

SCOUTING & HUDDLE

Phases of Creating an Effective Game Plan

This process cannot start on Saturday morning. It starts in the spring and continues during the summer. Then during the season, you are “stockpiling” as much film as possible on that Week 8 opponent and having a system to get that data entered before you play them. You have to network and form relationships with other coaches or pay some seniors on campus who don’t play football to go film the other team.

Are you self-scouting yourself? In the spring, preferably before clinic season, the defensive coaches need to break down all of their games just as if they were playing themselves. Not only is this very insightful, it builds camaraderie on the staff, is a great dress-rehearsal for the season, and trains a new addition to the staff on how you do things.

PHASE ONE: Getting Everyone to Talk Same Language

We dedicate a lot of time in spring and summer making sure that all our coaches are calling the formations, motions, and plays the same. Then we follow up with our “Football 101” class with our players. We want to make sure that what they learned playing Madden is in alignment with what the coaches will be telling them.

PHASE TWO: Breakdown the Opponent

Across America this happens on the weekend. The head coach and the coordinator pulling teeth to get all the coaches to enter their data. Data is very powerful, the more data you enter, the deeper you can get inside their offensive coordinator’s head. But for us, this breakdown starts in the Spring.

PHASE THREE: How Will We Defend Them?

If there are no coaching changes, we would like to have 60-70% of this decided before August camp ever opens up. But during the season, this also happens on the weekend, on a white board. The data is used to generate reports and get tendencies. We want to stop their favorite plays and the data helps with that. However, we also want to keep the ball out of their “dude”, so matchups are important.

PHASE FOUR: Come Up With A Plan

While this has to be done by Sunday night, we will tweak it during the week in practice.

PHASE FIVE: Install That Plan

This gets back to PHASE ONE. The best chess player on the planet can by the DC, but if the players don’t understand what the coaches are telling them, none of it matters. Don’t change the defense every week. As little checks as possible. Powerful buzz words.

PHASE SIX: Execute the Plan

FRIDAY NIGHT BABY! Execute the plan and make sure you have “fail-safe systems” in place when something is not working.