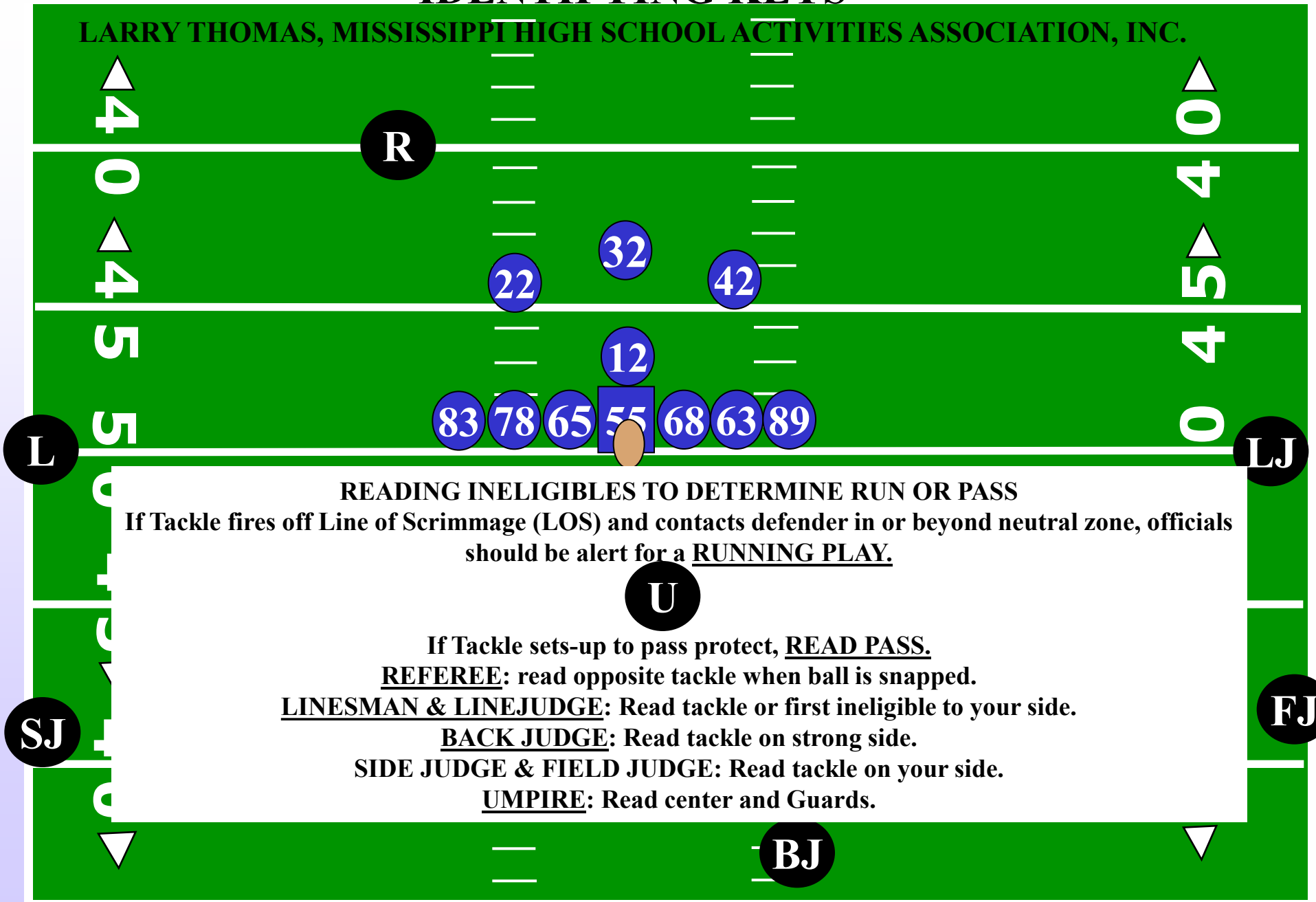


# IDENTIFYING KEYS

LARRY THOMAS, MISSISSIPPI HIGH SCHOOL ACTIVITIES ASSOCIATION, INC.



## READING INELIGIBLES TO DETERMINE RUN OR PASS

If Tackle fires off Line of Scrimmage (LOS) and contacts defender in or beyond neutral zone, officials should be alert for a RUNNING PLAY.

**U**

If Tackle sets-up to pass protect, READ PASS.

REFEREE: read opposite tackle when ball is snapped.

LINESMAN & LINEJUDGE: Read tackle or first ineligible to your side.

BACK JUDGE: Read tackle on strong side.

SIDE JUDGE & FIELD JUDGE: Read tackle on your side.

UMPIRE: Read center and Guards.

**BJ**

## READS

# Keys

Keys are intended to help determine MAN coverage at the initial snap.

- Definitions
- ***Strength of Formation:*** determined by number of eligible receivers outside tackle. 
- ***Tight End:*** End man no more than 4 yards from nearest lineman. 
- ***Back in Backfield:*** Players in backfield between the tackles at snap. 
- ***Trips:*** Three or more receivers outside tackle. 

# SEVEN MAN MECHANICS L & LJ

- **FIELD JUDGE AND SIDE JUDGE HAS 1<sup>ST</sup> KEY**
  - STRONG SIDE - KEY 1<sup>ST</sup> RECEIVER FROM SIDELINE
  - WEAK SIDE - KEY 1<sup>ST</sup> RECEIVER FROM SIDELINE
  - BALANCED FORMATION - DECLARE STRENGTH TO LINE JUDGE'S SIDE
  - READ TACKLE
  - PASS – KEEP RECEIVERS IN FRONT, BACK PETAL DOWN SIDELINE

