

A SURVEY OF OFFENSIVE LINE COACHING  
IN CLASS 3A HIGH SCHOOLS IN KANSAS

by

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B. S., Kansas State University, 1968

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A MASTER'S REPORT

submitted in partial fulfillment of the

requirements for the degree

MASTER OF SCIENCE

Department of Health, Physical Education and Recreation

KANSAS STATE UNIVERSITY  
Manhattan, Kansas

1974

Approved by:

  
Major Professor

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2668  
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1974  
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## INTRODUCTION

Offensive line blocking over the past five or six years on the high school level has remained the same in regards to stance and staying with the block.

The major blocking changes have occurred in the area where the offensive lineman aims his head when initially starting to block. The head or face is now aimed for the numbers. The target area is much higher because the scramble block was used more until five or six years ago.<sup>1</sup>

### Purpose

The purpose of this study is to determine the methods, techniques, philosophy, and practice time that the class 3A coaches used in their coaching of the offensive line during the 1973 football season.

Information gathered in this investigation may be useful to other offensive line coaches, especially young coaches who have not coached the offensive line before.

### Method of Study

A survey questionnaire was designed to collect information on the methods, techniques, philosophy, and practice time used by coaches working with the offensive line.

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<sup>1</sup>J. W. Emerson, Head Football Coach, Manhattan High School, Manhattan, Kansas.

The questionnaire included yes and no questions as well as the fill-in type questions. By having short questions and answers, it was intended that a minimum amount of time would be necessary to complete the questionnaire. A copy of the questionnaire is included in the appendix.

A list of class 3A schools participating in football for the 1973 season was obtained from the Kansas State High School Activities Association. A questionnaire was mailed to the head football coach at each of these schools. For the convenience of each coach a return envelope, self-addressed and stamped, was included with each questionnaire.

#### Definition of Terms

##### Area Blocking

A type of blocking in which the offensive linemen are responsible for blocking a certain area of the defense.

##### Chalk Talk

A time when the coach talks to the players, using a chalkboard, to explain different phases of the game of football.

##### Crossblock

A type of block where two offensive linemen will cross and block the other's defensive man. Example: left guard blocks man over left tackle and left tackle blocks man over left guard.

##### Crossbody Block

Extending the body parallel to the ground and blocking the defensive man with the rib cage.

### Cup Pass Protection

A cup is formed by the offensive linemen to protect the quarterback from the defense while passing.

### Double Wing Formation

An offensive formation with the halfbacks located a yard back and a yard out from the offensive ends.

### Firing Out Count

The time when the offensive linemen will leave the line of scrimmage and block the defensive men. This count is given by the quarterback.

### Gap Defense

The defensive linemen are lined up between the offensive linemen on the line of scrimmage.

### Heads Up Defense

The defensive linemen are lined up directly in front of the offensive linemen on the line of scrimmage.

### I-Formation

In this formation two or three of the offensive backs are lined up in an I behind the quarterback.

### Line Splits

The distance between the offensive linemen.

### Live Technique

The method of teaching proper blocking fundamentals using the players themselves to block each other.

### One on One Drill

A drill used to teach the fundamentals of blocking. One player blocks another player.

### Point System

A system used to grade offensive linemen on their performance during a game.

### Pro-Set Formation

Essentially a passing formation in which there are two split receivers, two offensive backs, and one tight end.

### Pulling Guard

Offensive guards pull right or left to trap block, pass block, or lead blocking on an end sweep.

### Reach Block

Block used by offensive linemen which involves blocking a defensive lineman to the right or left on the line of scrimmage. The reach technique involves getting the head in front of the defensive man's knees.

### Rule Blocking

A type of blocking where offensive linemen have rules of blocking to follow against all defenses.

### Scramble Block

Blocking the defensive man by putting the head between the defensive lineman's legs and moving on hands and feet to block.

### Screen Block

Moving between the defensive man and the ball carrier to keep the defensive man from making the tackle.

### Shoulder Block

Block used in which the offensive man hits the defensive man with the shoulder to block.

### Slot Formation

An offensive formation where an offensive back is located more than a yard back from the offensive line and between two linemen. Normally the slot back is located between the tackle and end with the end split.

### Split End

An offensive end moved out along the line of scrimmage toward the sideline and away from the offensive tackle.

### Split T Formation

A formation with three offensive backs and at least one split end. The backfield will consist of two halfbacks and a fullback, located a half yard deeper than the halfbacks.

### Sprint Out Pass Protection

A type of pass protection given to the quarterback to the right or left of where the ball was snapped.

### Stunting Defense

A defense that sends the defensive linemen and linebackers to the right or left when the offense centers the ball.

### Tight End

An end located not more than three yards outside the offensive tackle.

### Trap Block

A block used by offensive linemen pulling and going down the line of scrimmage to block a defensive lineman on the other side of the offensive center.

### Wedge Blocking

Linemen fire off the line of scrimmage, get shoulder to shoulder, and go straight downfield in the form of a wedge.

### Wing T

Offensive formation with no split receivers, two offensive backs in the backfield, and a wing back located back and out from the tight end.

### Wishbone

Offensive formation with three offensive backs in the backfield. Fullback is in front of the halfbacks in this formation.

## RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The schools that were classified as 3A during the 1973 school year were the schools which were selected to be studied. These were senior high schools with enrollments from 271 to 769 in the state of Kansas.

The number of class 3A schools in Kansas is sixty-four, with two of these schools being girls' schools not involved in playing football. Forty-four of these schools replied to the initial questionnaire sent out. A follow-up questionnaire was sent to the remaining eighteen schools. Seven schools replied to the second questionnaire. The total number of questionnaires returned was fifty-one or eighty-three percent. As soon as each questionnaire was returned, it was tabulated. The return was as follows:

|                         |    |
|-------------------------|----|
| Questionnaires mailed   | 62 |
| Questionnaires returned | 51 |
| Return Percentage       | 83 |

Question Number One: How wide are the splits in your offensive line?

Table I shows the amount of split used in the offensive line.

TABLE I  
OFFENSIVE LINE SPLITS

|                          | 1' | 2' | 3' |
|--------------------------|----|----|----|
| Between Center and Guard | 23 | 22 | 6  |
| Between Guard and Tackle | 2  | 28 | 21 |
| Between Tackle and End   |    | 7  | 44 |

Splits. Coaches responding to Question One were almost even on the offensive split between center and guard. There were twenty-three who used a one-foot split and twenty-two who used a two-foot split. Between guard and tackle twenty-eight coaches used a two-foot split. Between tackle and end forty-four coaches used a three-foot split or larger. Some coaches used a fifteen-foot split, showing the amount of split they used when using a split end formation.

