

TOA Football Newsletter

Week 1

Something New To Start The Season: A few weeks ago, TOA Web master Bart Waters approached me with what I thought was a great idea – he wanted to share with everyone their pre-game conference, He sent me a copy of it and I have already “borrowed” - read, “stolen,” a number of ideas from it for our crew. It certainly is thorough – but, without being tedious.

Something Old: Yesterday, a tradition was continued. Every Labor Day, our “old” and, I mean OLD, crew gets together for our annual golf tournament – it goes without saying that I am usually the one who ends up paying out the most – although, I have to say that many of the “games” that our old crew chief, Mike Hayes, comes up with seem to be oddly slanted towards him winning. And, the recap at the end of the day often leads me to shaking my head in utter disbelief. I played better than I have in years and still gave up most of my retirement earnings. However, I have the utmost respect, love and admiration for these men – former Topeka High star (according to him), Johnny Johnson – now AD at SM South High School; former University of Wyoming star defensive back, Matt Sims – now a very successful Realtor in Kansas City, Missouri; and, Terry Keefer – now a successful Lawrence businessman (Terry's young son, Cooper, was recently born with severe heart defects – the support they have received has been so heartwarming – please check out www.cooperscause.com)

Of course, that leaves us with our crusty curmudgeon, Mike Hayes, our former Referee and crew chief. Mike is an attorney in Oskaloosa and was a former member of the KU track and Field team under legendary coach (and, my former land lord, Bill Easton). No matter what anyone would ever say about Mike, he is absolutely the best friend anyone could ever hope to have.

May all of you have the pleasure and privilege of having friends like these four men!

Have a great season – and use Bart's pre-game!!

The following is my personnel pre-game or pre-snap ritual. I set it up so that I could print off two, fold in half and laminate. Please understand that this is for the Back Judge. You can adjust it to your position.

PRE-SNAP RITUAL

Free Kick

Take charge of ball
Position at K's free kick line on L's side of the field
:25 clock & count

Scrimmage Down

Position 15-20 yrd.s off line.
Start :25 clock on the Ref's ready.
Check game clock.
Count B players.
Key tight end or strong side.
On runs to the side bracket runner with wing official.
On pass stay deeper than deepest receiver.
Maintain inside out coverage
If runner breaks free, coverage action around him.
Cover goal line.
Assist wing officials on out of bounds plays

Scrimmage Kick

Position 7-10 yards wider than and in back of the deepest receiver on L's side of field.
:25 clock & count.
Have 2 beanbags ready for first touching, R possession, momentum or fumble.
Have R spot you on kick out of bounds.
Be ready to rule on muff.
Be alert on hand-off or reverse.

Field-Goal or Try

Position behind and under upright.
Sound whistle.
Signal score or no score.
Be ready for blocked, short or fake.

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OVERTIME PROCEDURE

Instruct both teams to return to their team box.
3-minute intermission.
All officials meet at the 50, review OT procedures.
Review Time outs, each team gets one for each OT period.
HL & LJ will inform coaches of the number of time outs they still have remaining and any special penalty enforcements.
Coin toss at center of field visiting teams choice.
Winner chooses between defense, offense or defend an end of the field.
Loser has choice of the remaining options.
R indicates the winner of the toss by placing his hand on the captain's shoulder.
The defense will place their back to the goal they will defend.
Ball is placed on the defenses 10 yard line or succeeding spot anywhere between the inbounds lines.
If defense gains possession, the ball becomes dead immediately.
Repeat if needed after a 2-minute intermission.
Loser now has choice.
If additional overtime periods are required, then first options will be alternated with no coin toss.
If defense scores a safety or touch down, the game is ended.

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