

# CHAPTER 15: POWER READ PASS

## POWER READ PASS: five-man protection & route combos

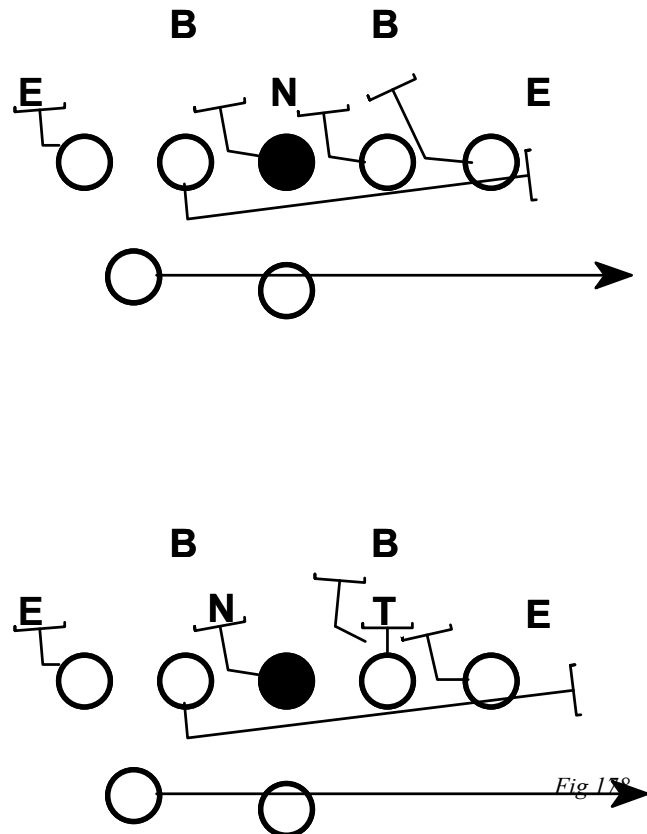
Power Read Pass Protection must look identical to Power Read Runs. Power Read Runs are available out of the Flexbone and other Tex-Bone formations—even though they most often come out of a spread look.

The five-man protection on Power Read Run entices defenders to react quickly. Filling linebackers vacate their coverage responsibilities and the open space behind them. This protection naturally spreads the field, sells the run, and provides five immediate receiver options.

### POWER READ PROTECTION

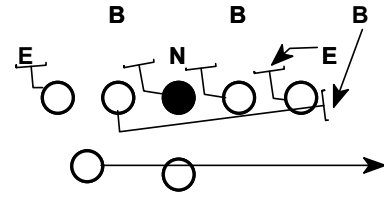
Again, Power Read Pass Protection must look identical to Power Read Run. The guard and tackle execute down blocks on the play side. They look for filling linebackers if uncovered at the first level. The pulling guard becomes the C-gap blocker at the point of attack instead of wrapping to the play side linebacker at the second level. This blocking scheme covers the three play side gaps.

The center and tackle block the A-gap and C-gap on the backside. The B-gap is unaccounted for because of the backside guard pull. Most of the time the backside linebacker scrapes over the top instead of filling the vacated gap however. Is the protection potentially compromised when the backside guard pulls? Yes. The risk is tempered by the big reward of the defense becoming shorthanded if the backside linebacker fills the unblocked B-gap though. The two diagrams of Figure 178 demonstrate Power Read Pass Protection.



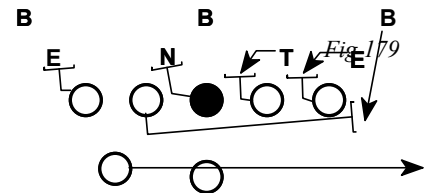
### Power Read Protection vs. Blitz

Power Read Protection covers all gaps against a play side blitz (see Figure 179). The play side tackle must know via a call to stay man-to-man on the defensive end when pressure is applied. This allows the pulling guard to work to the A or C-gap blitzer.



