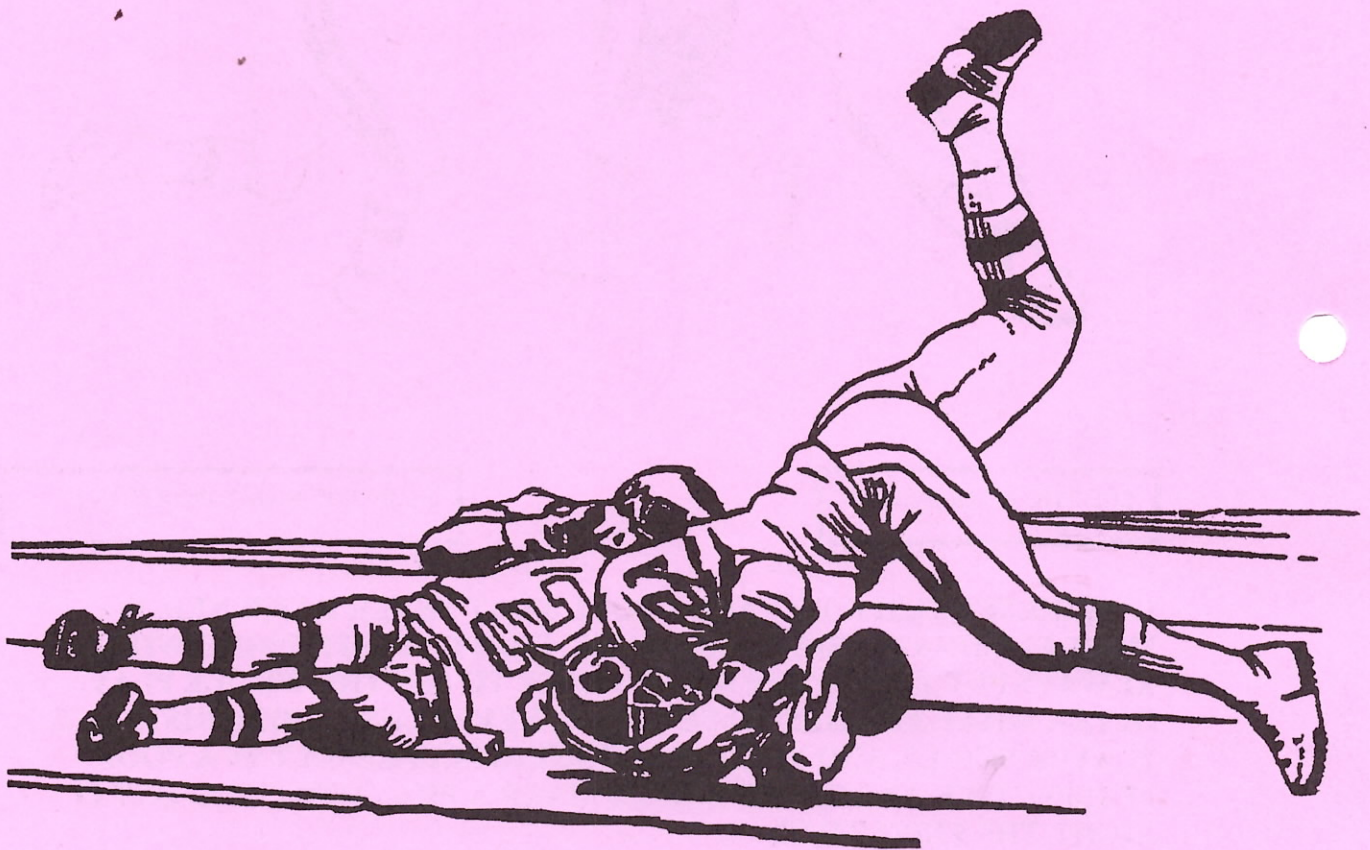


ACCOUNTABILITY

The game of football is a serious business, and as officials we have a great impact on the outcome of the game. This is probably the only business in the world where you have to be perfect in your first assignment and get better each week. We must prove ourselves with every assignment and be tested every Saturday for the duration of the season. officials can only be as good as the last call you make - that seems to be the one everyone remembers!



*A FAMOUS COACH ONCE SAID,
"I DON'T WANT YOU TO CALL THEM AS YOU SEE THEM;
I WANT YOU TO CALL THEM AS THEY HAPPENED."*

THE BURDEN OF RESPONSIBILITY



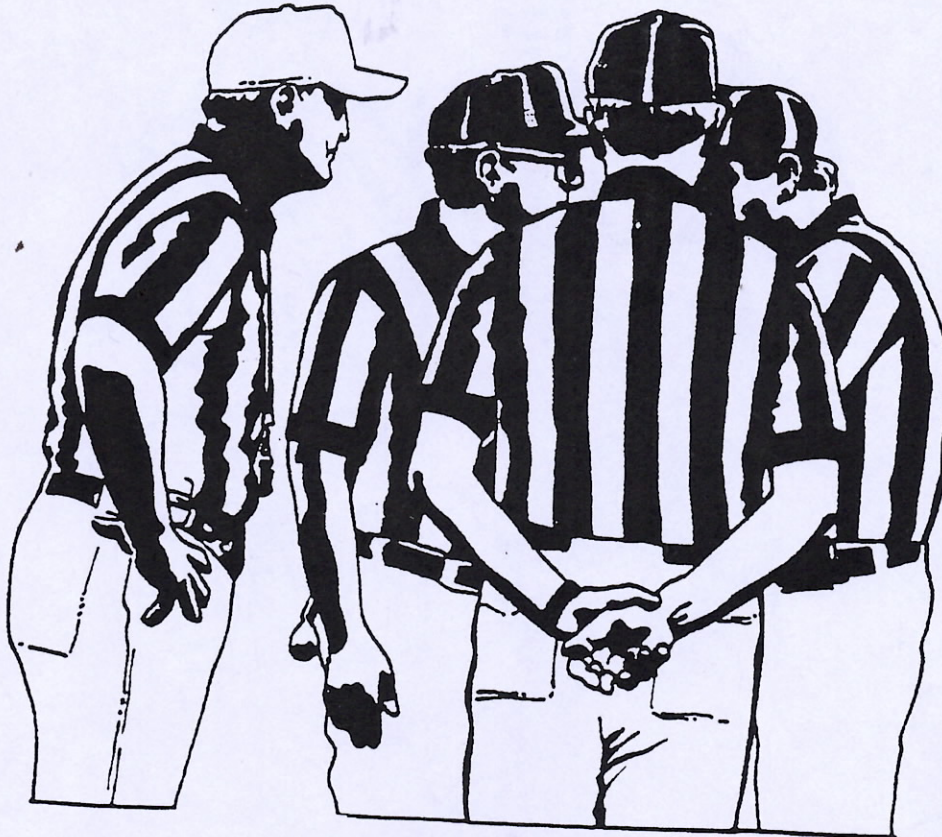
As there are three seasons in every football year, there are three teams on the field during every football game - the *offense*, the *defense* and the *men in triped shirts*..

