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Kelly Lambert-USA TODAY Sports

A look at a drive where the Ole Miss Rebels ran the same play five times in a row, resulting in a touchdown against Pittsburgh in the BBVA Compass Bowl.

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6. Donte Moncrief on a go route

Here's how the drive worked, play-by-play:

- First and foremost, this drive started with fantastic field position after Jaylon Walton returned the Pitt kickoff to the Panther 48 yard line. Hell, if he wasn't slowed down by the Panther kicker - who, to his credit, contained Walton to the point that he was able to be caught from behind - he'd have taken it to the house. Damn good effort and blocking on behalf of the return team.
- 1st and 10, Pitt 48 - Thanks to the camerawork and direction of the Worldwide Leader in Sports, you won't get to see the team get set up and hike the ball for this drive's first play, but they do, and Bo opts to hand the ball to Randall Mackey who follows his blockers to an eight yard gain on the left hash mark. In a read option offense, the offensive line usually blocks in the direction that the halfback will go, regardless of the personnel on defense. The quarterback then *reads* the defense (SWIDT?), typically an unblocked defensive end or outside linebacker, and based on whether he contains or crashes inside will opt to hand it off or keep it, respectively. The end stayed home on this play, meaning that Randall Mackey got the handoff behind a line blocking specifically for him and at an advantage (because, remember, the end played contain). Ball in tow, Mackey wiggled through the line and scampered forward for eight yards.
- 2nd and 2, Pitt 40 - Setting the ball and snapping it almost right away, Wallace zips a pass out to Vincent Sanders who, because of ball placement, is along the sideline (remember this element of ball placement, because it will come into play later). For much of the game, Pitt's corners were giving Sanders and, especially, Moncrief a big cushion off of the line, favoring the surrender of short passes and routes against deeper ones. Exploiting this, Sanders gets the quick pass and gets knocked down along the sideline, gaining four yards and the first down.
- 1st and 10, at Pitt 36 - Lining up and snapping the ball quickly again in the exact formation and with the exact same personnel, Wallace sees the defensive end crash inside to stuff an anticipated Mackey run, giving him the green light to keep the ball, scoot to the outside, and dash up field for 13 yards. Ferbia Allen, playing an H back role, broke into the second level to serve as a blocker for Wallace, but was actually outrun by his quarterback who, after getting the first down, slammed into a Panther safety. Had Ferb not been so timid as a blocker and Wallace so aggressive a runner, it could have conceivably been an even greater gain.
- 1st and 10, Pitt 23 - Pitt ran a cover two out of a 4-3 defense for much of the game. This means that slot receivers, such as Ja-Mes Logan, are either going to be covered by an outside linebacker or a safety. Logan was lined up in the slot on the same side of the field as Donte Moncrief, meaning that the safety for that half of the defense was not going to cover him, lest Pitt give Moncrief space to work one-on-one against a cornerback (something no sane Big-East-transitioning-to-ACC team would do). Some coaches call this having a safety "on top" or "over the top," and Moncrief saw it a lot this year. Anyway, this left Pitt's outside linebacker to cover Logan. On this play, the 'backer was in the box, presumably to guard against the run, leaving Logan open to easily catch a swing pass and gain five yards before the linebacker and safety were going to catch him. Moncrief, by the way, showed his value as a blocker on this play, effectively neutralizing the cornerback assigned to him once Logan had the ball.
- 2nd and 5, Pitt 18 - Remember how Sanders' earlier catch came when the ball was snapped on the left hash, meaning he was backed up against the sideline when he caught it? Well after Wallace's run and Logan's catch, the ball was now on the right hash. This means that, instead of having a small patch of field to work with, Sanders would have something like a third of the field to his back when he made the catch. Again, the corner was giving him a significant cushion, leaving him open five yards or so in front of the line of scrimmage. Bo went back to Sanders on this play, but instead of Sanders simply making the catch and taking a hit, he made the catch, stiff armed the corner coming in to tackle him, and spun to the outside. At this point, it was a footrace to the endzone between Sanders and a safety. Sanders won. Touchdown, Ole Miss.

An extra point later, and it's 21-7 Rebels. In just over one minute of play, Ole Miss moved halfway down the field and into the endzone, snapping the





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 **Leach always said his offense was very simple and relied on execution.**

It seems that Freeze is of a similar mindset, even if his formations are different. I hope it will work in the SEC next season. Assuming Wallace comes back healthy I have some optimism.

by [OxfordAndrew](#) on [Mar 27, 2013 | 2:49 PM](#)



 **The drive was almost all**

About the pre-snap read by Wallace.

[Red Cup Rebellion - An Ole Miss Blog](#)

by [Juco All-American](#) on [Mar 27, 2013 | 2:53 PM](#)



by [PCB Rebel](#) on [Mar 27, 2013 | 6:02 PM](#) [up](#)

Ther fact that we were able to...

run the same play 5 times in a row is what makes the offense “complex”. It is complex from the defenses point of view because they have to figure out what is going on every play.