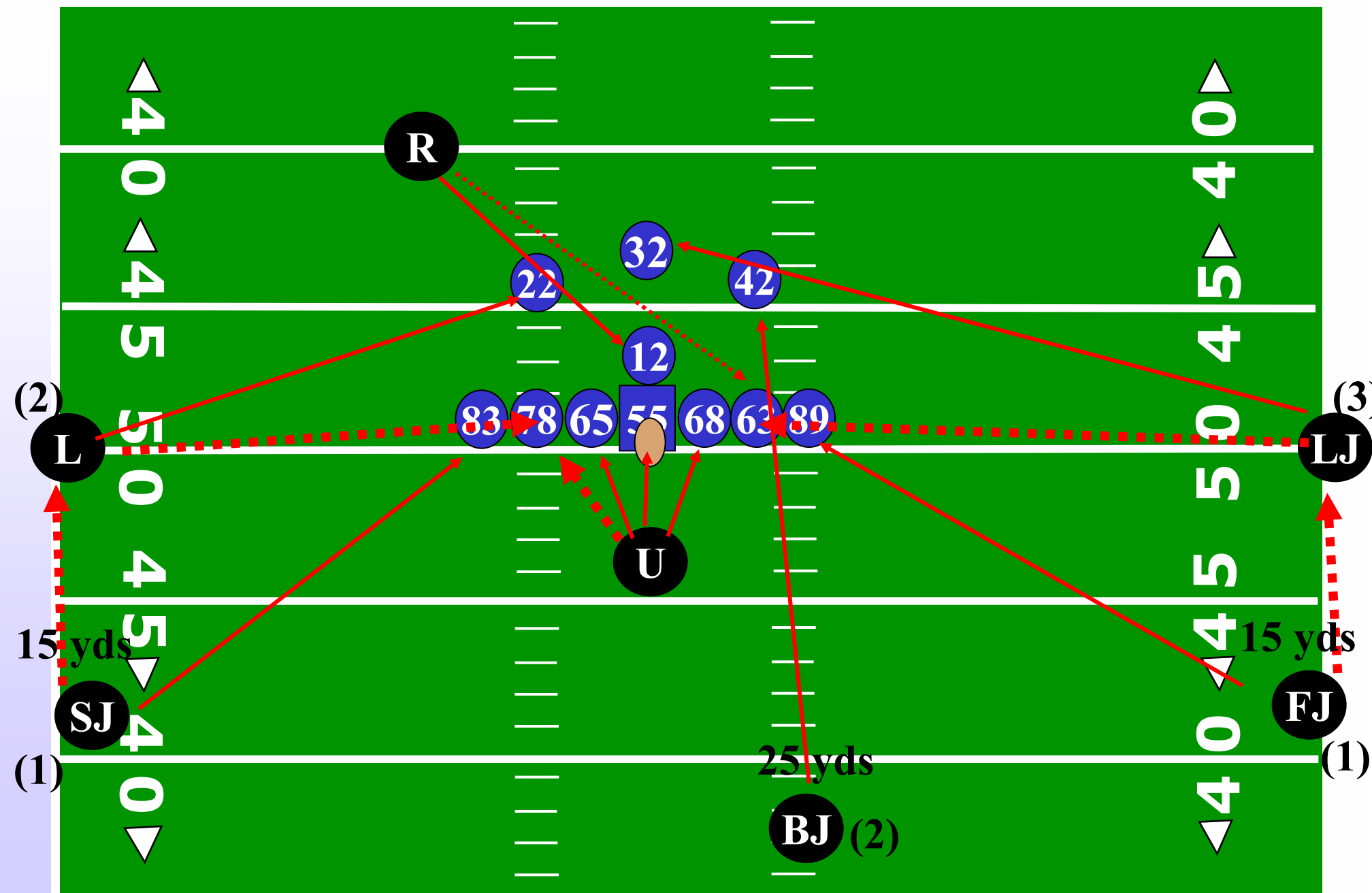
# SEVEN MAN MECHANICS - BJ



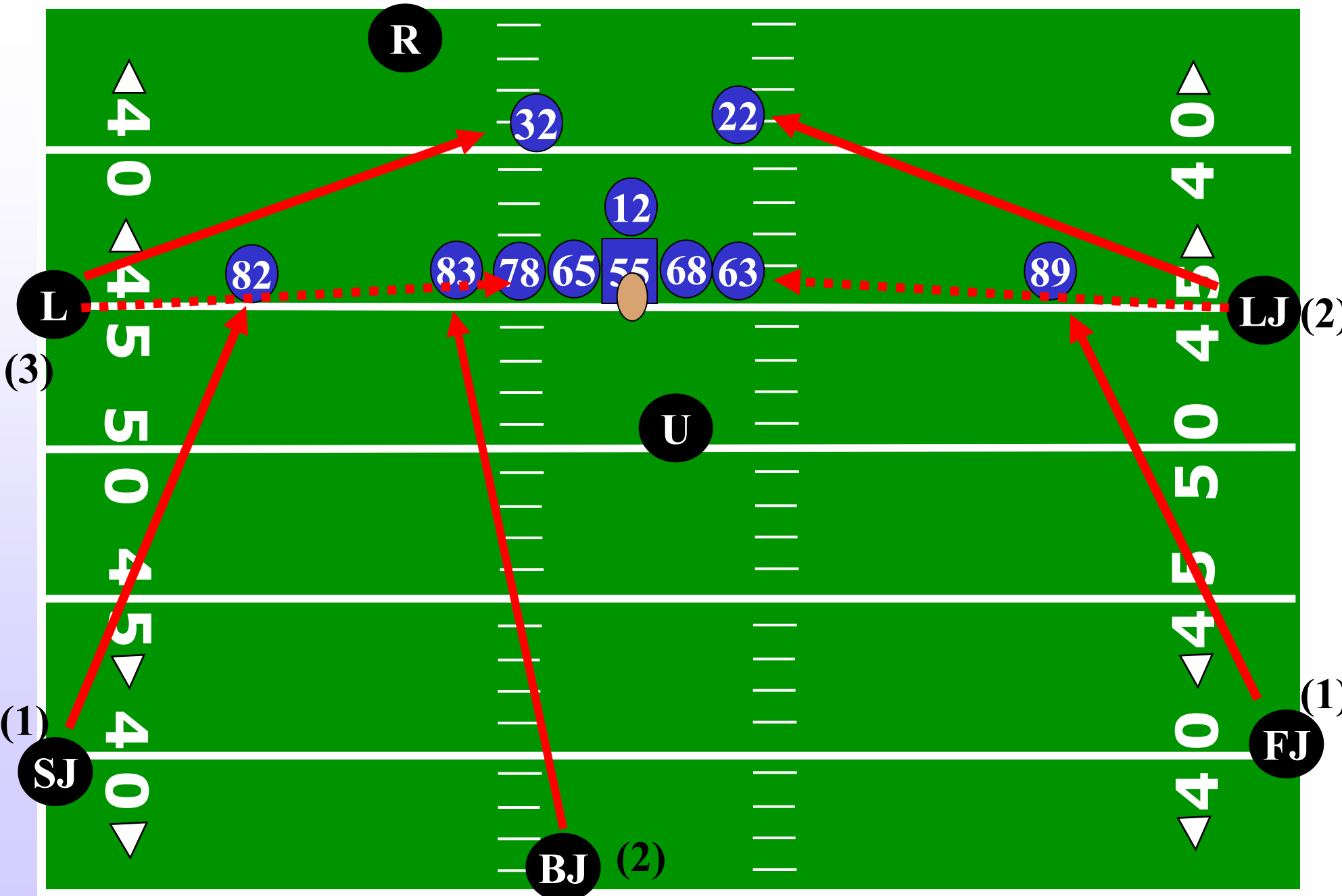
- BACK JUDGE HAS 2ND KEY
  - BASED ON STRENGTH AND NUMBER OF RECEIVERS
  - 2<sup>ND</sup> RECEIVER FROM SIDELINE ON THE STRONG SIDE.
  - **TRIPS:** IS RESPONSIBLE FOR 2<sup>ND</sup> RECEIVERS
  - BALANCED FORMATION - DECLARE STRENGTH TO LINE JUDGE'S SIDE

