of teams	33	104	14
Average season interceptions	11.79	10.89	9.64

2 did not reply

In the area of interceptions and superiority of fronts, the nine man front was the leader, but not by a significant margin. The nine man front was less than one average season interception away from the mean of 10.97.

Coaching Experience

Was there any connection between coaching experience and coaching success? Also, were the 1A and 2A schools training grounds for young coaches?

TABLE XVI

COACHING EXPERIENCE & WON-LOSS COMPARISON
CLASS 1A

Wins	Total Yrs.	# of Coaches	Average Yrs. Experience
9	16	2	8.0
8	16	2	8.0
7	38	4	9.5
6	64	6	10.7
5	80	12	6.7
4	25	4	6.3
3	49	8	6.1
2	19	5	3.8
1	29	5	5.8
0	16	3	5.3

1 did not reply

CLASS 2A

Wins	Total Yrs.	# of Coaches	Average Yrs. Experience
9	97	8	12.1
8	95	11	8.64
7	71	8	8.9
6	121	17	7.1
5	128	15	8.5
4	130	10	13.0
3	91	11	8.3
2	52	9	5.8
1	27	5	5.4
0	18	6	3.0

1 did not reply

CLASSES 1A & 2A COMBINED

Wins	Total Yrs.	# of Coaches	Average Yrs. Experience
9	113	10	11.3
8	111	13	8.5
7	109	12	9.1
6	185	23	8.0
5	208	27	7.7
4	155	14	11.1
3	140	19	7.37
2	71	14	5.1
1	56	10	5.6
0	34	9	3.8

2 did not reply

A definite correlation between coaching experience and coaching success was found. The coaches that had undefeated seasons in 1973 in classes 1A and 2A had a combined average of 11.3 years coaching experience or 3.46 above the mean of 7.84. The coaches that lost all of their games in the same season averaged only 3.78 years experience, or over four average years below the mean.

Another set of statistics that showed the value of experience was that the coaches whose teams finished in the upper division (5 wins or more) in 1973 averaged 8.54 years experience, while coaches whose teams finished in the lower division (5 losses or more) averaged only 6.91 years experience.

Coaches from 1A schools averaged 6.96 years coaching experience, while coaches from 2A schools averaged 8.3 years coaching experience. It was calculated that the average age of coaches in 1A and 2A combined was about 30 years old, and that the average age of coaches in 3A, 4A, and 5A schools would be quite a bit older.

CHAPTER 3

SUMMARY AND CONCLUSIONS

A definite relationship between a team's ability to keep its opponents from scoring and a team's ability to win games was established.

In the area of allowance of points, no specific type of defense nor defensive front showed superiority. No defensive front was superior to the other in points scored, but the multiple defenses did indicate some ability to score in the individual defense group.

The mean for turnovers in Class 1A and 2A high schools was 25.11 per season, with none of the defenses showing particular strength.

On the average, the more experienced coaches were the more successful coaches in the won-loss statistics.

Conclusions

The author's hypothesis that the nine man front was superior over the seven and eight man fronts in 1A and 2A schools was proven to be false. Although the nine man front did indicate a small tendency toward causing more turnovers than the others, however, it was less capable of scoring defensively. Thus, the three different fronts appeared to be fairly equal, with the seven man less efficient in a few categories.

The most popular defenses were the forty-four (21.5 percent), the fifty-four (25.4 percent), and the multiple defenses (28.7 percent). This was of value to the author in deciding what defenses to practice against in the early fall practices.

None of the particular defenses proved to be superior. All were good in some areas and poor in others.

On the average, coaching experience was an indicating factor in the ability to coach a winning team. Teams in the lower division had coaches with less experience than those in the upper division.

The author concluded that it was not what defense a coach used that led to success, but how well the coach taught the defense and how well the team executed it that lead to the winning team.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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APPENDIX

Dear Coach:

This questionnaire is part of a master's report at Kansas State University. I would appreciate your filling it out and returning it in the stamped, addressed envelope enclosed.

Thank you for your consideration and assistance.

