

Defensive Philosophy

Defend the goal line!! While it is always a great accomplishment to have a great run defense or pass defense, ultimately, we need to stop the opposing offense from crossing the goal line. At the end of the day, a defense is measured by how many points they allow when they take the field. The most important aspect of this mentality is to make sure we are putting our athletes in the best position to be successful. Therefore, we must always dictate our specific defensive scheme to the strengths of our players. Overall, defense is about effort, physicality, and playing as a unit. Regardless of the specific X's and O's, if we play fast to the football and execute assignments, we will be successful.

SPEED TO THE FOOTBALL

1. ***Effort, effort, effort*** – we will operate with a work ethic never seen before
2. ***The ball is priority*** – create takeaways!!!
3. ***Get to the football*** – No offensive player can run through eleven defenders – 9-5-9 Rule!

**Bend but don't break, pressure, zone, man to man – every scheme has won a championship – the commonality is effort, tenacity, and physicality to the football! **

DO YOUR JOB

1. ***Knowledge*** – Starts with the position coach and ends with the position player – everyone needs to know the scheme
2. ***1/11th*** – Perfect your craft! Focus on your assignment and trust in your teammates to do the same
3. ***Attention to Detail*** – Scheme, technique, and fundamentals
4. At the end of the day, we will win if we do our jobs, defeat blocks, and tackle – it's that simple

NO BIG PLAYS

1. ***Force Patience*** – Big plays are the life blood of most offensive schemes today – very few players and coaches are patient enough to march the field
2. ***Keep the Ball in Front*** – Be assignment sound, rally to the ball, be great tacklers
3. ***1000 Papercuts*** – If we die, it's by 1000 papercuts – never let an offense go for the jugular

TAKE THE FOOTBALL AWAY

1. ***Rip Out the Ball*** – As a “speed to the football” defense, we will secure the tackle and the 2nd, 3rd, and 4th defenders will get the ball
2. ***Practice Emphasis*** – Takeaway drills will be a priority during practice – especially early in the season – incorporate takeaway principles into everyday drills
3. ***Force the Offense Off the Field*** – It's not just fumbles and interceptions – 3rd downs are takeaway downs! – GET THE FOOTBALL!