The "**Rule Book**" and the "**Officials' Manual**" provide a basic understanding of the game. Neither book will demonstrate how to make instant decisions, adjust to emergencies, exercise poise and temper control, be courteous and considerate, yet firm and decisive. Proper preparation will eliminate potential problems. Competency, integrity and consistency are basic requirements which cannot be acquired from any book. The best officials understand their obligations to the game. *Officiating is the only business where a man has to be perfect in his first game, get better every week and be only as good as his last call.*

Most people can learn the rule book of over 100 pages of technical dialogue, but it is the instantaneous call that makes the difference. There are no second chances. An official will have to make over 50 sudden decisions which could affect the outcome of any game. **There is no room for guess work.** A decisive right call is required. *Sometimes the "best call" is a "no call".*

THE BEST OF THE BEST

The best in our business are blessed with the unique ability to see and evaluate those conditions that impact the game. They deliver quality calls. They see what needs to be seen !!! Every official who works at the Division 1 level must be willing to relate text book scenarios to real life applications. There are no written references to direct us to the perfect solution. This only comes with time, patience and a willingness to profit from experience.

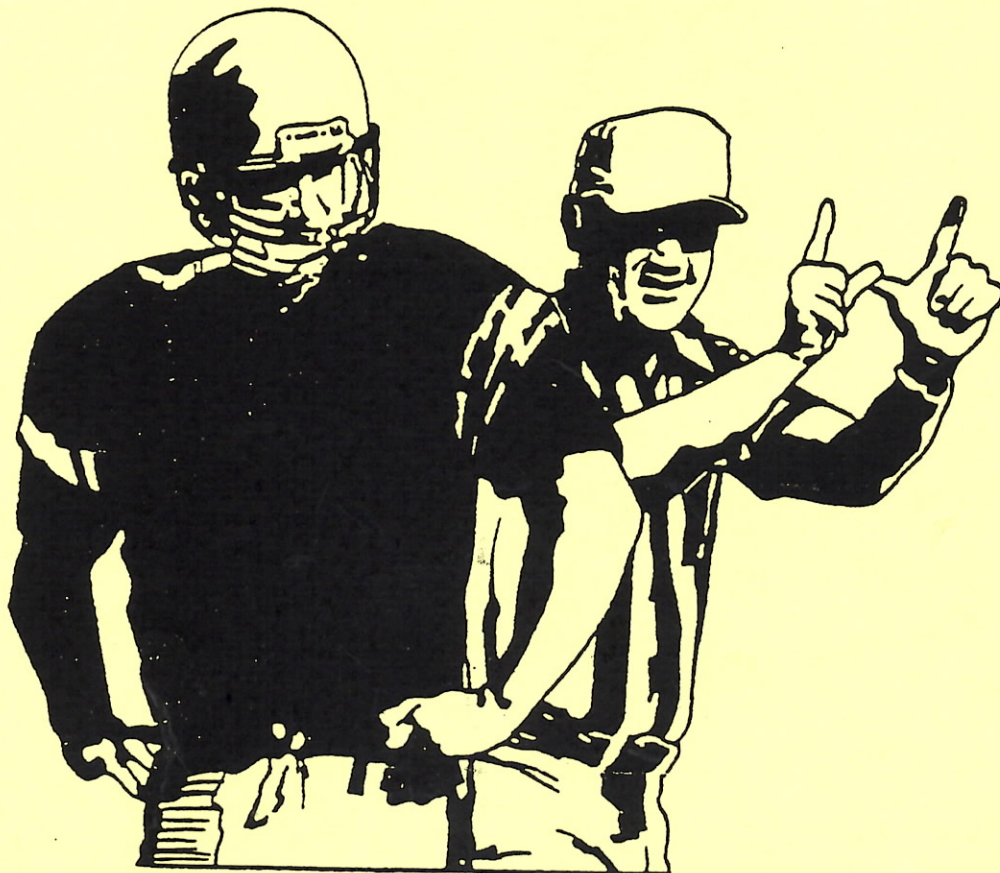


If we were to collect all of the conditions and characteristics for success, the following are probably the most important in our desire to be the best.

- Understand the significance of each assignment ... we have a reason for being there.
- Recognize that the outcome of each game affects the participants, the institutions and us.
- Know something about our clients; they all have special responsibilities and distinct priorities.
- Be aware of the offensive and defensive strategies that are unique to each team [example: option team may tend to be more liberal with hands and arms when attacking a perimeter; while pure passing teams tend to be more subtle at gaining advantage during pocket protection.]