Question Number Two: Check the following if they are used with your offensive line. Area Blocking \_\_\_\_

Rule Blocking \_\_\_\_

Quickie Blocking \_\_\_\_

Wedge Blocking \_\_\_\_

Table II shows the types of blocking used.

TABLE II  
OFFENSIVE LINE BLOCKING

| Blocking Used | No. | %  |
|---------------|-----|----|
| Area          | 33  | 65 |
| Rule          | 35  | 68 |
| Quickie       | 14  | 27 |
| Wedge         | 23  | 45 |

Offensive Line Blocking. The coaches could mark as many of the four rules of blocking as they wanted to. Thirty-three or sixty-five percent indicated that area blocking was used. Rule blocking, with thirty-five or sixty-eight percent was the type most used. Fourteen or twenty-seven percent indicated they used quickie blocking and twenty-three or forty-five percent used wedge blocking.

Question Three: What types of blocks are used when working with your offensive line?

Table III indicates the different types of blocks used.

TABLE III  
TYPES OF BLOCKING USED

| Type          | No. |
|---------------|-----|
| Scramble      | 38  |
| Crossbody     | 15  |
| Crossblock    | 42  |
| Trap          | 49  |
| Shoulder      | 44  |
| Screen        | 16  |
| Hook or Reach | 27  |
| Others        | 8   |

The coaches reported that they used the crossblock, trap, and shoulder blocks the most often with the trap block being used ninety-six percent of the coaches. The screen and crossbody blocks were used the least by the coaches reporting. There were eight other blocks mentioned in the survey. These include the do-dad, cut-off, look-out, hinge, butt to shoulder, loop, influence, and face blocks.

Question Four: List the two most popular drills used when working with your offensive line.

Table IV lists drills used.

TABLE IV  
DRILLS USED

| Drill            | No. |
|------------------|-----|
| One on one       | 22  |
| Boards and Chute | 16  |
| Seven Man Sled   | 12  |
| Others           | 26  |

Drills. Question Four was a list question on the survey which required that two drills be listed that the coach uses most when working with the offensive line. The one on one, boards and chute, and seven man sled were mentioned the most in the survey. Also, there were twenty-six others listed once or twice to make up the final results.

Question Five: Do you use two tight ends or one split end?

Table V refers to one split end or two tight ends being used.

TABLE V  
ONE SPLIT END OR TWO TIGHT ENDS

|                | No. | %  |
|----------------|-----|----|
| Two Tight Ends | 5   | 10 |
| One Split End  | 24  | 47 |
| Both           | 22  | 43 |

One Split or Two Tight Ends. The reporting coaches indicated most used one split end and five or ten percent used two tight ends in their offensive formation. Several, twenty-two or forty-three percent, used both two tight ends and one split end in their offensive formations.

Question Six: Does your offensive line anticipate the count when firing out or do they move on the exact count?

Table VI indicates firing out count.

TABLE VI  
FIRING OUT COUNT

|                     | No. | %  |
|---------------------|-----|----|
| Anticipate Count    | 25  | 49 |
| Move on Exact Count | 26  | 51 |

Firing Out Count. This question was in the survey to determine whether offensive linemen fired out on the exact count by the quarterback or if the offensive linemen anticipated the count and fired out just before the count. There were twenty-five coaches reporting that they anticipate the count, for a percentage of forty-nine. Twenty-six coaches reported their players move on the exact count, for a percentage of fifty-one.

Question Seven: Do you design specific blocking for various defenses?

Table VII deals with designing specific blocking for various defenses.

TABLE VII  
DESIGNING SPECIFIC BLOCKING FOR VARIOUS DEFENSE

| Yes | %  | No | %  |
|-----|----|----|----|
| 38  | 75 | 13 | 25 |

Specific Blocking. The questionnaire asked the coaches to indicate whether they designed specific blocking for various defenses or if they rely on rules, area, etc. to take care of their offensive line blocking. There were thirty-eight coaches reporting they design specific blocking for a percentage of seventy-five, while thirteen coaches reported not designing specific blocking for a percentage of twenty-five.

Question Eight: Do you teach offensive line technique live or dummy?

Table VIII shows the number of coaches teaching offensive line technique live or dummy.

TABLE VIII  
TEACHING LINE TECHNIQUE LIVE OR DUMMY

|       | No. | %  |
|-------|-----|----|
| Live  | 4   | 8  |
| Dummy | 21  | 41 |
| Both  | 26  | 51 |

Teaching Line Technique Live or Dummy. There were four coaches reporting that offensive line technique was taught live exclusively, for a percentage of eight. There were twenty-one coaches reporting using only dummies to teach technique, for a percentage of forty-one. Some coaches use both live and dummy coaching when teaching technique, twenty-six for a percentage of fifty-one.

Question Nine: Do you make offensive line blocking calls on the line of scrimmage before the ball is snapped?

Table IX deals with making offensive line calls on the line of scrimmage.

TABLE IX  
LINEMEN MAKING OFFENSIVE LINE CALLS ON  
THE LINE OF SCRIMMAGE

|     | No. | %  |
|-----|-----|----|
| Yes | 25  | 49 |
| No  | 3   | 2  |

Line Calls. On the survey twenty-five coaches reported making offensive line calls on the line of scrimmage for a percentage of forty-nine. Twenty-six reported they did not make calls on the line of scrimmage for a percentage of fifty-one.

Question Ten: What type of pass protection is used by your offensive line?

Table X concerns the type of pass protection used by offensive lines.

TABLE X  
TYPE OF PASS PROTECTION USED

|                      | No. |
|----------------------|-----|
| Cup Protection       | 22  |
| Pocket Protection    | 21  |
| Sprint Out or Moving | 38  |
| Other                | 3   |

Pass Protection. This entry was put on the survey to determine the type of pass protection used by 3A schools. Cup protection and pocket protection were both listed even though they mean virtually the same thing. They were both listed because different terminology is used for the same type of pass protection. Coaches could check all the entries if they wanted to.

The coaches surveyed reported twenty-two use cup protection, twenty-one use pocket protection, thirty-eight use sprint out or moving pocket protection, and three reported using another type of pass protection.

Question Eleven: Offensive formation or formations used by your team.

Table XI shows offensive formations used by class 3A schools.

