

WEEK 1 GIANTS VS COWBOYS

Each week you will hear commentators, coaches, fans or reporters give some reasons for winning and losing. They will give you the same old quotes. They just out played us, the other team wanted it more, or we just didn't make enough plays when we needed to. The day after you will always receive the reality of what happened right here. We have studied the film and we saw a lot of missed opportunities and mistakes that can be corrected. Well I am here to tell you about some of those same mistakes and missed opportunities they saw on film. These are things most fans don't see when they watch a game, but are discussed the day after during film breakdown.

1st QTR NYG OFF-

First series for the Giants OFF was a glimpse into what was going to happen the rest of the game. On the **second** offensive play they had a little action pass where Ahmad Bradshaw was supposed to cut number 97 Jason Hatcher but fails to knock him to the ground which forces Eli to throw to his check down in Cruz.

The 3rd play of the series was one of Victor Cruz's several drops on the day. What the normal fan sees as just a drop, I saw as a badly run route. Dallas was in a soft cov 4 zone, which Eli was expecting Cruz to simply sit in the hole a step earlier than he did. This caused the ball to be thrown slightly bit behind him. The ball should have been caught but in football this is why they say every inch counts!

Obviously the Giants had a great drive going on there second possession but were hurt by the rookie's fumble. Again 1 guy not doing their job.

1st QTR NYG DEF-

The NYG Def was solid in the first QTR even getting a sack. On that play Rocky Benard took advantage of a new Dallas lineman playing his first game under a big contract with first game jitters.

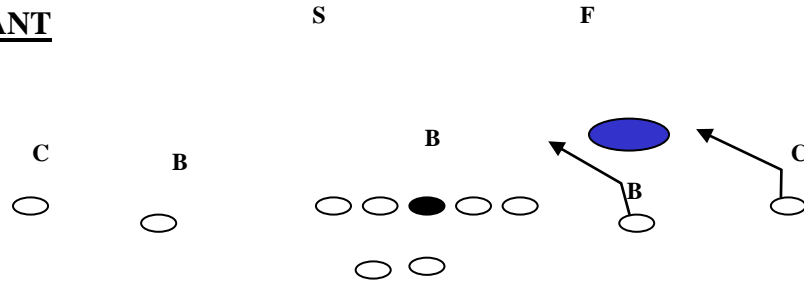
What you didn't see was how the Giants would play there D against certain sets and personnel groupings.

With **5:22** left in the qtr it was 3rd and 4 Dallas came out in a 2x2 set and the Giants showed a cover 2 look pre-snap. Jacquian Williams lined up over Jason Whitten in the slot when he ran an inside route taking Williams with him. This opened up a huge hole for the slant to Ogletree – it was like stealing!

Two plays later the Def brought an extra rusher, which caused some confusion on the Dallas line. Rivers came free off the edge, forcing Romo out of the pocket and into making a quick decision that should have been picked by Webster. A play later on a 3rd and 10 the Boys showed a 2x2 set again and the Giants showed a 2 man look for the same

result, a stolen 9 yards to Ogletree on the slant. This in essence also gets the ball out of Romo's hands, neutralizing the Giants' mighty D-Line on 3rd and long. The slot WR is really there to occupy the backer. The Blue circle shows where the void is if the corner can't control WR.

THE SLANT



2nd QTR NYG OFF-

This drive started at the end of the 1st qtr score still 0-0.

1st down play on the plus 41yd line. Not sure if Eli could have checked out of this play or not. They had a play action called and the Cowboys (possibly expecting this) had a great 3 over 3 Zone Blitz called which caused a loss of 15 yards. **(Drive Killer)**

After getting back a few yards on 2nd down, they were left with a manageable 3rd and 14. Unfortunately, David Diehl gets abused by Spencer, which forces Eli to leave the pocket (not a strength of his) and throws the ball away. Dallas only rushed 3 and dropped 8. They would not have gotten a first down, but could have been close enough to maybe try a FG or go for it.

On the goal line after the INT the Giants O-Line had a miserable performance. Each guy made their mistakes on that set of downs. Yes, there should have been a holding call on Cruz, but there are no excuses in this game – especially in the film room Monday morning.

