

The Point After II

THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE WISCONSIN FOOTBALL COACHES ASSOCIATION, VOL. 28, No.1, SPRING 2020

**44TH ANNUAL
WFCA FOOTBALL CLINIC
APRIL 2, 3 AND 4
Marriott West, Middleton, WI**

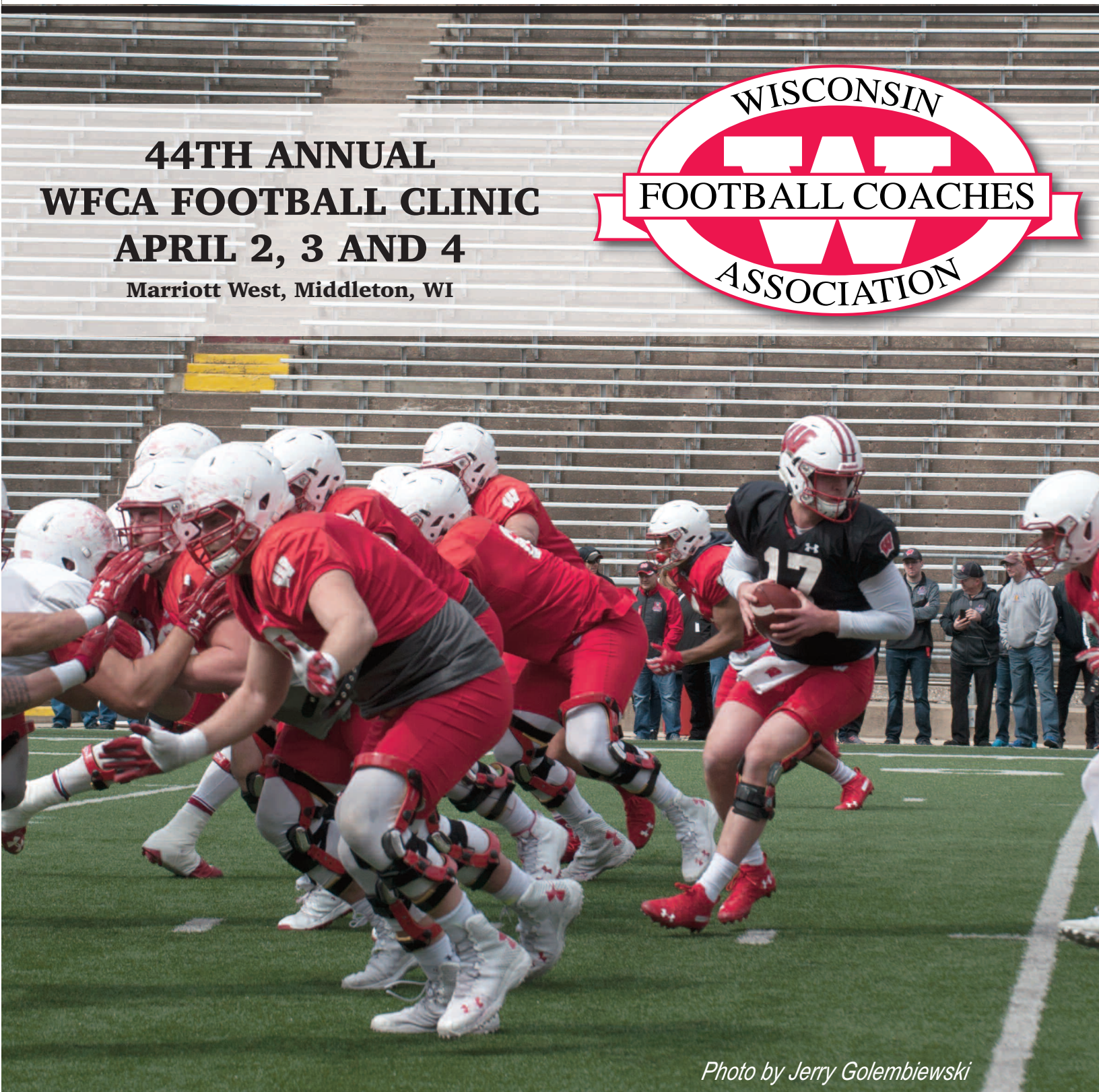


Photo by Jerry Golembiewski

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FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

By: Dan Brunner



Dan Brunner

The State of the WFCB is GOOD! This past year and the current one have been and will be exciting, as we head into our 1st year in the new “8 team conference” format. While there will be tweaks needed, there is a process in place to address issues that arise. Past President Doug Sarver and his committee have done a great service to improving the state of HS Football in Wisconsin. President John Hoch has earmarked Youth Football as one of his priorities during his term. Under his leadership, I’m confident that we will see good things happen in that area. The WFCB will play an integral role as a part of the newly formed Youth Football Alliance. We are partnering with the Packers, WIAA and USA Football to address concerns and attempt to get consensus on the proper procedures and direction of Youth Football going forward. The 2nd Youth Football Forum will be held in Green Bay on March 14th. Tom Swittel and John Hoch will represent us at that meeting. The WFCB is proud to be a part of this.

ALL-STATE BANQUET

The All-State Banquet was held at Lambeau Field’s Atrium on Sunday, January 25th. The keynote address was given by UW Head Coach, Paul Chryst. The Green Bay Packers treated the players and their families and guests to complimentary HOF passes and guided stadium tours. The tours concluded with everyone able to go out onto Lambeau Field through the player tunnel and into the Locker Room! Special thanks to Danny Mock and Ryan Fencel from the Packers for making this a great experience for all attendees. The banquet, emceed by HOF coach, Dave Keel, honors our All-State Team, All-Star Game Head Coaches, College Coaches of the Year, and College Players of the Year, in addition to the WFCB/GB Packer HS Head Coach of the Year and the WFCB Assistant Coach of the Year. We are pleased to announce that we selected an 8-player All-State team, in addition to the Large and Small school teams this year. Special thanks to Jerry & Kathleen Golembiewski, my wife, Kathie, Charna & Scott Kelsey and the WFCB Exec Board for their efforts to make this the finest banquet of its kind anywhere.

WFCB CLINIC

Please remember to set aside April 2, 3, & 4, 2020 for our Annual Gathering in Madison! This year’s Clinic will feature the Big Ten West Champion Badger Coaching Staff, led by Paul Chryst on Thursday. NCAA Division 2 Runnerup, Todd Hoffner, Division 3 National Champ, Jeff Thorne, two Nationally recognized HS coaches; Tim Racki, Nazareth Academy, IL

& Tim Tyrrell, Archbishop Hoban, OH, along with our State Championship coaches, and highlight Friday. Headlining Friday night are Green Bay Packer TE coach, Justin Outten and legendary Badger HC and current AD, Barry Alvarez! We are thrilled to feature BADGER PRACTICE ON SATURDAY AM! Coaches will be allowed on the field as the Badger coaches conduct an extended Indy Session! Coaches will also be able to visit the weight room, player’s lounge & other newly renovated facilities! Online Registration and Membership Renewal is encouraged! Go to www.wfca.org to register. Take advantage of discounted staff rates!

WFCB MENTOR MANUAL

WFCB HOF member and Past President, Bill Collar, along with a select group of current and past WFCB coaches have revised and updated the WFCB Mentoring Manual. It is the finest of its kind anywhere. It is a valuable resource for coaches at all levels. Our plan is to give one to each clinic attendee for free. Future sales of copies will have 100% of the proceeds go toward the Bill Collar Lineman Scholarship Fund.

COY FINALIST

A special congratulations to Bill Young. Bill is one of 8 finalists for the 2020 National High School Athletic Coaches Association, Football Coach of the Year. The award is given annually based on the career accomplishments of the coach. The finalist will be announced in July.

CONCLUSION

Keep up the good work. I look forward to seeing old friends and making new ones on April 2, 3 & 4th. See you at the Marriott.



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FROM THE PRESIDENT

By: John Hoch, Head Football Coach, Lancaster High School



John Hoch

The WFCAs clinic starts April 2nd and runs through April 4th. We hope you are planning on attending. There is another great line-up of speakers from around the country this year, including some great speakers from Wisconsin. A short list are the following: Paul Chryst – UW Head Coach, Jon Budmayr – UW QB Coach, Inoke Breckterfield – UW DL Coach, Barry Alvarez – UW AD, Justin Outten – Green Bay Packers TE Coach, Jeff Thorne – North Central College HC, Kevin Bullis – Whitewater HC, Mike Minick – Green Bay Packers and UFAA Coach of the Year, Todd Hoffner – Minnesota State University HC. Coach Chryst has invited us to visit the Badger's practice on Saturday, April 4th.

Please visit the vendors as you make your way to listen to the presenters, they help make this clinic possible. Dan Brunner has done an outstanding job of securing some great prizes for a WFCAs complimentary drawing; you only need to be present to win. Hope to see you at the clinic to talk some football, start to get geared up for the coming fall.

This fall starts the new conference realignment football. We hope you have met as a new conference, going through schedules for all levels and the constitutional bylaw. We know that each conference is a little different and to make the transition smoothly communication is the key. Again I want to thank Doug Sarver for taking on this project and keeping it moving forward to get it accomplished. We know it is a learning process with potential changes taking place, especially with teams moving from eleven person football to eight person football. Most importantly remember that changes can only take place every other year, starting with proposed changes in the odd year with changes taking place in the even years.

There were several changes made with football season regulations. All teams are required to play seven conference games, if a team has only six conference games the crossover game will count towards the playoffs, but not the conference championship. Eight player football will have August 11th as the first day of practice. Probably the biggest

change moving forward next year will be the electronic seeding for the playoffs.

The WFCAs is working on being involved in youth football. We are partners with the other organizations on leading the youth football movement. Tom Swittel and I will be attending a Youth Forum in early March – I will provide more information as it becomes available.

This year as in the past you have an opportunity to express your concerns to the executive board at the annual business meeting. Please plan on attending to let your voice be heard. Also, there are some constitutional changes that will be voted on at the annual business meeting. These constitutional changes will be on our web site for your convenience to view before the meeting.

I also would like to thank all those that are putting time and effort into making Wisconsin High School Football great. The members of the executive board, district reps, executive director, our executive secretary and you as coaches for the hard work they all do to improve football in the state of Wisconsin. A special thanks goes out to the 2019 Football State Champions!

Finally, spring is around the corner. The snow will soon be melting. In Wisconsin that means football is just a few months away. So this summer, take time to spend with your family, they will be there, supporting you during and after every game whether you win or lose.

WIAA FOOTBALL COACHES ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Meeting Minutes of December 3, 2019

This summary represents the recommendation of this Committee and is not to be construed as a change or revision of existing rules or regulations. The Board of Control will take final action on all items at their January meeting.

Wade Labecki called the meeting to order at 8:06 a.m.