# SEVEN MAN MECHANICS L & LJ

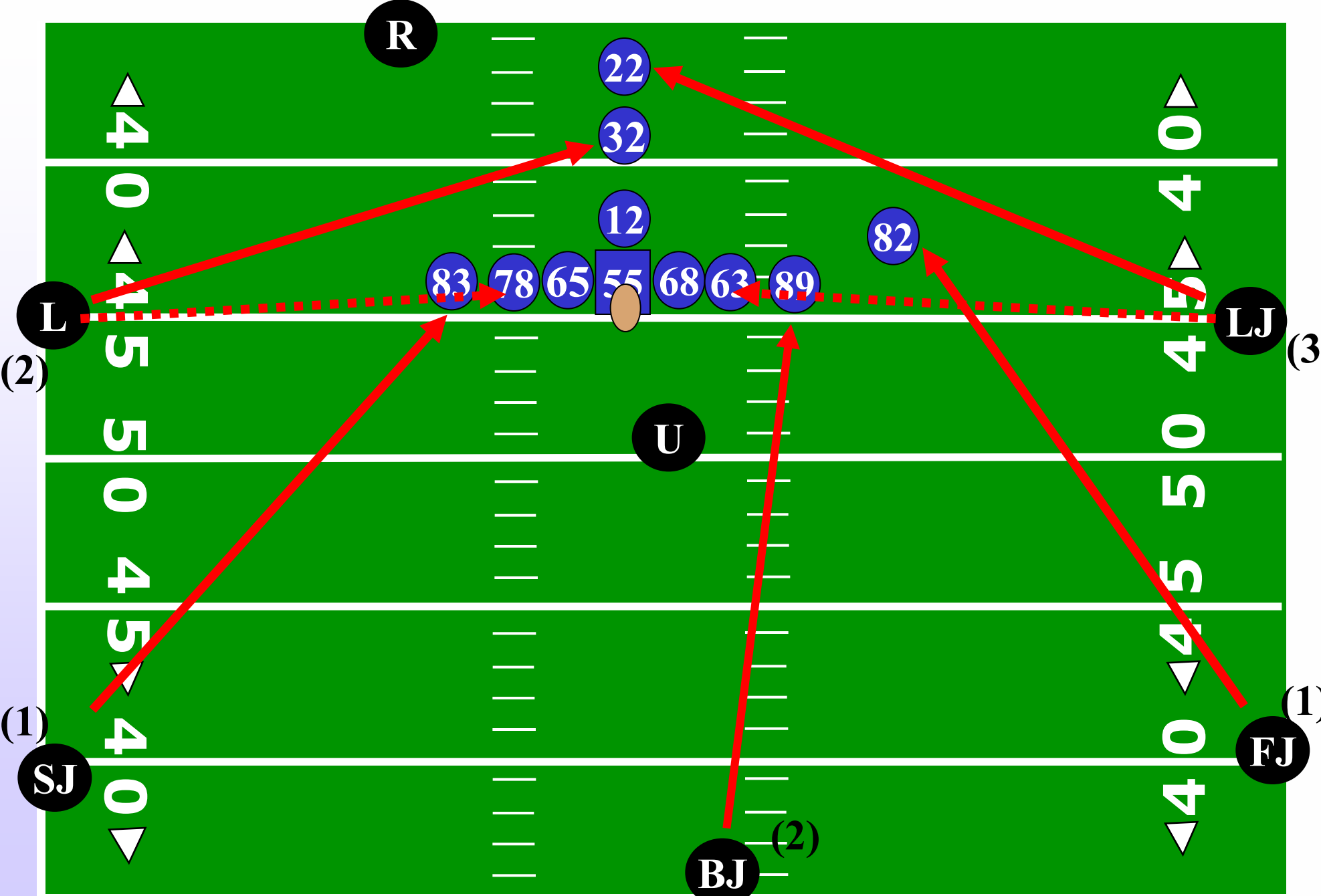
- **LINESMAN AND LINE JUDGE**  
**HAVE SECOND KEY**
  - DO NOT KEY OFF THE SAME PLAYER AS SJ, FJ OR BJ
  - STRONG SIDE - KEY INSIDE RECEIVER(3rd)
  - WEAK SIDE - KEY OFF RECEIVER(S) TO YOUR SIDE(2nd/3rd)
  - TRIPS: INSIDE ELIGIBLE RECEIVER
  - BALANCED FORMATION - DECLARE STRENGTH TO LINE JUDGE'S SIDE