### Blitz Answers

Answers are needed when a defense runs a six-man blitz against a five-man pass protection scheme. The following illustration (Figure 180) shows a variety of responses to six-man pressure packages.

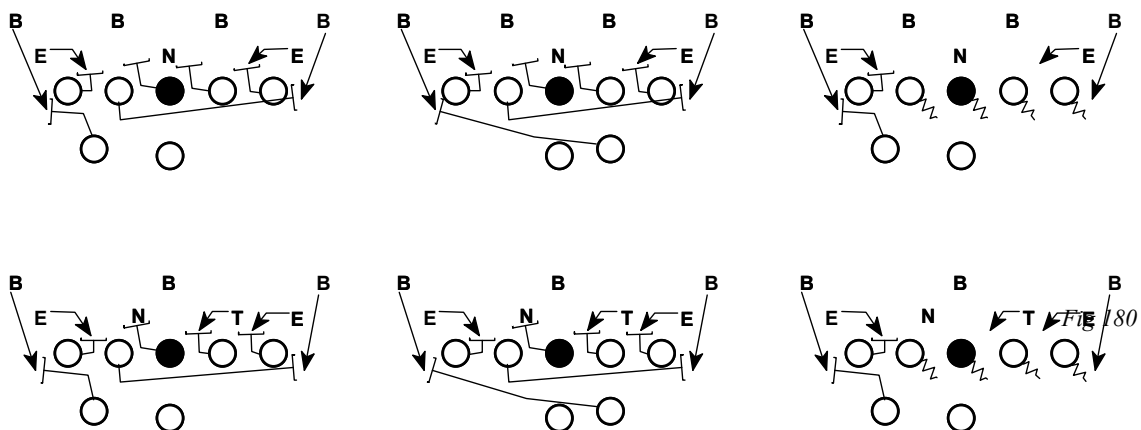


All protection adjustments must address vulnerabilities on the backside. In our normal Power Read Protection there are only two blockers to the backside. The running back becomes the third blocker when an extra pass rusher joins the play.

The first option (shown in the left column of Figure 180) is for the quarterback is cancel the Power Read sweep action and maintain the rest of the Power Read protection. This blitz answer still influences linebackers by keeping the quarterback run fake in place. The second option (shown in the middle column of Figure 180) is to change the type of fake between the quarterback and running back from a Power Read fake to a dive fake. This allows the running back to pick up the open backside gap once he clears the dive fake. Both of these choices provide six protectors to protect six gaps while maintaining play action run capabilities.

The third protection option (shown in the right column of Figure 180) is to use a traditional Pass Protection of half man on the backside and half zone on the play side. The running back works opposite the offensive tackle on the backside to complete the scheme. This is a great blitz answer if the quarterback knows he's facing cover zero and doesn't need to show play-action influence. (Against covers zero there is no need to sell play-action because defenders aren't in a run fit/zone drop conflict.)