Wallace, Moncrief, and Sanders all have to make Pre-snap reads, and they all have to be on the same page for this to work. And to an extent, every lineman, Mackey, Allen, and Logan all have to make the same Pre-snap read as well, at least with regards to Run/Pass.

I think it is a testament to job the coaching staff did all year that we were able to make this offensive look as seamless as we did. It’s crazy to think just how (relatively) little of the play book we were working with last year.

by [astaylol](#) on [Mar 27, 2013 | 4:14 PM](#)

comment collapsed

Title: Wallace is the only one making the reads.

Post:

The offensive line doesn’t have to worry about going downfield because the throw to Sanders will happen so quickly that they won’t be downfield when the throw is made. The bubble to Logan is behind the line of scrimmage so they could go downfield if they actually needed to or had time to. Lastly, Moncrief wasn’t actually running a route on these plays. He was meant to block the corner no matter what.

One aspect that makes this play work so well is that Sanders runs that hitch as if it is going to him every time. He doesn’t make a read. Same with Moncrief and Logan on the right. They run the bubble screen as if it’s going to Logan every time. The offensive line blocks as if its going to Mackey every time and Allen blocks as if Wallace is keeping it everytime.

The execution is so critical because if anyone doesn’t do their job and Wallace chooses their offense, the play is busted and our offense is slowed down. The defense can make adjustments and substitute if we slow down.

by [KungFuRebel](#) on [Mar 27, 2013 | 6:20 PM](#)

Awesome post.

Longhorn here, directed to you via Reddit. It's interesting that the option is based off pre-snap reads. Do you expect that Freeze and Co. will let Wallace read it on the fly next year? I'd think with a year under his belt he'd be ready to run the zone read with the swing as his third option, keeping the backside curl as a pre-snap option.

I also wanted to share an example of Ole Miss doing the same thing to Texas. [Video here, also courtesy of thornsx](#) (whoever he is, that guy is awesome). After the third successful play (I think we were in Man Free on all three but it's hard to tell on the second play because we weren't set), we show a one-deep blitz look and get Wallace to check out of the play. We respond by checking to Cover 3 Sky. Wallace tries to hit Moncrief on the go route, but he was throwing at Quandre Diggs, who is going to be playing on Sunday in a year or two. Although Wallace beat the deep safety with the throw, it was too short and easily picked by Diggs. End of drive.

Again, great post. I look forward to hosting you guys in Austin this year.

by [Needs More Bourbon](#) on [Mar 27, 2013 | 9:08 PM](#)



I would hope to think you are dead on about Wallace.

Your video as apposed to the one Ghost posted shows the discipline level with Bo has progressed in this offense. He is seen trying to force the plays in yours(throws an int) but calculates and picks apart a defense(albeit not as good as Texas) for a seemingly easy touchdown. I hope Wallace gets better and develops more wrinkles, formations and overall offensive schemes come next time the Rebels come in to Austin. Should be exciting to watch.

by [shegotaboxcuttercuzreb](#) on [Mar 27, 2013 | 9:19 PM up](#)



Nothing relevant to add from me

And nice to make comeback tonight in baseball, even if it was Ark State.

by [rebinva](#) on [Mar 27, 2013 | 10:46 PM](#)



 **BRB**

Off to hang myself from a pipe in the basement.

Good breakdown.

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by [PittScript Bryan](#) on [Mar 28, 2013 | 9:52 AM](#)



 **/same pipe breaks 5 times in a row**

"I think a Hugh Freeze won day is better than a John L month of prep." - Operation_Masoli_Freedom

by [AR Rebel](#) on [Mar 28, 2013 | 10:43 AM up](#)

 **Kick a man while he's down, why don't ya?**

"How does it feel to be hated?" he says. "Well, when you're winning it feels pretty f---ing good."

-Blue Cup via TwoYards

by [BelichickLikesOurRB's](#) on [Mar 28, 2013 | 10:51 AM up](#)



Hope springs eternal, but the WAOM is everlasting.

by [E4 Button](#) on [Mar 28, 2013 | 2:41 PM](#) up



Imitation, flattery, etc.

[Red Cup Rebellion - Changing the Culture of Ole Miss Athletics](#)

by [The Ghost of Jay Cutler](#) on [Mar 28, 2013 | 3:36 PM](#) up



The Rebels put on a clinic on that series

As a nine year old I watched Ole Miss defeat Arkansas in the Sugar Bowl and I'm still waiting for the next Ole Miss sugar bowl victory.

by [Moby](#) on [Mar 28, 2013 | 1:59 PM](#)



"This goes back to Gus Malzahn"

" From when Freeze worked on his staff at Arkansas State"

by [WrigleyvilleReb](#) on [Mar 28, 2013 | 7:56 PM](#)



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