

TOA Football Newsletter

Week 6

Five Down – Four To Go: Week six is the last week of the “regular season” for most schools and most officials. In many cases, weeks seven, eight, and nine are “playoff” weeks to determine which team from each district will move on to post-season play. In some cases, week six play will have a significant effect on league standings. Whatever the case with the teams you will be seeing this week, each and every game is important and our best efforts are demanded.

Best Efforts: Last week we worked a game at Shawnee Mission North Stadium and immediately upon arrival we were confronted with with issues that should not significantly bother us but can have an effect on our ability to totally concentrate on the game at hand.

Homecoming was scheduled for that evening. It is beyond me why that five extra minutes added to the normal 15-minute half time can become such a distraction to some of us. How is it, exactly, that a 20 minute halftime can become such a burden that we let it bother our concentration and turns into grumpy old men??

Even before the game, I admit to feeling twinges of, “let's get this thing going!” The band was still on the field and I looked to the far side of the field and there stood, all by herself, a lone flute player – she had to be 25 yards from any other band member. As an alumnus of the University of Kansas Marching Band (back when it was an elite corps of 120 male members – obviously prior to Title 9), I wandered over to visit with her – she said that she had missed all week due to illness and had not been able to learn the routine – but, she wanted to be on the field and participate and this was the solution. I told her that her “gutsiness” was something I truly admired. Only those of you with children would appreciate the smile she gave me and the fact that she simply said “Thank You!”

Learning from the Tape: Our referee secured a tape of our game last Friday evening and, as is always the case, it was very informational, especially in terms of mechanics. Here are a few of our issues – does your crew suffer from the same maladies – what have you learned from watching tapes?

Mechanics: Does your umpire always get to the LOS on pass plays? Well, the Book only says to make progress in that direction – it does not say that U has to be standing on the LOS on every pass play. That is especially good news for guys who are foot-speed challenged; When a time out needs to be taken, should all officials signal it? Should U stand over the ball until the ball is blown ready for play? Are forward progress spots appropriate? Do your LOS officials turn out when a runner with the ball goes out of bounds? Should all officials “mirror” a TO signal?

Play of the Week: Early in our game, Team A ran a play from their own 10 yard line – the running play gain about two yards. The play was over – the ball was set, when L came rushing in from the far sideline announcing that Team A had 12 players. According to L, he had confirmed 12 with H but B was pre-occupied with the balky device that controls the 25-second clock and did not have time to confirm the count. Our first thought was that we had missed the count on the previous play, but with 12 still on the field, we could call “Illegal Substitution” – 5 yards. According to Mr. Bowden, we had knowledge of A participating with 12 on the previous play – it should have been Illegal Participation – 15 yards.

Never a Dull Moment!!! FS