TABLE XI  
OFFENSIVE FORMATIONS USED BY CLASS 3A SCHOOLS

| Formation   | No. |
|-------------|-----|
| Pro-Set     | 26  |
| Slot        | 21  |
| I-Formation | 19  |
| Wing-T      | 15  |
| Wishbone    | 13  |
| Straight-T  | 7   |
| Split-T     | 5   |
| Double Wing | 3   |
| Single Wing | 1   |

Offensive Formations Used by Class 3A Football Teams. The questionnaire indicates that several different formations are used. Some coaches listed several formations that were used while others entered only one or two formations on this question. The pro-set, slot, I-formation, wing-T, and wishbone were the most widely used formations with eighty-five percent using one or all. The straight-T, split-T, double wing, and single wing comprised the remaining fifteen percent of the formations used. One coach reported using the single wing.

Question Twelve: Do you permit your quarterback to audible at the line of scrimmage?

Table XII shows whether or not the quarterback is permitted to audible at the line of scrimmage.

TABLE XII  
QUARTERBACK AUDIBLES

|     | No. | %  |
|-----|-----|----|
| Yes | 30  | 60 |
| No  | 20  | 40 |

Quarterback Audibles. Thirty coaches indicated they permitted the quarterback to audible at the line of scrimmage, for a percentage of sixty, while twenty did not for a percentage of forty. One coach did not answer this question.

Question Thirteen: Does your quarterback:

Stagger count \_\_\_\_.

Alternate short and long count \_\_\_\_.

Go on same count most of the time \_\_\_\_.

Table XIII shows how the quarterback gives the starting count at the line of scrimmage.

TABLE XIII  
METHOD OF STARTING COUNT GIVEN BY QUARTERBACK  
AT THE LINE OF SCRIMMAGE

|                               | No. | %  |
|-------------------------------|-----|----|
| Stagger Count                 | 12  | 24 |
| Alternate Short and Long      | 23  | 45 |
| Go on Same Count Most of Time | 16  | 31 |

Method of Starting Count. Most coaches questioned, twenty-three, have their quarterback alternate on short and long counts. Some coaches, sixteen, go on same count most of the time. Other coaches, twelve, indicated that they use a staggered count.

Question Fourteen: Type of offense you use?

Table XIV shows the type of offense used by class 3A teams in Kansas.

TABLE XIV  
TYPE OF OFFENSE USED

|          | No. | %  |
|----------|-----|----|
| Multiple | 22  | 43 |
| Basic    | 29  | 57 |

Offense Used. The questionnaire indicated whether teams used a basic or multiple offense. There were twenty-two coaches reporting using a multiple offense for a percentage of forty-three, while twenty-

nine coaches reported using a basic offense for a percentage of fifty-seven.

Question Fifteen: Are films used to aid your offensive line?

Table XV shows the number of coaches who use films to aid in the coaching of the offensive line.

TABLE XV  
NUMBER OF COACHES USING FILMS TO AID IN  
COACHING THE OFFENSIVE LINE

|     | No. | %  |
|-----|-----|----|
| Yes | 46  | 90 |
| No  | 5   | 10 |

Film Usage. There were forty-six coaches that reported using films when coaching the offensive line for a percentage of ninety. There were five coaches who do not use films when coaching the offensive line, for a percentage of ten.

Question Sixteen: Are films used with your offensive line alone or is the film used with the total squad only?

Table XVI shows whether the films are used with the total squad only, with the offensive line alone, or both.

TABLE XVI  
FILM USED WITH TOTAL SQUAD, OFFENSIVE LINE ALONE, OR BOTH

|                                | No. | %  |
|--------------------------------|-----|----|
| Offensive Line Alone           | 4   | 8  |
| Total Squad                    | 40  | 78 |
| Total Squad and Offensive Line | 30  | 14 |

There were four coaches indicating that the film was used with the offensive line alone for a percentage of eight. There were forty coaches reporting that the total squad watched the film for a percentage of seventy-eight. Seven, or fourteen percent, use the film to show to the offensive line alone and then to the total squad.

Question Seventeen: Do you pull guards?

Table XVII shows whether the teams pull guards.

TABLE XVII  
NUMBER OF TEAMS WHO PULL GUARDS

|     | No. | %  |
|-----|-----|----|
| Yes | 50  | 98 |
| No  | 1   | 2  |

Pulling Guards. The answer to question seventeen was almost unanimous. There were fifty coaches reporting pulling guards, for a

percentage of ninety-eight, while only one did not pull the guards for a percentage of two.

Question Eighteen: If you pull guards, do you fill for pulling guards with linemen or backs?

Table XVIII shows whether or not the teams that pull guards fill for him with a lineman, back, or both.

TABLE XVIII  
METHOD USED TO FILL FOR PULLING GUARDS

|         | No. |
|---------|-----|
| Linemen | 12  |
| Backs   | 10  |
| Both    | 28  |

Filling for Pulling Guards. The coaches reported on the survey that twenty-eight teams used both linemen and backs to fill for the pulling guard. Linemen were used by twelve coaches to fill for the guards and ten indicated that they used backs to fill for the pulling guard.

Question Nineteen: What is the most difficult defense for your offensive line to block? Gap \_\_\_ Stunting \_\_\_ Heads-up \_\_\_

Table XIX indicates which is the most difficult defense for an offensive line to block.

TABLE XIX  
MOST DIFFICULT DEFENSE FOR AN OFFENSIVE LINE TO BLOCK

|          | No. | %  |
|----------|-----|----|
| Gap      | 4   | 8  |
| Stunting | 45  | 88 |
| Heads-up | 2   | 4  |

Most difficult defense. It was interesting to note the amount of coaches who were most concerned about blocking stunting defenses. Of the fifty-one schools responding, forty-five reported the stunting defense as the most difficult defense to block. This represents a percentage of eighty-eight. Four reported the gap defense most difficult to block. Two coaches indicated that the heads-up defense was most difficult to block.

Question Twenty: Stance used by your offensive line. Three point \_\_\_\_  
Four point \_\_\_\_ Both \_\_\_\_

Table XI shows the type of stance used by offensive linemen.

TABLE XI  
STANCE USED BY OFFENSIVE LINEMEN

|                    | No. | %  |
|--------------------|-----|----|
| Three Point Stance | 22  | 43 |
| Four Point Stance  | 13  | 25 |
| Both               | 16  | 32 |

Offensive Stance. The type of stance used by the fifty-one coaches reporting varied. Twenty-two coaches reported using only a three point stance for a percentage of forty-three. Thirteen coaches reported using the four point stance for a percentage of twenty-five. Other coaches, sixteen, reported that they use both a three and a four point stance for a percentage of thirty-two.

