

AFCA's DEFENSIVE FOOTBALL INSIDER



PRESENTS:

**SECRETS OF THE MUSTANG
WITH JOHN CHAVIS**



NOTE: This is an 'internal only' abbreviated edition of the upcoming AFCA book 'AFCA's Defensive Football Insider: Secrets of the Mustang with John Chavis'

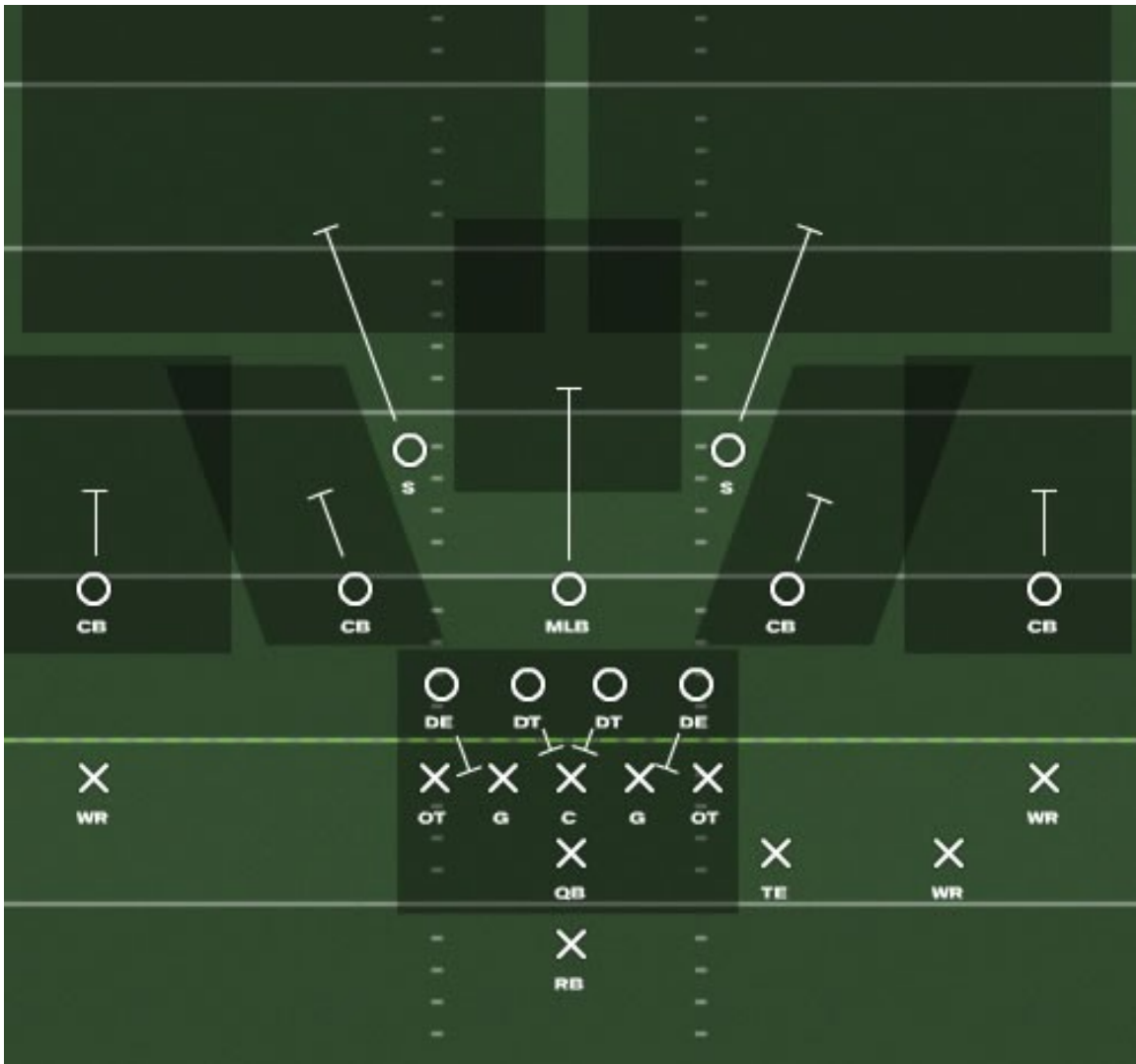
Preface

Coach John Chavis is the Defensive Coordinator at the University of Tennessee, the school he has continuously coached at since 1989. John's legacy to the game of football will be the Mustang Package, the coup de grace of football defense. Prior to his tenure at UT, John coached at Alabama A&M, where he designed the predecessor to the 'Mustang Package'.....the 'Tequila Sunrise'.

