

TOA "Football Newsletter"

Week 8

Just a Reminder: Keep in mind all the unique situations that can arise during District play – the winning point spreads, the possible need to run extra points at the end of a game, and the usual rules that apply to OT periods. Remember, if a game goes to OT, the maximum point spread is -1 or +1.

Also, as a reminder, District play is NOT the time to forget to contact school administrators prior to a contracted game. "The Earlier in the week, the better: It seems that contacting administrators earlier in the week, when their minds aren't centered on the Homecoming gate receipts, etc., is a good idea. If you haven't called already, do so the day you receive this.

Some Oldies, But Goodies: I gleaned this information from a Weekly Big 12 newsletter: Forward Progress: One of the best quotes I ever heard was in relationship to the philosophy of Forward Progress: No official was ever criticized for giving ½ yard too much – but Hell Hath No Fury like a coach that believes his runner has been robbed of ½ yard of forward progress. Another issue that needs our attention is that some teams either refuse to line up correctly or have not been appropriately taught. Letting an offensive team have a "bow effect" on the LOS provides a great advantage for the offense. CALL IT!!

We need to Continue to Protect Defenseless Players, especially quarterbacks. I watch way too many late hits that go unpunished. Remember, R is responsible for the safety of the QB – stay with him every step of the play,

Also rough play on the QB can include unnecessary throwing of the passer to the ground after the ball is thrown and using the top of the helmet to butt, ram, or spear the opponent. Watch the **entirety** of the play.

Tough Calls by Position – U: Did the snapper move the ball (or pick it up) prior to the snap? Was the pass a catch or a trap (very important for U to have a good look here)? Was the snapper hit before his 1 second protection period? Did Defensive signals cause A to false start? Was the receiver on of the pass on the fake punt eligible? Do you know the numbers of the ineligible receivers on scrimmage kicks? Do you use a LBPI (Lateral Ball Position Indicator)? Are you always concentrating on your keys at the snap (two guards and the center)? There are so many issues facing the umpire that it can sometimes be a little overwhelming – down, distance, keys, snaps, holding, false starts, ineligible, and the basic desire to be able to survive until the next play. By the way, did you confirm the number of offensive players with the R? Did you remember to remind the R after a play near the sidelines to either wind the clock or start it on the snap? Survival!! An excellent umpire can be a key to a successful crew – the crew surely cannot be very good without one!

A Tribute: Friday night is the last regular season game for our crew and the last regular season game for our crew chief and referee, **Mike Hayes**. This is very difficult for me to comprehend since Mike and I have worked together for so many years that neither of us remembers exactly when we started. We did start when Mike owned an old, old Mercury two-door which had very few functioning features except for the motor and the transmission. No lights worked on the dash – we never knew exactly how fast he was going. And, there were rusted out areas on the rear panels – he put some kind of “goop” in the holes so are clothes bags wouldn’t get dirty and/or wet. Oh, the stories we could tell!

We started officiating together as Mike was going to Law School – we started when Mike had an office in the Standard Mutual Building and we started before computers were very prevalent – Mike developed probably one of the first programs to help in the assigning of officials. Under Mike’s “tough” exterior was a heart of gold – no one could forget his broad smile and his wicked laugh. Mike handled adversity with strength and class – which is much more than can be said of those who do not understand him or know him as well as me.

Mike made me a better person – more understanding – more passionate about co-curricular activities – more passionate about life – more passionate about friendship. Mike made me a better official and I got to work a position I came to love. Mike made four or five guys into a “crew,” in the truest and best sense of the word. I wish I could think of all the men we worked with – at the risk of forgetting someone, I am going to give it a try: Lee Ice, Eric Smith, Mike Grosdidier, Leonard Clark, Mick Lowe, John Johnson, Matt Sims and our current crew which includes Terry Keefer, Tim Greenwood and Dean Pearce. It would be even harder to name all the administrators who gave us such great support and encouragement: Dan Dryer, Rick Benke, Joe Schrag, Roger Toelkes, and Dick Patterson come to mind right away. But, there have been countless others who have been just as helpful. Thank You!!

Perhaps the most fitting tribute is simply to say, “Thanks, Mike, for a job extremely well done. We will miss you greatly and we send you all of our love and best wishes!” FS