Question Twenty-One: Do you have a daily written lesson plan?

Table XXI indicates if the coaches do or do not have a daily written practice plan.

TABLE XXI  
DAILY WRITTEN PLAN

|     | No. | %  |
|-----|-----|----|
| Yes | 46  | 90 |
| No  | 5   | 10 |

Daily Written Plan. Out of fifty-one coaches, forty-six indicated they used a daily written plan when coaching for a percentage of ninety. Five coaches or ten percent indicated they used no daily written plan.

Question Twenty-Two: What is the average length of your practices?

Table XXII shows the average length of football practice.

TABLE XXII  
AVERAGE LENGTH OF FOOTBALL PRACTICE

|                                            | No. |
|--------------------------------------------|-----|
| 1 Hour to 1 Hour and 15 Minutes            | 1   |
| 1 Hour 15 Minutes to 1 Hour and 30 Minutes | 7   |
| 1 Hour 30 Minutes to 1 Hour and 45 Minutes | 13  |
| 1 Hour 45 Minutes to 2 Hours               | 22  |
| 2 Hours to 2 Hours and 15 Minutes          | 1   |
| 2 Hours or More                            | 7   |

Length of Practice. Two hours was the most accepted time for the length of football practice with twenty-two reporting this time. Thirteen coaches reported they practiced about one and a half hours daily. There were also eight coaches indicating they practiced less than one and a half hours and eight coaches who practiced more than two hours a day.

Question Twenty-Three: What percentage of daily practice time is used for offensive line work?

Table XXIII has to do with the amount of time by percentage used daily for offensive line work.

TABLE XXIII  
OFFENSIVE LINE WORK

|         | No. |
|---------|-----|
| 20-30%  | 17  |
| 30-40%  | 10  |
| 40-50%  | 9   |
| 50-60%  | 6   |
| 60-70%  | 3   |
| 70-80%  | 2   |
| 80-90%  | 2   |
| 90-100% | 1   |

Line Work. The survey shows the twenty-thirty percent (seventeen coaches) range as the most accepted percentage indicating the amount of practice time used for offensive line work. The questionnaire tends to show that most coaches strive to keep balance within their practice schedules by working from twenty-five to thirty-five percent on each phase of the offensive and defensive game. Thirty-six coaches reported using less than forty-five percent of their daily practice time doing offensive line work and fourteen coaches reported using more than forty-five percent for offensive line work.

Question Twenty-Four: Do you have chalk talks with your offensive linemen alone?

Table XXIV shows whether or not coaches have chalk talks with their offensive linemen alone.

TABLE XXIV  
CHALK TALKS WITH OFFENSIVE LINEMEN

|     | No. | %  |
|-----|-----|----|
| Yes | 38  | 75 |
| No  | 13  | 25 |

Chalk Talks. This question was to determine if coaches had special chalk talks with only their offensive linemen or if the total squad was given the chalk talks. Thirty-eight coaches indicated that chalk talks were held with the offensive linemen alone for a percentage of seventy-five. Thirteen coaches gave chalk talks to only the total squad for a percentage of twenty-five.

Question Twenty-Five: When are chalk talks held?

Table XXV shows when the chalk talks are held with the offensive line alone.

TABLE XXV  
WHEN CHALK TALKS ARE HELD

|            | No. |
|------------|-----|
| Daily      | 19  |
| Weekly     | 13  |
| Pre-Season | 6   |

The number of coaches reporting on this question was thirty-eight or only those coaches who answered the previous question by saying they had chalk talks with their offensive line alone. When the chalk talks were held varied, but nineteen coaches reported that they had daily chalk talks. Thirteen coaches hold weekly chalk talks with linemen. Also, six reported that chalk talks were held with offensive linemen alone in pre-season only.

Question Twenty-Six: Do you hold your meetings: Before school \_\_\_\_  
After practice \_\_\_\_ Before practice \_\_\_\_ Evenings \_\_\_\_

Table XXVI indicates when during the day the chalk talks are held.

TABLE XXVI  
WHEN DURING THE DAY ARE CHALK TALKS HELD

|                 | No. |
|-----------------|-----|
| Before School   | 7   |
| After Practice  | 12  |
| Before Practice | 27  |
| Evening         | 3   |
| Other           | 7   |
| During Practice | 2   |
| No Answer       | 5   |

Several coaches marked more than one answer to this question because they held chalk talks at different times on different days. Twenty-seven coaches indicated chalk talks being held before practice while twelve coaches replied that chalk talks were held after practice. Seven coaches conduct talks before school while three coaches conduct their chalk talks in the evening. There were also seven coaches indicating that meetings were held at other times, such as during practice, weekends, etc. Five coaches had no answer to this question.

Question Twenty-Seven: Where is most of your emphasis put during practice? Offensive Line \_\_\_\_ Offensive Backs \_\_\_\_ Defensive Line \_\_\_\_ Defensive Backs \_\_\_\_ Other \_\_\_\_

Table XXVII shows where coaches put most of their emphasis during practice.

TABLE XXVII  
WHERE MOST EMPHASIS IS PUT DURING PRACTICE

|                 | No. |
|-----------------|-----|
| Offensive Line  | 22  |
| Defensive Line  | 4   |
| Offensive Backs | 11  |
| Defensive Backs | 4   |
| Equal Time      | 23  |

Most Emphasis. This question on the survey will have more than fifty-one answers because some coaches marked more than one area where emphasis was placed.

Twenty-three coaches replied that they tried to have a practice which was divided equally between all areas. Twenty-two coaches indicated that most emphasis was placed on the offensive line. Defensive line, defensive backs, and offensive backs constituted the remaining nineteen coaches where most emphasis was put.

Question Twenty-Eight: The week before a game, on which days do your offensive linemen have hard contact?

Table XXVIII shows which days of the week that offensive linemen have hard contact.

TABLE XXVIII  
DAYS OF HARDEST CONTACT DURING THE WEEK

|           | No. |
|-----------|-----|
| Monday    | 7   |
| Tuesday   | 49  |
| Wednesday | 36  |
| Thursday  | 0   |

Day of Hardest Contact. Out of the coaches reporting, forty-nine coaches indicated that Tuesday was a hard contact day. Thirty-six coaches reported Wednesday was a day of hard contact while seven coaches used Monday as a day for hitting. There were no coaches reporting that Thursday, the day before a game, was a hard contact day.

