

TOA Football Newsletter

Week 6

The Wind “Could Be a Factor:” Some times my crew mates who believe that I might be the master of of understatements, try to beat me to the punch in an obvious situation. For example, last Friday one one “humorous” fellow piped up with, “the wind could be a factor!” No kidding.

But, it does illustrate that we have to be ready when the weather is a factor: For example, we discussed how the wind could effect the passing game - the kicking game - the strategy of the coaches.

Our game started off with the pre-game toss: Team A won the toss and chose to defer. That was easy. Team B, however, stated that they wanted to kick off with the wind at their backs - problem. We tried to explain that they only got one option and that their decision involved two - the “end of the field” option and the “kick or receive option.” We went through this scenario a couple more times before one of the captains finally said, “kick!” We asked if they were sure, the captain responded, “yes.” Of course this all meant that the team that deferred was going to receive the kick off both halves.

Preventive Officiating: As much as we tried to explain to the visiting captains, they made what could be considered a “bad” choice. Just to make sure that there would be no confusion, one of our officials waited for the coaching staff after half and made sure that the coaching staff knew the situation - he did, but he also asked in joking manner, which captain made that choice. He helped prevent a really awkward and perhaps tense moment.

Coaches Sometimes Become Adamant Concerning the Alleged Wrong Doings of the Opponents: We have all run into coaches that just won't give up on certain subjects - the defense is always in the neutral zone; the offense has not thrown a legal block all night; the offense is holding on every play. The truth is you are not going to ever win an argument with a coach in that frame of mind. It seems as though you have two choices: ignore it or acknowledge the coach. If the complaint has no merit, ignore it - unless the coach becomes profane. If there is merit, address the issue calmly - usually your calm demeanor will “rub off” on a coach who realizes that perhaps he is “barking up the wrong tree.”

Topeka High - Highland Park: Since all I know is what I read in the paper, it would presumptuous to assume that I know more than that. It sounds as though the veteran crew assigned to the game had dealt with issues prior to the mass invasion of the field by Park at Hummer Park. These things happen to the best of crews - it is not always pleasant to be a football official. What we do need to do is support our fellow officials and not pontificate about situations we about which we know few, if any real facts. Most situations like this result from any number of factors. For us to talk as though we know anything at all about this situation is completely inappropriate. What we should do is, discuss what we could do if it happens to us!