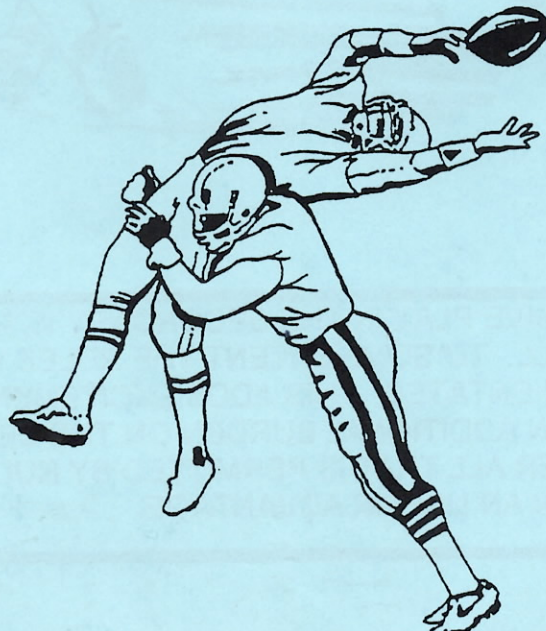


## WHO DOES WHAT TO WHOM???

There is no play in football as controversial or subject to individual judgement as frequently as pass interference. Defensive pass interference occurs at a rate three times greater than offensive interference. Regardless, officials are required to rule on this very emotional and volatile play with instant unflinching accuracy.

Pass interference applies to both the offense and the defense. Although the offensive receivers know the snap count, the pass route and the timing of the route, they are still restricted from illegal contact in the secondary. In short, the offense CANNOT GAIN AN ADVANTAGE through illegal contact in the secondary:

- Offensive receivers may not engage defenders 3 - yards beyond the neutral zone.
- Receivers may not use hands or arms to disengage defenders or gain an advantage on a release. This is illegal contact.
- Illegal contact is prohibited by both team "A" and team "B" players from the time the BALL IS SNAPPED UNTIL IT IS TOUCHED BY ANY PLAYER.
- Both receivers and defenders have TERRITORIAL RIGHTS and equal rights to the ball. Contact that occurs in pursuit of a forward pass cannot create an advantage/disadvantage situation.
- IT IS THE RESPONSIBILITY OF OFFENSIVE PLAYERS TO AVOID CONTACT IN THE SECONDARY.



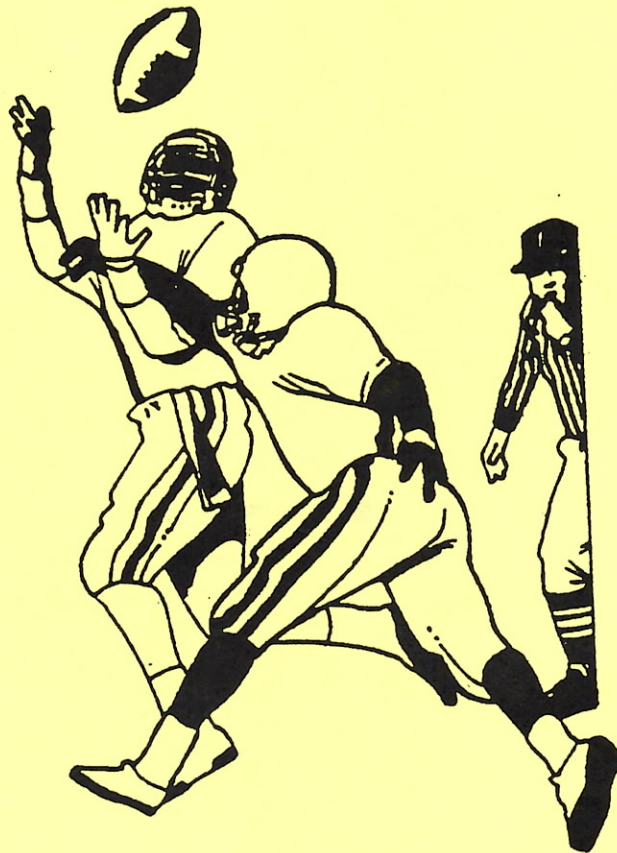
## ADVANTAGE TO THE DEFENDER



AGGRESSIVE DEFENSIVE PLAY IN THE SECONDARY IS A "FACT OF LIFE" IN COLLEGE FOOTBALL. TO SOME EXTENT THE RULES HAVE BECOME MORE OFFENSIVE ORIENTATED. THIS ADDS EXCITEMENT TO THE GAME AND PLACES AN ADDITIONAL BURDEN ON THE DEFENDER - ALLOW THE DEFENDER ALL THAT IS PERMITTED BY RULE, BUT DON'T ALLOW THEM TO GAIN AN UNFAIR ADVANTAGE.