Question Twenty-Nine: What type of linemen do you prefer?

Small, quick, 140-180 lb. linemen \_\_\_\_

Big, slow, 180-unlimited lb. linemen \_\_\_\_

Table XXIX indicates the type of linemen that coaches like.

TABLE XXIX  
TYPE OF LINEMEN COACHES PREFER

|                                | No. |
|--------------------------------|-----|
| Small, quick, (140-180 lbs.)   | 45  |
| Big, slow (180-unlimited lbs.) | 0   |
| Big, quick                     | 6   |

Type of Linemen. When questioned about the type of linemen they prefer, the coaches were unanimous. Forty-five replied that they preferred a small quick lineman while no one wanted a lineman who was big and slow.

The original survey had only the above two questions on it. Six coaches answered that they preferred big, quick linemen. Everyone would have preferred a big, quick lineman but that was not the intent of the questionnaire.

Question Thirty: Do you spend most of your coaching time working with offense or defense?

Table XXX shows whether the coaches spend most of their time with offense or defense.

TABLE XXX  
TIME SPENT WORKING WITH OFFENSE AND DEFENSE

|         | No. | %  |
|---------|-----|----|
| Offense | 34  | 67 |
| Defense | 4   | 8  |
| 50-50   | 13  | 25 |

Table XXX shows that of the fifty-one coaches reporting, thirty-four or sixty-seven percent spent most of their time working with the offense. Four coaches or eight percent reported spending most of their time with the defense. Thirteen coaches or twenty-five percent indicated they try to split their practice to fifty percent offense and fifty percent defense.

Question Thirty-One: Where do you feel your best offensive lineman should play?

Table XXXI shows where most coaches feel their best offensive lineman should play.

TABLE XXXI  
WHERE BEST OFFENSIVE LINEMAN SHOULD PLAY

| Position | No. |
|----------|-----|
| Center   | 10  |
| Guard    | 22  |
| Tackle   | 17  |
| End      | 3   |

A question was included in the questionnaire pertaining to where the best offensive lineman should play. The question was included to obtain information on where their best lineman plays to do the team the most good.

Twenty-two coaches thought guard was where the best lineman should play while seventeen considered tackle the position for the best offensive lineman. Ten coaches indicated center to be the most important offensive line position and three coaches indicated end as the position where their best offensive lineman should play.

Question Thirty-Two: List the two most important traits a good offensive lineman should have.

Table XXXII shows the most important traits of a good offensive lineman.

TABLE XXXII  
TRAITS OF A GOOD OFFENSIVE LINEMAN

| Trait                          | No. |
|--------------------------------|-----|
| Quickness                      | 35  |
| Toughness or Aggressiveness    | 17  |
| Desire                         | 15  |
| Mental Ability or Intelligence | 10  |
| Strength                       | 5   |
| Agility                        | 4   |
| Pride                          | 3   |
| Others                         | 10  |

Traits. Coaches were asked this question on the survey to find out their feelings on traits a good offensive lineman should have. They were asked to list two traits they thought were most important.

To the coaches, the most important trait was quickness. Thirty-five indicated this was important to them. Seventeen coaches listed aggressiveness as important while fifteen thought desire was an important element in being a good offensive lineman. Ten coaches cited intelligence as an important trait and five considered strength to be very important. Agility, with four coaches, and pride, with three coaches, were reported as being necessary for a good offensive lineman. Ten coaches listed other traits as necessary. Among these were size, lateral movement, technique, offensive pursuit, etc.

Question Thirty-Three: Do you have an off-season program?

Table XXXIII shows whether or not teams have an off-season program.

TABLE XXXIII

DO YOU HAVE AN OFF-SEASON PROGRAM?

|     | No. | %  |
|-----|-----|----|
| Yes | 42  | 82 |
| No  | 9   | 18 |

Off-season Program. Forty-two schools reported having an off-season program, for a percentage of eighty-two. Nine schools indicated they have no off-season program for a percentage of eighteen.

Question Thirty-Four: Do you have a junior high football program?

Table XXXIV indicates whether or not the 3A schools have a junior high football program.

TABLE XXXIV

DO YOU HAVE A JUNIOR HIGH FOOTBALL PROGRAM?

|     | No. | %  |
|-----|-----|----|
| Yes | 44  | 86 |
| No  | 7   | 14 |

Out of the fifty-one coaches, forty-four or eighty-six percent indicated that there was a junior high football program in their school. Seven coaches or fourteen percent reported there was no junior high football team.

Question Thirty-Five: Are your offensive line drills, techniques, rules, etc. used in the junior high football program?

Table XXXV indicates if a school has a junior high program, are the drills, techniques, etc. that are taught in the high school used in the junior high school.

TABLE XXXV

THOSE JUNIOR HIGH TEAMS USING HIGH SCHOOL  
DRILLS, TECHNIQUES, ETC.

|     | No. | %  |
|-----|-----|----|
| Yes | 26  | 59 |
| No  | 18  | 41 |

There were forty-four out of fifty-one reporting that they had a junior high football program in their school system. Out of these, twenty-six indicated the techniques, drills, etc. used by the high school were incorporated into the junior high program. This is a percentage of fifty-nine. Eighteen coaches indicated the techniques were not used at the junior high level, for a percentage of forty-two.

Question Thirty-Six: Does the head coach or assistant coach handle your offensive line?

Table XXXVI shows whether the head coach or an assistant coach works with the offensive line.

TABLE XXXVI

DOES THE HEAD COACH OR ASSISTANT COACH  
WORK WITH THE OFFENSIVE LINE?

|                 | No. |
|-----------------|-----|
| Head Coach      | 12  |
| Assistant Coach | 37  |
| Both            | 2   |

Head Coach or Assistant. The head coach was line coach in twelve of the schools reporting. Thirty-seven coaches indicated that an assistant coach worked with the offensive line. Two schools indicated that both the head coach and an assistant worked with the offensive line.

Question Thirty-Seven: How many, on the average, offensive lineman does your offensive line coach work with in practice?

Table XXXVII shows how many, on the average, offensive lineman the line coach works with in practice.

TABLE XXXVII  
HOW MANY OFFENSIVE LINEMEN ARE WORKED WITH IN PRACTICE  
BY THE OFFENSIVE LINE COACH

| No. of Linemen | No. |
|----------------|-----|
| 7-12           | 8   |
| 12-16          | 25  |
| 16-23          | 15  |
| More           | 3   |

The coaches reported a varied range of players were worked with in practice. The highest number of boys worked with was more than twenty-three and the lowest number of boys worked with was from seven to twelve.