Football officials should be aware that mechanics are simply a step in the right direction to place the official in the **RIGHT PLACE AT THE RIGHT TIME** to observe the action. **HOWEVER, IT IS MANDATORY THAT A TOP-NOTCH FOOTBALL OFFICIAL REALIZE THAT HE MUST EXERCISE DISCRIMINATING JUDGEMENT BASED UPON THE EFFECT CREATED BY THE PLAYERS IN A GIVEN SITUATION AND APPLICATION OF THE RULES.** There is not a need in football officiating for over-technical officials, but rather, those who use and exercise good common sense. John Bunn describes it when he writes, "*It is the purpose of the rules to penalize a player who by reason of an illegal act has placed his opponents at a disadvantaged.*"

There is no game that is effective without skillful administration by mature men who use an abundance of wisdom and common sense. These complex problems are the reason that we send men, and not boys to do a man's job.



GAME POSSIBILITIES

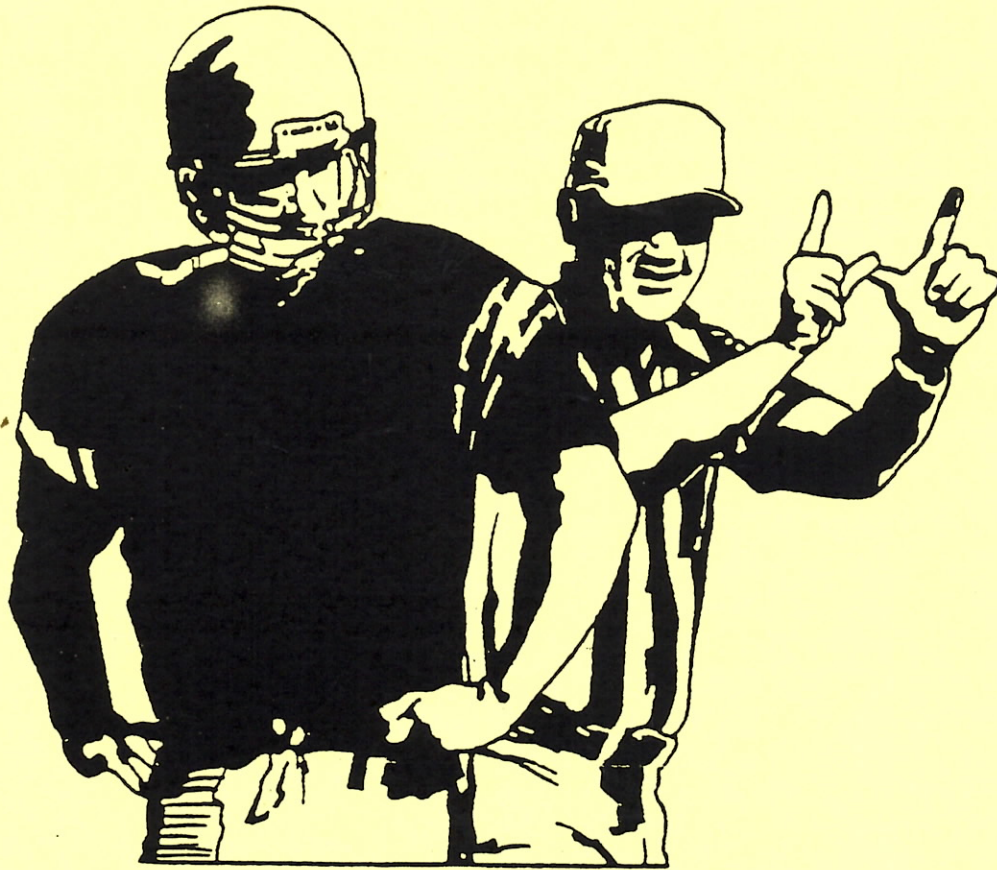
- Every runner is a potential fumbler.
- Most fumbles have the potential for being intercepted and advance.
- Every forward pass has the potential for being intercepted and advanced.
- Every place kick formation has the potential for being a "fake" kick and a ran or pass.
- Every punt formation has the potential for being a "fake" kick and a run or pass.
- Every punt has the possibility of being returned "all the way".
- Every kick off has the possibility of being returned "all the way".
- Every backward pass gives the defense a chance to intercept the ball and advance it.
- Every punt or place kick might be blocked.

The good, alert official respects the possibilities listed in the above plays and is ready to adjust his coverage to meet changing game conditions.

YOU MUST BE ALERT. YOU MUST CONCENTRATE. YOU MUST PREPARE



JUST GET IT DONE



QUALITY CALLS DETERMINE THE OUTCOME OF MANY GAMES. THE TRANSITIONAL PHASE OF THE GAME IS USUALLY LOADED WITH OPPORTUNITIES.

- SUDDEN CHANGE
- KICKING GAME
- GAME BREAKERS

THESE PLAYS ARE IN THE OPEN FIELD AND RESULT IN AN IMMEDIATE ADVANTAGE/ DISADVANTAGE SITUATION. BE ALERT AND CONCENTRATE. DON'T BE SURPRISED. RECOGNIZE THE ATHLETIC POTENTIAL OF THE PARTICIPANTS.

- BE IN THE RIGHT PLACE AT THE RIGHT TIME
- MAKE THE IMPACT CALLS

THERE IS NO FLEXIBILITY FOR RULES SET-ASIDES IN CASES WHERE A FOUL CREATES AN OBVIOUS ADVANTAGE. THESE ARE NON-NEGOTIABLE FOULS. WE EITHER SEE THEM OR WE DON'T. THIS IS WHERE QUALITY OFFICIATING COMES TO BEAR. POSITIONING JUDGEMENT AND THAT NFEEL FOR THE GAME' ARE THE INDICATORS THAT ALLOW US TO DELIVER QUALITY.

