

TOA Football Newsletter

Week 9½

The Regular Season has kind of morphed into the post-season and it is hard for many of us are looking forward to working in the KSHSAA play-offs. Many of us will not get that opportunity.

For those who measure their self-worth by the quantity and quality of post-season assignments there is either great joy or gnashing of teeth. What “tricks” were played on you and/or your crew this Halloween season?

Having been involved in the “system” for nearly 40 years, I have no idea as to how the KSHSAA decides who works where and when. And, if you think you do, you are kidding yourself. It is clear that the KSHSAA staff has their favorites (by this, I do not mean they play favorites when deciding who works and who does not work) – by this, I mean that they know who has performed well in the past in playoffs and who they can trust. Quite frankly, that is the way it works during the regular season, as well. Those in control always have to be on the lookout for new talent, as well. As is always the case when “opinion” is important, people can vary widely as to who they believe are the best officials – and, the best officials are not always surrounded by the best crews.

Here is all you can do: Work your game for the good of the kids and work it as well as you can!

Texas A&M: The Big 12 Conference sent me to College Station last week – it is always a thrill to go to the home of the “12th Man!”

The referee was Jon Bible, a man of considerable officiating talent – and, good humor. At dinner on Friday evening, he tried to convince me that his crew did not have pre-game meetings. It was a comment I had to challenge him on. He responded that in the sense that they no longer had to go position by position and detail what each official should do in each of any number of circumstances, there was no “pre-game.” So, on Saturday I was anxious to see what they did do: They thoroughly went over the DVD of plays from their game the previous week and discussed the thought process behind the calls made – it was very interesting to hear their philosophies. Then, they looked at a training DVD from all the games last week and then a DVD from the NCAA. No pre-game conference, my foot!!

Also, as I was wondering around before the game, I happened on a very distinguished older gentleman who introduced himself as John David Crow – a Heisman Award winner from A&M. He was a gentleman’s gentleman and I truly

enjoyed our five-minute visit. He made me feel like I was his best friend. Then, he kind of “one-upped” me: He excused himself saying he needed to get going – to a luncheon hosted by George Bush – what could I say to that?

Finally, I know some of you are still concerned about playoff assignments. One time I was sitting through a pre-tournament meeting before a 6A State Tournament. The person representing the KSHSAA said the following: He mentioned an official by name – “you are here because you got 29 votes! Unfortunately, not one of those 29 votes came from a coach you worked this season!”

How are you going to argue logic like that??

If you get a post-season assignment, read the Rules Book – carefully consider Mechanics – call what is important (Don’t look for fly shit in the pepper) and have fun. It may never come your way again!! FS