The highest number of coaches, twenty-five, indicated they worked with twelve to sixteen boys in practice. Fifteen coaches reported they worked with sixteen to twenty-three boys.

Question Thirty-Eight: Do you pick out players who are going to be offensive linemen or are players allowed to go out for the position they desire to play at the start of the season?

Table XXXVIII indicates whether players are picked for a position or they are allowed to go out for the position they want.

TABLE XXXVIII

ARE PLAYERS PICKED FOR A POSITION OR DO THEY  
GO OUT FOR THE POSITION THEY WANT?

|                                           | No. | %  |
|-------------------------------------------|-----|----|
| Players are Picked                        | 23  | 45 |
| Players Go Out for the Position They Want | 22  | 43 |
| Both                                      | 6   | 12 |

Method of Getting a Position. The reporting coaches were very evenly divided on this question. Twenty-three coaches, forty-five percent, indicated players are picked for a position, while twenty-two or forty-three percent reported players go out for a preferred position. Six coaches or twelve percent indicated both methods of securing players for a position were used.

Question Thirty-Nine: List the two most important techniques for the offensive linemen to execute when blocking.

Table XXXIX lists the important techniques an offensive lineman should execute when blocking.

TABLE XXXIX

IMPORTANT TECHNIQUES WHEN BLOCKING

| Technique        | No. |
|------------------|-----|
| Maintain Contact | 21  |
| Good Hit         | 13  |
| Quick Feet       | 9   |

TABLE XXXIX (Con't.)

| Technique            | No. |
|----------------------|-----|
| Keep Head Up         | 8   |
| Good Form            | 3   |
| Body Control         | 3   |
| Follow Through       | 2   |
| Stay Low             | 2   |
| Others (listed once) | 22  |

Important Techniques. Maintaining contact, good hit, quick feet, and keeping head up were the most important techniques listed by the coaches reporting on the questionnaire.

Good form, body control, follow through, staying low, constituted the next group of good techniques for an offensive lineman to have.

There were also twenty-two techniques that were listed only once in the questionnaire.

Question Forty: Which is the most difficult defense for your team to block?

Table XXXX indicates which defense is most difficult for an offensive team to block.

TABLE XXXX  
WHICH IS THE MOST DIFFICULT DEFENSE  
FOR YOUR TEAM TO BLOCK?

| Type                                            | No. |
|-------------------------------------------------|-----|
| Team Using One Basic Defense with Stunts        | 31  |
| Team Using Four of Five Defenses without Stunts | 20  |

There were thirty-one coaches indicating that a team using one defense with stunts was the most difficult to block. Twenty coaches reported teams using four or five defenses without stunts were the most difficult to block.

Question Forty-One: What type of block do your offensive linemen use when blocking linebackers?

Table XXXXI shows what type of block teams use to block linebackers.

TABLE XXXXI  
WHAT TYPE OF BLOCK IS USED TO BLOCK LINEBACKERS

|                 | No. |
|-----------------|-----|
| Shoulder Block  | 32  |
| Scramble Block  | 10  |
| Screen Block    | 12  |
| Crossbody Block | 9   |
| Other           | 5   |

There were thirty-two coaches reporting using the shoulder block to cut off linebackers while twelve used the screen block in this situation. Ten coaches reported using the scramble block on linebackers and nine use the crossbody block. Five coaches also indicated that other types of blocks were used on linebackers.

Question Forty-Two: Downfield block used by your offensive linemen.

Table XXXXII shows what teams use for a downfield block.

TABLE XXXXII  
TYPE OF DOWNFIELD BLOCK USED

|                 | No. |
|-----------------|-----|
| Shoulder Block  | 27  |
| Crossbody Block | 14  |
| Screen Block    | 5   |
| Others          | 5   |

Downfield Blocking. The shoulder block, with twenty-seven teams using it, was the block most used when blocking downfield. Fourteen coaches use the crossbody block for downfield blocking. Five coaches indicated that a screen block was used for their downfield blocking.

Question Forty-Three: Are your offensive linemen awarded for their performance after playing a good game?

Table XXXXIII shows whether or not offensive linemen are awarded for their performance after playing a good game.

TABLE XXXXIII  
ARE OFFENSIVE LINEMEN AWARDED FOR PERFORMANCE  
IN A GOOD GAME?

|     | No. | %  |
|-----|-----|----|
| Yes | 25  | 49 |
| No  | 26  | 51 |

This question was very evenly divided with twenty-five or forty-nine percent indicating their offensive line was awarded for a good offensive performance. Twenty-six or fifty-one percent reported not awarding the offensive line for a good offensive performance.

Question Forty-Four: Do you use a point system to grade your offensive linemen?

Table XXXXIV shows whether or not a point system is used to grade offensive linemen.

TABLE XXXXIV  
IS A POINT SYSTEM USED TO GRADE  
YOUR OFFENSIVE LINEMEN?

|     | No. | %  |
|-----|-----|----|
| Yes | 10  | 20 |
| No  | 41  | 80 |

The questionnaire indicated whether or not a point system was used to grade the offensive linemen. There were ten coaches reporting they used a point system in grading the offensive linemen for a

percentage of twenty while forty-one coaches reported not using a point system in grading linemen for a percentage of eighty.

Question Forty-Five: Do you have junior varsity and varsity teams?

Table XXXXV shows the number of schools having a junior varsity football program.

TABLE XXXXV

DO YOU HAVE JUNIOR VARSITY AND VARSITY FOOTBALL TEAMS?

|     | No. | %  |
|-----|-----|----|
| Yes | 50  | 98 |
| No  | 1   | 2  |

This report shows that fifty schools or ninety-eight percent have a junior varsity football program and one school does not have a junior varsity program.

Question Forty-Six: Do you have a junior varsity line coach and a varsity line coach?

Table XXXXVI shows the number of teams having a junior varsity line coach and a varsity line coach.

TABLE XXXXVI

DO YOU HAVE LINE COACHES FOR BOTH THE VARSITY  
AND JUNIOR VARSITY TEAMS?

|     | No. | %  |
|-----|-----|----|
| Yes | 21  | 41 |
| No  | 30  | 59 |

## SUMMARY

There are 62 class 3A schools in Kansas that are involved in football. Fifty-one schools replied to the questionnaire concerning their coaching of the offensive line.

Concerning the offensive line splits, twenty-three coaches use a one foot split between center and guard. Twenty-eight coaches use a two foot split between guard and tackle. Forty-four coaches use a three foot split between tackle and end.

