

Topeka Officials Association

Football Newsletter

Week Four

I received an e-mail concerning last week's "Newsletter" from Tom Phillips. In it he noted once again the importance of the "Crew Concept" - that the crew is only as good as the worst member. It is easy to become uneasy when working a sub-varsity tilt with officials you do not know – or officials you don't know as well as those on your Friday night varsity crew. Tom notes, however, that recruiting new officials is crucial and that we cannot become "smug" and comfortable with our own crew – we never know when we will have to replace someone. That is one thing we that worked out well for our crew last season – Mike Hayes told us before the season ever started that it would be his last. Still, events made the finalization of our crew a real exciting venture – but, it has worked out well.

Tom also mentioned how much he has missed Rod – haven't we all. Between Rod's passing and Mike's retirement, there is a tremendous void that all of us have to fill – if each of us can give just a little more time to studying the rules – working on mechanics – recruiting new officials – becoming better at this wonderful avocation, we will be doing a great deal to honor all those that taught us. For me it was Merv Nord in Marysville and Wayer and Cross in Waterville. And, all the guys in Lawrence and Topeka and the KC area who have taught me so much. This avocation is truly a "Pay Forward" proposition. Do what you can to better officiating and the game of football.

Dave Perry: In the October issue of *Referee* magazine, there is a story about the impending retirement of Dave Parry, the NCAA National Coordinator of football officials, as well as the Coordinator of Football Officials for the Big Ten Conference. Dave Parry has a lot of power in the world of college football officiating.

However, you would never know it to meet the man.

Several years ago I was asked to be the red hat for a game at Arrowhead Stadium – Florida State vs. Iowa State and the game was officiated by a Big Ten crew. I contacted the Referee and agreed to meet at their Johnson County hotel. I am ALWAYS – usually – early and walked into the hotel at least 40 minutes before we were to leave for the stadium. About five minutes after I arrived, Dave Parry walked down the stairs and seeing my Big 12 jacket immediately began a conversation with me. He was, without doubt, one of the nicest men I had ever met . We talked "football" for 30 minutes.

The game ended with a controversy – had the ISU runner scored the winning TD or had he stepped out as the officials ruled. After the game, we (Dave asked me to join him and the officials) discussed the play for some time – Dave let the officials talk and then let them

know that TV did not have any definitive look at the play. He congratulated them on a job well done and we all sat and enjoyed ourselves as we talked about football until 3:30 a.m.

Get in the Rules Book and the Mechanics Book and find ways you can become a better official and, most importantly, a better member of your crew!

After Friday night, the season is almost half over!!!