

Coach Nixon Sends In a Play to the Miami Dolphins

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MIAMI, Jan. 3—President Nixon gave Don Shula, coach of the Miami Dolphins, a suggestion today for the American Football Conference champions' game plan in the Super Bowl with the Dallas Cowboys at New Orleans on Jan. 16.

"The President alerted me that the Cowboys are a real good football team," the coach said after receiving a congratulatory telephone call from Mr. Nixon. "But he told me, 'I still think you can hit Warfield on that down-and-in pattern against them.'"

Paul Warfield, sleek wide receiver, caught a long pass from Bob Griese, the Dolphin quarterback, on a down-and-in pattern for a 50-yard gain that positioned the final touchdown in the 21-0 victory over the Baltimore Colts here yesterday in the title game. Earlier, on a down-and-out, Warfield caught another long pass for a 75-yard touchdown.

On a down-and-in the receiver usually feints the defensive cornerback assigned to cover him, races straight downfield and veers toward the center of the field beyond the defensive safetyman in that area.



Associated Press

Richard M. Nixon on the Whittier College football squad in the 1930's.

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President Nixon's suggested play would have Paul Warfield going down and in for a pass from Bob Griese.

On a down-and-out he makes the same preliminary moves but veers toward the sideline for the pass.

Shula was at his Miami Lakes home watching a videotape of the game at about 1:30 A.M., when the President phoned. They chatted for about 10 minutes.

"When the phone rang at that hour," Shula said, "I thought it might be some nut calling. But his aide said, 'Is this Mr. Shula?'. Then he said, 'The President is call-

ing.' Everybody in the house was asking, 'Who is it?' and I said, 'It's the President,' but I thought it might be a hoax. I was listening to make sure it was his voice. I appreciate his interest.

"He warned me that Tom Landry of the Cowboys is a real good coach," Shula said. "He wanted to talk technical football. He wanted to know about our tremendous blocking on Dick Anderson's inter-

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ception return for a touchdown."

"He told me, 'Now you understand that I'm a Washington Redskin fan, but I'm a part-time resident of Miami and I've been following the Dolphins real close.'"

The President was an outspoken follower of the Redskins, who were eliminated by the San Francisco 49ers in the National Conference playoffs on Dec. 26. He even visited the Redskins' practice base to give an impromptu pep talk late in the season. But now he apparently has adopted the Dolphins because of his home in nearby Key Biscayne. However, he told Shula that he doubted he could attend the Super Bowl.

In Washington on Dec. 27, Bill Brundige, a Redskin defensive lineman appeared on a television and disclosed that the Redskin coach, George Allen, received a phone call from Mr. Nixon before the 24-20 loss to the 49ers.

"President Nixon told Allen, 'I'd like to see you run a flanker reverse with Roy Jefferson against the 49ers,'" Brundige said.

At San Francisco, it happened last in the second quarter. The situation: second down and 6 yards to go for the Redskins on the 49er 8-yard line. The play: a flanker reverse to Jefferson. The result: a 13-yard loss.

Shula is aware of the Cowboys' skill. The Dolphins never have played the National Conference champions. But Shula split two games with the Cowboys in

his seven seasons as the Colts' coach before he came to Miami in 1970. His Colts also defeated the Cowboys in the 1966 Palyoff Bowl between second-place teams.

"I've seen the Cowboys on TV lately," Shula said. "They're an all-around experienced, solid team. Ever since they've used Calvin Hill and Duane Thomas together as runners, they've been devastating. Roger Staubach is more disciplined now at quarterback than he was when I remember him. He really makes an effort to stay in there and throw the ball instead of running."

Shula, who was the Colts' coach when, as a 17-point favorite, they lost to the New York Jets in Super Bowl III following the 1968 season, ordered the Dolphins to re-assemble Wednesday. He and his coaching staff began to prepare at their Biscayne College base for the Cowboy game while reviewing films of yesterday's dramatic triumph.

He appeared to be most proud of the Dolphins' six spectacular blocks on Anderson's zigzagging 62-yard interception return.

"It was one of the great plays of all time, a classic," Shula said. "We measure how much a player wants to win by how close he is to the football. To see those blocks unfold was just tremendous. It was perfect reaction. Some teams practice yelling, 'Oskey!' or 'Bingo!' at an interception to alert players to block. We don't use that. We just try to react."

In showing newsmen wide-angle game films of Anderson's run, Shula pointed out

the blocks that turned six Colts upside-down.

"This is the first one, Jake Scott flipping Tom Mitchell," he said as Anderson began to run after snatching the ball, which had been deflected by Curtis Johnson, a cornerback. "Now watch Mike Kolen get Ray Perkins, then, as Anderson cuts across the field, Tim Foley gets John Williams; Doug Swift gets Dan Sullivan, Bill Stanfill gets Bill Curry and Bob Heinz gets John Unitas."

The film was stopped as Anderson eluded Bob Vogel, another Colt lineman, in a cutback into the end zone.

"Look at that," Shula said. "Six Colts on the ground are getting up. That's what football is all about."