Thirty-three coaches reported using area blocking in the offensive line. Thirty-five replied they used rule blocking. Rule blocking was used most by the coaches and quickie blocking the least.

The scramble, crossblock, trap, and shoulder blocks were used by most of the coaches. The trap block was the most popular block used by the coaches. The screen and hook blocks were the least popular.

The one on one was the drill used most by offensive line coaches. Boards and the seven man sled were also used by several coaches.

Ten percent of the coaches indicated using a formation with two tight ends. Forty-seven percent use one split end and forty-three percent of the coaches use both formations.

Twenty-five, or forty-nine percent of the coaches, indicated their offensive linemen anticipate the starting count. Twenty-six or fifty-one percent reported that linemen move on the exact count.

Seventy-five percent of the coaches design specific blocking for various defenses while twenty-five percent do not.

Four coaches teach offensive line technique with live action only. Twenty-one coaches use dummies exclusively to teach technique.

Twenty-six use both live and dummy action to teach offensive line technique.

Of the linemen making offensive line calls on the line of scrimmage, twenty-five coaches do and twenty-six do not make calls on the line of scrimmage.

Sprint out or moving pocket pass protection was most popular with the coaches. Several also use cup or pocket pass protection.

The pro-set, slot, I-formation, Wing-T, and wishbone were the formations used most by the coaches. The pro-set was used most by the coaches with the slot formation next in popularity. One coach reported the single wing as the only offensive formation used.

Thirty, or sixty percent, of the coaches allow their quarterback to call audibles at the line of scrimmage. Twenty or forty percent do not allow this.

Forty-six or ninety percent of the coaches use films when working with the offensive line. Most coaches use the film with the total squad and only four coaches indicated they used the film with just their offensive line alone.

Ninety-eight percent of the coaches pull guards when running their offense.

Written practice plans are used by ninety percent of the coaches.

The length of practice reported varied greatly. Practice time ranged from one coach indicating one hour as the length of practice to seven coaches practicing more than two hours. Most coaches, twenty-two, reported practicing from one hour and forty-five minutes to two hours.

Tuesday was the day when most coaches had hard contact for the offensive linemen. Several reported having contact on Wednesday. Because Thursday is the day before a game no coaches reported having hard contact on this day.

Most coaches, forty-five, indicated a preference for small, quick linemen over big, slow linemen.

On the questionnaire, twenty-two coaches reported guard as the position where the best offensive lineman should play. Tackle was thought to be the most important position by seventeen of the coaches. Three coaches indicated the end position as most important.

Quickness, aggressiveness, desire, and intelligence were listed most often when the coaches were asked to list the most important traits of a good offensive lineman. Quickness was listed as being the most important trait.

Eighty-two percent of the coaches indicated the use of an off-season program.

On the subject of whether or not the junior high school team used the high school drills, techniques, etc., twenty-six or fifty-nine percent indicated the usage of these drills while eighteen or forty-one percent reported the junior high school did not use the varsity teams' drills.

Whether players are picked for a position or go out for the position they preferred was a question which the coaches almost split even on. Twenty-three coaches reported picking players for a position while twenty-two coaches indicated players selected their own position. Six indicated both methods were used.

On the subject of the most important techniques a lineman should execute when blocking, there were several techniques listed. The most numerous listed were maintaining contact, good hit, quick feet, and keeping head up. Maintaining contact was listed as most important by the coaches.

Most coaches indicated that a team using one basic defense with stunts was more difficult to block than a team using four or five different defenses without stunts.

The shoulder block was used most by the coaches for blocking linebackers and for blocking downfield.

#### CONCLUSIONS

Coaches of class 3A schools in the state of Kansas for 1973 were pulling guards to trap and to lead sweeps. Sprint out pass protection was being used to put more pressure on the outside defensive people because of the run or pass option threat.

Coaches were also using several formations to make the defense adjust to various offensive formations and spend more time in practice working on defense.

Small, quick linemen were preferred by most coaches, indicating that quickness was still more important to coaches than size.

Athletes were specializing more. This was shown by the fact that eighty-two percent of the coaches have an off-season program keeping some athletes out of other sports. This also emphasizes the fact that the amount of time spent to become a good football player has increased.

Defensive teams should consider a stunting defense because eighty-eight percent of the coaches questioned indicated this defense as the most difficult to block.

## ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Sincere appreciation is expressed to Associate Professor Raymond A. Wauthier of the Department of Physical Education at Kansas State University for his personal and professional advice and his time and effort throughout this study.

Appreciation is also expressed to the many high school football coaches throughout Kansas for their cooperation and assistance in making this study possible.

## APPENDIX

A SURVEY OF COACHING THE OFFENSIVE LINE IN CLASS 3A SCHOOLS  
IN THE STATE OF KANSAS

QUESTIONNAIRE

I. Methods

1. How wide are the splits in your offensive line?
  - a. Between center and guard \_\_\_\_\_
  - b. Between guard and tackle \_\_\_\_\_
  - c. Between tackle and end \_\_\_\_\_
2. Check the following if they are used with your offensive line.
  - a. Area blocking \_\_\_\_\_
  - b. Rule blocking \_\_\_\_\_
  - c. Quickie or count-off blocking \_\_\_\_\_
  - d. Wedge blocking \_\_\_\_\_
3. List the two most popular drills used when working with your offensive line.
  - a.
  - b.
4. Do you use two tight ends or one split end?
5. Does your offensive line anticipate the count when firing out or do they move on the exact count?
6. Do you design specific blocking for various defenses?  
Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_
7. Do you teach offensive line technique live or dummy?  
Live \_\_\_\_\_ Dummy \_\_\_\_\_
8. Do you make offensive line blocking calls on the line of scrimmage before the ball is snapped?  
Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

9. What type of pass protection is used by your offensive line?
- a. Cup protection \_\_\_\_\_
  - b. Pocket protection \_\_\_\_\_
  - c. Sprint out or moving \_\_\_\_\_
  - d. Other \_\_\_\_\_
10. Offensive formation or formations used by your team.
- a. \_\_\_\_\_
  - b. \_\_\_\_\_
11. Do you permit your quarterback to audible at the line of scrimmage?
- Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_
12. Does your quarterback:
- a. Stagger count \_\_\_\_\_
  - b. Alternate short and long count \_\_\_\_\_
  - c. Go on same count most of time \_\_\_\_\_
13. Type of offense you use?
- Multiple \_\_\_\_\_ Basic \_\_\_\_\_
14. Are films used to aid your offensive line?
- Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_
15. Are films used with your offensive line alone or is the film used with the total squad only?
- Offensive line only \_\_\_\_\_ Total squad \_\_\_\_\_ Both \_\_\_\_\_
16. Do you pull guards? Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_
- If yes, do you fill for pulling guards with linemen or backs?
- Linemen \_\_\_\_\_ Backs \_\_\_\_\_
17. What is the most difficult defense for your offensive line to block?
- Gap \_\_\_\_\_ Stunting \_\_\_\_\_ Heads up \_\_\_\_\_

