

The TOA "Football Newsletter" **Week 5 – 2006**

Hard To Believe: This is Week 5 of the 2006 football season already? One more week of regular season play after this week? District play is right around the corner? Is it me or does the football season end quicker and quicker every year? Or, I am just getting old (this is a rhetorical question which does not demand an answer on your part)? Hopefully you and your crew have been getting better every week – I believe our has and we were rewarded with an especially well played game last Friday – Perry-Lecompton at Santa Fe Trail – two very good teams – two very good coaches – a very good home team administration and a beautiful evening to work! The challenge, of course, is when these factors are not "very good." On the Thursday night before our Friday game, we worked at the Blue Valley Northwest stadium – complete with a new artificial turf field. The problem: We had to cancel the game with a few minutes left in the first half due to severe lightning and our schedule would not allow us to work the continuation of the game on Friday afternoon.

Last Week I teased the subject for this week as "**More on Mechanics or Moron Mechanics.**" Little did I know that one of the topics I wanted to discuss was one that was covered in some detail at last night's Area Supervisor's meeting. That topic was how to best handle extra point conversions. As we all know, the Federation outlined a new mechanic for us to use for kicked extra points and field goals. This mechanic is one that our crew has used for the past three years, rebels that we are! I am sure that once all the crews get used to it and discuss how to handle the different circumstances that can arise on PAT's and FG's, the comfort level will rise. At our Area meeting we discussed ineligible players lining up in the interior of the line – numbers 1 – 49 and 80 – 99. As part of our pre-game meetings with the coaches, the U asks an additional question: "Are there any players ineligible by number that are on the interior positions of the line on punts and place kicks?" This question is usually met with a look of disbelief, but after I explain I will get this typical response: "Yes, number 20 is our long snapper and number 89 is a guard and 94 is a tackle." I write these numbers down on my game card and look for them when those plays take place. At the meeting, one person asked who would be responsible for knowing that number 70 lined up as an end. H or L will note that player. If 70 goes down field on a legal forward pass, some official will notice that he does not belong there by number – and if he catches the pass, I am sure his number will be blinking like a neon light! Getting these plays correct is truly a crew (team) effort.

Great Sadness: It is now Thursday evening, and I was just informed that **Rod McMaster** passed away this evening while officiating a sub-varsity football game. He was working with his usual crew, including his son, Tyler. Exhaustive efforts to revive Rod were not successful. To list Rod's many accomplishments in officiating and in life would take pages. The one thing that has always struck me is how much his wife, June, and his entire family meant to him. Rod was such a proud parent and he loved his grandkids so much. And, he never forgot to mention to me that he could have never accomplished what he did without the loving support of June. It brings great sadness to me to even think about this man not being with us in person, but I know the positive influence he has been on so many of us.

Services are pending.