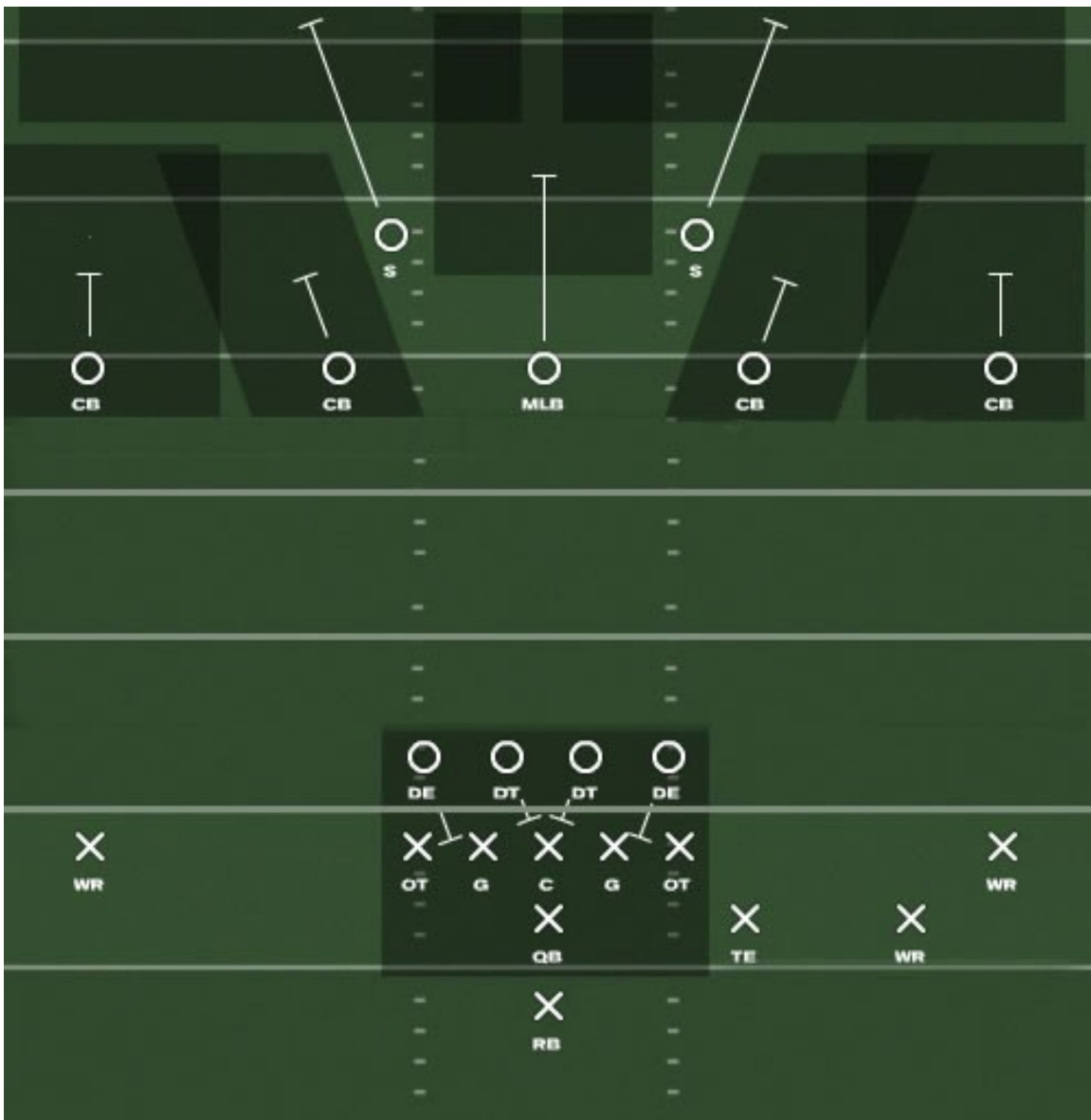


Chapter 1: Introduction to the Mustang

The origins of the Mustang package can be traced to a cover-2 scheme run with a dime package of six defensive backs, a single linebacker, and 4 down linemen. This vanilla cover-2 lineup looks like the following:



Where the traditional dime cover-2 falls short is that it exposes the defense to the 'big play'. Nothing can be as devastating to a team's morale as playing a hard 59 minutes and then giving it away in a single play. A traditional cover 2 has the corners play tight on the receivers. However, this