STRIVE FOR A HIGHER LEVEL OF PERFORMANCE, ACCURACY AND EFFICIENCY

APPLY REALISTIC OFFICIATING AND IMPROVE YOUR PERFORMANCE

During all pass plays, there will always be some contact. If this contact is not unnecessary roughness and a personal foul, it must be ruled INCIDENTAL CONTACT. Both players have the right to play the ball and contact will likely occur. If this contact does not create an advantage/disadvantage situation, it is ruled incidental. Conversely, if the intent of the contact is to impede the receiver's right to a catchable forward pass, pass interference is the only alternative.

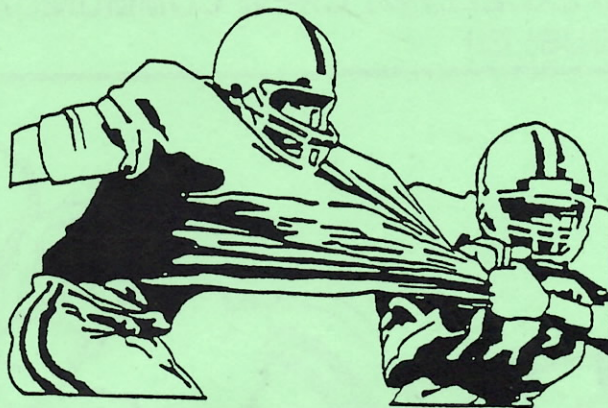
This is an ideal opportunity for team officiating. There are times when tandem officials can provide another perspective relative to the catchable pass. Don't be shy if you did not get a clear look and feel you need assistance. ASK! Remember it is not WHO IS RIGHT, BUT WHAT IS RIGHT. We should not have a problem picking up a flag if a pass was not catchable. DONT BE DEAD RIGHT.

If physical contact occurs on a legal forward pass beyond the neutral zone, and is NOT A CATCHABLE PASS, it is INCIDENTAL CONTACT.

Unnecessary roughness and personal fouls are ruled on individual merit if the pass is not catchable.

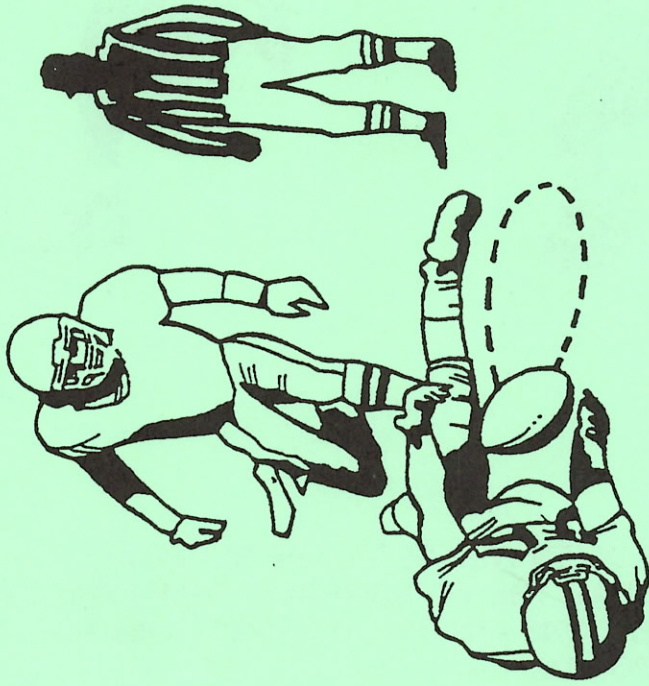
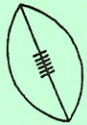
"IF OPPONENTS WHO ARE BEYOND THE LINE COT I E WHILE RUNNING TOWARD A PASS, A FOUL BY ONE OR BOTH PLAYERS IS INDICATED ONLY IF INTENT TO RVIPEDE IF OBVIOUS."

Eligible team "A" player may not be blocked below the waist beyond the neutral zone. Receivers remain eligible UNTIL A LEGAL FORWARD pass is NO LONGER POSSIBLE BY RULE.



Please review Rule 9-3-3 for other considerations for use of hands and arms by defenders.

SIGNALS



QUICK SIGNALS CAN BE SUDDEN DEATH FOR AN OFFICIAL...IT IS ALWAYS THE BEST PROCEDURE TO BE IN THE PROPER POSITION AND ALLOW THE PLAY TO REACH A FINAL CONCLUSION BEFORE DELIVERING ANY SIGNAL. QUESTIONABLE SITUATIONS SHOULD ALWAYS RECEIVE THE BENEFIT OF COMPLETE CREW COORDINATION. IF YOU NEED HELP, LOOK FOR IT.



NO GUESS WORK



ABOVE ALL, NO HALF CALLS...IT IS EMBARRASSING TO TRY TO REVERSE A CALL ONCE DELIVERED. SIGNALS ARE CRUCIAL AND MUST BE DELIVERED AFTER ALL ACTION IS COMPLETE.

SUDDEN CHANGE

THIS IS AN ASPECT OF THE GAME THAT REQUIRES OFFICIALS TO TRANSITION:

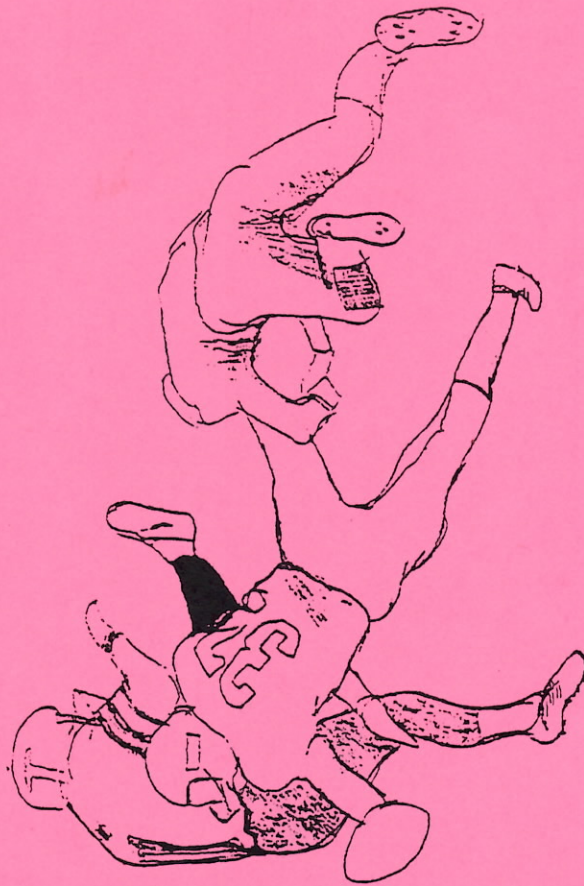
- **FIELD RESPONSIBILITY**
- **OBSERVATION PATTERNS**
- **RULES APPLICATIONS**