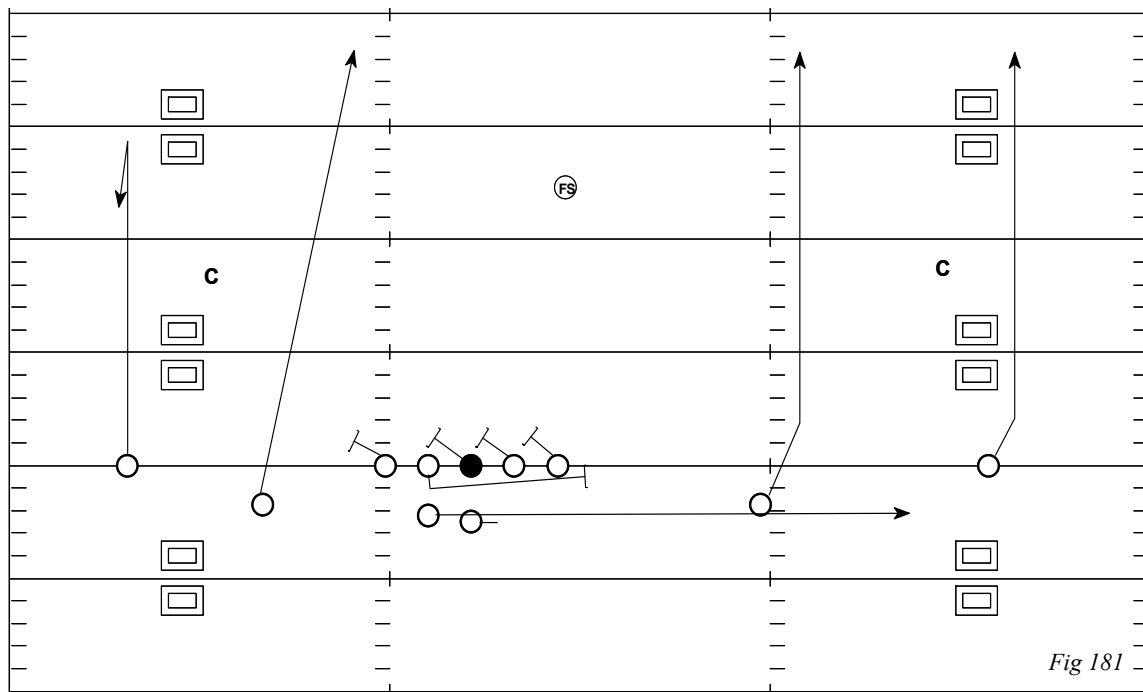
It is advantageous to stick with a Power blocking scheme against any variety of zone blitz. This allows you to sell play-action to defenders responsible for both run gaps and pass zones.