PRIMARY(—) & SECONDARY KEYS (....) OR READ

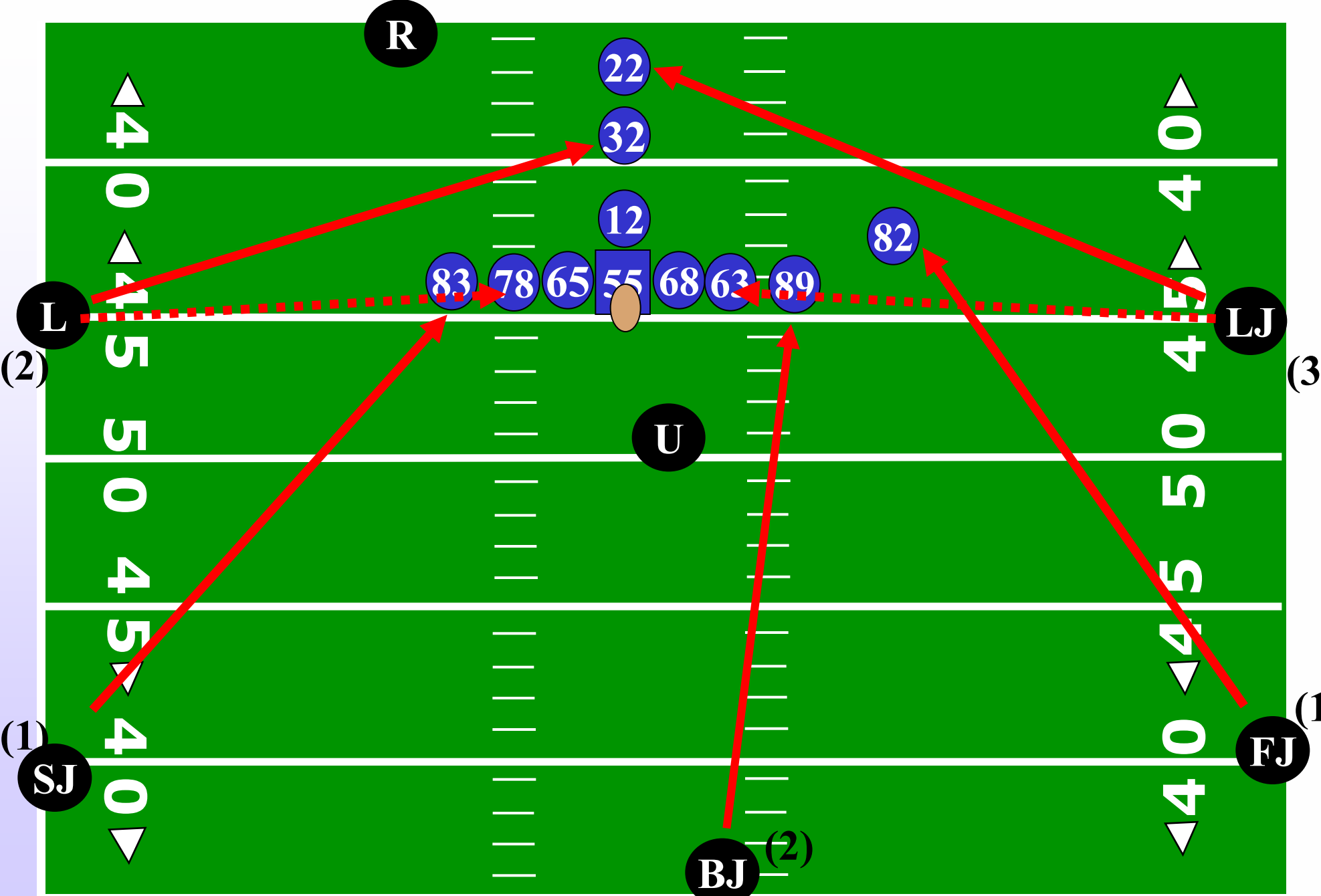


**STRENGTH - L ; PRIMARY & SECONDARY KEYS**

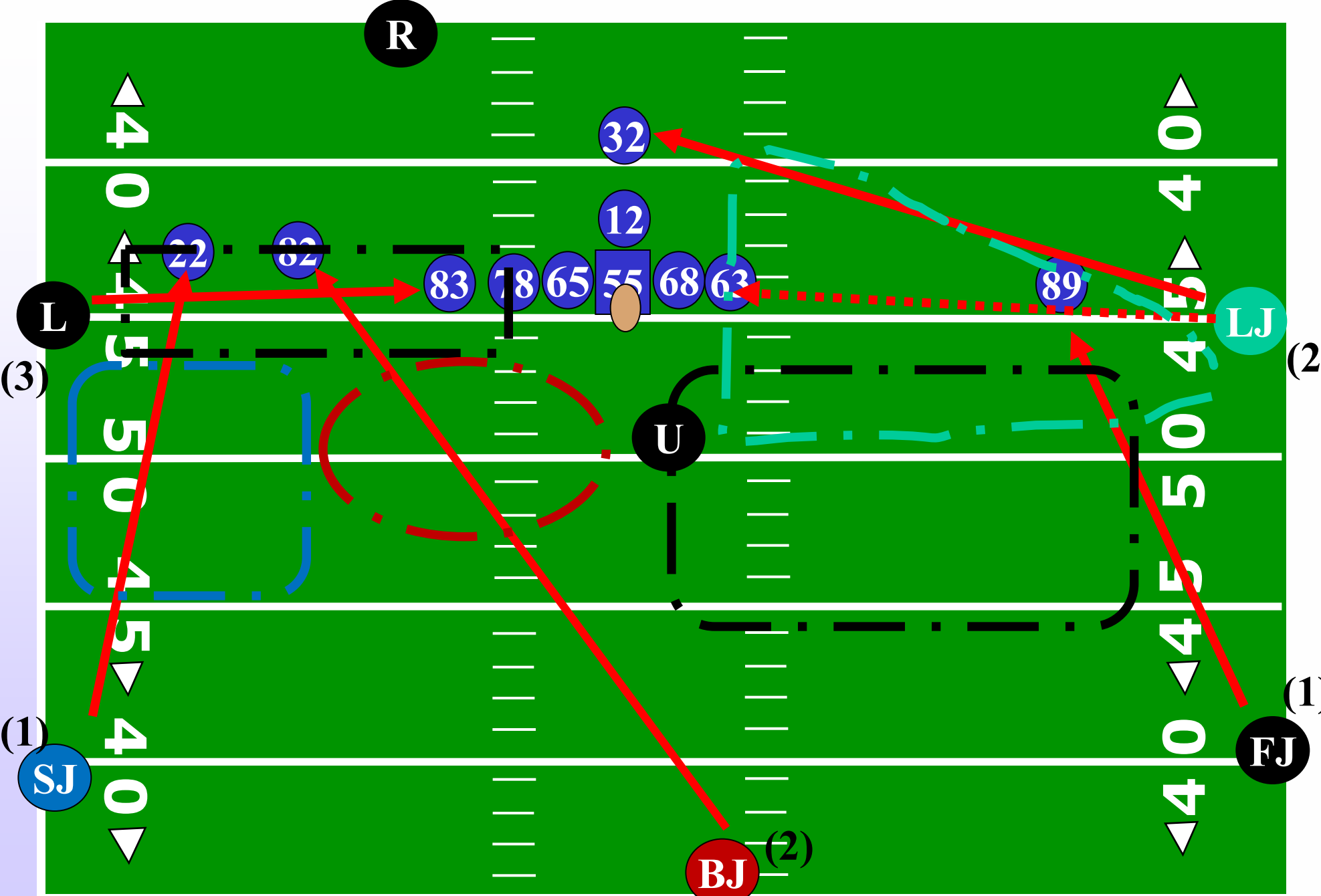


**STRENGTH - L ; PRIMARY & SECONDARY KEYS**





**STRENGTH - L ; PRIMARY & SECONDARY KEYS**



**STRENGTH - L ; KEYS & RUN COVERAGE (COLOR CODE)**

# Running Play Coverage

**Lineman and Line Judge:** After the snap, take a step into the backfield and read the POA and observe

blocking. Observe action by interior lineman nearest

you and by the player who is your key.

