QSE SPORTS · PLAYBOOK

QSE Football Defensive Playbook

Every defensive front and call, drawn as the game draws them, with the plays each call stops and the ones that beat it.

Read it online at qsegames.com/guides/football/defense-playbook

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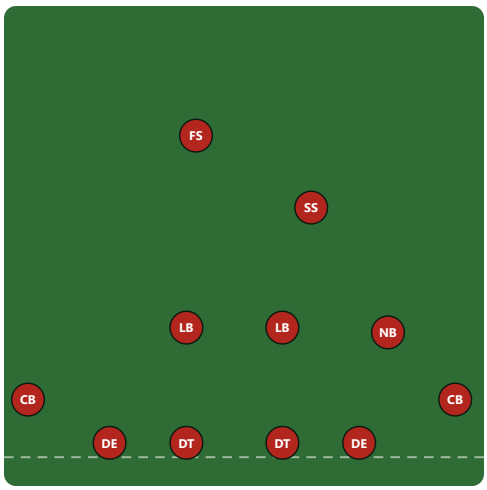
How to read the playbook

- **Diagrams** are the call sheet's own drawings: **gold bubbles** are zones, **orange lines** man coverage, **red arrows** rushers. A blitz sends one extra rusher - two on Cover 0 and All Out - unless you name your own with Blitzers.
- **Tags** use the same grade as the card you get after a play, from the offense's side: **Stops** lists plays that run into this call, **Gives up** the plays that beat it. Calls are drawn and graded in a Nickel front (Prevent in Quarter). They are tendencies in games you call, not guarantees.

Fronts

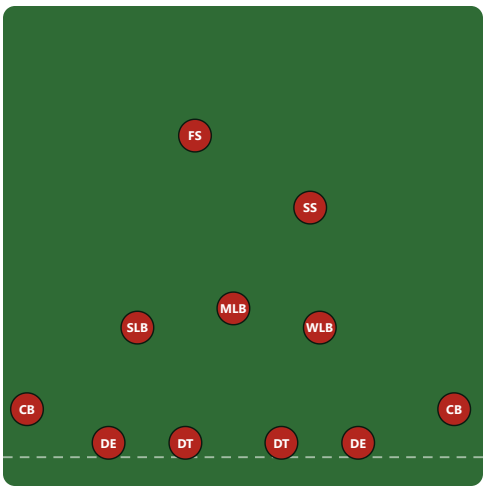
Goal Line is offered when the offense shows its Goal Line formation; Big Nickel when your coordinator calls it or in a saved call.