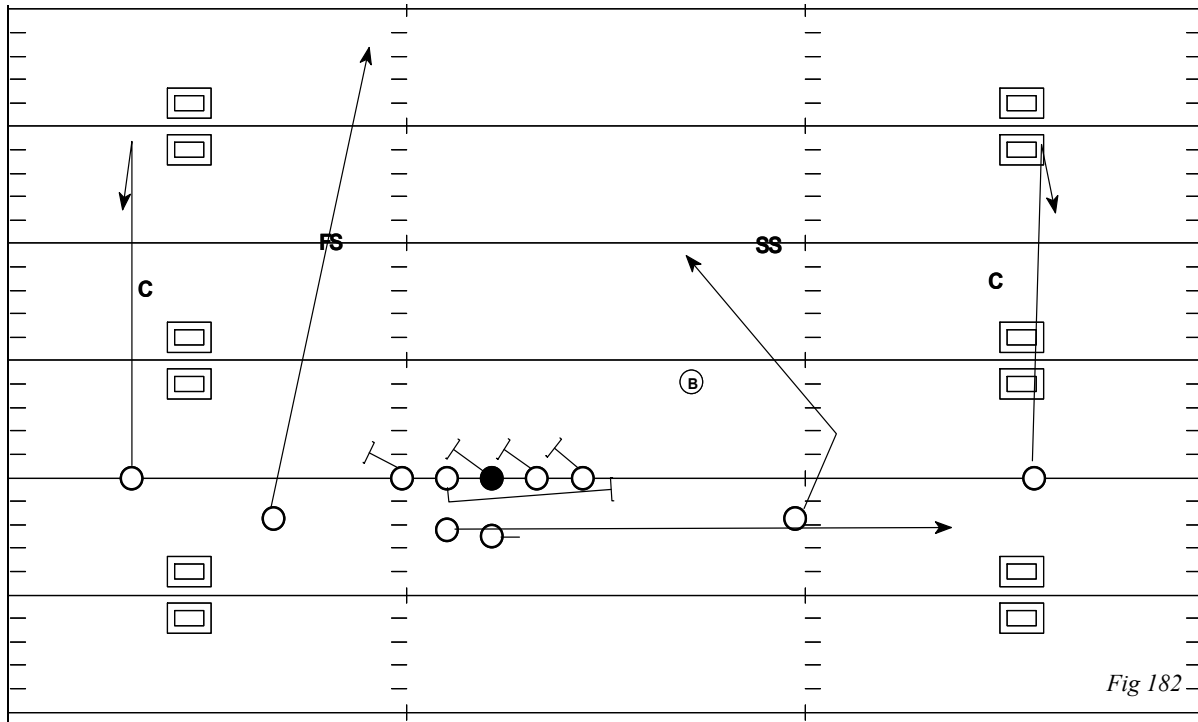
## VERTICAL SEAMS

The primarily route pattern we pair Power Read Protection with is Vertical Seams. We match our Vertical Seams to the coverage we are facing. The next few illustrations show how Vertical Seams are tailored to any coverage.

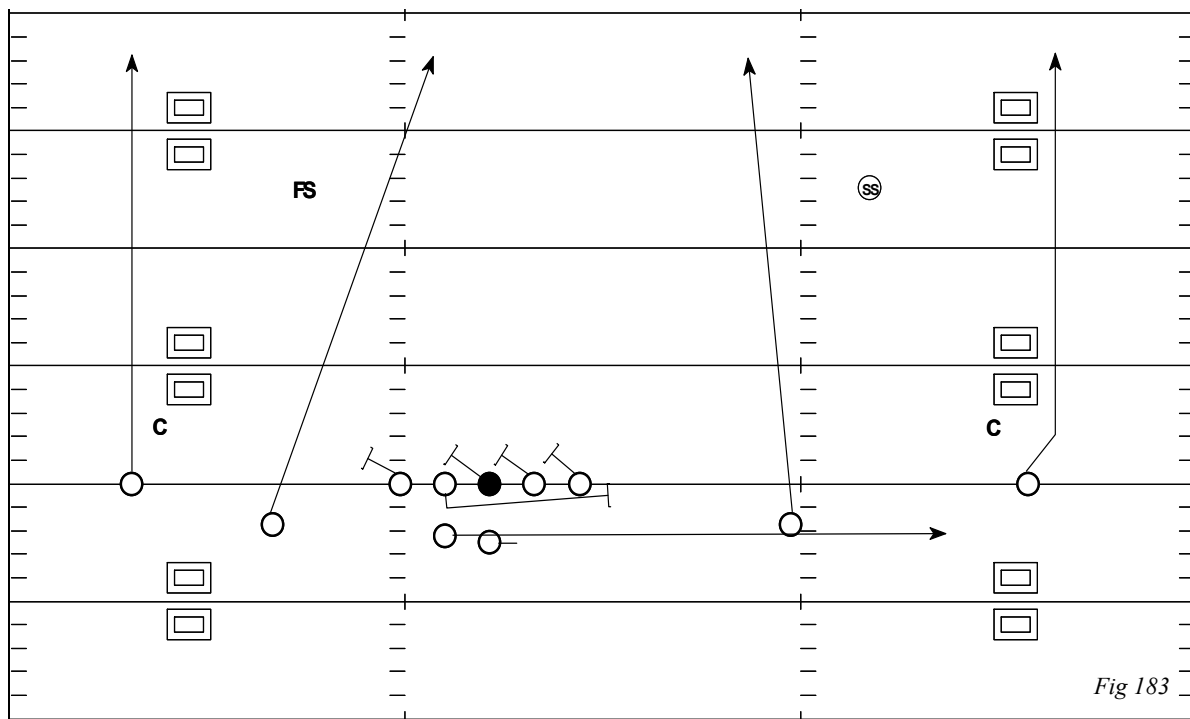
Figure 181 shows Vertical Seams against a Cover 3 defense. Coaches that use four verticals know that Cover 3 is the defense they would most like to face when running Vertical Seams. Our quarterbacks know to read the middle safety in Cover 3. When the middle safety shades one direction or the other they attempt to target the most uncovered seam. We build a check down built into either side of the field if either of the vertical seams isn't appealing. The check down is a running back stretch to the flat or wide side and the 14-yard comeback to the boundary.



