Seahawks Offensive Scouting Report
Lumen Field, Seattle, WA
By Ethan Wilson

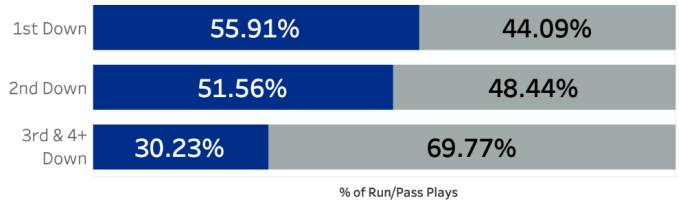
Analyzing The Seahawks' Offense and SEA WR #11 J. Smith Njigba

The Seahawks' offense critically relies on Jaxon Smith-Njigba (JSN) in two distinct ways: **(1)** They are committed to an inefficient **run-to-throw** identity on early downs (56% run, 3.79 YPC) as a setup for their elite **play-action** on later 1st and 2nd downs. These plays are **11.5x** (0.46 EPA) more effective than their standard pass (0.04 EPA) and primarily target JSN on deep shots (19.6 avg air yds, 1.95 EPA). **(2)** When this script fails and they're forced into 3rd & 4+ situations, the PA is abandoned and the offense becomes one-dimensional, shotgun-based, forcing throws to JSN (39.5% target share) on less explosive routes to attain conversions.

Seahawks Offensive Identity (Weeks 1-7)

The Seahawks' offense is a balanced motion-heavy attack with both outside zone runs and PA concepts. They specialize in heavy personnels (12P/Ace) and pre-snap movements to support the run and open passing lanes downfield.

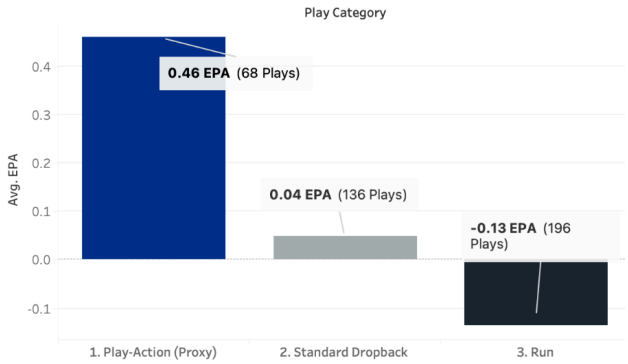
Seahawks are a Predictable Early Down Run Team (56%)



3.83

Yards Per Carry (30th in NFL)

Play-Action Generates 11.5x Higher EPA Than Their Standard Passing Game



Jaxon "Dual-Threat" Smith-Njigba

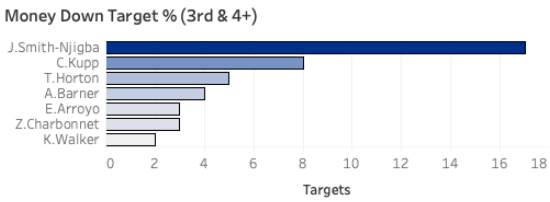
At 6 '0", 196 lbs, and 4.52 speed, JSN is an elite route-runner that quickly shifts into top gear once he has possession. He is fluid throughout the field with spectacular ball-tracking and extremely reliable hands. He plays two critical roles for the Seahawks' Offense:

Play-Action Threat: When their game plan is working (1st/2nd down, under center), JSN is their explosive-play creator. His formation stats follow:

Formation	Receptions	Avg. Air Yards	Avg. EPA
Under Center	14.00	18.00	1.03
Shotgun	36.00	10.84	0.49

Data reveals that PA shots from under center are designed to target JSN deep down the field, and they are extremely effective when they connect (1.03 EPA).

Volume Threat: When the script fails (3rd & 4+) PA is abandoned, and the offense reverts to a shotgun-based, high-volume feed to JSN.



Data reveals JSN receives more than double the targets of any other WR during must-have 3rd down plays. He is their *only* trusted option

Data Sources: Play-by-play data sourced (as of Week 8) from *nflverse* (nflfastpy, v0.1.4). Advanced statistics and team data sourced from *Pro-Football-Reference.com*. Analysis completed in Python, with visualizations completed in Tableau.

