

126/924 Keep

This is what we should have for when the defense has been reacting to 124/926 Quick, still sitting on the 124/926 Trap, and you don't think our team is up to installing a 125/925 Read. If the defense has been reacting to the 100 and 900 formation by stuffing the strong side A gap but a middle or inside linebacker has not been plugging the opposite A gap, then they're vulnerable to this quarterback keeper that goes to the opposite A gap from the fullback's dive or trap in this new handling of the 20 series. It should hit faster than a counter, almost as fast as the Quick hitter, and about the same speed as Trap. It should not be run often, just enough to keep the fullback dive good; if you want to make the defense wrong all the time, then install the Read, especially against odd fronts.

The quarterback steps as for Quick with one foot, but his second step is back off the sideline, pulling the ball back just as the fullback gets there. From the strong side it should still be pretty convincing for the defense so they'll converge from the line onto the fullback so releasing inside should be enough, but the weak side will still need protection for the quarterback. As I've diagrammed it in these examples, it's up to the guard and tackle to decide how to handle the defensive tackle on that side. The tackle's folding inside, as shown against the Bear front, is the least desirable but may be necessary as a way to get a body on a middle linebacker. If the tackle can directly handle the defensive tackle, crabbing him if necessary, and the guard is uncovered, that'd be the best possibility. Against a 4-4 or 6-2, the guard needs to block the defensive guard, assisted if necessary by a chip from the center on his way to the linebacker on that side. Against a nose, an uncovered weak side guard may help by chipping him on the way to the linebacker.

Meanwhile the halfback has to see that end of the defensive line, and protect against it if need be instead of carrying out his sweep fake. The quarterback's not going to get back deep enough to meet him, so the sweep fake is not important.

There is no element of draw play to this. The quarterback should not be tempted to raise the ball, but instead should hide the fact that he still has it. There is no sally blocking here, the defensive line is already as set up for this play as they need to be.