We modify our vertical seams to man coverage rules against Cover 4 (Figure 182). The inside receiver adjusts by widening outside to wrap around above the inside linebacker and in front of the safety. This route is different than what we use to attack Cover 3 defenses.

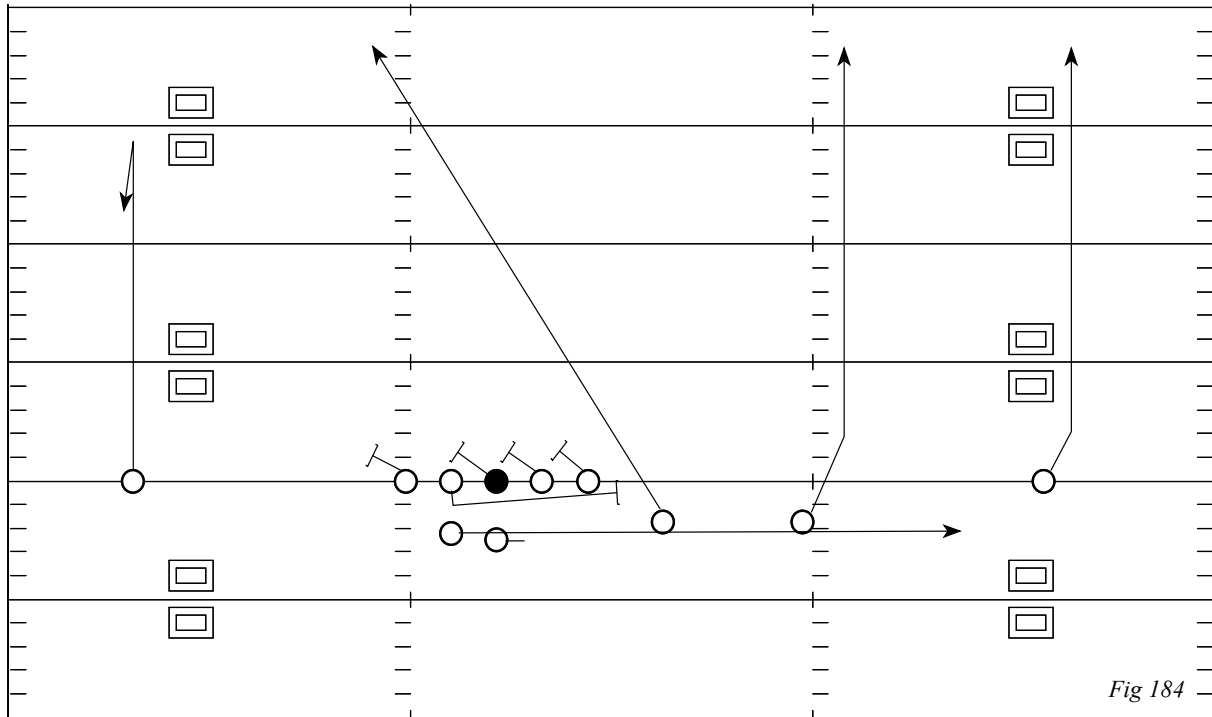


Our quarterback picks one half-field safety in Cover 2 to double team in coverage. The inside seam route in Figure 183 works inside the hash because there is an entire half of the field to work with. The goal is to give the Cover 2 safety too much field to cover at one time. We target the outside vertical if the safety stays tight to the hash. If the safety widens and gets out by the numbers, we target the inside seam.