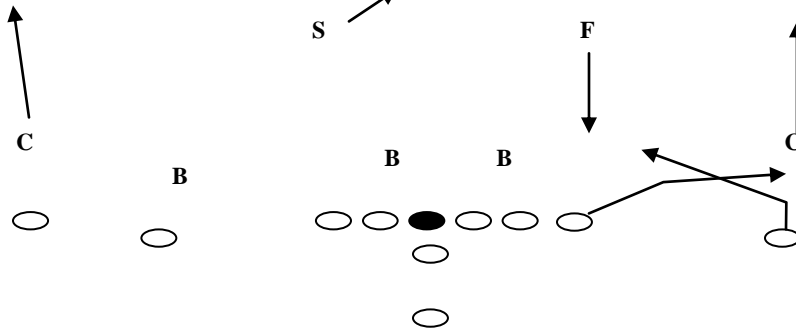
With 5:18 left in the half the Giants were up 3-0 with the ball on their own 15 yard line. The Giants came out in a “21 personnel” = 2 Backs 1TE Pro LT set. They tried running what looked like an “A” gap power. The play doesn't matter. What matters is the O-line got a hat on a hat, but Bradshaw danced rather darted. The line didn't get much push but on the power play you need to be decisive and move north IMMEDIATELY!

The third down play we all remember is when Eli missed Bennett by a nose hair. Dallas was in a 2 man look, so I guess Eli liked that match up the best. He would have been correct if Baas didn't get beat, leading Eli to throw a split second sooner than he would have liked. The left side of the o-line did a great job picking up a simple twist. All it takes is one breakdown in this game!

2nd QTR NYG DEF-

The defense was pretty solid the entire 1st half but Jason Garrett started to get a hold of what the Giants game plan was and it showed!

A key play in this drive was the incomplete slant pass to Ogletree into the boundary. Dallas came out in another 2x2 set this time what I call spread right formation into the boundary. TE and the Z WR to the one side 2 WR's split to the left.



The play showed how the Giants should have played the 2x2 look, but didn't until later on in the game. Remember this diagram! Notice the safety rotating right into the hole for the slant.

The Long pass to Bryant down the sideline with 1:59 remaining was just Bryant being better than Webster.

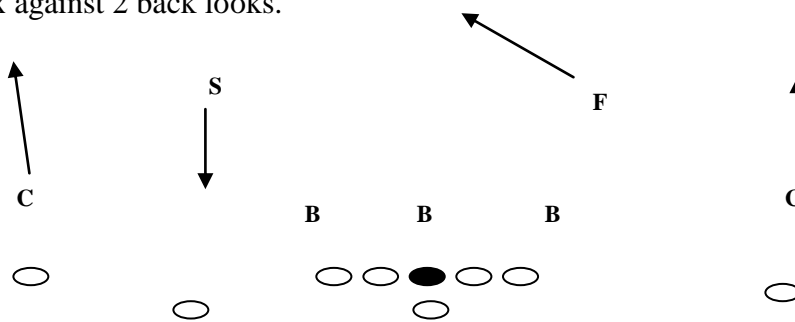
The play after that Dallas came out in the first 2x2 set I drew for you and obtained the same look by the NYG with the same result, a slant pass to Ogltree.

The TD was just Romo being Romo. In this case he was simply better than Eli this game while outside the pocket, but no one ever said that was Eli's strength. Romo extended the play after the Giants had good initial coverage with pressure forcing him to leave the pocket for a scramble play TD.

3rd Qtr/4th Qtr Giants DEF-

On the first drive of the 2nd half the Cowboys executed perfectly. You may have heard the announcers mention how the Giants Def was playing certain sets and attacked it.

2nd and 10 on the plus 40 is a good place to take a shot. They saw in the 1st half the Giants seemed to be rolling from a 2 high set to a 1 high set at the snap, creating an 8 in the box against 2 back looks.