**FOR DEFENSIVE PASS INTERFERENCE TO OCCUR:**

- Obvious contact by a team "B" player must occur BEYOND the neutral zone with intent to impede an ELIGIBLE team "A" player.
- Eligible team "A" player must have the opportunity to receive a CATCHABLE FORWARD PASS.
- Illegal contact must occur after ball is thrown.
- Pass must be a legal forward pass.
- Pass must be catchable and there must be INTENT to deny the receiver the opportunity to catch the pass.



**DEFENDERS MAY INITIATE LEGAL CONTACT**

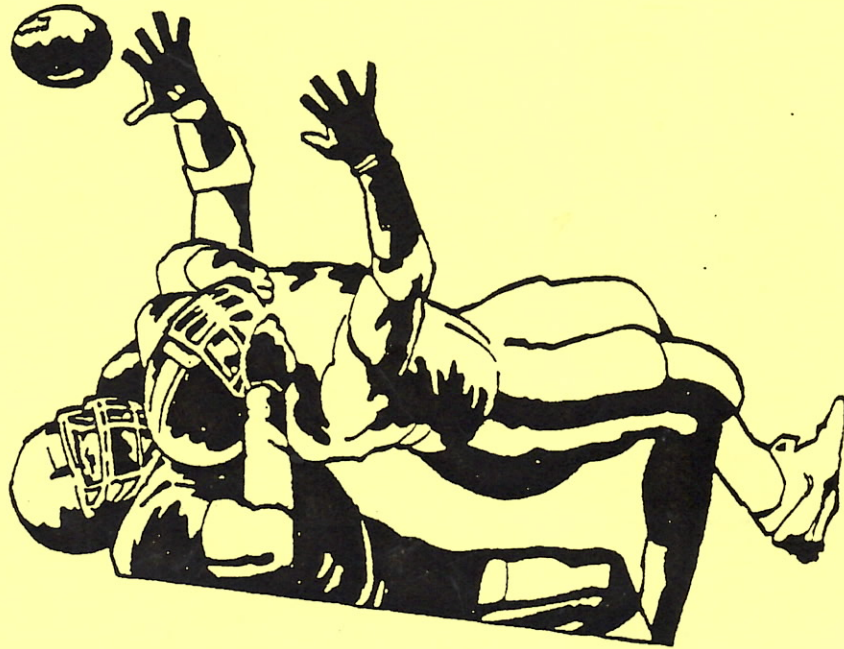
Team "B" player may LEGALLY contact an opponent beyond the neutral zone before the ball is thrown. Team "A" player must not be in a position to receive a catchable forward pass. Legal contact by team "B" is contact above the waist or with hand and arms if team "A" player is attempting a block.

PASS INTERFERENCE IN THE SECONDARY IS ALWAYS A DIFFICULT CALL. PRIOR TO THE 1988 SEASON, THE COLLEGIATE COMMISSIONERS ASSOCIATION (CCA) INTRODUCED THE APPROVED MECHANICS FOR AN UNCATCHABLE FORWARD PASS (SIGNAL 17). THIS SIGNAL ALLOWS THE COVERING OFFICIAL TO IMMEDIATELY SIGNAL WHETHER A LEGAL FORWARD PASS BEYOND THE LINE WAS UNCATCHABLE.

*A CATCHABLE FORWARD PASS IS AN UNTOUCHED LEGAL FORWARD PASS BEYOND THE NEUTRAL ZONE TO AN ELIGIBLE TEAM "A" PLAYER WHO HAS A REASONABLE OPPORTUNITY TO CATCH THE BALL!!*

**WHEN IN QUESTION – A LEGAL FORWARD PASS IS CATCHABLE!!**

A REASONABLE OPPORTUNITY CAN BE QUANTIFIED IF TEAM "A" RECEIVER CAN TOUCH THE BALL WITH:



NORMAL VERTICAL EXTENSION



NORMAL HORIZONTAL EXTENSION

---OR---

REACH AN INTERSECTION POINT WITH ACCELERATION

HAS MADE ROUTE RELEASE IN PARALLEL WITH RELEASE OF BALL

RECEIVER CAN CONTROL BALL INSIDE BOUNDARY LINE