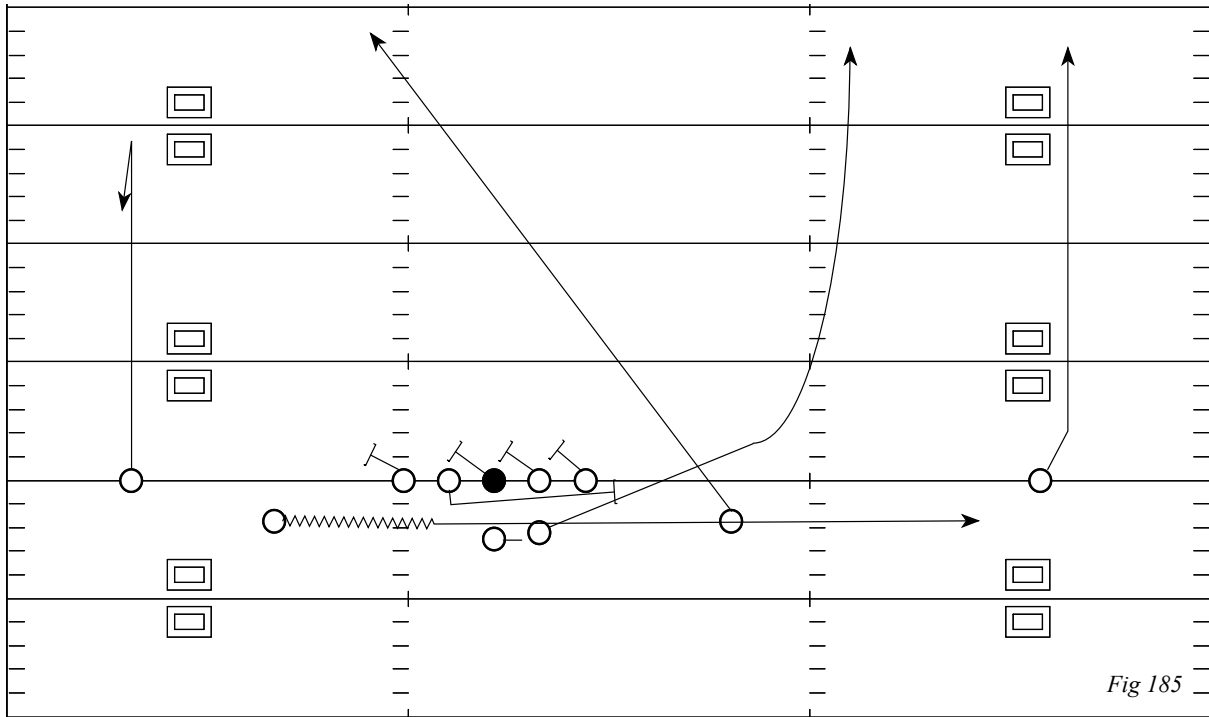
We like to keep the running back in the flat as a check down. Naturally there are times when this changes and the running back needs to stay in and protect. Ultimately the goal is to get the running back into the pass pattern as often as possible. Our running back is always able to release to the flat off the Power Read fake against basic three or four-man rushes.

Figure 184 shows Vertical Seams in a 3x1 formation. A 3x1 formation targets various defensive coverages as well as any 2x2 look does. The routes from 3x1 adjust to coverage just as they do from 2x2.



## JET MOTION VERTICAL SEASMS

We also like to run Vertical Seams off of Jet Motion (as shown in Figure 185). Vertical Seams with Jet Motion uses the running back to run a seam toward the motion. The slot receiver then works across the field to the backside seam.



## VERTICAL STOPS

The complement to Vertical Seams is Vertical Stops. Vertical Stops are run to 12 yards before turning and settling. This depth takes advantage of deep coverage trying to stay on top of the Vertical Seams. Figure 186 shows how intermediate zones open up when linebackers are forced to react to the Power Read influence. The quarterback will look inside-out to the side of the running back's route.