Nickel



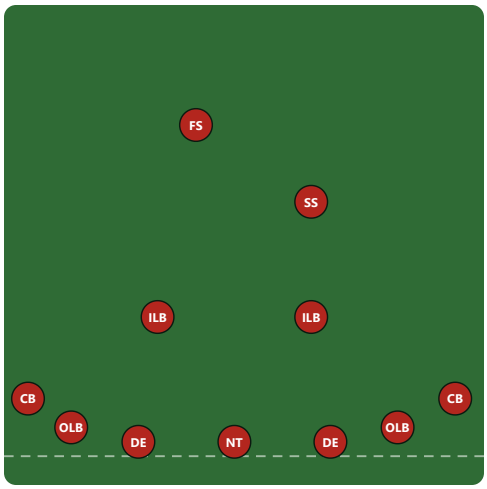
4 DL, 2 LB, 5 DB

Base 4-3



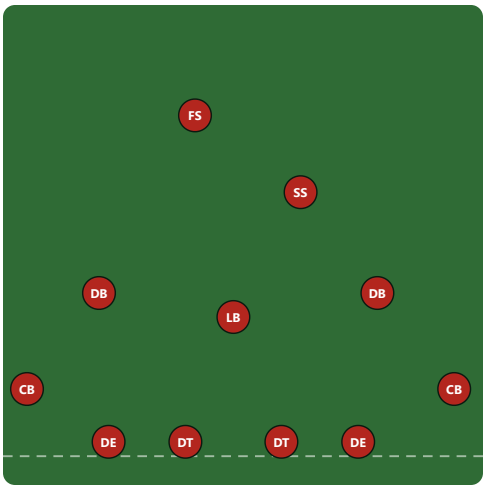
4 DL, 3 LB, 4 DB

Base 3-4



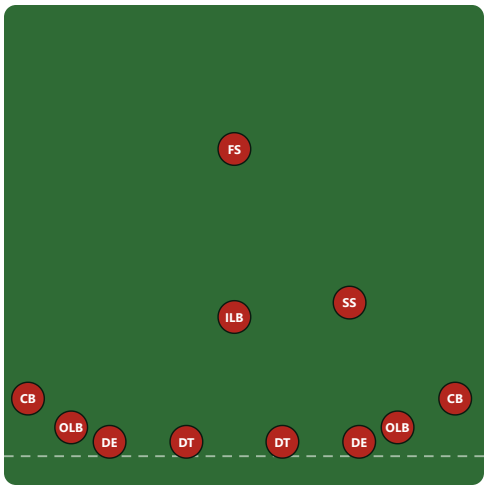
3 DL, 4 LB, 4 DB

Dime



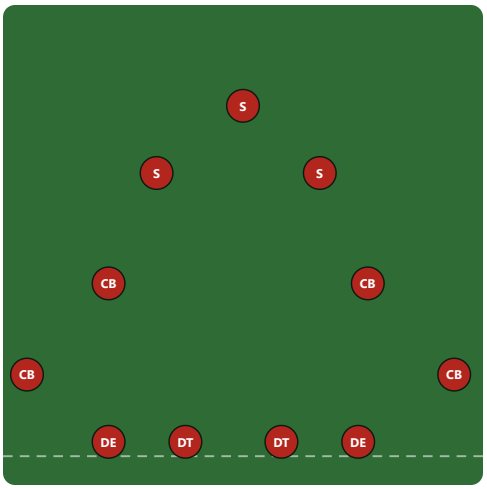
4 DL, 1 LB, 6 DB

Four Six Bear



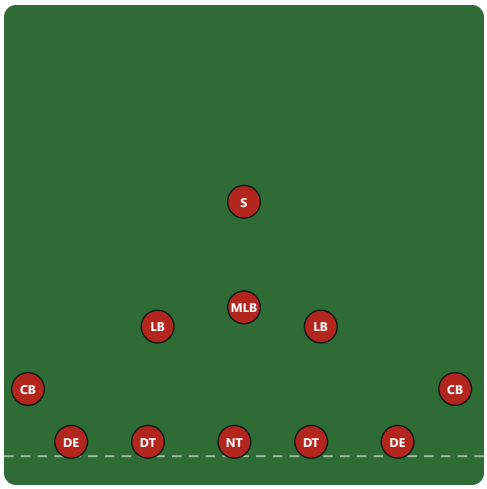
4 DL, 3 LB, 4 DB

Quarter



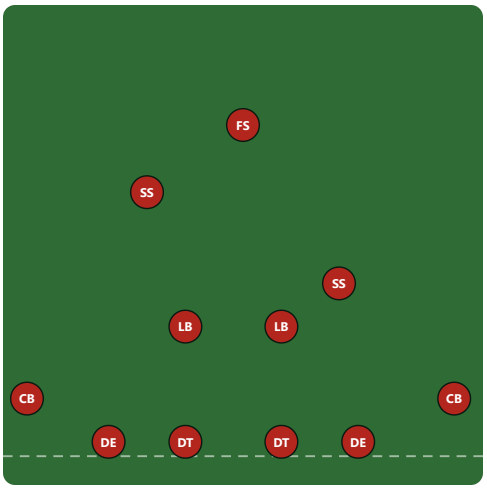
4 DL, 0 LB, 7 DB

Goal Line



5 DL, 3 LB, 3 DB

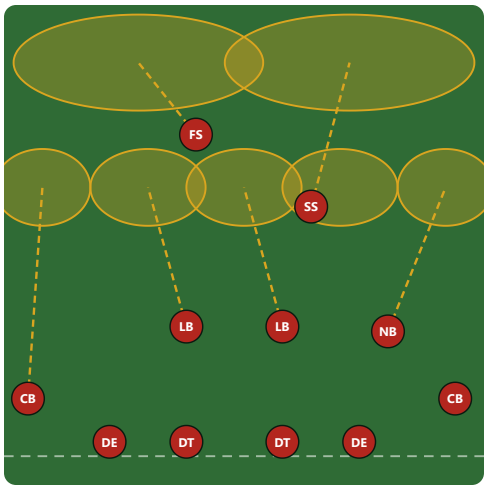
Big Nickel



4 DL, 2 LB, 5 DB

Zone coverage

Cover 2 Zone

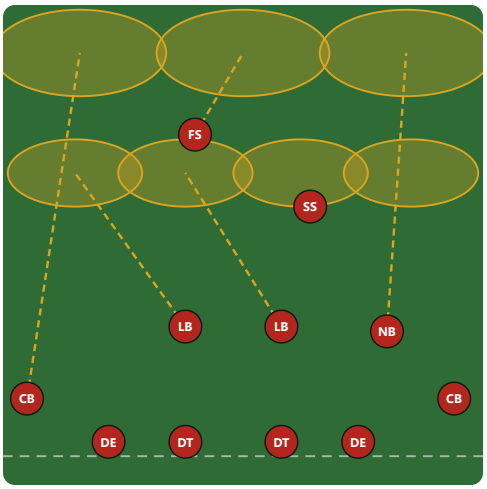


In a Nickel front

Stops: Four Verts, Slant-and-Go, Screen, Quick Slant, Fade Route