SUDDEN CHANGE -

- **BLOCK KICKS**
- **INTERCEPTED PASSES**
- **RECOVERED FUMBLES**
- **PUNT RETURNS**
- **BREAK AWAYS**

REMEMBER:

- **STAY MENTALLY ALERT AND PHYSICALLY READY !**
- **ANTICIPATE SUDDEN CHANGE !**
- **WORK TO BE IN THE RIGHT PLACE AT THE RIGHT TIME!**



**GEAR MENTAL REACTION TO MEET THE UNEXPECTED!
COVER TRANSITION RESPONSIBILITIES FOR
SUDDEN CHANGE AT PREGAME.**

AN INDICATOR OF PROFESSIONALISM

FOOTBALL OFFICIALS ARE PROFESSIONALS --ALTHOUGH THE PURSUIT OF AN OFFICIATING CAREER IS AN ADVOCATION, WE SHOULD PRESENT AN IMPECCABLE IMAGE



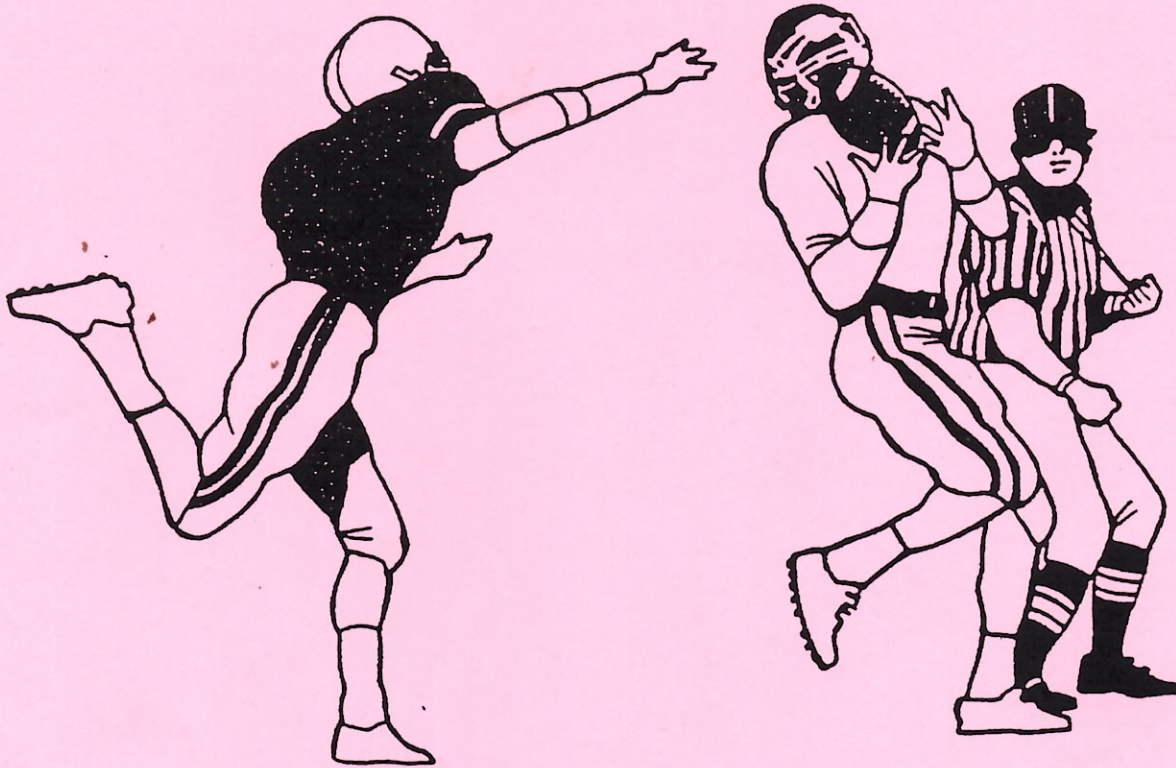
YOUR UNIFORM REFLECTS YOUR PERSONAL STANDARDS:

- NO MESH OR ADJUSTABLE HATS (SIZED HATS ONLY); PRESS FOR A SHARPER LOOK
- STANDARDIZED HOSE
- NO "RUST STAINED" TROUSERS
- SERVICEABLE ZIPPERS - NO TORN SEAMS
- NO'FADED SHIRT

WEAR YOUR
UNIFORM
WITH PRIDE;
LOOK, ACT
ABD DRESS
AS A
PROFESSIONAL
YOU MUST
LOOK THE PART



SECONDARY COVERAGE THE DEEPER ... THE BETTER

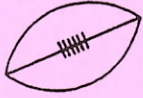


THE THREAT OF DEEP PASS IS THE GREATEST WEAPON FOR AN OFFENSIVE TEAM. BJ'S, FJ'S AND SJ'S MUST HAVE A SIXTH SENSE FOR WHEN THE DEEP THROWS MAY BE TRIED