**Judge and Field Judge:** After the snap, Observe action

Involving the widest receiver on your side. Pay special

Attention for crackbacks. Box in the widest player.

Cover your sideline from 15 yds from LOS. If play is to

your side and L or LJ marks out-of-bounds spot, clean

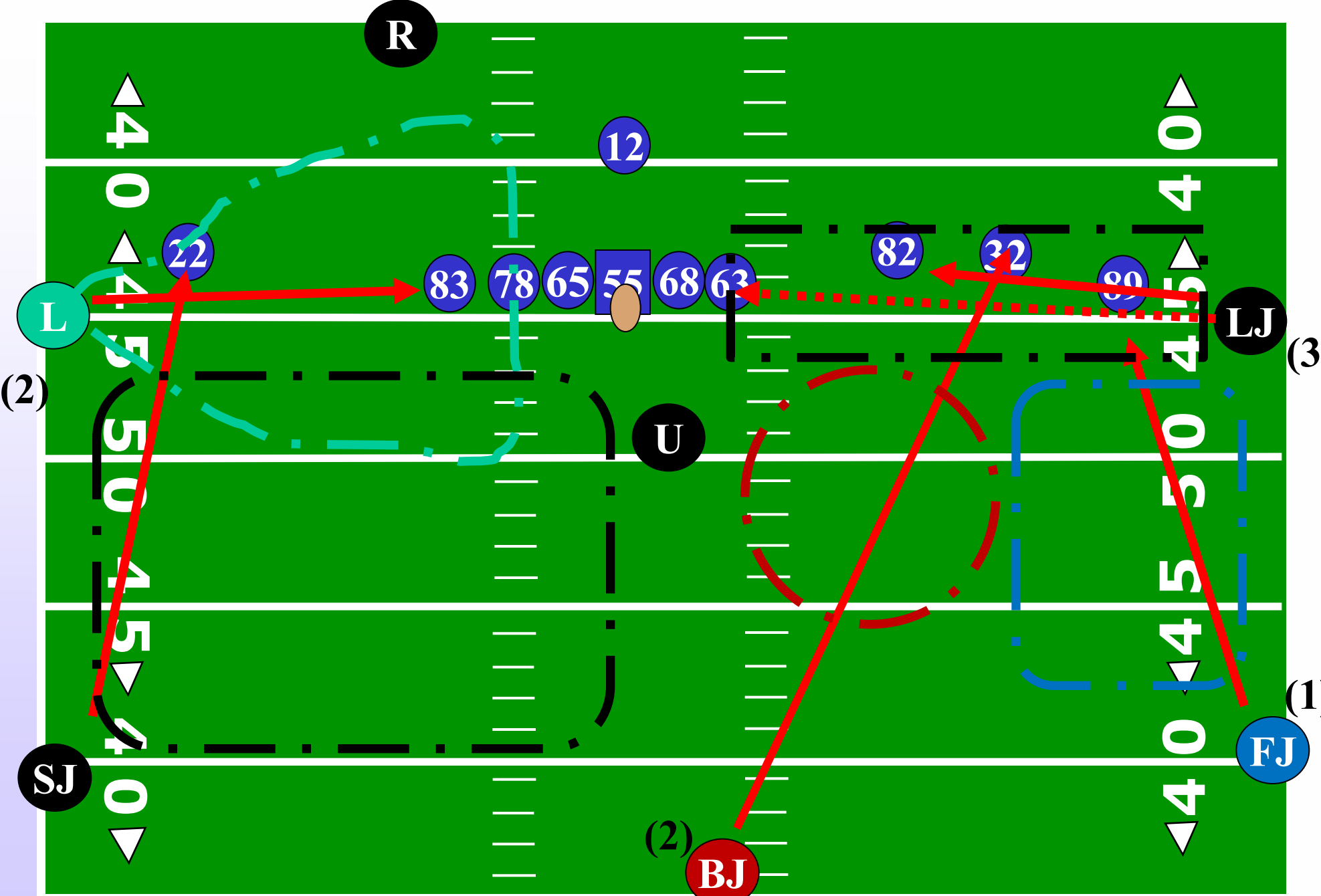
up action around play.