Gives up: Dagger, WR End-Around, Curl Route, Mesh, HB Dive, HB Off Tackle, HB Counter, FB Dive, Deep Post, Play Action Deep, QB Sneak, Tush Push, Smash, Out Route, Play Action Boot

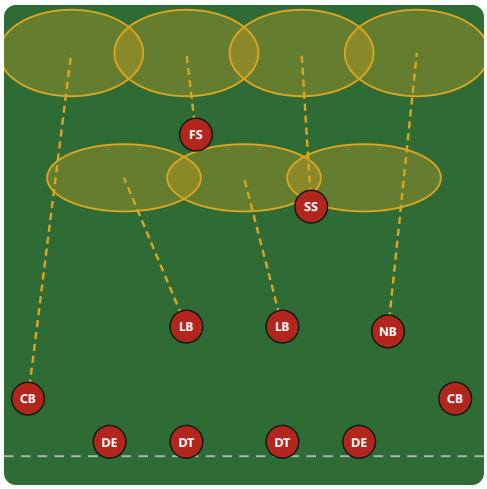
Cover 3 Zone



In a Nickel front

Gives up: Deep Post, Short Out, Out Route, Play Action Boot, Curl Route, Dagger, Smash, Comeback Route, Mesh, QB Sneak, Tush Push, Quick Slant, WR End-Around

Cover 4 Zone

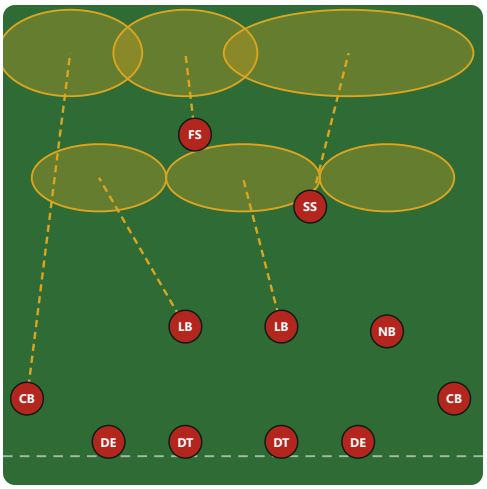


In a Nickel front

Stops: Slant-and-Go, Four Verts, Fade Route, Deep Post, Play Action Deep, Smash, Hail Mary, Flea Flicker

Gives up: Quick Slant, Short Cross, Play Action Short, WR End-Around, HB Dive, HB Off Tackle, HB Counter, HB Draw, FB Dive, QB Sneak, Tush Push