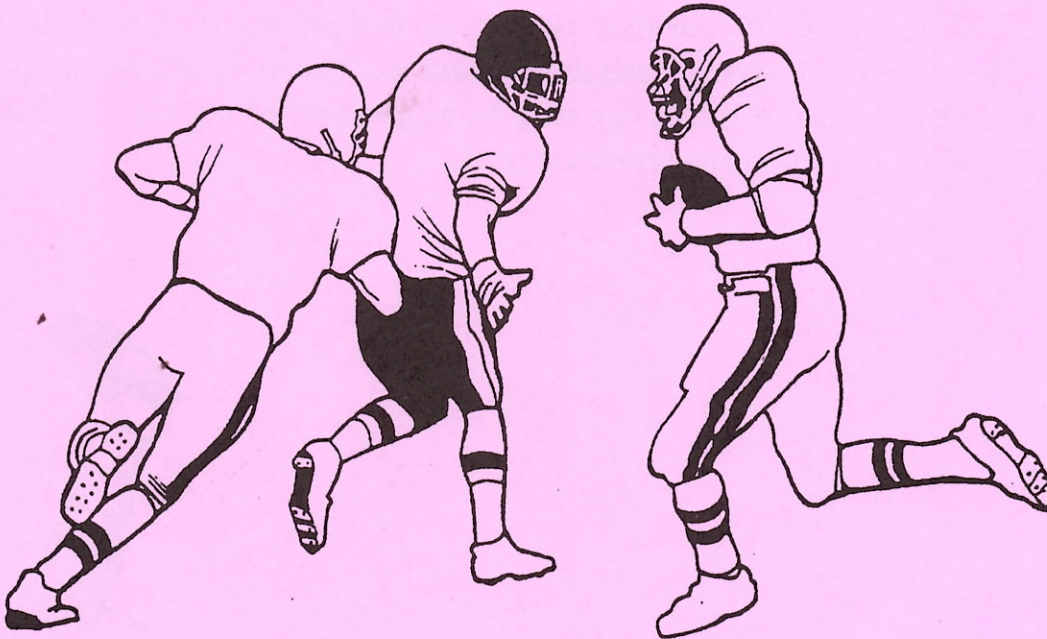
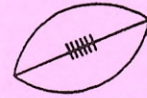
FIRST WE MUST RECOGNIZE THOSE GAME SITUATIONS WHEN THE THROW IS LIKELY AND CONSIDER OTHER FACTORS:

- SPECIAL SUBSTITUTION SITUATION
- ACTION BY AND ON KEYS
- MOTION/FORMATIONS
- RECEIVER RELEASE
- DOWN, DISTANCE, SCORE, TIME
- FIELD POSITION
- OVERLOADS
- CATCHABLE OR NOT

PROPER POSITIONING IS THE KEY TO SUCCESS; NEVER TRY TO OUTRUN THE RECEIVER. YOUR "FEEL FOR THE GAME" IS THE ONLY ALTERNATIVE



THE PHANTOM CALL



SEE THE WHOLE PLAY

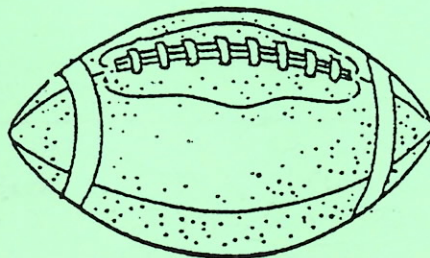
BE IN THE RIGHT POSITION

IT IS INEXCUSABLE TO CALL A FOUL THAT NEVER HAPPENED. WE MUST ELIMINATE THE GUESS WORK. PROPER POSITIONING WILL ALWAYS PUT YOU IN THE RIGHT PLACE TO SEE THE WHOLE PLAY. OFTEN WHAT APPEARS TO BE A FOUL NEVER OCCURRED; DISTANCE, PLAYER SKILLS, AND YOUR POSITIONING MAY RESULT IN A POOR PERSPECTIVE AND CAUSE YOU TO MAKE A PHANTOM CALL. GET IT RIGHT THE FIRST TIME.

- **READ THE PLAY; RECOGNIZE THE POINT OF ATTACK**
- **RECOGNIZE PROPER KEYS AND CREW RESPONSIBILITIES**
- **BE ALERT TO TRANSITIONAL PLAYS (BIG PROBLEMS OCCUR ON THIS ONE)**
- **SEE THE WHOLE PLAY**
- **BE ALERT TO THE SPECIAL SKILLS OF THE PLAYERS**
- **DON'T BE CAUGHT BY SURPRISE**

- Understand the special relationship we have with the coaches and players. A mutual sharing of trust and confidence that is never to be abused.
- Be sensitive to the physical violence and emotional intensity that comes with the game. 'Mese are inseparable.
- Anticipate those events that may occur and impact the outcome of the game. Be alert to sudden change!
- Apply advantage/disadvantage to each scenano. This is by far the major discriminator. Never overlook the importance of player safety.
- Relate to the significance of keying. Don't be a ball watcher. Each play is devised to reflect precise timing and execution. Be a part of the synergism for each play.
- Increase intensity in those areas o the field that are flash points; bench areas, end zones and sidelines. Use maximum control for these areas. A marker is not always the answer.
- Be aware of your responsibilities from the moment you enter the playing surface until you leave.
- Always be conscious.of down, distance, time and score. Tlese aspects are common denominators when anticipating what is likely to occur.
- There are times when a "no call" is the best call.
- Correct field positioning is the best equalizer, "I CALLED IT BECAUSE I SAW IT!!" No guesswork allowed.

BE A STAND-UP OFFICIAL AND ELEVATE YOUR PERFORMANCE TO THE QUALITY STANDARD



DIRECTION TO EXCELLENCE

AS WE PREPARE FOR THE SEASON, IT IS IMPORTANT TO GENERATE THE ENTHUSIASM AND TEAM SPIRIT THAT REFLECT THE WESTERN ATHLETIC CONFERENCE. OUR REPUTATION IS BUILT ON THE EXCELLENT COMPETITIVE STRUCTURE AND OUR UNCOMPROMISING COMMITMENT TO QUALITY OBJECTIVES. THE QUALITY OF THE CONFERENCE MUST "SHINE THROUGH" AND CARRY US OVER THE ROUGH SPOTS THAT ARE AHEAD. CONTINUE YOUR GREAT WORK AND MAINTAIN A STANDARD FOR EXCELLENCE.