leaves only a single safety between the receiver and the end zone when the corner fails. Why trust your season to a 1-on-1 match up? Instead, drop the corners way back and force the offense to beat two men! Common sense, right? Drop 'em back, baby! My Mustang looks like this:



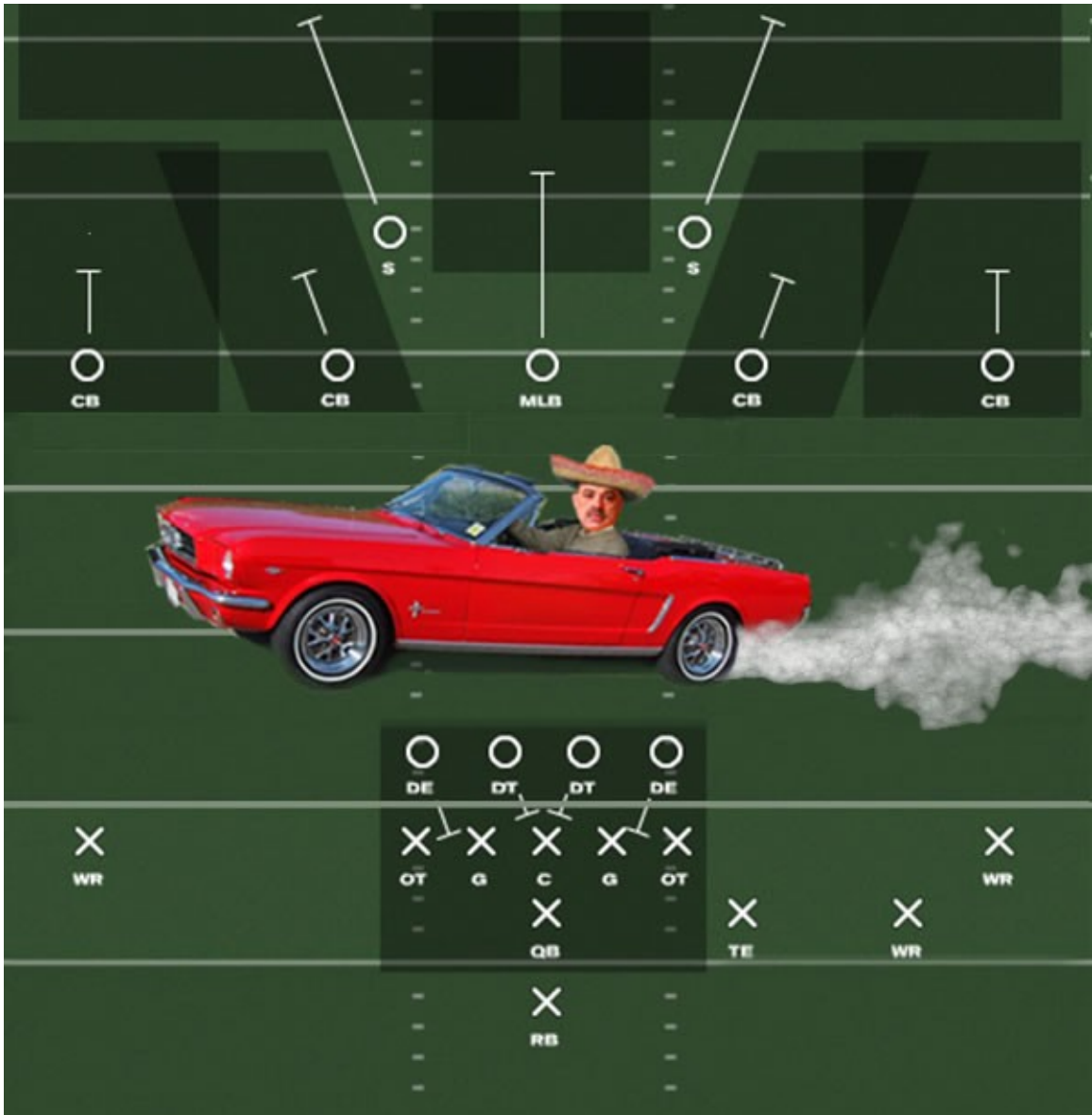
A common misconception of the Mustang is that it is easy to complete a short route. Well, that is correct for a play or two. However, I have proven it a statistical impossibility for an offense to string together enough of these plays to march all the way to a score.