**Back Judge:** After the snap, observe action by your key.

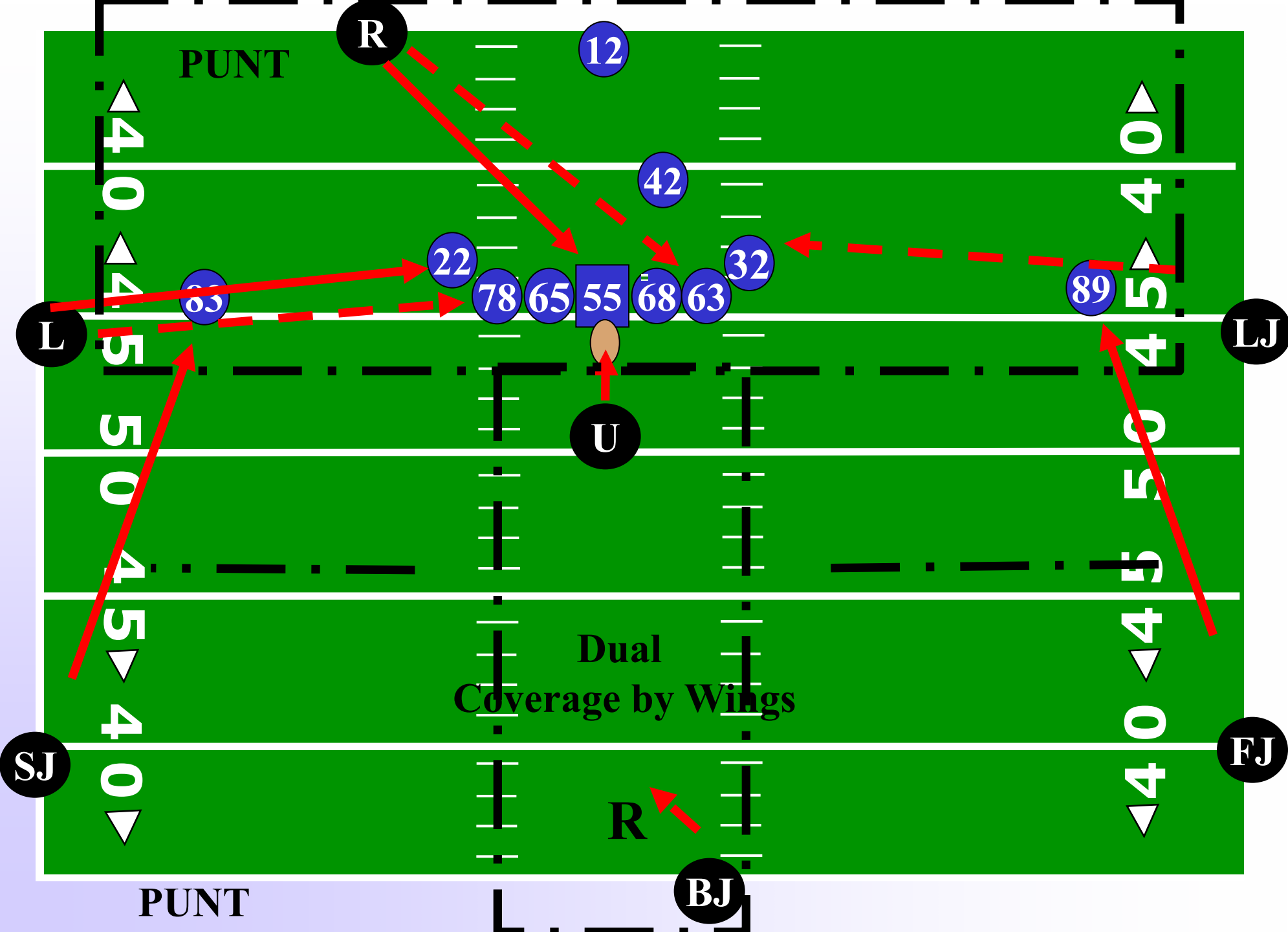
Move lateral and backward to observe action behind the

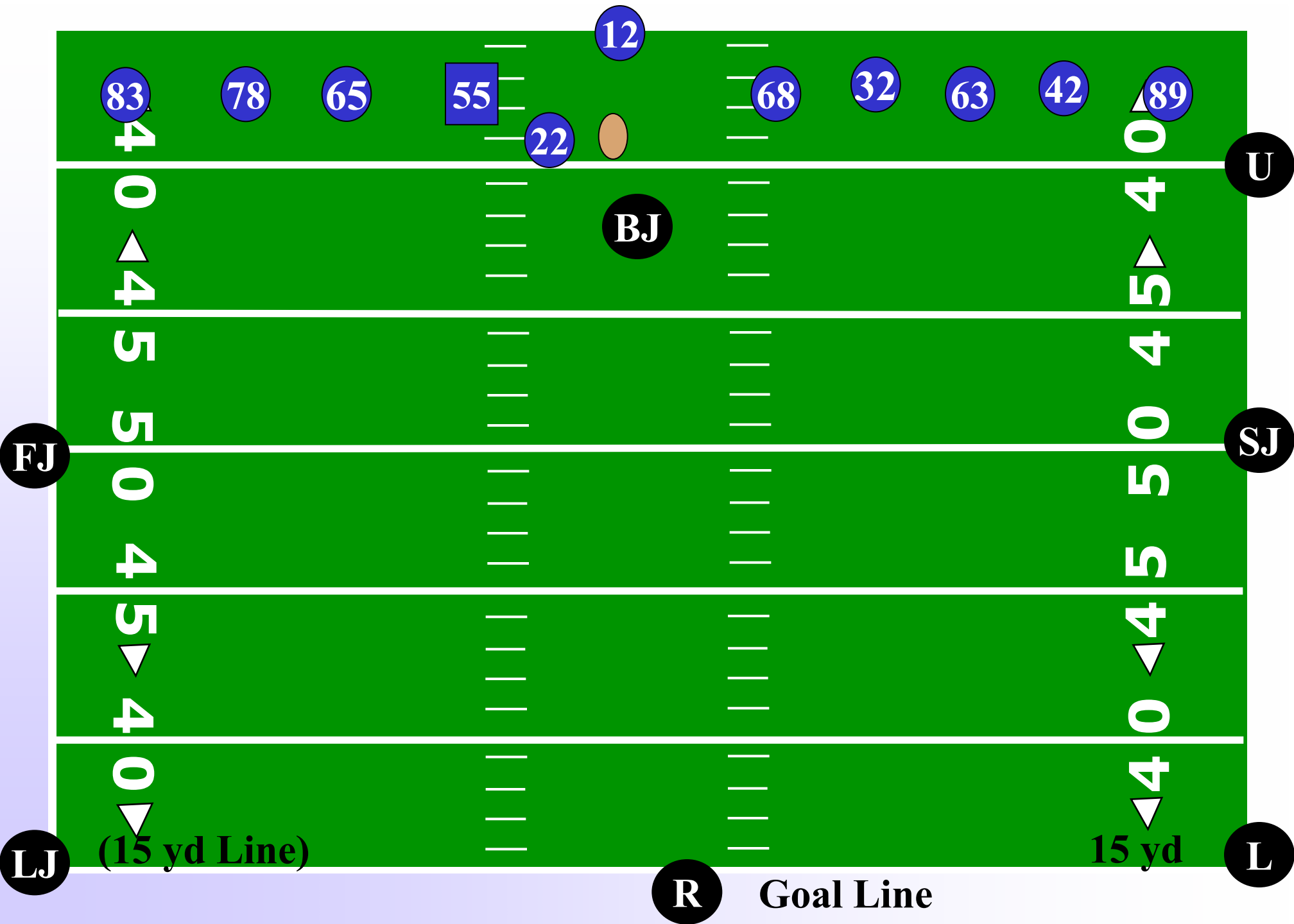
Umpire and ahead of the runner. Be ready to take over

on cutbacks and breakaways.