Case Study: Week 4 vs. Cardinals (SEA 23 - ARI 20)

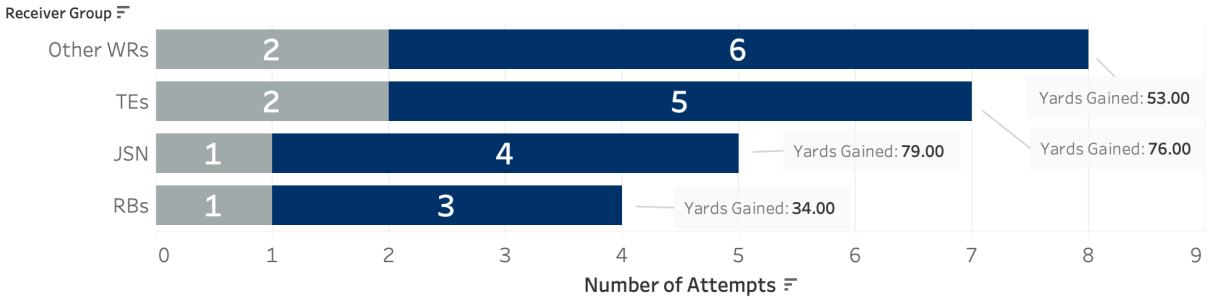
During Week 4, the Seahawks narrowly defeated the Arizona Cardinals on a game winning field goal revealing their offensive vulnerabilities. JSN was held to a season-low stat line of 4 receptions for 79 yards and 0 TDs (0 catches within the 1st half).

Seahawks Offensive Performance

- ***Strength*** - Passing Efficiency: Positive EPA/Pass (0.34). Standard dropbacks were also effective (0.53 EPA)
- ***Weakness*** - Run Game Ineffectiveness: Despite 4.4 YPC, their run game had a -0.18 EPA/rush, specifically K.Walker (-0.29 EPA/rush)

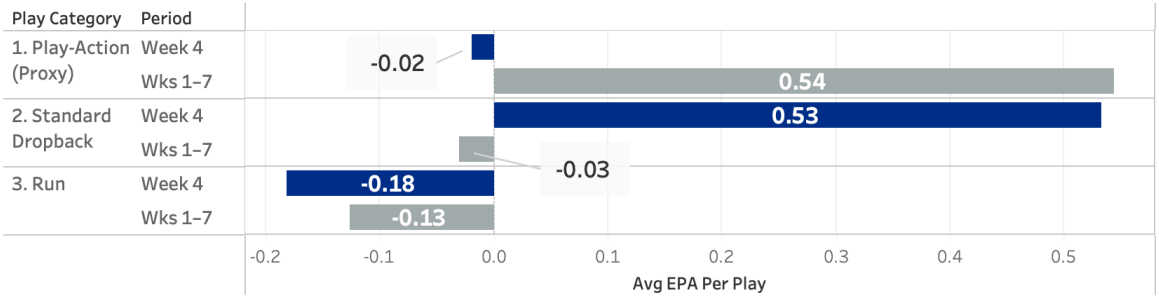
Cardinals' Defensive Strategy

- **Strategy:** Bracketing JSN (17% Target Share vs 38% avg), disrupting the PA timing + effectiveness (83% blitz rate)
- **Impact:** Neutralized PA (-0.02 EPA). Forced a shift to standard passing & TEs (Barner/Arroyo: 7 targets). Limited others WRs (Kupp/Horton /Bobo: 8 targets, 53 yards)



Analytical Takeaways & Defensive Considerations

Analysis of the Cardinals game reveals some successful strategies for disrupting Seattle's offense. **Arizona neutralized Seattle's high-EPA PA** (-0.02 EPA vs 0.57 Season Avg) and **limited JSN's volume** despite their weak pass defense (27th). Seattle relied more on their inefficient run game (-0.18 EPA) and standard passing (1 TD), forcing targets to less explosive WRs and TEs. While Seattle threw 242 passing yards, breaking their explosive PA script (39% of 1st/2nd calls were PA, 14.3% were successful and attained 40%-60% of yards to go) led to stalled drives and field goals. Taking all this into account, despite the inherent risk of exposing other areas of the field, the Cardinal's defense shows implementing high-risk tactics aimed at nullifying JSN is justified. Seattle's supporting cast was unable to fully compensate when their primary target engine was neutralized, providing opportunities for the Cardinal's defense to lower scoring efficiency.



Citations

- Ho, Tan, & Carl, Sebastian (2025). *nflreadpy: python port of nflreadr package for loading nflverse data. v0.1.4*: https://nflreadr.nflverse.com.
- Sports Reference LLC. "2025 Seattle Seahawks Statistics & Players." *Pro-Football-Reference.com - Pro Football Statistics and History*. m/teams/sea/2025.htm. (Accessed October 19, 2025https://www.pro-football-reference.co).