Sincerely,

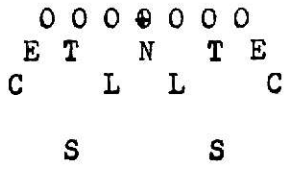
Rich Anderson
Head Football Coach
Washington High School
Washington, Kansas

A Survey of Football Defenses in 1A and 2A High Schools in the State of Kansas

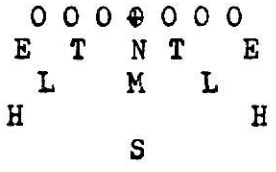
1. Name of High School _____
2. Address _____
3. Classification (circle one) 1A 2A
4. Name of Coach _____
5. Years experience in coaching _____
6. 1973 Season Record Won ____ Lost ____
7. Points Allowed _____
8. Fumbles Defense Recovered _____
9. Interceptions Made _____
10. Points Scored by Defense _____
11. In normal situations (between the twenties) did you run a 7, 8, or 9 man front (men within five yards of the line of scrimmage)?

Which of the defenses on the following pages is most similar to yours?

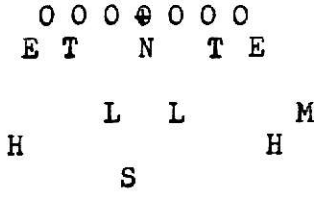
FIVE-FOUR



FIVE-THREE



FIVE-TWO MONSTER



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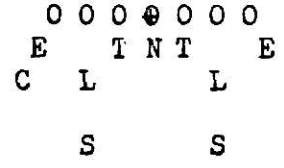
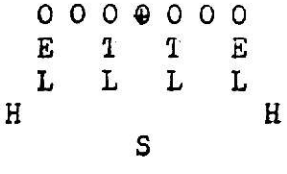


FOUR-FOUR STACK



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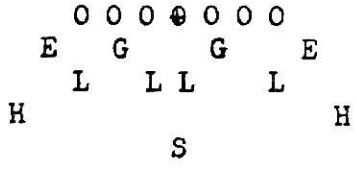

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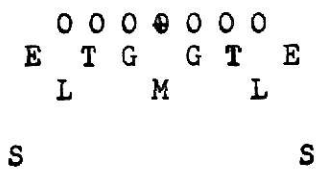
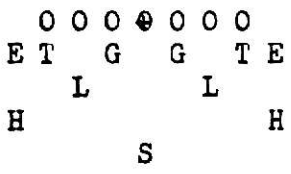


WIDE TACKLE SIX



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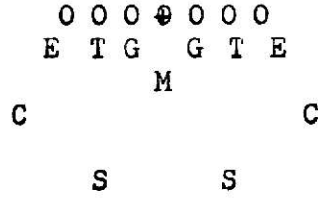

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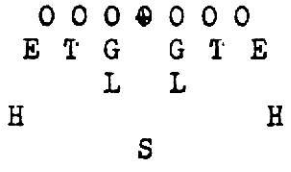
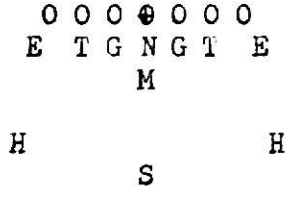


SEVEN DIAMOND



OTHER

A STUDY OF SEVEN, EIGHT, AND NINE MAN FRONT DEFENSES IN 1A AND 2A HIGH SCHOOLS IN THE STATE OF KANSAS

by

RICHARD KEITH ANDERSON

B. A., Saint Mary of the Plains College, 1970

AN ABSTRACT OF A MASTER'S REPORT

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MASTER OF SCIENCE

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Defensive football evolved in response to offensive football and vice-versa. Over the decades, different offenses were popular different times, until in the seventies, coaches had a tremendous variety of offenses to face from week to week. This situation forced coaches to develop defensive systems that were flexible yet stingy in allowing number of points scored.

The purpose of this study was to determine (1) if nine man front defenses were superior to seven and eight man front defenses. Also (2) to discover what defenses were the most popular, (3) if any particular defense was superior to others, and (4) to discover if there was a relationship between coaching experience and coaching success.

A simple, short answer questionnaire was constructed to collect information pertaining to classification of school, season record, coach's experience, points allowed, points scored by defense, fumbles recovered, interceptions made, type of front used, and type of defense or defenses used.

The sample was of 153 schools or 60 percent of the class 1A and 2A schools. There were 193 questionnaires mailed and 73.5 percent were returned.

The study revealed that the nine man front was not superior to the seven or eight man fronts. Nor did any specific defense show superiority. The most widely used defense was the multiple system, with the fifty-four and forty-four defenses being used the second and third most used respectively. A definite relationship was established between coaching experience and coaching success. On the average, the winning coaches had more experience than the losing ones.

It was concluded that the quality of the teaching of the defense was more important than the type of defense used.