



means do I have all of the answers for turning a program around. This is what worked for us. It does not happen overnight, so a coach and his staff must show some patience. I feel that these three key components have helped us build a solid foundation for the present and future teams here

in New Ulm. We still have a ways to go to catch up with other strong programs, but we feel we are on the right track and definitely “over the hump.”

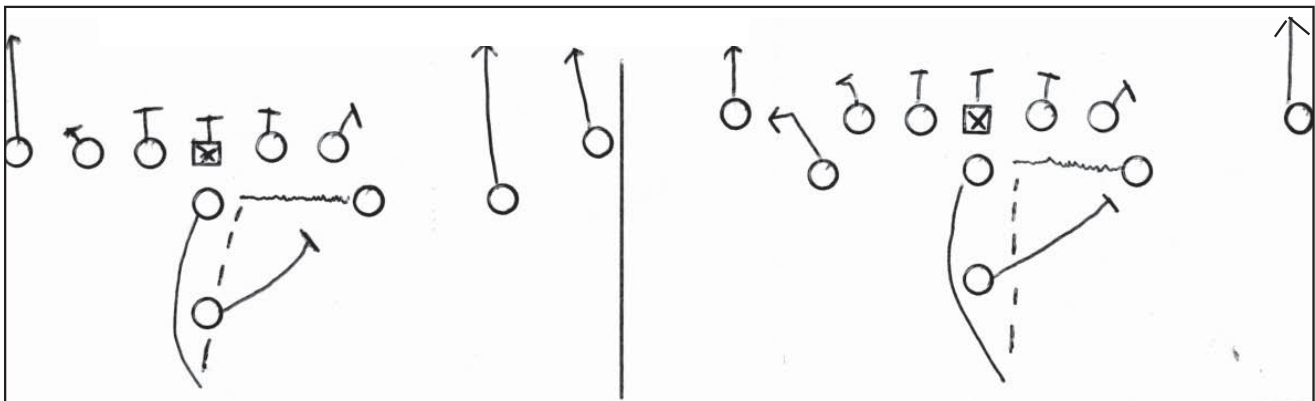
Pierz Pioneer Screens

Head Football Coach: Leo Pohlkamp
18 years as Head and 6 years as an assistant(all at Pierz)
Graduate at St. Cloud State Univ.
Career record at Pierz: 120-60
Assistants: Rick Scublewski, Dean Dahmen
DaveRocheleau, Adam Langer, Dan Saehr
Jr. High: Pat Watercott, Simon Waltman

Over the years at Pierz High School the screen pass has become a very effective play for the pioneers. Running screen plays at the right time is the key. Sometimes we run the screen off of a good run action play in a running situation and it can be even more effective. In a passing situation where players are watching for it and everyone is yelling watch the screen, it usually doesn't work well. Timing is important and running the screens on 1st and 2nd downs can be very productive.

We run a variety of offensive sets at Pierz and we can run a screen off most of them. Here are some of the screens we run: We have a middle screen thrown to the wing back, a tight-end screen run to the weak side, a flare screen run by the wing back, and a fullback screen.

The middle screen is run out of several formations where we use a wing or slot back. Here are 2 formations where we run the middle screen:



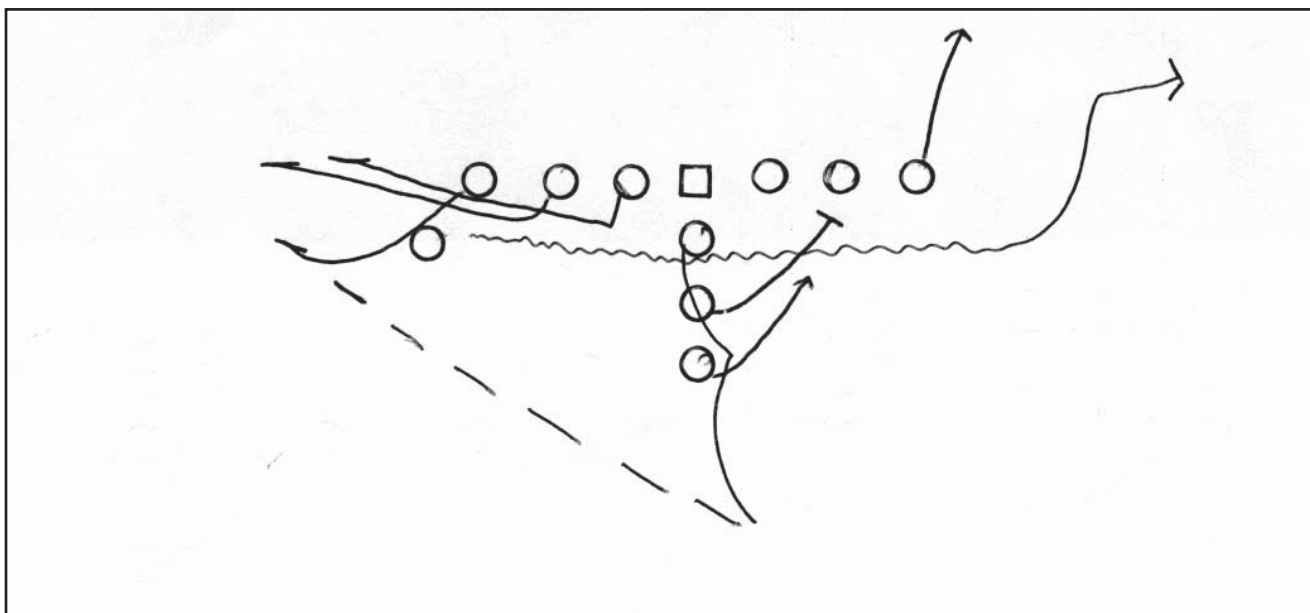


Minnesota High School Football

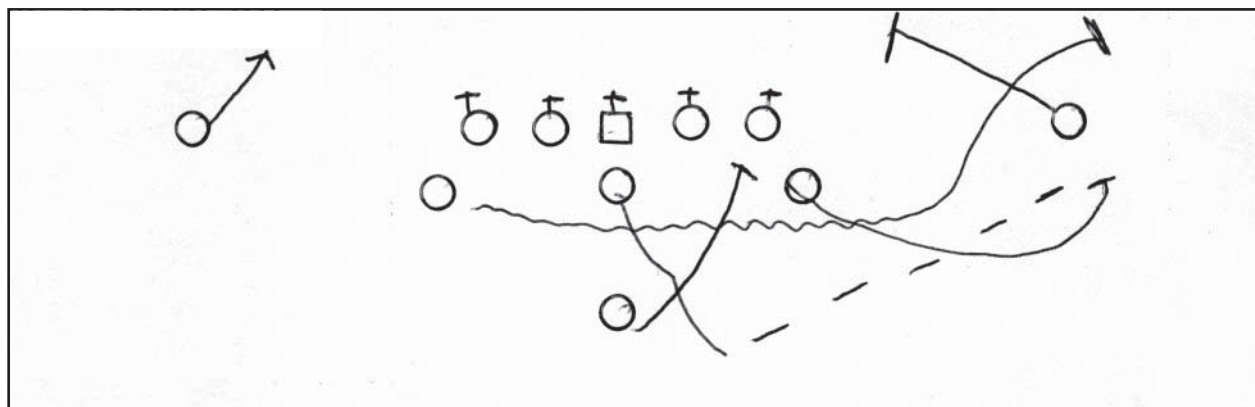
Some keys to running the middle screen are: 1. Making sure your QB gets a good drop. 2. The QB must sell it as a deep pass by looking downfield. 3. The wing back should block for a split-second and find an open spot behind the lineman to receive the pass.