## II. Technique

1. Check the types of blocking you use with your offensive line.

Scramble \_\_\_\_ Crab \_\_\_\_ Shoulder \_\_\_\_ Trap \_\_\_\_

Hook or reach \_\_\_\_ Double team \_\_\_\_ Cross body \_\_\_\_

Other \_\_\_\_

2. Stance used by your offensive line.

Three point \_\_\_\_ Four point \_\_\_\_ Both \_\_\_\_

## III. Practice

1. Do you have a daily written practice plan?

Yes \_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_

2. Average length of practice.

3. Percentage of daily practice time used for your offensive line work.

4. Do you have chalk talks with your offensive linemen alone?

Yes \_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_

If yes, are they held: Daily \_\_\_\_ Weekly \_\_\_\_

Pre-season \_\_\_\_ Other \_\_\_\_

Do you hold your meetings: Before school \_\_\_\_ After  
practice \_\_\_\_ Before practice \_\_\_\_ Evening \_\_\_\_

Other \_\_\_\_

5. Where is most of your emphasis put during practice?

Offensive line \_\_\_\_ Defensive line \_\_\_\_ Offensive backs \_\_\_\_

Defensive backs \_\_\_\_ Equal time \_\_\_\_

6. The week before a game, on which days do your offensive linemen have hard contact?

Monday \_\_\_\_ Tuesday \_\_\_\_ Wednesday \_\_\_\_ Thursday \_\_\_\_

## IV. Philosophy

1. Type of linemen you prefer:

Small, quick, 140-180 lb. linemen \_\_\_\_\_

Big, slow, 180-unlimited lb. linemen \_\_\_\_\_

2. Do you spend most of your coaching time working with the offense or the defense?

Offense \_\_\_\_\_ Defense \_\_\_\_\_ Equal time \_\_\_\_\_

3. Where do you feel your best offensive linemen should play?

Center \_\_\_\_\_ Guard \_\_\_\_\_ Tackle \_\_\_\_\_ End \_\_\_\_\_

4. List the two most important traits a good offensive lineman should have.

a. \_\_\_\_\_ b. \_\_\_\_\_

5. Do you have an off-season program?

Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

6. Do you have a junior high football program?

Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

If yes, are your offensive line drills, techniques, rules, etc. used in the junior high program?

7. Does the head coach or assistant coach handle your offensive line?

Head coach \_\_\_\_\_ Assistant coach \_\_\_\_\_

8. How many, on the average, offensive linemen does your offensive line coach work with in practice?

9. Do you pick out those people who are going to be offensive linemen or are players allowed to go out for the position they desire to play at the start of the season?  
Players are picked \_\_\_\_\_  
Players go out for the position they want \_\_\_\_\_
10. List the two most important techniques for the offensive linemen to execute when blocking.  
a. \_\_\_\_\_ b. \_\_\_\_\_
11. Which is the most difficult defense for your team to block?  
Team using one basic defense with stunts \_\_\_\_\_  
Team using 4 or 5 different defenses without stunts \_\_\_\_\_
12. What type of block do your offensive linemen use when blocking linebackers?
13. Downfield blocking used by your offensive linemen.
14. Are your offensive linemen awarded for their performance after playing a good game?  
Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_
15. Do you use a point system to grade your offensive linemen?  
Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

V. Other

1. Do you have junior varsity and varsity teams?  
Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_
2. Do you have a junior varsity line coach and a varsity line coach?  
Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

A SURVEY OF OFFENSIVE LINE COACHING  
IN CLASS 3A HIGH SCHOOLS IN KANSAS

by

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B. S., Kansas State University, 1968

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AN ABSTRACT OF A MASTER'S REPORT

submitted in partial fulfillment of the

requirements for the degree

MASTER OF SCIENCE

Department of Health, Physical Education and Recreation

KANSAS STATE UNIVERSITY  
Manhattan, Kansas

1974

The purpose of this study was to determine the methods, techniques, philosophy, and practice time that the class 3A coaches used in their coaching of the offensive line during the 1973 football season.

A survey questionnaire was designed to collect information on methods, techniques, philosophy, and practice time used by class 3A coaches. The questionnaire was mailed to the sixty-two class 3A high schools in the state of Kansas. A return envelope, self-addressed and stamped, was included with each questionnaire. The percentage of returns was eighty-three.

The study revealed that the majority of 3A coaches used rule blocking and area blocking. Quickie blocking was used the least by coaches. A majority of coaches design specific blocking for different defenses. This was true for seventy-five percent of the coaches.

Live technique was used by only eight percent of the coaches to teach blocking fundamentals. Most coaches, fifty-one percent, used both live and dummy techniques to teach blocking fundamentals.

The pro-set, slot I, wing-T, and wishbone formations are used by the majority of the coaches. Only one coach reported using the single wing as a basic formation.

The coaches indicated the importance of using game films to aid in coaching the offensive line. On the questionnaire, forty-six, or ninety percent, do use films.

The stunting defense is the most difficult defense for offensive lines to block. This was indicated by eighty-eight percent of coaches.

Practice time varied from one hour to more than two hours. One hour and forty-five minutes was the amount of time most coaches practiced. Tuesday was the hardest day of contact the week before a ball game. Thursday was not used by any of the coaches as a hard day of contact.

Offense is worked on most by sixty-seven percent of the coaches. An off-season program was reported in forty-two of the schools for a percentage of eighty-two.

In thirty-seven of the schools the assistant coach works with the offensive line. The head coach is line coach in twelve of the schools.

Maintaining contact, good initial hit, quick feet, and keeping head up were the techniques of good blocking listed most by coaches. Good form, body control, follow through, and staying low were other items mentioned.

The shoulder block, with twenty-seven teams using it, was the block most used when blocking downfield. Fourteen coaches use the cross body block for downfield blocking.

This report shows that fifty schools, or ninety-eight percent, have a junior varsity football program and one school does not have a junior varsity program.