

SAFETY CONTROLS THE READ CALL

I have been surprised to learn that 2 Read can mean a lot of different things to different Coaches and there are a lot of guys who do it differently with great success. Most everybody reads the #2 WR and adjusts off of what he does. When I first learned about 2 Read, I was a bit skeptical of having to depend on two guys making the same read on the #2 WR, because if one guy makes a mistake, it is six points.

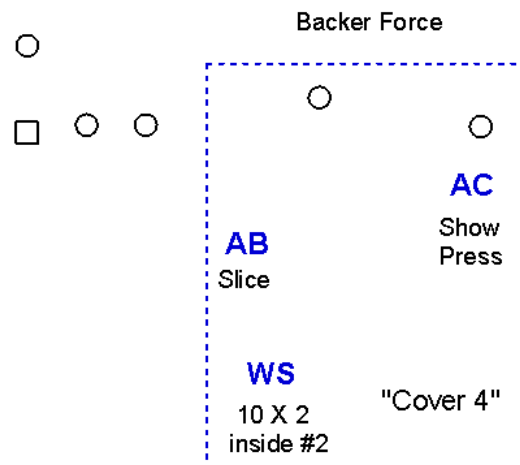
I don't like things that are sketchy with any possibility of major busts, so I learned a better way: Put the Safety in control of the read. This will ensure that we are always right and doing the same thing, even if the Safety misreads it. I tell them, "Even if we're all wrong, we're still alright because we're all on the same page."

If #2 is vertical, the Safety takes him Man. I used to teach it that the Safety takes him once he gets past 8 yds, but to make it easier, I have the Safety take him once he passes the Nickel or LB, so really it ends up being 6 yds.

If #2 is Out, the Safety makes a "Wheel" call, telling the Corner that he has the Out and Wheel of 2. Some people make an "Out" call, but I like to communicate "Wheel," so we are expecting the Wheel. We always want to anticipate the Wheel and the Screen & Go and we rep the mess out of those because eliminating explosive plays is a priority of our Defense.

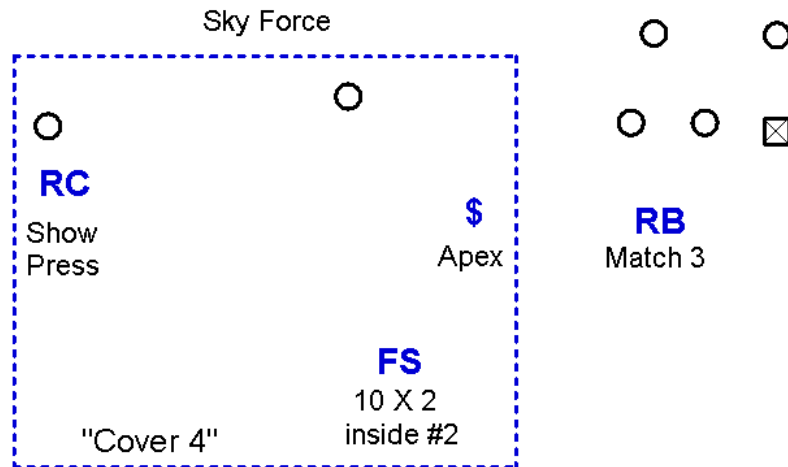
Here are some diagrams:

Away Side - 4



For teaching purposes, I will diagram the coverage vs a 2 x 2 formation. In TCU terminology, the Read Side is to the passing strength and the Away Side is away from the passing strength. To the Away Side we have the Weak Safety, the Away Side Corner or Boundary Corner, and the Away-Side LB. Many people that run 2 Read have the Corner read #2, but I want my guys to keep their eyes on 1 and play him vertical until the Safety tells me not to. Everyone depends on the eyes of the Safety and we will all work together to make his call work.

Read Side - 4



To the Read Side, we have the Free Safety, the Read-Side Corner or Wide Corner, and the Strong Safety. The Read-Side Backer will match #3 (the Back). 2 Read gets a little trickier to the Read Side (usually the wide side of the Field) due to the increased distance and varying splits between the #1 and 2 WRs. If the splits are too wide, we cannot run 2 Read. The FS will determine if he is close enough to play the vertical of 1. I don't give them a set distance; rather, it is something we work on in practice until we get a feel for it, as it also depends on the speed of the Safety and the #1 WR.

If the Safety cannot play the vertical of 1, he will make a call to check to regular Quarters. Now in Quarters, the CB will take #1 vertical, the FS will take #2 vertical, and the \$ becomes the Flat player.