

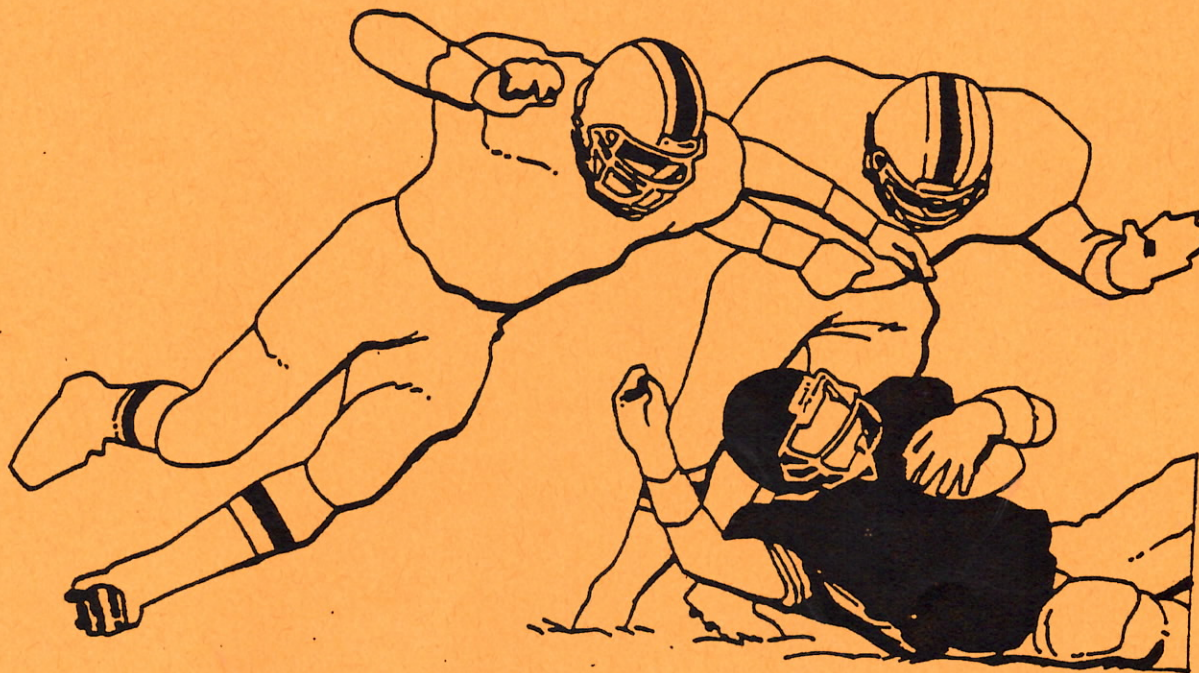
THE LATE HIT

There is no other act in the game that will lead to escalating emotions or increased violent play. We must protect the runner at all times. The late hit is an act of intimidation and must be penalized. Of course, *good judgement and realistic officiating* must be applied to any play where this type of contact occurs.

Late hits are common with players:

- Whose momentum is stopped
- Who are clearly out of bounds
- Who have been carried into an opponents team area
- Who are withdrawing from pursuit or closing on a downed player
- Who are clearing out of the play

Turn up the intensity in games that become one-sided. Use maximum coverage and back up officials whose attention is diverted to another responsibility.



Player safety is primary concern. Be alert for striking blows to ball carriers and receivers and intimidation tactics against players who are clearly down