Cover 6

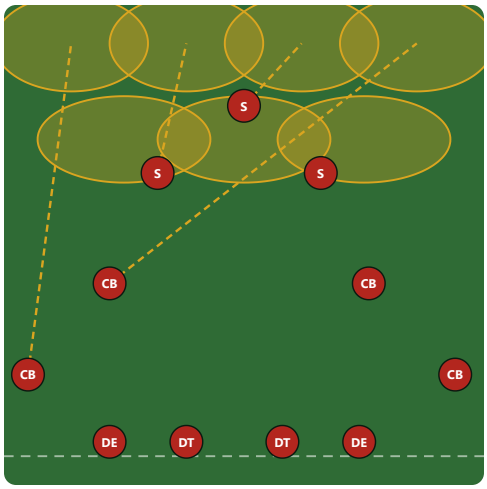


In a Nickel front

Stops: Deep Post, Four Verts, Smash, Fade Route, Play Action Deep, Flea Flicker, Deep Cross

Gives up: WR End-Around, HB Dive, HB Off Tackle, HB Counter, HB Draw, FB Dive, QB Sneak, Tush Push

Prevent Defense



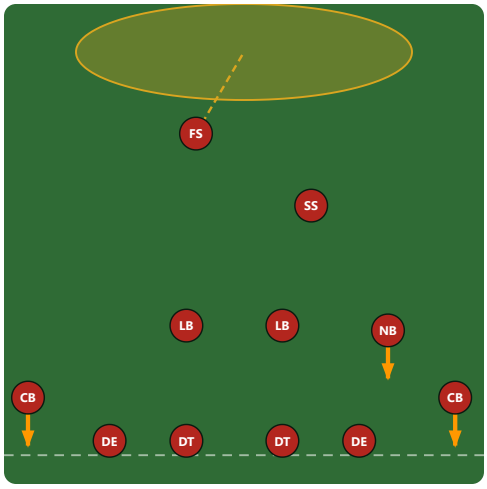
In a Quarter front

Stops: Four Verts, Slant-and-Go, Fade Route, Hail Mary, Play Action Deep, Deep Post, Smash, Flea Flicker, Deep Cross

Gives up: WR End-Around, HB Dive, HB Off Tackle, HB Counter, HB Draw, FB Dive, Shovel Pass, Quick Slant, Check Down, HB Stretch, HB Pitch, Short Out, Short Cross, Play Action Short, QB Sneak, Tush Push, Screen, Curl Route, Mesh

Man coverage

Cover 1 Man

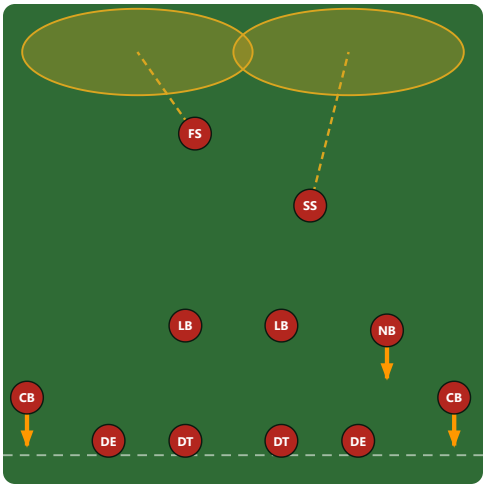


In a Nickel front

Stops: Curl Route, Deep Post

Gives up: Quick Slant, Short Cross, Slant-and-Go, Play Action Short, Fade Route, Play Action Deep, Shovel Pass, Deep Cross, QB Sneak, Tush Push, Four Verts, Mesh