Those present included Wade Labecki (WIAA), Todd Clark (WIAA), Dave Hinkens (Xavier HS), Don Kendzior (WFCAs 8-Man, At-Large), Tony Biolo (Wis. Rapids Lincoln HS), Doug Sarver (Saint Francis HS), Matt Hensler (Badger HS), Jerry Hannack (WFCAs At-Large), Dan Brunner (Executive Director, WFCAs At-Large). Charna Kelsey recorded the minutes.

I. REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The committee reviewed the minutes of the December 4, 2018 meeting. Tony Biolo made a motion to accept the minutes of December 4, 2018 as presented, second by Dave Hinkens; No further discussion; motion carried unanimously.

II. SEASON REGULATIONS

A. Review of 2019 Season Regulations

Wade reviewed how rules are recommended and approved by the WIAA. Wade also called attention to NFHS questionnaire regarding established rules and recommended rule changes at the national level. Charna will distribute the questionnaire link to the entire WFCAs list of coaches. This questionnaire provides valuable input to the NFHS voting members.

1. Coach/Player Ejections – Four coaches were ejected from games in the 2019 football season; one head coach, others lower level and assistant coaches. Player ejections stayed comparable to past years at 89. It was noted that targeting is down.

a. Ejection Policy/Procedures – There were three instances of ejections determined to be misapplication of the rules and subsequently overturned or corrected by Wade. The committee again addressed the issue of the harshness of the ejection penalty as it relates to the football season. The argument is that taking a player out of the remainder of the current game and the following full game imposes an overall penalty of 11% of the entire football season compared to a 5% overall season penalty in other sports. Wade indicated that the consistency across sport lines makes it easier to calculate and enforce. No one wants to encourage misbehavior, but want to build up football.

Motion by Tony Biolo to change the ejection penalty in football to the remainder of the current game and half of the following game, a 5% total season penalty, equal to that of other WIAA sports. Second by Dave Hinkens. Wade called for further discussion, being none; the motion carried unanimously (5-0).

2. Length of Season – The Committee reviewed a letter stating that a 14-game season is too long, and further suggests elimi-

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nating 1st level of the playoffs. Only 14 teams actually play 14 games. 50% play only 9 games. 32 teams this year with overall losing records from the regular season qualified for the playoffs. Since there were no complaints fielded this year from coaches regarding the length of the season, nor the current playoff structure, no action was taken.

3. Football-Only Conference Realignment

- a. **Conference crossovers** – Emails were shared requesting a recommendation. Crossovers currently do not count for conference record but do count as the 7 games to qualify for the playoffs. The crossover process will remain a mandatory process.
- b. **Review of Football-Only schedule** – Monona Grove would like to go into a larger conference. Because of objections from other programs in the conference this will not be fast-tracked but instead will be addressed at the time of regular realignment in 2020. In the Southwest 8-player conference there are only 9 teams planning an 8-game schedule among themselves. Communication was key in the success of this football-only conference realignment.

4. Realignment

- a. **8-Player deadlines** – December 1 of even years. Acknowledged with no action taken.
- b. **Co-op deadlines** – December 1 of even years. Acknowledged with no action taken
- c. **8-Player scheduling** – Games against 8-player league teams with an enrollment over 200 will not be counted as one of the 7 games required for the playoffs. The committee reviewed the email proposing 2 divisions of 8-player football (less than 200/over 200). The committee recommends instead that schools with enrollments over 200 like Sturgeon Bay work to increase participation or find a co-op. A sudden drop in overall participation at a school among freshmen and sophomore players often indicates a problem at the youth level in the community. The WFCAs is working on a youth initiative. Wade cited Menomonie and Edgar as successful programs who have removed tackling from youth programs. The committee agreed that tackling should probably be eliminated from football until middle school. 8-player league options should not circumvent building up a program and individual programs should evaluate the reasons their numbers are dropping off, then develop solutions instead of moving to the 8-player league. Therefore there was no support from the committee to consider large and small divisions in the 8-player league. No action was taken at this time.

- 1) **Groups of 12 – 5 conference/5 crossover** – There was no need for action as the conferences are already working on scheduling. The committee recommend groups of 12 schedule 5 conference and 3 crossover games, setting up an 8-game season. This is a recommendation to 8-player league teams, not a mandate. 5 conference games are required for the playoffs. Crossover games count for conference standing for 8-player teams but not for playoff qualifications.
- 2) **Groups of 9 with 8 conference games** – Don Kendzior indicated that this is also being scheduled.
- 3) **8-game season** – 34 teams were surveyed and 27 responded. 80% of 8-player football programs are in favor of an 8-game season. Teams not qualifying to play into the playoffs will always be allowed to play 9 games by scheduling additional games against other teams not qualifying for the playoffs. Tony Biolo made the following motion: Starting in 2020, the 8-player

season will begin in week 6, with equipment testing and distribution on Monday (August 10) and earliest possible first practice on Tuesday (August 11), to allow for an 8 games season. Matt Hensler seconded the motion. Wade called for further discussion, being none; the motion carried unanimously (5-0).

Justification for this change is three-fold. First, this will increase participation because of the later start. Second, it protects players with fewer on the field exposing them to less chance of injury. And finally, provides financial relief for small programs. Furthermore, teams not in the playoffs may still play a 9th game at the end of the season if they choose.

5. Constitutional Items

Wade identified the constitutional items that will be reviewed through the committee process. There is no need for action.

6. Calendar – 3 Year and NFHS

Looking forward at the football calendar the early start of the season is again back to July 31st in 2023. We have 3 years to look at possible solutions if they are required. Membership is split on possible solutions. Wade brought this to the committee's attention. No action was taken.

7. Other Items from Regular Season – There were none

III. TOURNAMENT PROCEDURES

A. Review

1. **Qualifying criteria** – Wade expressed concerns regarding establishing the qualifying field. 32 teams with a losing record will get into the playoffs. There will be a random draw coin flip for tie breakers. Wade discussed letting the 1st year of the computer seeding run to see how things go before making changes.
 - a. **Number of .500 teams** – As teams switch to 8-player this may become an increased issue. No action was taken.
 - b. **1 vs. 8** – No discussion
 - c. **6 divisions** – The enrollment range within divisions were large this year. Criteria was applied causing large ranges particularly at D1. 8 schools dropped a division. The committee is not recommending a drop to 6 divisions at this time because it is not supported by the WFCAs membership. Disparity between the enrollment numbers at the top compared to the bottom of each division was identified as the problem. This may increase as the 8-player league increases. But the committee feels that this should be addressed at a later date if these potential issues might become a reality. Predetermined divisions could be a solution. This year's tournament pairings yielded some of the most competitive games in recent history. Div. 3 pairings would not have happened. Breaks will change based on realignment which may heal the gaps. Wade indicated that the WIAA would not add a 2nd 8-player division unless division 7 of the 11-player league is eliminated. No action was taken at this time.
 - d. **Playoff Proposal with play-in round** – Kaukauna message – Proposed 12 in a bracket instead of 8, first 4 would get a bye week. Discussed but no action was taken at this time again citing that we are anticipating problems not yet fully realized and that we should let the first year of auto seeding play out.
 - e. **8-player Qualifying** – enrollments over 200 do not count – This was discussed earlier. No action was taken.
 - f. **8-player Effect on 11-player Divisional Format** – The largest enrollment span is in D1 when looking just at numbers. A case can be made that the disparity increases with smaller schools even though the number does not represent

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a doubling of enrollment, because of the number of kids they have to draw from. Schools with the largest enrollment do not always win the State championship in their division. For example Muskego was 25th largest with enrollment at 1600. No action was taken.

- g. Forfeits and Effect on Qualifying** – Conference & non-conference – The result of forfeitures was discussed, occurring both before and after the season begins. Once a schedule is established, dropping a game always results in a forfeit win for the opponent in conference standings. Non-conference forfeits if counted in conference standing, would result in a credit, though not earned therefore count as a bye week. Forfeitures often occur when a greater competitive disparity exists between teams. The rule should encourage teams to play and not quit early. Currently there is a 5-game conference minimum to qualify for the play-offs. Matt Hensler made a motion to change the existing criteria to require a minimum of 7 conference games, or 6 with a mandated crossover game, to qualify for the play-offs. Crossover wins will count for playoff qualification as a conference game, but conference champions are determined based on conference games only. The motion was seconded by Dave Hinkens. Wade called for further discussion, being none; motion carried unanimously (5-0).

Tony Biolo moved to record a forfeit of conference and mandated crossover games, in both 8 and 11-player football, as a conference win, whether before or after the season begins. The motion was seconded by Matt Hensler. Wade called for additional discussion, there was none; the motion carried unanimously (5-0).

Tony Biolo made the following motion: Starting in 2020, 8-player football games vs. teams with enrollment over 200 count toward Conference record but not toward playoff qualifications. 8-player teams with best overall win/loss percentage against schools with enrollments less than 201, and with a minimum of 4 varsity games, shall be added to the field. The motion was seconded by Dave Hinkens, with no further discussion the motion carried unanimously (5-0).

Dave Hinkens made a motion to copy the language from 11-player regulations, to the 8-player regulations with regard to forfeiture, seconded by Tony Biolo. Wade called for further discussion, there was none; the motion carried unanimously (5-0).

This effectively establishes conferences in the 8-player tournament for the purpose of the playoffs.

- 2. Auto-seeding factors** – Auto-seeding will begin in 2020. Eric Dziak joined the meeting to explain the process. There was some discussion with regard to specific outcomes when the formula was applied to the seeding of the 2019 playoffs. Generally there was confidence within the committee that a bit of tweaking with regard to applying the criteria will yield a good outcome in 2020. The committee will get together again to work on the weight applied to the criteria. Pages 17-18 of the tournament procedures address seeding. The committee will provide a final summary.
 - a. Add Head-to-head criteria** – The committee will consider and determine if it should be applied as a criterion and the weight it might be given.
 - b. Overall wins more weight** – Again the committee will consider and evaluate the overall effect on the final seeding outcome.

- c. Appeals by auto-seeding** – Upsets are not unwelcome. The seeding should be based objectively on regular season records and if there are upsets, this does not mean the formula is wrong. Ties will generally be broken by the application of the criteria and the formula. In the unlikely event of an unbreakable tie, first half points will be considered and finally an electronic coin toss will be used to break it. This will eliminate the need for an appeals process. Advantages include saving time and travel to Saturday meetings, delays and also the possibility of collusion which exists in the current process.

Motion was made by Tony Biolo to implement electronic auto-seeding in 2020 based on the criteria and formulas set forth in the final summary presented by the committee and to eliminate appeals. Dave Hinkens seconded the motion. With no further discussion; the motion carried unanimously (5-0).

- 3. Other Concerns from Level 1-Level 4** – No concerns. It was noted that hosting schools can make the decision to change the venue without particular cause. The WIAA does not get involved.
- 4. State Tournament** – Instant replay seemed to go well. One objection was reviewed. The committee suggested an increased use to include a review of egregious errors. Use for scoring plays and turnovers, including by downs (spot on 4th down), will continue with no action required. Sideline referees should explain to coaches why a ruling is overturned.
- 5. 8-Player Tournament** – The State Tournament at Chippewa Falls went very well, with a good central location there were large crowds. The WIAA will continue to name a location based on teams participating in the tournament in years to come.
- 6. Other Items from Tournament Series** – Because of the overwhelming success of the tournaments this year, there were no recommendations for changes.