EDIT NEEDED!
YOUR CALCULATIONS HAD
AN ERROR. I CORRECTED
THEM AND THE OFFENSE
WILL SCORE 70% OF THE
TIME.....

.....THIS GOES UP TO
90% OF THE TIME IN THE
4TH QUARTER!

Chapter 5: Why is it Called the 'Mustang'

Many people mistakenly think I call it the Mustang because the Mustang horse is a high-performance creature, and our highly trained athletes are just as powerful and agile. While that is a great notion, it is incorrect. The true origins of the term 'Mustang' actually go back to a technique I had to employ to get my 'backers and corners to drop back as deep as the safeties. I would let them line up like they wanted, then, when they crept toward the line, I would tear through the backfield in my car to clear 'em out. The car just happened to be a mustang convertible....



Chapter 9: Advanced Tactics

No defense is perfect all of the time. However, you can still call the same defense over and over if you 'disguise' it so the offense thinks you are in a different coverage. To accomplish this, my staff sometimes tells our cornerbacks to alternatively switch from press coverage to the preferred soft zone at their own discretion. While this may seem 'disorganized' and 'predictable' at first, it quickly becomes apparent that the KISS theory (Keep It Simple Stupid) will prevail in a tight game. Why worry about formation changes on a critical drive? Let the horses run! Viva la Mustang!

Further keeping with the KISS theory, we try to eliminate as many in-game adjustments as possible. No defense can be an impenetrable defense if not everyone is on the same page. Minimizing adjustments means that I can stay out of the coach's booth and stay on the field. To truly measure the heart of the dog in the fight, you have to look them in the eyes.



Accolades:

"Thank you Coach Chavis. Your Mustang package really allowed me to show the NFL scouts that I could pile up some rushing yards. Oh yeah, the 4th quarter comeback drive didn't hurt either!"

- **Jamarcus Russel**

"John and Phil.....I like ol' John and Phil. I've had lots of great moments with them over the years. The only thing I like more than ol' John and Phil is the Mustang package."

- **Steve Spurrier**

"John Chavis is a very giving man. In fact, he gave me the best start to the 2008 football season that a guy could ask for!"

- **Norm Chow**

"John Chavis loves football, and he loves players. He let me have 'my' moment. I had more fun playing ball against his Mustang package than any other game I can remember."

- **Matt Mauck**

Accolades cont.:

"In terms of football, I'd have to thank the 'Mustang Package' for giving me one of the greatest days of my life"

- **Larry Munson**

"I had lots of great memories in college. But none stands out more than my opportunity to face Coach Chavis' Mustang defense"

- **Jay Cutler**

"I put on for the 'stang"

- **DJ Hall**

"To tell you the truth, I've only met Coach Chavis a couple of times.....but I can tell i'm gonna love that guy."

- **Tim Tebow**

"John Chavis is a jackass!"

- **Trooper Taylor**

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(parody by Talking Fulmer: <http://www.2-quick.com>)

