4-4 Defensive Alignment

Defensive Tackles line head up on Offensive Guard

Defensive Ends line up anywhere from head up on the Offensive Tackle to outside shoulder of Tight End (or where TE would be)

Inside Linebackers line up three yards off the LOS stacked behind DT or shading to a gap either side (preferably the strong side)

Outside Linebackers line up three yards off the LOS on the outside shoulder of the widest Offensive man, unless he is split way out, in which case you can split the difference between him and the end of the line.

Cornerbacks are lined up 5 yards off the LOS and outside the OLB and as far out as the widest man, whichever is wider

Safety lines up 7 yards off the LOS and anywhere horizontally you’d like, but usually between the tackles.
4-4 Defensive Assignments

**Defensive Tackles**
- must make contact with the Offensive Guard,
- then should control the gap (either toward or away from strength)

**Defensive Ends**
- must make contact with the Offensive Tackle/End,
- then should control the gap (either toward or away from strength)

**Inside Linebackers**
- should read nearest running back and flow to ball,
- while being conscious of cutback lanes

**Outside Linebackers**
- fill to stop run,
- but have flat responsibility on pass

**Cornerbacks**
- have man-to-man coverage on receiver,
- comes up to stop run only after ball crosses LOS

**Safety**
- keeps everyone in front of him,
- comes up to stop run only after the ball crosses the LOS

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**Lineman**
- have Gap Control

**DBs**
- take banana route to play away