**STRENGTH - LJ ; KEYS AND RUN COVERAGE**





83

78

65

55

22

12

68

32

63

42

89

BJ

40

45

50

45

40

40

45

50

45

40

40

45

50

45

40

40

45

50

45

40

40

45

50

45

40

40

45

50

45

40

(15 yd Line)

15 yd

Goal Line

R

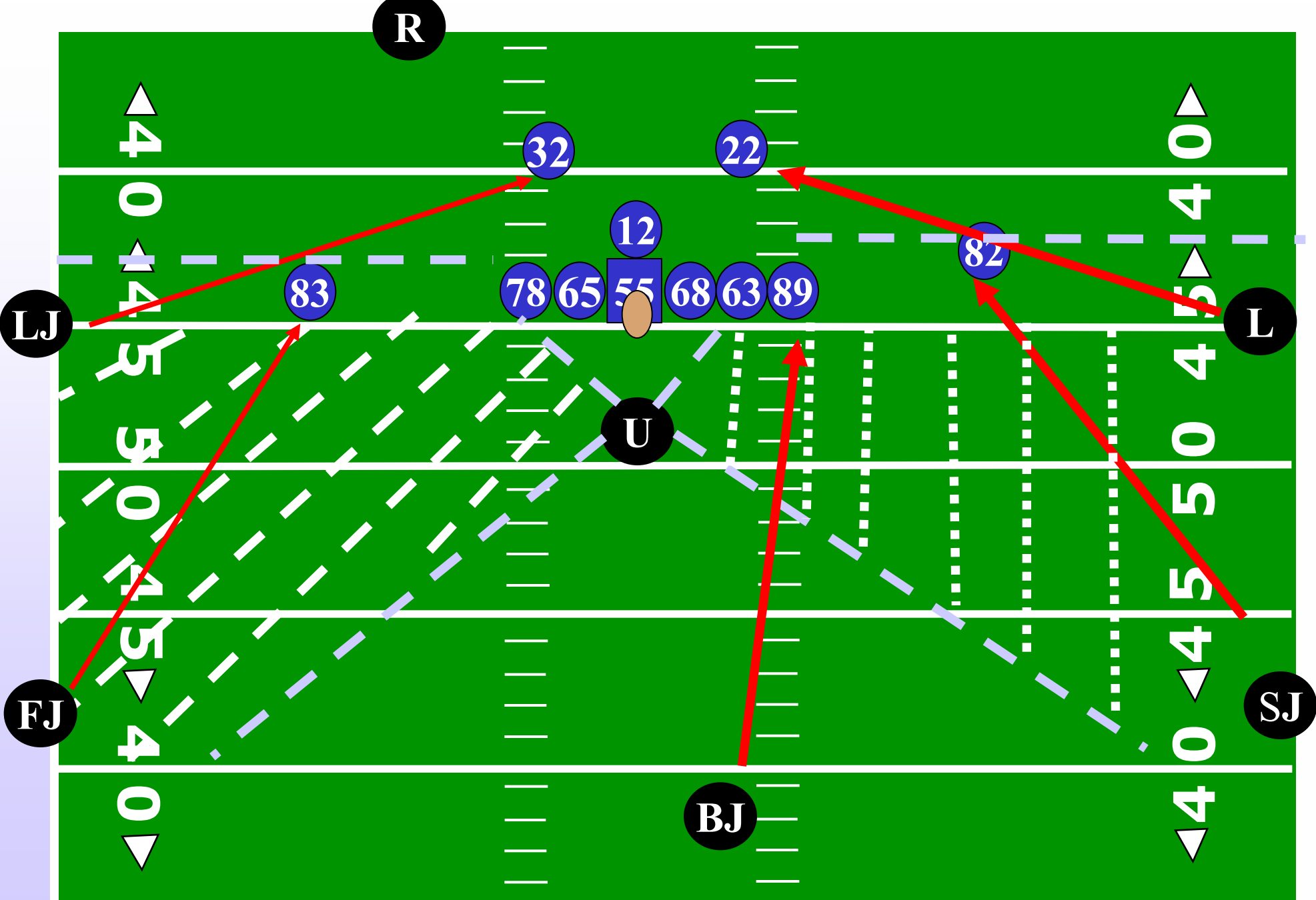
FJ

LJ

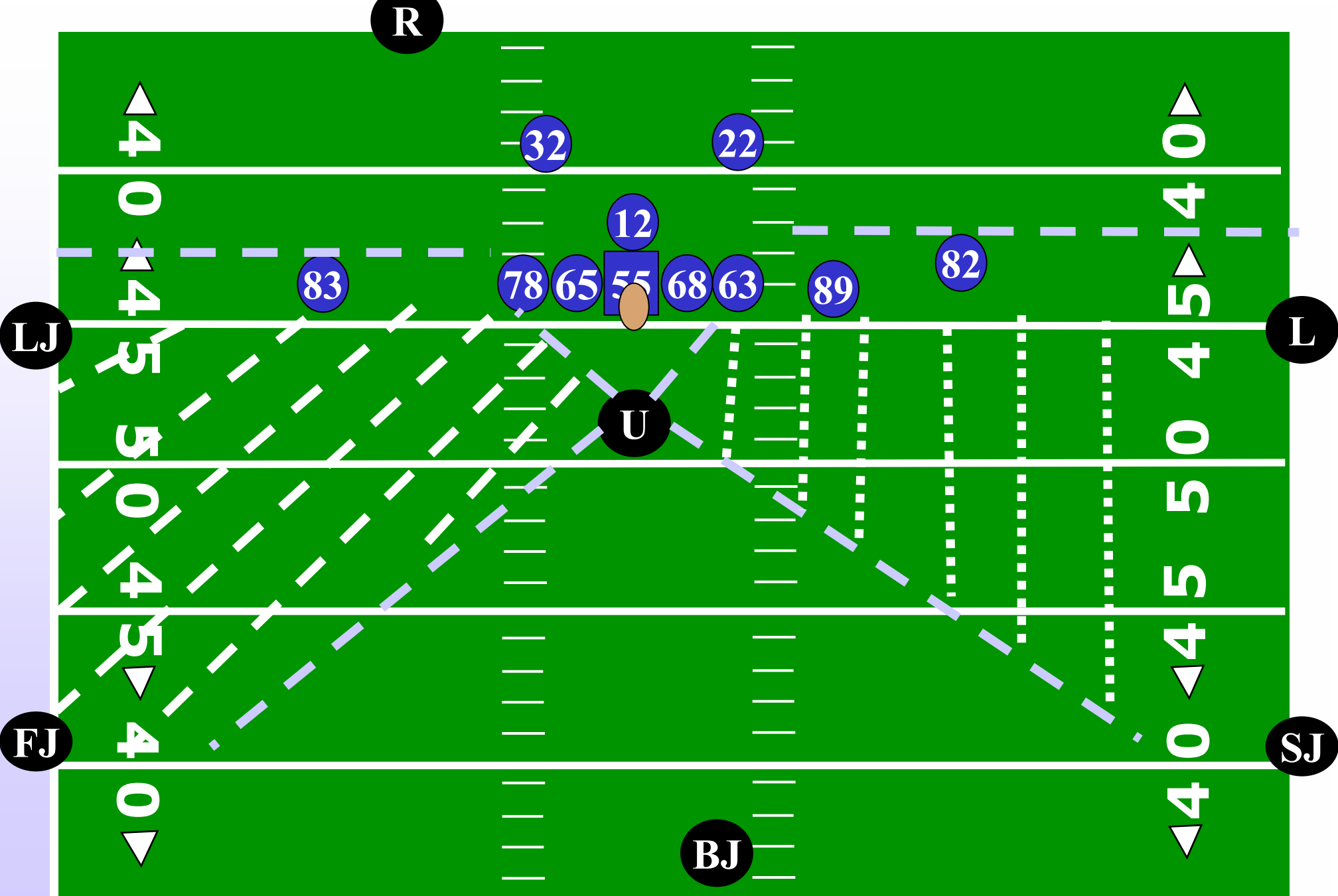
U

SJ

L



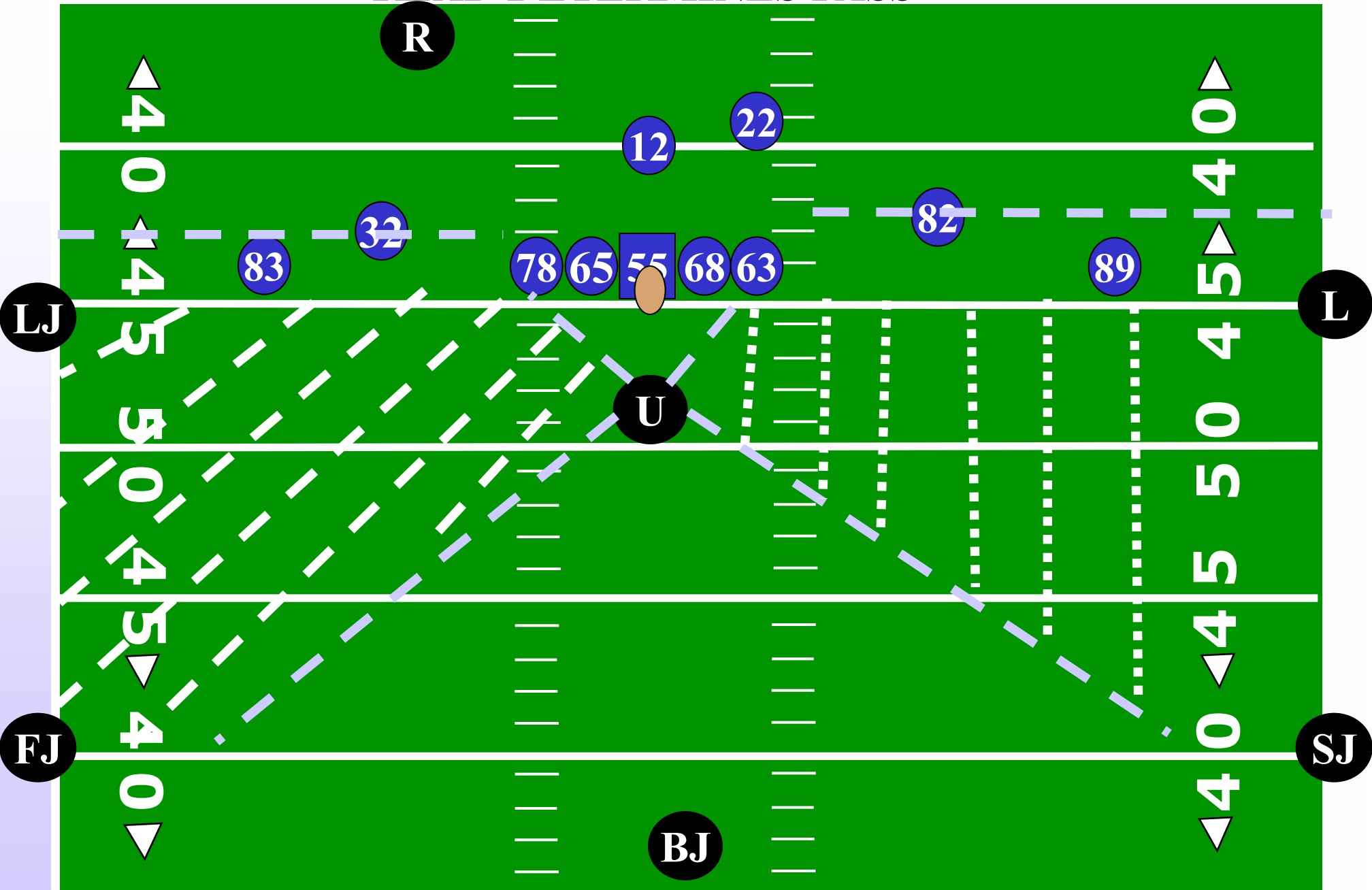
**ZONE COVERAGE AFTER R HAS ADVANCED 5 TO 7 YDS**



**ZONE COVERAGE AFTER R HAS ADVANCED 5 TO 7 YDS**



# READ DETERMINES PASS



ZONE COVERAGE AFTER R HAS ADVANCED 5 TO 7 YDS

# Keys

Keys are intended to help determine MAN coverage at the initial snap.

## Definitions

**Strength of Formation:** *Determined by number of eligible receivers outside tackle.*

**Tight End:** *End man no more than 4 yards from nearest lineman.*

**Back in Backfield:** *Player in backfield between the tackles at snap.*

**Trips:** *Three or more receivers outside tackle to one side.*

## Field Judge and Side Judge

Has first key; Based on strength and number of receivers.

Outside Receiver, nearest sideline

**Balanced Formation:** *Declare strength to Line Judge's side.*

**Back Judge:** *Second receiver on strong side*

## Linesman and Line Judge

Has second or third key

Do not key off the same player as Back Judge.

**Strong Side:** *Key Inside Receiver*

**Weak Side:** *Key off receiver(s) to your side*

**Trips:** *Inside eligible receivers*

**Balanced Formation:** *Declare strength to Line Judge's side. Page 54*

R, L, LJ, SJ, FJ, BJ

*Read tackle at snap (run or pass); Umpire: Read guards and center at snap*

# THANK YOU FOR STUDING THIS PRESENTATION

