

## TOA Football Newsletter

### Week 9

**End of the "Regular" Season:** Some of us ended our "regular" season last night – others will continue their season with games this evening. Our finale was a barn-burner as Miego outlasted DeSoto 26 – 22. And, quite frankly, the game delivered a lot of surprises and any number of challenges.

In no particular order: We had to eject a player – that hasn't happened to us in – well, I honestly cannot remember: A member of the defense took objection to a hard, clean block and cocked his arm and delivered a punishing open handed punch to another kids head. I did not see it but I was proud of the way our crew handled it: We had a calm discussion of the play – the incident was described without prejudice and following a huddle of the three officials who saw it, there was no question that an ejection was warranted. I think that when an ejection is a possibility, our mechanics should be to get the officials involved together and sort out all the facts. Evidently the head coach saw the infraction and did not complain to us at the time about our decision;

We called three holding penalties on the same team – in a row. Fortunately, we agreed that all three would show up on the tape – hopefully. When interior linemen are engaged with an opponent and their hands are "inside" their body frames, it is very difficult for U to see a hold – and, philosophically, we don't have a hold when two opposing players are just "happy to be there!" I tried to ignore a kid (who was physically bigger than any other player on the field) who constantly told me he was being held – like two plays out of three. And, several times he was out of my "area" as he was a defensive tackle with very wide splits. He was an honest kid – he told me he was going to complain after every play until I threw a flag. I was honest too - I told him to "quit whining!" But, as all of you who know me well, I said it in a nice manner.

We had another unusual play: A ball carrier made a move on a defender and the defender stuck his arm out towards to ball carrier while basically going in opposite directions. The side of the runners helmet and the defenders arm met and twisted the runners neck – there was no "blow" struck by the defender. It didn't come close to the face mask or any other helmet opening. Was it deliberate – no. Was it ugly – yes. Was our "no-call" taken well by the coaching staff of team with the ball – no! Was it discussed by the officials – yes. Was a blow struck by the defender – not really. I guess it is plays like this that they pay us the "big bucks" for.

Last one: We had a screen pass that crossed the line of scrimmage. The defenders recognized the play and knocked down the potential receiver – behind the line of scrimmage (not very far behind). Between me and the L, we did not have a flag on this bang-bang play. It just happened too fast and neither one of us was able to assimilate all the necessary information. What is the proper call on this play?? Should it have been linemen illegally down field?

**Speaking of Bang-Bang plays:** I know that several college conferences have made the determination that a bang-bang play where a receiver and a defender collide just as the ball gets there should not be ruled as defensive pass interference – in other words, a "no-call." Do not use this philosophy to keep you from making a call that needs to be made!