Cover 2 Man



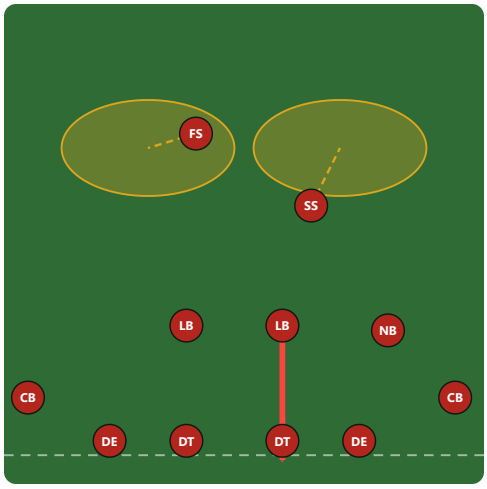
In a Nickel front

Stops: Four Verts, Flea Flicker

Gives up: Short Cross, Dagger, Mesh, Play Action Short, WR End-Around, HB Dive, HB Off Tackle, HB Counter, HB Draw, FB Dive, Shovel Pass, Quick Slant, QB Sneak, Tush Push, Deep Cross

Blitz packages

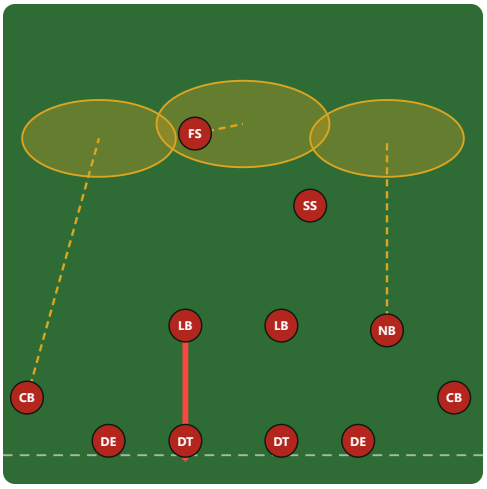
Linebacker Blitz



In a Nickel front · Rushers added: 1

Gives up: Screen, Check Down, Quick Slant, HB Counter, HB Draw, Play Action Short, WR End-Around, QB Sneak, Tush Push, Short Out, Short Cross

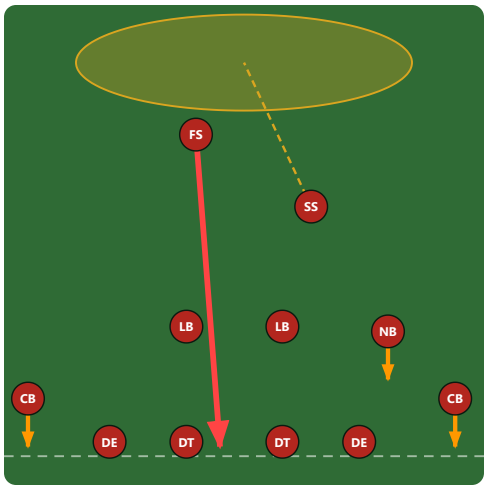
Zone Blitz



In a Nickel front · Rushers added: 1

Gives up: Check Down, HB Counter, HB Draw, WR End-Around, Quick Slant, Screen, QB Sneak, Tush Push

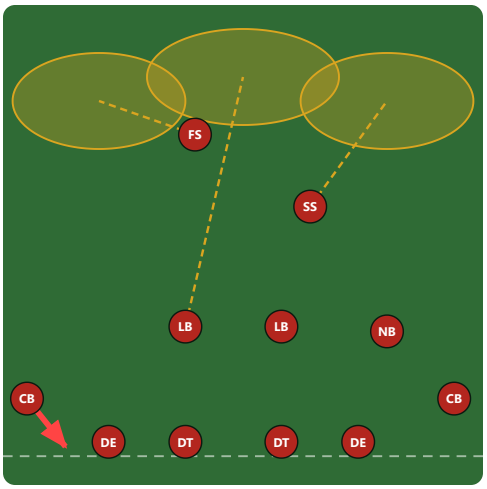
Safety Blitz



In a Nickel front · Rushers added: 1

Gives up: Screen, Check Down, Quick Slant, HB Counter, HB Draw, WR End-Around, Shovel Pass, QB Sneak, Tush Push, Short Out, Short Cross, Play Action Short, Deep Cross