You must practice with the lineman to block for a 1 second count and then release downfield. A big key is to block the inside linebackers. The offensive tackles must force an outside release by the defensive ends and then get up field and block.

One of our best screens is the tight end screen which we run off of one of our best running plays which is power off-tackle. We also run it away from our Trips formation. In the diagrams below you can see the sets and how it is run. We pull the tackle and guard to lead the play. The QB should open and give a good fake to the running back and get depth and then deliver the pass to the tight end. The tight end does a belly route and looks for the ball. This screen play works as a counter to keep the defense from over pursuing.

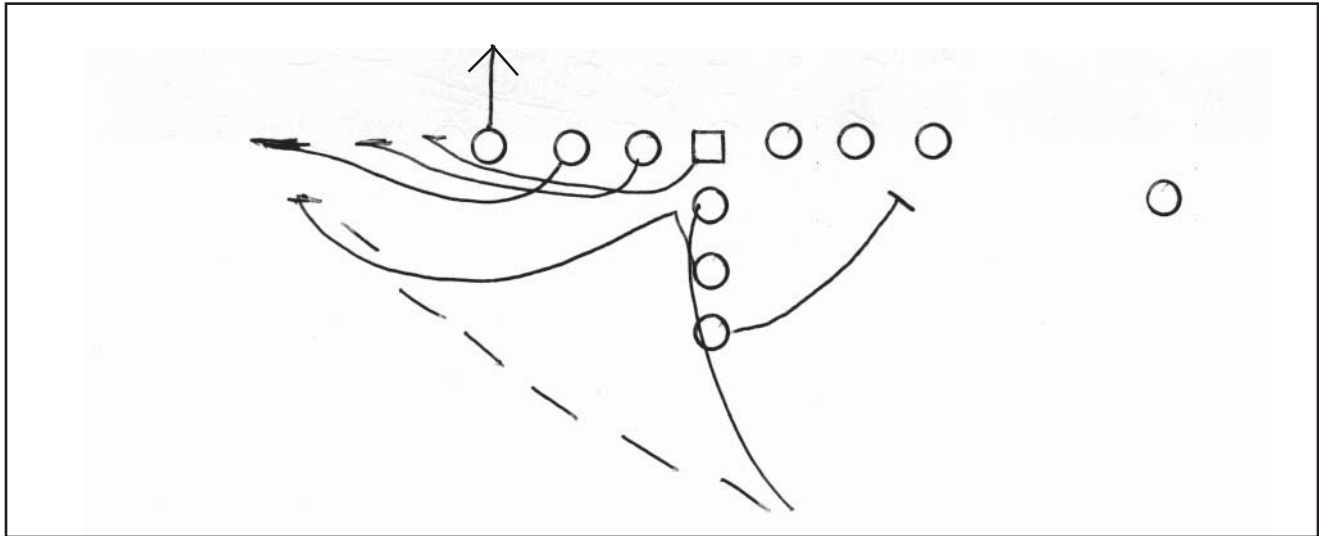


The flare screen is done out of the spread formation and we run it with motion where the wide receiver cracks back and the motion man blocks the corner. The playside wingback does a flare to the outside and the QB delivers the ball to him. Again the QB will open and show the ball to the running back who goes to block the defensive end. The keys for the QB are a quick drop and being ready to deliver the ball to the open receiver. Here is a diagram:





The other screen we run is a fullback screen to the weak side which is nothing fancy, but effective when opposing teams are keying the tailback. Shown below is how we run it.



Our line coach (Dave Rocheleau) does a great job with the linemen doing a lot of drills where the linemen pull and block downfield. It is a tough block to master because of the quickness of the defensive players. The screen plays require timing and execution and our kids take pride in this. We point out on film when we see good blocks. We practice our screens daily and try to get the kids to take pride in running them well.

I hope that this article helps you with any screens that you may run and hopefully you will have a successful year next fall. Good luck.