IV. MISCELLANEOUS

A. Items from Coaches

- 1. Voting membership of Advisory Committee** – Understanding that advisory committees must generally be head coaches, this committee is made up of individuals voted into office by the WFCA members to serve as their leadership. Therefore, Tony Biolo moved to additionally allow the elected members of the WFCA Executive Board to serve as full voting members of the Football Advisory Committee. The motion was seconded by Dave Hinkens, with no further discussion; motion carried unanimously (5-0).
- 2. Discussed the need to terminate a game** based on a given point differential to prevent teams from forfeiting games when they are not competitive in play. Matt Hensler made the motion to allow the losing team in the second half of a game, to end that game regardless of mutual agreement at any time, if the score reaches a 45-point differential or greater. Tony Biolo seconded the motion. Wade called for further discussion, there was none; the motion carried unanimously (5-0).

- B. Confirmation is needed** that new conferences have appointed commissioners, declared their name, schedules, and officials. Joan will communicate with conferences this week and identify a deadline.

V. ITEMS FOR 2020 FOOTBALL MEETINGS

None were identified.

Motion to adjourn by Tony Biolo and seconded by Matt Hensler at 12:04 pm, no objection; motion carried.



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FROM THE HALL OF FAME CHAIRMAN

By: John Hoch, Athletic Director and Head Football Coach, Lancaster HS, WFCB Hall of Fame Chairman



John Hoch

The WFCB Staff and especially Charna Kelsey are working hard to complete the planning for the annual spring clinic. Bob Berezowitz and Dan Brunner have a great lineup of speakers and events scheduled. On Saturday the HOF Banquet brings the clinic to a close where we will be honoring individuals that have contributed a lot to this great game of football. The Class of 2020 HOF Members are as follows: Head Coaches – Joe LaBuda (Menomonie HS), Kirk DeNoyer (Wisconsin Lutheran HS), Steve Rux (Waukesha West HS), Dan St. Arnaud (Niagara/Brillion HS); Assistant Coaches – Tom Fugate (Homestead HS), Paul Martin (Waunakee HS), Bernie Schmidt (Cudahy HS), Mark

Traun (Elk Mound HS); Assistant/Head Coaches – Steve Lyga (Cochrane-Fountain City HS) and Scott Statz (Platteville HS). Two individuals will be inducted into the National High School Athletic Coaches Association, they are Bill Turnquist (West De Pere HS) and Dave Keel (Homestead HS). Brad Arnett (Nx Level) will receive the Dave McClain Distinguished Service Award and Chuck Raykovich (Chippewa Falls) will receive the Positive Influence of Coaching Award for his programs promoting leadership and benevolence.

The Hall of Fame banquet is scheduled for Saturday, April 4, 2020 at the Marriott West in Middleton. The Marriott West has recently finished a remodeling project – you will be impressed with its new look. The reception begins at 4:30 pm with the banquet beginning at 5:30 pm. The tickets are \$45.00 each. If interested please make your check payable to the Wisconsin Football Coaches Association and send it to WFCB, PO Box 8, Poynette, WI 53955.

Duane Rogatzki and Bill Collar are in charge of organizing the HOF Luncheon where past HOF members and spouses can get together to reminisce about the old days while enjoying a great meal. This takes place on Friday, April 3rd of the Spring Clinic at 12:00 noon. Duane and Bill continue to do a great job with this event and of course Bill will again provide us with some entertainment.

Any member of the WFCB may nominate an individual for the WFCB HOF. The deadline for nominating an individual is May 1st of every year with selection taking place in June. There are forms and more detailed information on the WFCB Website to help you nominate an individual. After nominations are received the nominations go through a screening, information is put into a rubric, and information is passed on to committee members. The new nominations will be evaluated against previous nominations from the past five years. The HOF Committee meets in June and goes through all nominations. After discussion about the candidates a vote is taken with the top individual being selected to the Hall of Fame for the next year.

I want to thank everyone who has donated \$100 to the HOF Scholarship Fund. I also want to give a special thank you to Jerry Golembiewski on his fund raising efforts. Without Jerry we would not be able to reach our goal of providing each of the scholarship winners \$1000 scholarship. You can make a donation for next year's scholarship fund by sending your donation into the WFCB Office, PO Box 8, Poynette, WI 53955 at this time.

As always every year we lose some great individuals that have dedicated themselves to making football great. Please keep them and their families in your prayers.

2019-2020 WFCB HALL OF FAME SCHOLARSHIP DONATIONS

Lee Ackley	\$100.00	Robert Domenosky	\$100.00	Richard Jones	\$100.00	Keith O'Donnell	\$100.00
Barry Alvarez	\$1,000.00	Gregg Dufek	\$50.00	Terry Kelly	\$100.00	Dan Pedersen	\$100.00
Dieter Antoni	\$100.00	<i>In Memory of Frank Matrise, Jr.</i>		Jim Kemerling	\$100.00	Gary Raether	\$100.00
Mark Anderson	\$100.00	Gregg Dufek	\$100.00	Don Kendzior	\$100.00	Dan Rice	\$100.00
Michael Anderson	\$100.00	William Ehnerd	\$100.00	Randall Kiester	\$100.00	Duane Rogatzki	\$100.00
Len Apple	\$100.00	Paul Engen	\$100.00	James Kinder	\$100.00	Eric Rolland	\$100.00
Doug Bark	\$100.00	Jerome Fishbain	\$100.00	Peter Kittel	\$100.00	Jeff Rosemeyer	\$100.00
Bob Berezowitz	\$100.00	Rudy Gaddini	\$100.00	Bob Knigh	\$100.00	Michael Sexton	\$100.00
Dan Brunner	\$300.00	Jerry Golembiewski	\$200.00	Gary Kolpin	\$100.00	Jerry Sinz	\$100.00
Frank Budzisz	\$100.00	Jerry Griffin	\$100.00	John Koronkiewicz	\$100.00	Fred Spaeth	\$100.00
Ed Carufel	\$101.00	Stan Grove	\$100.00	Ed Krcmar	\$100.00	Wayne Steffenhagen	\$100.00
Doug Chickering	\$100.00	Ron Grovesteen	\$100.00	Carlos Kreibich	\$100.00	Bob Suter	\$100.00
Bill Collar	\$200.00	Harlan Gruber	\$100.00	Gary Larsen	\$100.00	Tom Swittel	\$100.00
Rick Coles	\$100.00	Jim Harris	\$100.00	Robert Lieberman	\$100.00	Cal Tackes	\$100.00
Pat Connors	\$100.00	John Heinke	\$100.00	Rock Mannigel	\$100.00	Dario Talerico	\$100.00
Robert Coy	\$100.00	Glen Hinkens	\$100.00	Charlie McDonald	\$100.00	Tom Tenpas	\$100.00
Garry Crull	\$100.00	Doug Hjersjo	\$100.00	Dennis Moon	\$100.00	Robert Thomas	\$100.00
John Curtis	\$100.00	Bill Hoagland	\$100.00	Ken Mueller	\$100.00	Bill Turnquist	\$100.00
Ed De George	\$100.00	John Hoch	\$100.00	Paul Nievinski	\$100.00	Jay Wilson	\$200.00
Phil Dobbs	\$100.00	David Hochtritt	\$100.00	Terry Noble	\$100.00	Jay Zimmerman	\$100.00

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CONGRATULATIONS

2019-2020 WFCA Hall of Fame Scholarship Recipients



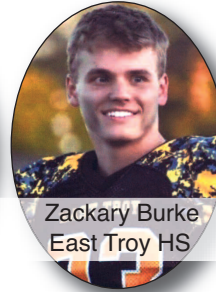
Aaron Borgerding
Spring Valley HS



William Brazgel
Lake Country Lutheran



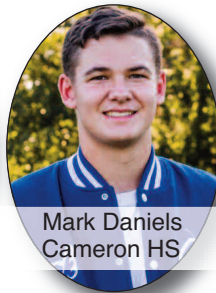
Kallion Buckner
Middleton HS



Zackary Burke
East Troy HS



Coltan Dahl
Osseo-Fairchild HS



Mark Daniels
Cameron HS



Abigail Delkamp
Reedsburg HS



Joseph Dufek
So. Milwaukee HS



Tyler Hannah
Prairie du Chien HS



Katie Hoeth
Melrose-Mindoro HS



Marshall Jacklin
Slinger HS



Kevin John
Northland Pines HS



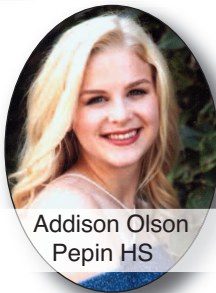
Casey Kahl
Turtle Lake HS



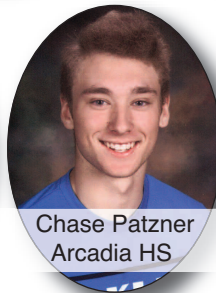
Milo Koenig
Stanley-Boyd HS



Parker Kopp
Cuba City HS



Addison Olson
Pepin HS



Chase Patzner
Arcadia HS



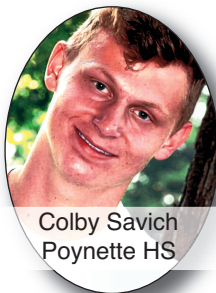
Isaiah Place
Lancaster HS



Ben Riter
Prairie du Chien HS



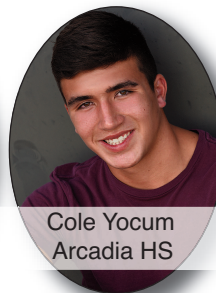
Ivan Ruble
Clear Lake HS



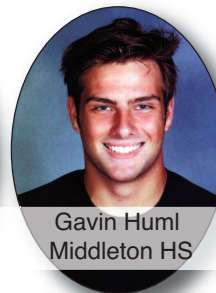
Colby Savich
Poynette HS



Blaze Todd
Baraboo HS



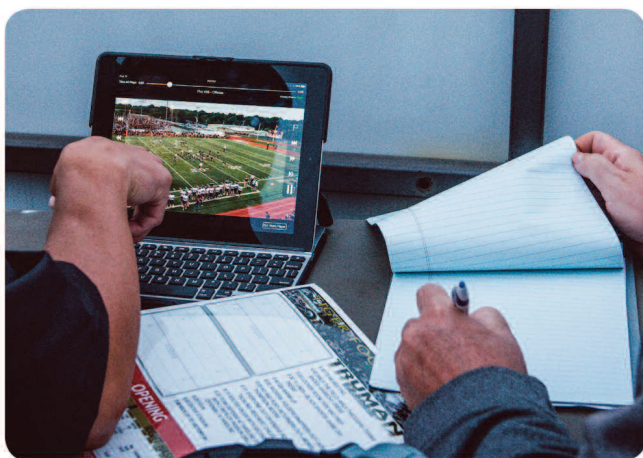
Cole Yocum
Arcadia HS



Gavin Huml
Middleton HS



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» An Memoriam «



Mike "Milo" Anderson
March 16, 1924 – January 2, 2020

Milo Bert Anderson, 95, died Thursday, January 2, 2020, in Saginaw, Michigan.

