

Name _____

Defensive Warriors: Unveiling American Football's Defensive Positions

Open-Ended Response Answer Key

1. Both defensive tackles and defensive ends are part of the defensive line and share the responsibility of stopping the run and pressuring the quarterback. However, defensive tackles are typically positioned in the middle of the line, while defensive ends line up on the edges. Defensive ends often focus more on pass rushing, while defensive tackles often face double teams and are crucial in stopping inside runs.
2. To effectively cover a fast and agile wide receiver, a cornerback would use techniques such as bump-and-run coverage, where they engage the receiver at the line of scrimmage to disrupt their route. They would also rely on their speed to stay close to the receiver and use their agility to change direction quickly. Maintaining good positioning and using proper hand placement to break up passes are also essential strategies.
3. Effective communication among defensive players is critical as it ensures everyone is on the same page regarding defensive schemes and play calls. Communication helps players adjust to changing situations, recognize offensive formations, and coordinate their efforts to stop the opposing team.
4. Defensive players can adapt to different offensive strategies by recognizing offensive formations and adjusting their positions accordingly. They must communicate with each other to pick up on changes in the offense and respond accordingly. This adaptability helps the defense maintain a strong line of defense and prevent the opponent from scoring.