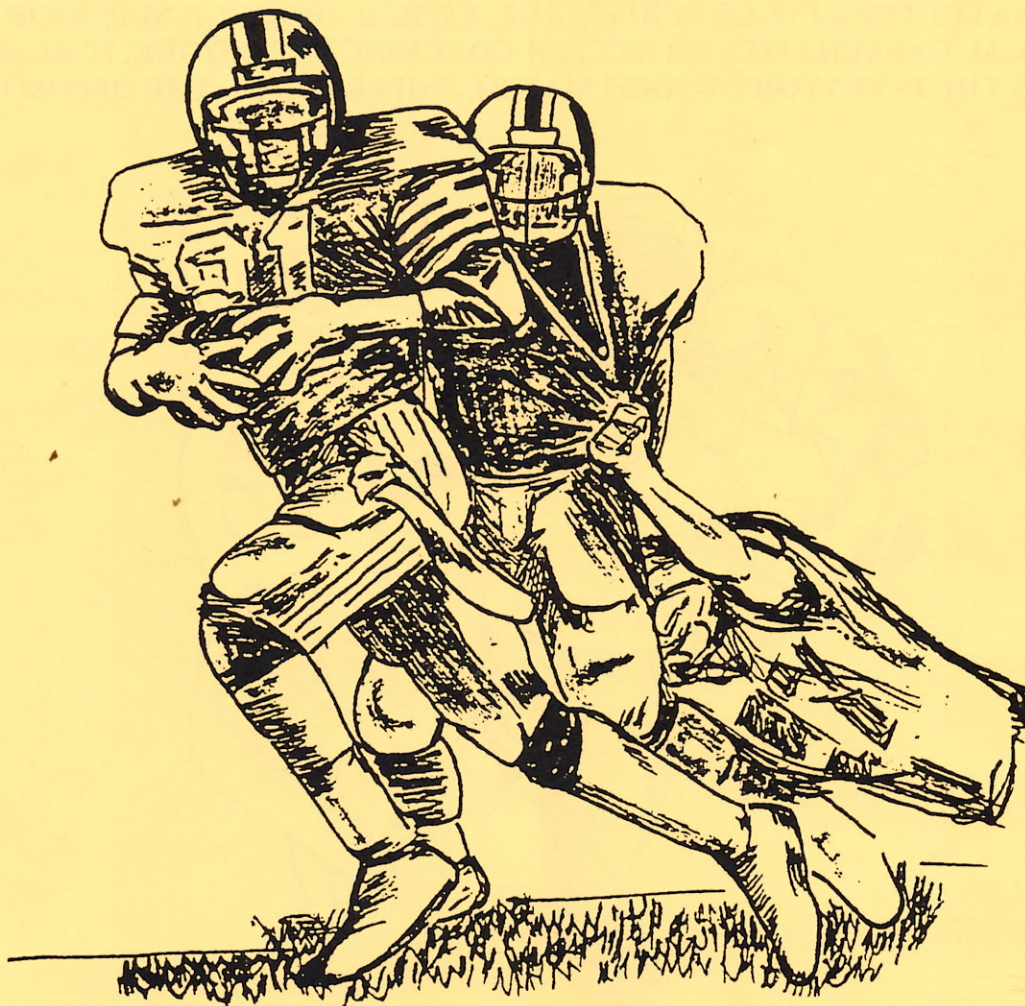
- WE WILL BE USING THE "CREW" CONFIGURATION THIS YEAR. OUR CONFORMANCE TO APPROVED MECHANICS AND OUR APPLICATION OF SOUND JUDGEMENT WILL BE OBJECTIVES FOR THE STAFF.
- PHYSICAL CONDITIONING IS AN ABSOLUTE. WE MUST BE CAPABLE OF BEING IN THE RIGHT PLACE AT THE RIGHT TIME. THIS WILL REQUIRE A FIRM UNDERSTANDING AND APPLICATION OF APPROVED MECHANICS, AS WELL AS A SATISFACTORY PHYSICAL CONDITION.
- THE WESTERN ATHLETIC CONFERENCE FOOTBALL OFFICIATING STAFF WILL ENFORCE THE "SPIRIT AND INTENT" OF THE RULES. WE MUST MASTER THE RULES AND INTERPRET THEM CORRECTLY. REMEMBER - COURAGE, HUSTLE AND TACT ARE INDISPENSIBLE, BUT ABOVE ALL WE MUST HAVE: *GOOD JUDGEMENT!!*
- BETTER FIELD COMMUNICATION WILL ALSO RE REQUIRED! THE STAFF MUST WORK AS THE "THIRD TEAM". REMEMBER: COORDINATE, COMMUNICATE AND COVER!!!

**CALL WHAT YOU SEE!! SEE WHAT YOU CALL!!
UNDERSTAND THE IMPACT OF YOUR CALLS!!**

DURING THE AVERAGE GAME, ANY OFFICIAL MAY BE REQUIRED TO MAKE 50 OR 60 IMMEDIATE DECISIONS. THERE IS NO ROOM FOR UNCERTAINTY OR GUESS WORK. A DECISIVE RIGHT CALL IS REQUIRED. THERE ARE TIMES WHEN THE RIGHT CALL IS A "NO CALL"!



QUALITY CALLS



QUALITY CALLS DETERMINE THE OUTCOME OF MANY GAMES. THE TRANSITIONAL PHASE OF THE GAME IS USUALLY LOADED WITH QUALITY CALLS.