Mike was born in Deerfield, Wisconsin, on March 16, 1924, to Martin and Betsy (Christianson) Anderson. His childhood was spent in Stoughton, Wisconsin, where he graduated from Stoughton High School in 1942.

Mike served his country honorably in the United States Navy during World War II, serving in the Pacific theater of war from 1943-46. He participated in campaigns in the Philippine Islands and at Iwo Jima and Okinawa.

After being discharged from the Navy in 1946, he returned to school at Stout State College in Menomonie, Wisconsin, where he earned a Bachelor of Science degree in 1950 and a Master of Science degree in 1962.

It was at Stout State College that Mike met the love of his life, Betty Gilgenbach, who was his lab partner in chemistry class. The couple was married at St. Joseph Catholic Church in Menomonie, Wisconsin, on August 5, 1950. Their marriage was blessed with three loving children: Michael, Carol, and James.

Mike graduated from UW-Stout with a B.S. Degree in 1950, and an M.S. Degree in 1962. At Stout he played football and baseball. He was a center and linebacker on the 1949 co-championship team. He was a catcher on the 1947 championship baseball team.

Mike began his teaching and coaching career at Glenwood City in 1950. He suffered through three winless seasons at Glenwood City before moving to Mondovi in 1953. In fourteen seasons as head football coach at Mondovi High School, he compiled a 70-34-5 record. He won or shared five consecutive conference championships. His record during these five years was 31-7-2. He

had one undefeated team. He was also an accomplished athlete, receiving an Outstanding Athlete Award from Stoughton High School in 1942 and playing football and baseball during his years at Stout State College. Mike later coached football and baseball at Mondovi High School for 14 years and was inducted into the Wisconsin Football Coaches Association Hall of Fame in 1995. In addition, he served as a Wisconsin Interscholastic Athletic Association football and basketball official for many years.

Mike retired from coaching in 1968 when he was appointed the principal of Mondovi High School. He served as principal for nineteen years until he retired from the field of education in 1988.

Mike is survived by his loving wife of 69 years, Betty; three children, Michael (Debra) Anderson of La Crosse, Wisconsin; Carol (Michael) Collins of Saginaw, Michigan; and James (Mary) Anderson of Shoreview, Minnesota; five grandchildren, Kristen (Brennan) Benson of Mankato, Minnesota; Jeffrey Anderson of Minneapolis, Minnesota; Dr. Ashley (Dr. Monte) Ketchum of Cullman, Alabama; Dr. Bradley Collins of Charleston, South Carolina; and Jeffrey Collins of Grand Rapids, Michigan; and one great-grandchild, Tucker Ketchum.



Robert Larsen
June 9, 1931 – December 23, 2019

Wisconsin High School Coaches Hall of Fame football coach Robert "Bob" Larsen passed away Monday, December 23, 2019 at his home in Fox Point. He was 88.

A Wisconsin coaching legend, Larsen was a head football coach at multiple Wisconsin high schools, including Kendall, Barneveld, Mt. Horeb, Hartford Union and Campbellsport.

From 1963 to 1976, his Hartford Oriole teams dominated the Wisconsin Little Ten, compiling three undefeated seasons and six conference titles in an eight-year span from 1968-76 (including four in a row from '70-73). Larsen, who also had an undefeated conference championship team at Kendall in 1958, was inducted into the Wisconsin High School Football Coaches Hall of Fame in 1982. He is also a member of the Hartford High School and Hartland Arrowhead High School Halls of Fame.

Larsen traded high school coaching for college in 1977, taking the head football job at Carroll College in Waukesha, where he also served as athletic director. From 1982-85, he was head football coach and athletic director at the University of Chicago. In the mid-1990s, he moved back onto the Wisconsin high school scene, serving as head coach at Campbellsport High from 1986-1988. In 1989, he joined his wife, Sara, on the faculty at Arrowhead High School in Hartland, taking the offensive coordinator position on head coach, Tom Taraska's, staff. As the full-time play caller during that period, he helped create another football dynasty, winning three WIAA Div. I state championships at Arrowhead ('93, '94 and '96) before retiring in 2000.

Larsen was also on the coaching staff of the Wisconsin State High School All-Star game in 1998 and 1999. Additionally, he coached professionally in Europe for two seasons, leading the Arlanda Jets in 2001 (Stockholm, Sweden) and a Vienna, Austria squad in 2002.

Larsen played high school football, basketball and baseball at Austin High School in Chicago and football at Carthage College, then located in Carthage, Illinois. In addition to his undergraduate degree at Carthage, he also earned a master's degree from UW-Madison.

After retirement, Larsen and his wife moved full time to the Door County Village of Sister Bay, where they had long maintained a cottage rental property. The couple supported and was active in several political and environmental organizations, including the Door County Land Trust and the Democratic Party.

Larsen is survived by his wife, Sara Larsen; son, Andy Larsen and daughter-in-law, Hetal Larsen; daughter, Melissa Larsen Walker and son-in-law, Jordan Walker; granddaughter, Jaya Melissa Larsen; and a large extended family.



HALL OF FAME BANQUET

Saturday, April 4, 2020

Reception 4:30-5:30 pm ~ Dinner 5:30 pm

Marriott Madison West ~ Middleton, Wisconsin

Ticket Price \$45

*Tickets can be purchased by sending check made payable to the
WFCA • PO Box 8 • Poynette, WI 53955*

A full-page photograph of a Marine in desert camouflage gear, carrying a large tactical backpack and holding an M4-style rifle. The Marine is in a dynamic, forward-leaning pose, suggesting movement or combat. The background is blurred, showing other soldiers and a dusty environment. The text "ANYONE CAN SEE TYRANNY. MARINES ADVANCE TO STOP IT." is overlaid in white, sans-serif font across the middle of the image.

ANYONE CAN SEE TYRANNY. MARINES ADVANCE TO STOP IT.



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LEVI VERVOORT, SEYMOUR HIGH SCHOOL 2019 LINEMAN'S LEADERSHIP SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENT

Nominated by head coach Matt Molle, Levi VerVoort of Seymour High School, has been awarded the WFCB Bill Collar Lineman's Leadership Scholarship. Recognized as a leader in the classroom, weight room, and on the field, VerVoort played tight end and defensive tackle.

Coach Molle made the following comments about the award recipient. "Over the past several years, Levi has proven himself a leader on and off the field. This past year, he served as a team captain and truly epitomized our motto of 'Trust-Commit-Care' Levi continued to represent us with integrity and honor even after he suffered a season-ending injury.

Levi is the type of young man every coach would love to work with. He improved himself



every off-season in the weight room and was truly playing his best football as a senior as a TE and DE. More importantly, however, he was a tremendous leader for our team. He will be sorely missed next year."

The WFCB Lineman's Leadership Scholarship is funded from the sale of the Mentor's Manual. The WFCB Board of Directors established the scholarship in appreciation of the commitment Coach Collar, Hall of Fame member and former president of the WFCB, made in organizing and editing the publication.

The \$1,000.00 scholarship is available to a senior lineman who is nominated by a member of the WFCB and is identified as a leader by his coach. Additional information about the scholarship can be found on the WFCB Website (wifca.org).

WFCB MENTORING MANUAL ORDER FORM



MAIL CHECK OR MONEY ORDER PAYABLE TO:

Wisconsin Football Coaches Association
C/O Dan Brunner
1499 Golden Dr.
Hubertus, WI 53033

Please send _____ book/s @ \$10.00/Book = \$_____

SEND BOOKS TO: _____

YOU MAY ALSO ORDER ONLINE USING A CREDIT CARD AT:

<http://www.wifca.org/page/show/1210876-mentor-manual>

Contact Dan Brunner if you have questions.

Email: Danielmbrunner@gmail.com • Phone: 414-429-3139

Mentoring Manuals will also be available at the WFCB Spring Football Clinic in Madison!

Coach's checklist

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- ☒ Schedule summer workouts
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NATIONAL FEDERATION OF STATE HIGH SCHOOL ASSOCIATIONS

2020 NFHS FOOTBALL RULES CHANGES

- **Defining Team Designated Representative for Penalty Decisions [1-4-1, 1-4-4 (NEW), 2-32-5, 3-5-2, 10-1-1, 10-1-2, 10-2-4]** Prior to the game, the head coach will notify the referee of the designated representative (coach or player) who will make decisions regarding penalty acceptance or declination.
- **Halftime Intermission Option Following Weather Delay [Table 3-1 NOTES 2 (NEW)]** The halftime intermission may be shortened by mutual agreement of opposing coaches if a weather delay occurs during the last three minutes of the second period.
- **40-Second Play Clock Clarification [3-6-1a(1)e EXCEPTIONS 2 and 3 (NEW)]** To eliminate a potential timing advantage gained by the defensive team, the rules com-

mittee approved the play clock being set to 40 seconds when an officials' time-out is taken for an injury to a defensive player or a defensive player has an equipment issue.

- **25-Second Play Clock Clarification [3-6-1a(1)f (NEW)]** Following a legal kick when either team is awarded a new series, the play clock will be set to 25 seconds.
- **Disconcerting Act Penalty Reclassified [7-1-9 (NEW), 7-1-9 PENALTY (NEW), 9-5-1d]** Disconcerting acts or words by the defense has been reclassified from a 15-yard unsportsmanlike foul to a 5-yard foul.
- **Spiking the Ball to Conserve Time (7-5-2 EXCEPTION)** The exception to allow a player to conserve time by intentionally throwing the ball forward to the ground im-

mediately after receiving the snap, has been expanded to include any player positioned directly behind the center. This exception now includes snaps that are not hand-to-hand.

2020 Editorial Changes

TABLE 1-3-1, 2-41-9, 3-4-8, 7-2-5a, b, and c (NEW), 7-5-12, 8-2-4, 10-4-2 EXCEPTION, 10-5-1j, PENALTY SUMMARY, NFHS OFFICIAL FOOTBALL SIGNALS, APPENDIX, INDEX.

2020 Points of Emphasis

1. Sportsmanship
2. Intentional Grounding
3. Ineligible Downfield and Line of Scrimmage Formation

As of February 7, 2020

NO LINK TO CTE FROM PLAYING HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL

By: Dr. Karissa L. Niehoff, Executive Director, National Federation of State High School Associations (NFHS)



Dr. Karissa L. Niehoff

NOTE: In case you did not read this upon its original publication or on our website where we first reposted it, we felt it was important enough to reprint in this Spring issue of *The Point After II*. First released 10/23/2019, 12:15pm CDT, Wisconsin Interscholastic Athletic Association (WIAA) and the National Federation of State High School Associations (NFHS), published by NFHS Executive Director, Dr. Karissa L. Niehoff: (NFHA).