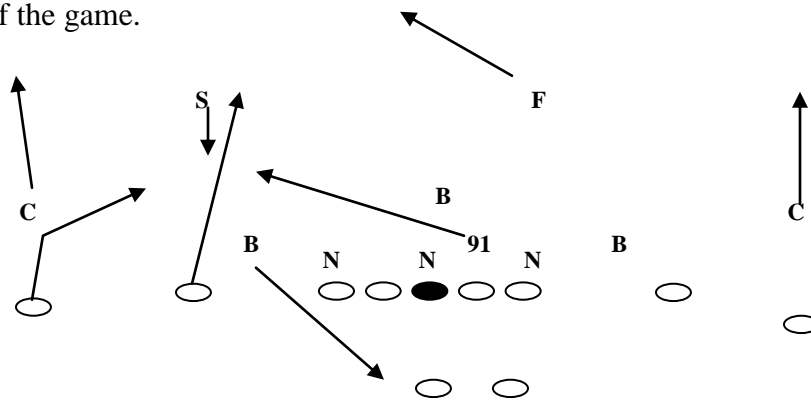
They usually rolled to strength. This creates a cover 3 or man free for the defense. On the double move TD by Ogletree the boys came out in a Twins left open set. They caught the Giants rolling into a cov 3 defense, which also meant that Rolle the safety to Ogletree's side would roll to the middle of the field basically leaving him on an Island with the DB. The Giants Blitzed got pressure, Romo again slid out to buy an extra second and completed the 40 yard TD to Ogletree who beat Webster on the double move.

His job is to have the Deep 3rd meaning keep everything in front of him and if the WR does go vertical, his job is to force him inside where the safety help should be.

At the end of the 3rd Qtr the Giants finally made an adjustment to stop the slant. I believe they started dropping into Cover 3 and rolling the boundary safety down to stop the slant. As shown in picture 2. This worked until the last slant by the Cowboys.

On a 3rd and 12 with the game on the line, the Giants' simple adjustment to stopping the slant wasn't good enough anymore, I guess. They decided to give a different look.

They showed a 3 down look but still brought 4 guys. This confused the O-line and Williams came free off the edge into Romo's face. I think it was a great scheme - they had a trap set - however - the problem was Tuck had to drop from way too far causing the safety to have to honor the Vertical rout for a **split second** too long resulting in the end of the game.



3rd Qtr/4th Qtr Giants OFF-

The Giants OFF had their most important drive down 14-3 in the 3rd quarter. They had given Eli some time to throw for the first time all game on the big 39 yard pass play to Hixon with 6:30 left in the 3rd qtr. They caught Dallas in a Cov 3 shell and Eli made a great throw down the seam.

(5:45) -The very next play shows exactly what coaches mean by do your job. They came out in a pro right set - 2 backs in an "I" formation with the TE to the right with the Z (Slot) receiver, and the X spread out to the left side. The boys slid their front to strength at the snap. The Giants ran an "Iso" play to the weak side in which Baas and Boothe would have a dbl team up to the "Mike" Linebacker. The LT pass sets Ware, Hynoski would lead up on the "Will" Linebacker, while Nicks would crack block the safety leaving Bradshaw 1 on 1 with the DB. Everyone did there job and Ahmad did the rest for the TD. One breakdown in what was just described and Bradshaw maybe gets a yard.

The very next series .34 left in the 3rd, they ran the same play out of a different look and Bradshaw had to fight for 2 yards, as Baas never got up to the 2nd level.

The Giants looked at their worst up front during their drive at the end of the 3rd Qtr/beginning of the 4th only down 17-10. They just got beat by the Cowboys D-line.

GRADES/GAME BALLS

Giants Offense- (C-) Mostly because of the lackluster O-Line play. Eli did a great job with what he had to work with. Cruz had a bad game with several drops, while Hixon showed some flashes of his old self. I don't think Nicks is healthy yet, so have to give him a pass. Bradshaw needs to stop dancing and hit the holes no matter how small they are (which he usually does). As a whole, the Tight-ends and the O-line need to block a lot better.

Giants Defense- (C-) Although they had 24 points scored on them, I think they had a decent game. They stopped the run very well, and only had 1 or 2 bad plays. Against the pass they did get a rush on Romo when he wasn't doing a 3 step drop. The reason for the C – is the corner play and the terrible game plan/adjustments Perry Fewell made. The D-Line can play better, but overall they weren't bad. Corners were terrible and the LBs need to get off blocks and play the pass better.

Giants Special Teams- (B) As usual with this group nothing spectacular or terrible to discuss. Status Quo! If they actually had a good return game I think you would see a much better team overall.