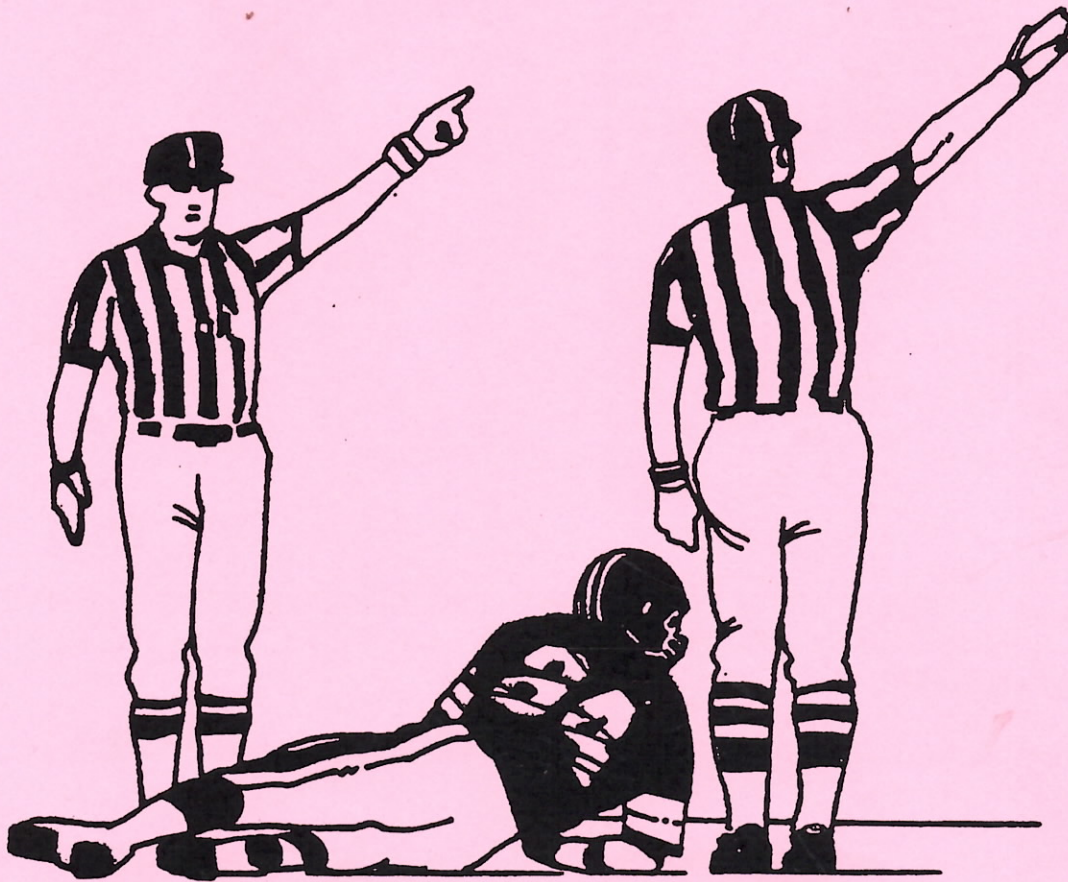
- **SUDDEN CHANGE**
- **KICKING GAME**
- **GAME BREAKERS**

THESE ARE IN OPEN FIELD AND RESULT IN AN IMMEDIATE ADVANTAGE/DISADVANTAGE SITUATION. BE ALERT AND CONCENTRATE. DON'T BE SURPRISED. RECOGNIZE ATHLETIC POTENTIAL.

- **BE IN THE RIGHT PLACE AT THE RIGHT TIME**
- **MAKE THE IMPACT CALLS**

SELLING THE CALL

YOUR POSITIONING IS PERFECT AND YOU HAVE MADE THE IMPACT CALL NOW YOU MUST SELL YOUR CALL WITH AN IMMEDIATE SIGNAL THAT LETS EVERYONE KNOW THE CALL IS YOURS AND YOU SAW WHAT HAPPENED. MAKE YOUR SIGNAL EMPHATIC AND HOLD THE SIGNAL LONG ENOUGH FOR THE OFFICIATING CREW TO RECOGNIZE A TRANSITION. MAINTAIN GOOD EYE CONTACT WITH OTHER OFFICIALS IN THE AREA. DON'T TURN YOUR ATTENTION *TOO QUICKLY* FROM THE IMMEDIATE PARTICIPANTS AND ALWAYS BE ALERT FOR UNSPORTSMANLIKE ACTS. REMEMBER THE CLOCK IS ALWAYS A BIG FACTOR. GET IT SHUT DOWN AND ABOVE ALL COMMUNICATE IMMEDIATELY TO THE REFEREE WHAT HAS OCCURRED.



IF YOU ARE A FOLLOWING OFFICIAL, REPEAT THE PRIMARY CALL. BE ESPECIALLY AWARE OF THE CLOCK STATUS. REPEAT THE "STOP CLOCK" SIGNAL AND ENSURE THE CLOCK OPERATOR RESPONDS TO THE SIGNAL. COORDINATED OFFICIATING IS THE MOST POSITIVE ELEMENT OF GAME CONTROL

PERCEPTIONS...

THE VELVET GLOVE

The quality of officiating is improved and may be better than ever for a number of reason. Videotape is clearer and easier to use than film for reviewing games, officials are fitter and high school officiating, the training ground for future college officials, has improved.



HERE IT IS AGAIN

On the other hand, players are bigger, faster and stronger, and coaches are smarter. As a result, officials are faced with more high-speed, bang-bang plays and more complex formations. The rules on holding are a particular headache for officials - so much so that the infraction routinely is not called. For holding to be called, it should be a strong grab at the point of attack that has a direct effect on the play. No other judgement call leads to as many disputes. And when disputes occur, a good official "soothes rather than incites. He needs to be a great people-handler. Kill 'em with kindness. Firm but fair."