When it comes to the long-term effects of concussions in sports, there is a wide range of information published – almost on a daily basis. Unfortunately, much of the media coverage as it relates to high school sports – and particularly the sport of football – is misleading.

Last week, the Concussion Legacy Foundation introduced its new public-service announcement that compared youth football dangers to smoking. As the pre-teen football players puff on cigarettes, the voiceover says, “Tackle football is like smoking, the younger I start, the longer I’m exposed to danger.”

The “Tackle Can Wait” campaign by the foundation is an attempt to steer children under the age of 14 into flag football. Although establishing a finite age may be difficult, reducing contact at youth levels is certainly a positive. USA Football is doing just that nationally through its Football Development Model. Likewise, the 51-member state associations of the National Federation of State High School Associations (NFHS) have enacted limitations on contact during preseason and practice sessions.

Our concern is the term “exposed to danger.” These types of messages continue to spread unwarranted fear to parents of high school student-athletes. The “danger” refers to reports that players who incur repeated concussions can develop chronic traumatic encephalopathy (CTE).

A 2017 study from the Journal of American Medical Association (JAMA) linked CTE in the brains of deceased National Football League players. Even if this report is accurate, these are individuals who endured repeated blows to the

head for 20 to 25 years BEFORE any concussion protocols were in place.

Less publicized is a study by Dr. Munro Cullum and his colleagues at the Peter O’Donnell Jr. Brain Institute, which is a part of the University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center in Dallas. Cullum’s group studied 35 former NFL players age 50 and older who had sustained multiple concussions throughout their careers. The findings showed no significant association between the length of the individuals’ careers, the number of concussions and their cognitive function later in life.

Two studies, two different conclusions. Regardless of the outcome, however, they are not applicable to kids playing football before and during high school. There is absolutely no linkage to CTE at these levels, and the word “danger” should not be a part of the discussion.

A more applicable and significant study was also published in JAMA in 2017. In a study of about 4,000 men who graduated from Wisconsin high schools in 1957, there was no difference in cognitive function or decline between those who played football and those who did not as they reached 65 years of age. We would assume the majority of these individuals discontinued football after high school.

With more than one million boys – and girls – playing the contact sport of football each year,



B

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severe injuries do occur from time to time, but parents should know that efforts to lessen the risk of a catastrophic injury, including head injuries, have never been stronger than they are today.

In fact, new data from the National High School Sports-Related Injury Surveillance Study indicates some positive trends in concussion rates. The study, which was released in the American Academy of Pediatrics online issue of Pediatrics this week, indicated that concussion rates during football practices dropped from 5.47 to 4.44 concussions per 10,000 athletic exposures between the 2013-14 and 2017-18 seasons.

In addition, repeat concussion rates across all sports declined from 0.47 to 0.28 per 10,000 exposures during the same time period.

Concussion laws are in place in every state. All NFHS sports rules books have concussion management protocols. Helmet-to-helmet hits are not allowed in football. Limits on contact in preseason and practice in football are in place in every state.

After considering all the available research, we encourage parents to let their kids play their sport of choice in high school, but we would discourage moving away from football – or any

contact sport – solely based on the fear of developing CTE later in life.

Dr. Karissa L. Niehoff is in her second year as executive director of the National Federation of State High School Associations (NFHS) in Indianapolis, Indiana. She is the first female to head the national leadership organization for high school athletics and performing arts activities and the sixth full-time executive director of the NFHS, which celebrated its 100th year of service during the 2018-19 school year. She previously was executive director of the Connecticut Association of Schools-Connecticut Interscholastic Athletic Conference for seven years.

2020 WFCA SPRING ELECTIONS

By: Tony Biolo, WFCA President Elect, Head Coach Wisconsin Rapids Lincoln HS,



Tony Biolo

WFCA Spring Elections will take place following the WFCA Spring Clinic (April 2, 3 & 4). With all that currently faces high school football in our state, now would be great time to get involved in the decision making process and serve the WFCA in one of the positions currently open for election. The 2020 Spring Election is for the positions of Northern Vice President, and #2-Region Reps from each of the 4 Regions, both Large & Small. All positions are three-year terms. Please refer to the WFCA website to determine what Region your School/Conference is in. Keep in mind that some schools/conferences have changed with the 2020 Conference Model.

Nomination and Voting Process as Follows:

NOMINATION PROCESS

All Candidates Nominate Themselves - E-mail your intent to Tony Biolo, WFCA President-Elect, at tony.biolo@wrps.net

Please provide the following information:

- Name
- School & Conference
- WFCA REGION
- Position running for (Region Rep Large/Small or NVP)
- Years of membership in the WFCA (approx)

VOTING PROCESS

- All voting will be done on the WFCA Website, www.wfca.org.
- Members can access the Election link from

an e-mail that will be sent to your school's Head Coach.

- Once you enter the Election link, you will be asked to supply your Name, E-Mail, & School. The elections you are eligible for will pop up for you to vote in.

For instance, Regions 1 & 2 (Large & Small) will vote for NVP & respective Region Rep. Regions 3 & 4 will vote for their respective Region Reps only.

TIMELINE

The following time-line will be observed:

- **Now – April 13th:** Candidates nominate themselves by emailing requested information to Tony Biolo at tony.biolo@wrps.net
- **April 16th – April 21st:** WFCA members can vote by entering the WFCA website (www.wfca.org) Election link. Please refer to the above voting information to cast your vote(s).
- **April 23rd:** Election results will be available on the website.

WFCA OFFICER DUTIES/RESPONSIBILITIES

President-Elect

Duties & Responsibilities:

To be eligible for President-Elect, the candidate must have served at least one year as a member of the Board of Directors (District/Region Rep)
Highly recommended that a nominee is an active Head Coach.

THIS IS A 6-YEAR TERM/COMMITMENT

- Serve as President-Elect for two years, President for two years, and Past President for two years
- Attend (& Run when President) 3 Meetings each year (Nov./March/July)
- Serve on the Executive Committee
- WFCA/WIAA Sports Advisory Board (Dec. Meeting)
- Attend All-Star Banquet (July)
- Attend All-State Banquet (January)
- Oversee the affairs, funds, and property of the WFCA
- Appoint Committees as needed
- Attend Other Association meetings (you will need time off from school)

- Run the Spring Election (along with other officers)
- Assist with, but not limited to, WFCA Clinic, Hall of Fame, Awards, Scholarships, Vendors, the Newsletter, All State selection, and the All Star Games

Northern/Southern Vice-President

Duties & Responsibilities include:

Highly recommended that a nominee is an active Head Coach.

- Attend the 3 Association Meetings (Nov./March/July) each year
- Serve on the Executive Committee (WFCA/WIAA Sports Advisory Board, etc)
- Represent all of the Northern/Southern Region Representatives and Schools
- WFCA/WIAA Sports Advisory Board (Dec. Meeting)
- Attend All-Star Banquet (July)
- Attend All-State Banquet (January)
- Help support the All Star Game and Teams
- Introduce Speakers at WFCA Clinic
- Other duties as needed (i.e. ~ Chair special committees, Assist/Run special functions, etc)

Region Rep

Duties & Responsibilities include:

Highly recommended that a nominee is an active Head Coach.

- Attend Association meetings including the All-State (Nov.), Clinic (March) and All-Star Game (July) meetings
- Represent/Contact Appropriate Conferences w/in Region
- Make sure there is a Conference Rep from each Conference w/in Region
- Acquire 3 Articles per year for the WFCA *The Point After II* publication
- Make sure the coaches you represent have the proper information for nominating players for All-Region, All-State, and the All-Star game
- Conduct All-Region meetings and present Region candidates for All-State
- Introduce Speakers at WFCA Clinic
- Vote on appropriate All-State Teams (and Coach of the Year)
- Other duties as needed at the request of the Executive Board



WEEKLY PASSING LEAGUE

****Camp is open to players entering grades 9-12 in the fall of 2020****

DATES

Wednesday June 3rd
Wednesday June 10th
Wednesday June 17th
Wednesday June 24th

LOCATION:

Carroll University - Waukesha, WI.
Schneider Stadium & Haertl Field
Session I – Games at 5:15 pm & 5:55 pm
Session II – Games at 6:45 pm & 7:25 pm
Guaranteed 2 games per night, per session

LEAGUE DETAILS:

- ✓ Athletic Trainer/First Responder on site
- ✓ Session I – Geared towards younger teams
- ✓ Session II – Varsity Teams
- ✓ A program can have multiple teams in each session
- ✓ Cost = \$300 for 1st team / \$275 for every additional team (Var 2, JV 1, JV 2 etc.)

1 DAY TOURNAMENT

****Camp is open to players entering grades 9-12 in the fall of 2020****

DATE

Wednesday July 1st

LOCATION:

Carroll University - Waukesha, WI.
Schneider Stadium & Haertl Field

TOURNAMENT DETAILS:

- ✓ Pool Play starts at 4:00 pm
- ✓ Guaranteed 3 games
- ✓ Athletic Trainer/First Responder on site
- ✓ A program can have multiple teams
- ✓ Cost = Fee included in weekly passing league
 - ✓ Not in passing league = \$150 per team



MORE INFORMATION / REGISTER PLEASE CONTACT:

ZAK PFEFFER - DEFENSIVE COORDINATOR

zpfeffer@carrollu.edu

262-650-4871

****Coaches always welcome to come clinic on campus, we love talking BALL****

FROM THE EDITOR

By: Tom Swittel, Editor and Corporate Sponsor Chairman



Tom Swittel

Simply put, the upcoming WFCB Spring Clinic (April 2-4) is a celebration of football. Three thousand coaches will come together to share ideas, renew friendships, and have some fun. It is one of my favorite weekends of the year. I look forward to seeing my coaching friends from around the state this April in Middleton.

There are several items/events coming up that I'd like to mention in this article. The first is the WFCB Combine scheduled for April 25 at Sussex Hamilton High School. This is a great opportunity for current juniors and sophomores to showcase themselves to college coaches. Last year over 100 college coaches attended the Combine, including coaches from FCS, D2 and D3. Also, all results from the Combine are posted on the WFCB and WSN

websites. Athletes attending the Combine can opt to purchase a WFCB Player Profile. The WFCB Player Profile is an online resume that can be the basis for the athlete's college recruiting. The WFCB Player profile includes official WFCB Combine results and rankings based on those results. It also includes: height and weight (as measured at the Combine), player contact info, parent names, high school coach's name and contact info, video highlight link, transcript, player stats, awards, and honors, and an "About Me" narrative. The cost of the Combine is \$60, and the cost of the Player Profile and the Combine is \$170. This is a very affordable recruiting tool when compared to other recruiting services out there. Please encourage your players to take advantage of the Combine and the WFCB Player Profile.