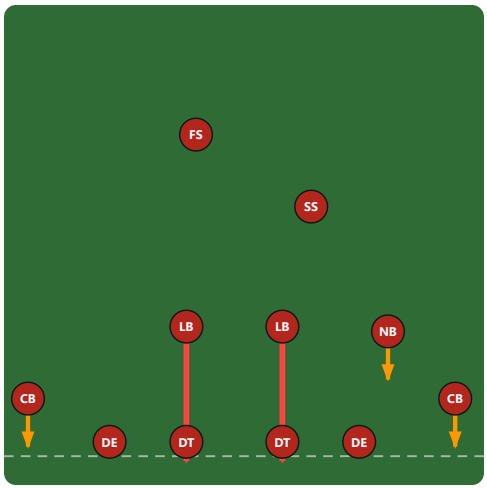
Corner Blitz



In a Nickel front · Rushers added: 1

Gives up: Screen, Check Down, Quick Slant, Shovel Pass, HB Counter, HB Draw, HB Dive, HB Off Tackle, FB Dive, Short Out, QB Sneak, Tush Push, Short Cross, Play Action Short

Cover 0 Man Blitz

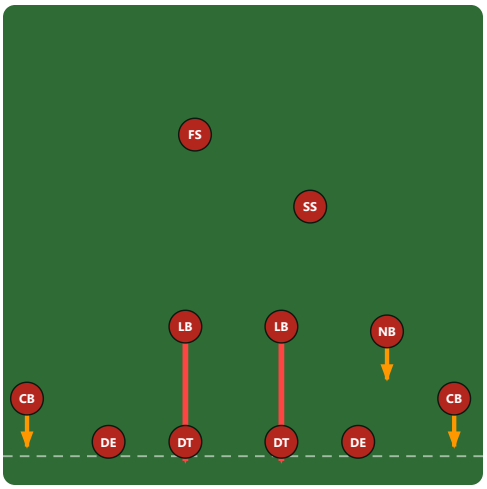


In a Nickel front · Rushers added: 2

Stops: Curl Route, Out Route, Mesh, Dagger, Comeback Route

Gives up: Screen, Quick Slant, Check Down, HB Draw, Shovel Pass, Four Verts, Slant-and-Go, Play Action Boot, Fade Route, HB Counter, WR End-Around, Short Out, Short Cross, Play Action Short, Deep Cross, Deep Post, Smash, Play Action Deep, Flea Flicker, QB Sneak, Tush Push

All Out Blitz



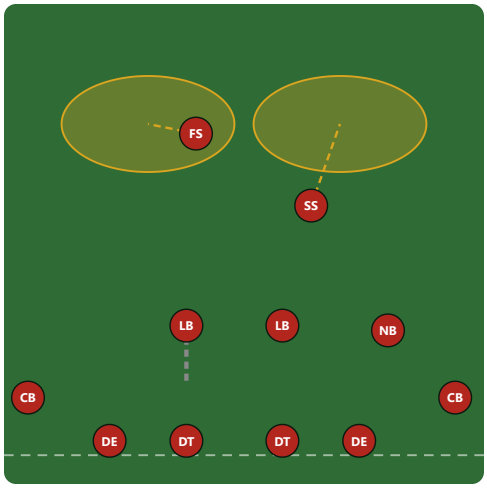
In a Nickel front · Rushers added: 2

Stops: Curl Route, Out Route, Mesh, Dagger, Comeback Route, Play Action Boot

Gives up: Screen, Check Down, HB Draw, Quick Slant, Shovel Pass, HB Counter, WR End-Around, Short Out, Short Cross, Play Action Short, Deep Cross, Deep Post, Four Verts, Smash, Fade Route, Play Action Deep, Flea Flicker, QB Sneak, Tush Push, HB Stretch, HB Pitch

Special

Spy QB



In a Nickel front

In the engine, a designed quarterback run (not a sneak or Tush Push) loses a large share of its gain against a called spy, and shovel passes suffer. The tags below don't count that.

Gives up: Deep Cross, Mesh, Short Cross, Play Action Short, Dagger, Smash, QB Sneak, Tush Push, WR End-Around, Quick Slant, HB Dive, HB Off Tackle, HB Counter, HB Draw, FB Dive, Deep Post, Play Action Deep