The 2020 WFCB Grants will be rolled out again at the Clinic. Last year 42 schools were awarded over \$96,000 in Grant money by the WFCB. The purpose of the WFCB Grant is to supplement high school football budgets beyond what a typical budget will cover. That being said, basic equipment like helmets, shoulder pads, uniforms, etc. are not meant to be a part of the Grant since those are items that are typically covered in a budget. Weight is placed on Grant requests that emphasize player safety and injury prevention. Grants will once again be for \$3,000 but Grants smaller than that will also be considered. Up to \$60,000 is set aside for the WFCB Grants. All Grant applications will be done online this year. Grant applications can be filled

out starting after the Clinic with a deadline of May 7. Please plan on attending the Friday WFCB Business Meeting at the Clinic for specific WFCB Grant information.

The WFCB Radio Show will begin on Saturday, March 28 on Milwaukee's WSSP 105.7 The Fan, 10:00 am - Noon. The show is on every other Saturday until the start of the high school football season. All things football in the state are covered on the WFCB Radio Show. For those who cannot get WSSP live, a podcast of the show is available on both the WFCB and WSSP websites. Stay abreast of WFCB news on the WFCB Radio Show.

Finally, an exciting initiative is being undertaken by the Milwaukee City Conference. In an effort to showcase Milwaukee high school football players, the City Conference is putting together a Combine and 7-on-7 Tournament on a TBD Saturday in May. This initiative is being spearheaded by longtime Region Rep Patrick Wagner (Riverside) and Greg Roman (Reagan). At the writing of this article the specifics of the day have not been determined but Patrick and Greg are resolute in making this event happen. The WFCB will do what it can to support this undertaking.

I look forward to seeing all of you at the Clinic. Thank you once again for your support of the WFCB. Please feel free to contact me at: tom@epochrecruiting.com or (414) 315-1131 with any thoughts or suggestions you may have.

FROM THE ARCHIVES

2003 SURVEY

This survey was sent to some veteran football coaches in the State of Wisconsin. Hopefully the answers will be interesting and helpful, especially to those who are contemplating becoming a head football coach in the future.

QUESTIONS:

1. What do you feel are your strengths as a coach that allowed you to be so successful?
2. As you look back, what are the greatest changes that have occurred while you have been in the profession?
3. What advice would you give a Young coach beginning his tenure as a new, first time head coach?
4. If you were given the opportunity to begin your coaching career again and know what you know today, what changes would you make?
5. What qualities did you look for when you had the opportunity to hire an assistant coach?

6. What changes, if any, did you have to make over the years in dealing with players, parent and administration?
7. Describe your pre-game routine. Do you do anything special? What you do routinely with your team?
8. Describe your post game ritual. Do you do anything special?
9. Describe your weekend activities in regards to scouting, reports from scouts, analysis of scouting reports and staff meetings?
10. What do you feel is the greatest problem facing high school football?

ANSWERS:

JERRY SINZ, EDGAR HS:

1. Organization and time management are huge keys, keep a priorities list handy.

Train your assistant coaches as quickly as possible and then give them authority. Establish a basic philosophy and a vision for your team and share it with players, parents and coaches.

2. Everyone is scouting extensively now with video tape, so you need an alternative plan because a quality opponent may stop what you want to do – go to a second plan.
3. Establish a basic philosophy which you want to use on offense, defense and special teams. Write it out and explain it in detail to your assistant coaches. Then present it to your team and be prepared to stick to it through the ups and downs. Plan your practice time very carefully so it fits with your philosophy. Never waste time

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PROUD TO RECRUIT WISCONSIN



9/5 vs. UW - Whitewater
9/19 vs. Elmhurst
9/26 @ Illinois Wesleyan
10/3 vs. Millikin
10/10 @ North Central

10/17 @ North Park
10/24 vs. Wheaton
10/31 @ Augustana
11/7 vs. Carroll
11/14 @ Washington



Dustin Hass

4. I would spend more time training and working with my assistant coaches during the off-season. I would divide up duties and responsibilities according to ability and commitment before the first season ever began. I would spend time interviewing key players and establish leadership keys and team goals in the spring each year.
5. The biggest key is finding someone who loves football and is enthusiastic and fired up about coaching young men and affecting lives in a positive way. You can always teach them the Xs and Os. Honesty and loyalty are very important as well as a strong work ethic. They can not have too many other hobbies or it will not work.
6. I have made very few changes, but have gone through four administrators and three principals. I keep the parents better informed now with a newsletter which I send whenever I feel one is needed. Usually about two-three weeks between newsletters. We stay in contact with players pretty much year round also throughout the summer.
7. We meet two hours prior to kick-off. The first 30 minutes are spent with position coaches working with their players, taping wrapping, etc. We then meet with the entire team for 15-20 minute video review and then 10-15 minute review on board. Each coach has the opportunity to speak. Five minute total team fire up session. Specialties out 55 minutes prior to kickoff.
8. Entire team meets together on the field. Each coach has the opportunity to say a few words. Captains can also speak if they wish. We say a prayer of thanksgiving, a brief word about upcoming opponent, review the schedule for the weekend and dismiss them to talk to friends and media. It takes 5-10 minutes max. Trainer checks all injuries inside.
9. We have a scouting staff of five people. They usually bring us video tape and report on Friday night after our game. We take a brief look at tape and discuss any unusual situations on Friday night. Tape and reports are left in coaches office over the week-end for each coach to study at their leisure. Entire staff and team gets together on Sunday evening to go over video and report together.
10. I see about three or four potential key problem areas. One is school finance and getting adequate support for players equipment, coaches, etc. Another is the large number of non-faculty coaches. Players wanting to work during summer and not willing to sacrifice time and money to participate is another tough issue. Football is the greatest game in the world, so it is up to us to keep it going strong.

KURT GUNDLACH, MIDDLETON HS:

1. Instill expectation within your program to compete to win. Be willing to prepare for success. I have been fortunate to have had a

consistent and loyal staff. Year round organization. I feel the coaching has gotten better in our profession as a whole.

3. Always keep learning. The best way to learn more about the game of football is thru people. No matter what people say, those that are passionate about football will become consumed by it. If you are a clockwatcher, you're in the wrong sport!
4. Honestly, nothing. There are always ups and down along the way. I've always told our players to never live with regrets because you dwell on the past instead of moving forward.
5. Willingness to learn. A self-starter. Someone who isn't wrapped up in self-gratification.
6. I've been extremely fortunate to be able to coach without many distractions from the outside. I suppose I'd become more diplomatic. Some may find that hard to believe!
7. I subscribe to an adage I heard from George Chryst. "The hay's in the barn"
8. We always meet as a team on the field. Try to put perspective into a win or a loss in a hurry.
9. Saturday has crept in to our preparation week more than I would like. I personally need a day away. Sunday has become more scouting intensive as the years have gone on.
10. We've got the greatest game played on earth, with the best people coaching and the best kids competing. As long as people outside the game don't mess with a good thing, we'll always thrive!

MIKE STASSI, MONONA GROVE HS:

1. I learned from Dick Rundle. I feel I relate to kids well.
2. The amount of off-season work that has to be put in.
3. Get thick-skinned; concentrate on winning.
4. Get tougher and work harder.
5. Dedication to MG football.
6. I don't know... they all drive me nuts!
8. I get them away from the game they just played and "plant seeds" about the next opponent.
9. As a staff we spend Saturday by ourselves. On Sunday we meet from 7:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon. We have a routine we follow each and every week.
10. Kids think (and it is) a lot of work. If football isn't their #1 sport; then they don't want to do it. It drives me nuts!

MIKE DRESSLER, FOUND DU LAC HS:

1. Good question. What is success? Is success about winning, and losing? In our Society unfortunately this is true. But, success can also be the positive impact you have on an athlete's life? This is a question that is not easy to answer. My strength might be learning from the past and listening to other coaches and learning from them.

2. The game has become so much more multiple in all of its facets. Pressure placed on athletes to do just one more year round.
3. Improve your listening skills, have a simple set of team rules; enforce these rules fairly no matter who violates them. Try to be consistent when enforcing these rules. Organization of everything from practices, scouting, fundamentals, and pre-game. Make sure that your athletes know you care about them not just as football players during the football season, but all year round.
4. I would be better organized. Make sure that we as a coaching staff were all on the same page at the high school. Far less yelling, more teaching.
5. Can I trust them? Are they good teachers? Commitment of time to football.
6. Became a better listener. If I had to make decisions, I give more time if possible to the thought process.
7. We have a set time to be in the locker room. We go upstairs to the balcony and walk through and review the game plan one more time. We come downstairs then, and there is silence in the locker room enforced by our seniors. We believe it is time to face the man in the mirror.
8. Nothing special. We talk to them and remind them of their responsibility as role models in our community.
9. Saturday morning before the athletes arrive we have breakfast, together as a staff and review last night's game. We make notes and put in the folder for next year to refer to. These notes can be about some of their returning personnel, what worked and did not work on Friday and why. The players come in and we watch the video and go through it with them. Saturday night I review and familiarize myself with our next opponent. I look at their personnel, read our scouting reports and last year's notes, begin to break down all the video that we have on them. Sunday morning I continue the process to prepare for our Sunday evening meeting. On Sunday evening I have on the board for the coaches a down and distance breakdown of our opponent, formation, motion, and movement packages. We look at the special teams, and any gadgets that they have. We also look at match ups of the personnel between the two teams, to see if there are any advantages that we might have one way or the other. We watch some video as a group, prepare practice plans for the week, and put together a preliminary game plan for the athletes on Monday.
10. Cost of football (budget deficits) and the push for one-sport athletes.

KEN BIEGEL, NOTHLAND PINES:

1. Hard work and spending a lot of time on planning and organization are key factors. Always allowing my assistant coaches to

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CONFERENCE CHAMPIONS:
1981 1983 1988 2003 2004 2006 2007 2013



2020-21 SCHEDULE

SEPTEMBER

Sat 05	at Martin Luther	1:00pm
Sat 12	at Beloit	1:00pm
Sat 19	Kalamazoo	1:00pm

OCTOBER

Sat 03	Concordia Chicago	1:00pm
Sat 10	Eureka*	1:00pm
Sat 17	at Benedictine*	1:00pm
Sat 24	Lakeland*	1:00pm
Sat 31	at Aurora*	1:00pm

NOVEMBER

Sat 07	at Rockford*	12:00pm
Sat 14	Wisconsin Lutheran*	1:00pm

HEAD COACH: GREG ETTER
GREG.ETTER@CUW.EDU
(262) 243-4224

coach thier positions and have a lot of input. Being able to use ideas and systems from other great coaches from camps, books, films, clinics, personal conversations, spring practice, etc. I had a great wife that was very understanding and willing to sacrifice not having me home a lot. She loves football. Finally, I loved coaching, motivating people, and the competition.

2. Parents are taking a more active role in their children's athletic development and therefore many of them have unrealistic expectations for their child. Strength training used to be an advantage. Now you cannot compete very well without a great strength program. Coaches are smarter and more knowledgeable than ever before. It takes a complete program (camps, strength training, speed training, passing leagues, etc. To win championships on a regular basis. Other sports want their good athletes to specialize. The quality of equipment and training methods are vastly improved. Opposing coaches are working much harder now.
3. Communicate with your wife about everything, make her part of your life and football program. Take care of your family and you will always have a sanctuary when things aren't going well. Make certain that you have an administration that wants to have a quality football program and will help you build it! Communicate everything in our program with the administration, assistant coaches, players, parents, faculty, other sports and community. Develop a "policies and procedures manual" that explain your coaching philosophy and expectations in every phase of your program. You must rely heavily on your assistant coaches to help you build the program. Stay in control of your emotions, do not let things get you down and do not go negative, just find another way to get it done. Never be afraid to ask any and all of the boys in your school to play football and join your team.
4. I would work hard at improving my communication and motivating skills. Our job is to get players to do things they would normally never do. I would not experiment with so many different systems. I would settle on a single offensive and defensive system to use, and then perfect it.
5. I have had some great assistant coaches over these past 36 years. They must be willing to work. They must believe in you, and the systems you are using. They must be your friend and always stay loyal. In order to build a complete program our assistant coaches must have ownership, and meaningful responsibilities. They will stay with you for a long time if they are happy. Don't overwork them, they have families and other interests too. It takes at least two years to fully develop a great assistant coach. The kids must respect them and like them.
6. I handle my players with much more care

and concern now. Help them with their personal life, their problems, and family concerns. Parents and players must always be told the truth in a very direct, but polite manor. Administrators hate surprises; keep them informed and in the loop. I love to use humor in every phase of the program. Have some fun and enjoy the process. If you don't have enough money in your budget, stop whining and go out and get it.

7. I try to keep the team's routine the same. At home we have control of almost everything, but on the road things go wrong. When something happens don't show your displeasure in front of the team. I like to have enough time, and not be rushed. Talk to individual players as they come into the locker room, set the mood. I like it serious in the locker room, we are going to war, so get ready for the fight. We have a ten minute team meeting before we take the field to warm up. During the 30 minute pre-game I expect the entire coaching staff to motivate the team.
8. After the handshake we meet on the field for a quick recap. We then select about three or four players to go up to the press box and talk on the radio. I have a ten minute radio program after every game. We always have a closing meeting for ten minutes in the locker room. Our coaches meet for 15 minutes at home, and then we go to a parents booster club get together at a local restaurant/bar. I talk to the parents and show the game video - win or lose! Our coaches and wives socialize for a while.
9. We make three copies of the game films and if our scout is back home we make copies of next week's opponents for the coaches. e bread down the films on our own. Our coaches meet Sunday evening for two hours to plan the coming week. On Monday morning the team watches the game film. On Tuesday morning we watch our next opponents films.
10. Budgets, injuries, other sports, specialization, these are some concerns. However, all of us must promote our local programs and display a positive image in all phases of our program.

ROBERT FREUND,

ST. JOSEPH KENOSHA HS:

1. Adaptability and flexibility. As a result of being involved with small schools and relatively small rosters I have always attempted to analyze my players' strengths and create a system to utilize those strengths. We do not change the basic foundation of our program but we attempt to place our players in situations in which they experience success.
2. Teams have adopted a more aggressive philosophy on both sides of the ball. Attacking defenses and spread offenses are more prevalent. Advance technology has had a major impact on the game as well as the continuous

improvements in methods to train our athletes who are faster, more explosive, stronger, and larger than ever before.

3. Be organized and willing to spend the time and energy which is required to build a program and then maintain that level of competence. Establish a plan which you believe in and then follow through. Be demanding, emphasize fundamentals, but make the game fun.
4. Surround yourself with good people. Find coaches who have a passion for kids and the game of football. Assign them responsibilities and allow them the freedom to do their job. Emphasize fundamentals and do not ever take anything for granted.
5. Good teacher, willing to learn, work ethic, committed, honest. has a great passion for the game and loves being around kids.
6. Rally, none at all. I believe the basis for a positive relationship is communication and honesty. Players, Parents and administrators must know that you are compassionate and ethical.
7. I don't think we do anything out of the ordinary. We have a team dinner at the S captain's house the night before a game, a pasta pre-game meal in the cafeteria and a normal routine for pre-game meetings and on the field warm-up.
8. Nothing special. We address the team on the field after the game and we gather the next morning for stretch - run - lift - film.
9. Our coaches and volunteers scout whenever possible. We try to accumulate three films on each opponent prior to the contest. We meet as a staff on Sunday (either early a.m. or late p.m.). we review our game tape, analyze our upcoming opponent on tape and devise our game plan. We establish a three hour time limit on our meeting. Anything beyond that time frame will be finalized by myself.

GREG LEHMAN,

MILWAUKEE WASHINGTON HS:

1. My success has been my ability to sustain in an environment where most people would not. I have more patience than the normal person and I have a strong belief that participation in high school football is one of the most effective practices for at risk youth. Without adult leadership, youth development tends to fall to the lowest common denominator, rather than being uplifted to the highest possible standard. Like good parenting, coaching is very much a business of adjusting to a child's temperament (team). It is a constant process of adaptation and accommodating to who the child (team) is.
2. In my environment it is poverty, which translates into hopelessness, and therefore more kids are disengaged from the teaming process.

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July 22

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3. Try to find a job in an established program so that you can learn from an experienced coach. Use this time to develop a teaching progression and go to as many clinics, college visitations and learning experiences as you can.
4. I would spend more time nurturing assistant coaches.
5. Loyalty & professionalism
6. I have become better at listening to and trying to understand the other point of view. Inter-

estingly, I have become less tolerant because the older I get the more I understand the value of basic ethics and standards.

7. I no longer leave our students any free time from the time school ends to the time we begin our routine. Idleness is the devil's workshop in our neighborhood!
8. Nothing
9. This is the area I've changed the most. If we play a Friday game I bring the kids in Saturday morning at 9:30. We watch the previous

night's game, stretch, run and lift weights. The coaches meet at 8:00 a.m. We discuss the game and receive a general overview of our next opponent. While the team is doing their thing the offensive and defensive coordinators are putting together a more detailed scouting report and developing a practice schedule for Monday and Tuesday. Everyone is out of the building by noon. The coordinators do whatever they need to on their own for the rest of the weekend.

10. Drugs and disengagement from school.



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Mark Your Calendar Now!

WFCB SPRING FOOTBALL CLINIC

April 2, 3 & 4, 2020 ~ April 8, 9 & 10, 2021

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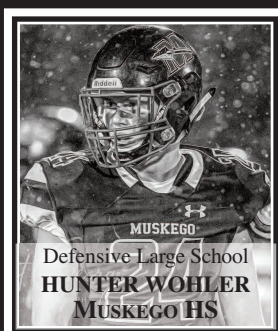
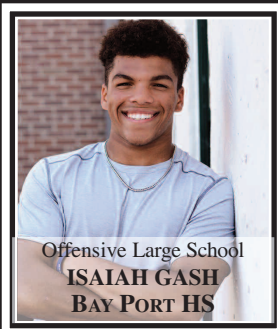
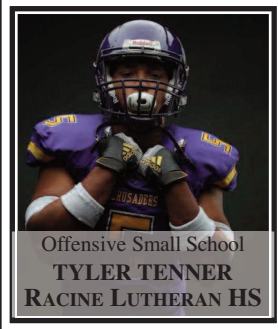
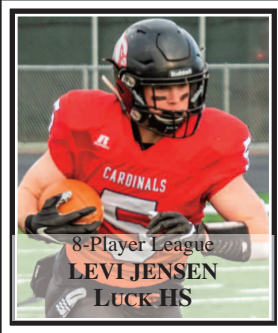
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PLAYER OF THE YEAR

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2019 WFCB HIGH SCHOOL PLAYERS OF THE YEAR



**WFCB/GREEN BAY PACKERS
HS HEAD COACH OF THE YEAR**

**MIKE MINICK
DeForest HS**



**WFCB HS ASSISTANT
COACH OF THE YEAR**

**MARSHALL LEHMAN
Stratford HS**

2019 EIGHT-PLAYER ALL-STATE TEAM

Levi Jensen - Luck
Jesse Pakulski - Newman Catholic
Joe Stephan - Waubesa - Laona
Gavyn Anton - Siren
Riley Christensen - Belmont
Logan Stuart - Suring

2019 SMALL SCHOOL ALL-STATE TEAM

Adam Moen - Lake Mills
Aiden Reilly - Plymouth
Austin Miller - Edgar
Avery Johnson - Lomira
Ben Barten - Stratford
Ben Barten - Stratford
Blaze Todd - Elk Mound
Bryce Burns - G-E-T
Bryce Friday - Markesan
Caden Straka - Lancaster
Carson Hinzman - Saint Croix Central
Carter Horstman - Bangor
Cayden Milz - Black Hawk
Danny Hammond - Palmyra Eagle
Evan Lau - Hilbert
Gabe Chenal - Regis
Grant Manke - Bangor
Isaac Lindsey - Mineral Point
Jack Martens - Cumberland
Jack Leverenz - Lake Country Lutheran
Jake Hoch - St. Mary's Springs
Jaykob Mikelson - Stratford
Justin Schoenherr - Stratford
Kaleb Hafferman - Edgar
Keith Schnurr - Royall
Logan Rameker - St. Mary's Springs
Reed Farrington - Edgerton
Tanor Bortolini - Kewaunee
Tyler Tenner - Racine Lutheran
Vaughn Breit - Stratford

2019 LARGE SCHOOL ALL-STATE TEAM

Ayo Adebogun - Homestead
Evan Buss - Kimberly
Cody Cavil - West De Pere
Alex Current - Muskego
Cole Dakovich - Catholic Memorial
Jonny Davis - La Crosse Central
Chimere Dike - Waukesha North
Braden Doyle - Bay Port
Andrew Fenton - Menomonie
Lucas Finnessy - Sussex
Luke Fox - Catholic Memorial
Caleb Frazer - Kimberly
Jeb Frey - Waunakee
Isaiah Gash - Bay Port
Joey Giorgi - Grafton
Sam Jung - Neenah
Kerry Kodanko - West De Pere
Ben Kreul - Catholic Memorial
Jacob Leszczynski - Muskego
Cade McDonald - Hudson
Max Meeuwssen - Bay Port
Gavin Meyer - Franklin
Jaycee Mozdzen - Germantown
Jack Nelson - Stoughton
Vinny Nigro - Marquette University
Riley Nowakowski - Marquette University
Caleb Obermann - Kimberly
John Pekar - Franklin
Montrell Rash - Milwaukee Riverside
Colin Schaefer - Sun Prairie
Brett Spaulding - Franklin
Nate Valcarcel - Whitnall
Jack Van Dyke - Neenah
Call Verlanic - Bay Port
Trey Wedig - Kettle - Moraine
Nate Wilcher - Mukwonago
Amaun Williams - Milwaukee Riverside
Logan Wilson - Kimberly
Conner Wnek - Kimberly
Hunter Wohler - Muskego
Jake Wuebben - Middleton



WISCONSIN FOOTBALL

2020 SUMMER CAMP
INFORMATION

HIGH SCHOOL CAMP | MAY 31, 2020
HIGH SCHOOL CAMP | JUNE 11, 2020
HIGH SCHOOL CAMP | JUNE 15, 2020
SPECIALIST CAMP | JUNE 7, 2020
SPECIALIST CAMP | JUNE 21, 2020
YOUTH CAMP | JUNE 16, 2020

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DEFENSE

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FOOTBALL

CONFERENCE CHAMPIONSHIPS

1927 1936 1940 1941 1942
 1943 1956 1957 1959 1960
 1967 1981

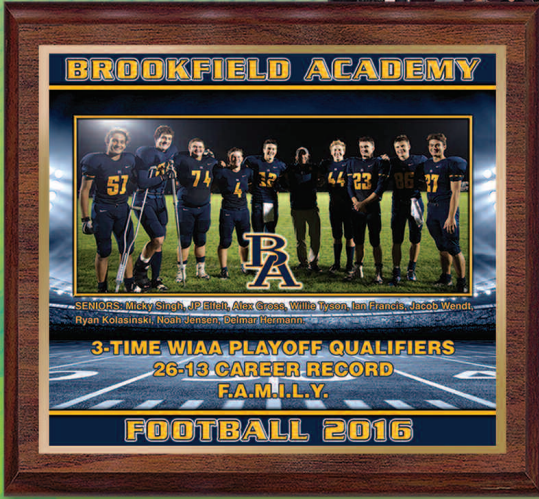
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LEADERS

TEACH ENCOURAGE CHALLENGE

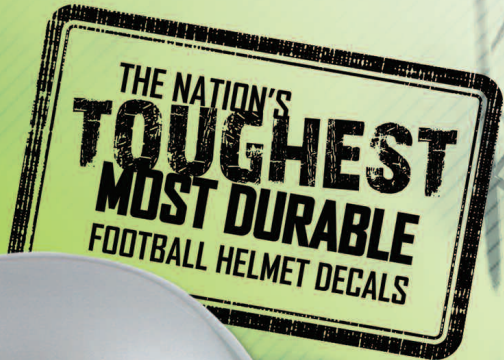
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DEFENSE

DEFENSIVE LINE PLAY

By: Jim Hagen, Head Football Coach and Robbie Smazal, Offensive Coordinator, Colby High School



Jim Hagen and Robbie Smazal

I would like to thank the WFCA for asking the Colby football program to write an article for *The Point After II*. Colby High School has a proud tradition of football starting many years ago with Hall of Fame coach Duane Teska from 1964-1991 and then Hall of Fame coach Jeff Rosemeyer from 1992-2016.

One of the many areas that Colby football has prided itself in is defense. In 2008, Colby football made a switch from the 4-4 to the 4-3 due to the evolution of spread formations and complexity of offensive philosophies. As a staff, we felt like we needed to add another defensive back to help defend the spread but who also has the characteristics and abilities to play like a linebacker to play in the box if and when needed. We felt as though the 4-3 gave us that flexibility with the ability to still disguise and stunt from a variety of positions. With that said, our goal from year to year is to keep the defense as simple as possible so our players don't have to overthink and they can just react and play fast. Another reason to keep things fairly simple is that we are always concerned about the next guy in, no matter what the position is. Those backups don't get a lot of reps in practice like the first string but they obviously still need to know where to line up depending on the defensive call, offensive formation, responsibilities on stunts, how to react based on what the offense tries to do and the list could go on. In practice therefore during our defensive units, we spend a great deal of time on repetition of the most basic of skills. We believe in doing the little things over and over creating muscle memory which in turn will hopefully translate to game day and players can just react, play fast and at the same time be fundamentally sound.

Even though we switched from the 4-4 to the 4-3, our defensive line principles haven't changed. Read, react, hand placement, wrong arm, good technique and the list could go on.

We will use a variety of fronts with our defensive linemen (head up, shade inside or outside eye, gap). In general, our defensive linemen will spend a great deal of time working one-on-one on stance, starts, hand placement, arm extension and finishing with the rip or swim. This work is done on both the tech sled and with partner. Another important drill called Shadowing is where we will mirror the offensive guy in front of us. Whether he steps inside or outside, the defensive player steps with him and work on hand placement (read and react). First few days of practice we will go half to three quarter speed, again just working on technique and muscle memory. As players get better and more accustomed, there will be times where we increase the speed, tempo and physicality of the drills, but we don't want to do this often for fear of injury or our better players being too intimidating.

This article will focus on some simple drills that Coach Smazal does with the defensive line every time we work in defensive units. These drills will focus on stopping the run but Coach Smazal also works a great deal with pass rush whether it be bull rush, rip or swim and trying to get to the quarterback. Furthermore, other drills may be added during certain weeks of the season, depending on the opponent and their offensive formations, blocking schemes and tendencies.

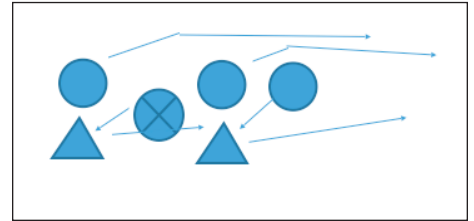
Defensive tackles will work a lot with center and two guards working on defending trap, hook/reach and turn-out blocks.

When reacting to trap, we will wrong arm, try to rip and get our head in the hole. Also, we will try to initiate the contact, never catch the block. When reacting to turn-out block, we will step or close down, attack inside shoulder where the block is coming from, rip and try like heck to get your head in the hole and fill the hole. This drill teaches the trap, turn-out block, mirror, hand placement and rip all in one.

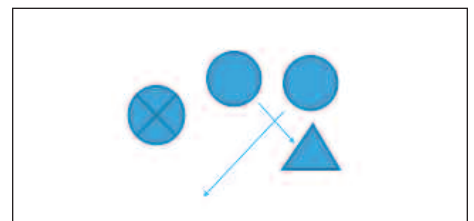
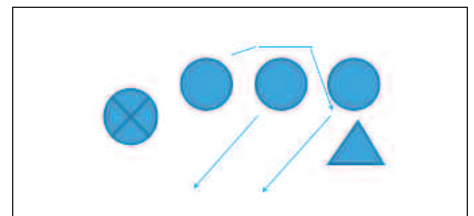
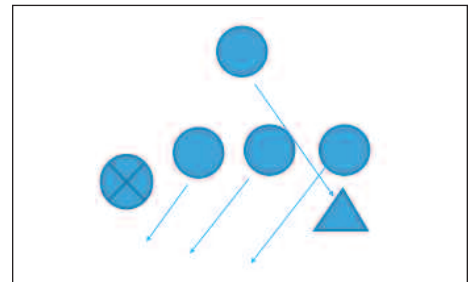


When reacting to guards pulling, we want to rip through the down block and chase the hip pocket of the puller. This drill teaches chasing pulling guards, mirror, hand placement and rip all in one.

Defensive Ends will work a lot with center, guard, tackle and tight end (or just center, guard and tackle) working on either taking on pulling guard and running back trying to kick them out.



When reacting to some sort of kick out block, we again want our defensive ends to step or close down, wrong arm, get head in the hole and spill the ball to the outside to our linebacker or corner or safety who is coming down hill. We want our defensive ends to initiate contact and not catch the block. Get the back to go east and west rather than north and south. These three drills teach mirror, kick out block, hand placement and rip all in one.



Furthermore, our defensive ends work a great deal on getting reached from either the tackle or tight end on plays such as sweep or jet. In this case we teach our players to read, react and extend arms pressing hard on the outside shoulder of the offensive player that is blocking him, pressing the line of scrimmage and stretching it out as much as possible.

In conclusion, we are so fortunate to be able to coach this great game of football. To all coaches out there and to any aspiring coach, we need to continue to teach, coach and mentor young student-athletes not only about the game of football, but the game of life in general.

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PIONEER DEFENSE

By: Patrick Sheehan, Linebackers, Specialists and Recruiting Coordinator UW-Platteville



Patrick Sheehan

As the LB/specialists/recruiting coordinator at UW-Platteville, I am also a proud alum of

UW-Platteville where I played college ball and am now entering my third season as an assistant football coach for the Pioneers.

On defense, I coach the OLBs under defensive coordinator Dan Bauder. Dan brings a unique style of defense schematically. We play with five DBs a lot of the time. Coach Bauder preaches play as a unit, rally to the ball and love what you do as a unit. I owe a ton of what I know today to Dan as this is my first year on the defensive side of the ball. I previously played and coached WRs.

Our LBs' main focus is to play with passion, know your assignment and play fast. We are predominantly responsible for setting the edge in our defense. We coach be "late and fast" to the football. This is important because as overhangs we typically are being read by the

QB in 10/11 personnel stuff. We want to cloud all reads.

Our LB play is simply a reflection of our defense. We play with passion and grit. Tackling is a main point of emphasis along with playing with our hands. We want to keep big bodies off our chest and play with speed. Our main tackling emphasis is not to break down but to run through the tackles forcing ball carries to stop their feet. We emphasize taking the ball away and being difference makers in that aspect of the game.

Our LBs and every position on our team demonstrate our main philosophy as a team. Play with heart and passion leaving nothing behind.

I appreciate the opportunity to be a part of this issue of *The Point After II*. We look forward to Coach Bauder's session at the Spring Football Clinic in Middleton on Friday afternoon and to the coming season. - Go Pioneer!

EMPHASIZE THE FIRST STEP FOR DEFENSIVE PLAY

By: Ryan Eiler, Defensive Line Coach, Bay Port High School



Ryan Eiler

When coach Gary Westerman asked me if I wanted to write an article for *The Point After II* about the defensive line, my thoughts went right to the most important aspect of the position, the first step. I've been coaching high school football for 16 years, 8 of which have been at the varsity level for Bay Port High School. I also had the great opportunity to play for John O'Grady, Kevin Bullis, and Tom Journell at the University of Wisconsin-River Falls and at the High School level for Jim Benick. All of them coached football using the whole part whole concept and focusing on skill development. The importance of Individual time was also evident.

Most of what I do as a coach is what I took from the coaches above, coaches at clinics, and the ones I coach with currently. I firmly believe that the first step is the most important skill a defensive linemen must master to be a great player. Through the years I've learned any misplayed schemes and poor play can be boiled down to an incorrect first step. To the layman, the cliché that football is a game of inches is

used for missed field goals, missing the first down, etc. but that's not the real game of inches. As a coach, if you are not focused on the players' first step we are overlooking the most crucial aspect of the saying "a game of inches". Problems that I have learned that are caused by an incorrect first step is, pad level too high, falling forward after the snap, getting trapped, getting reached, missing a sack, and getting blown off the ball.

In order to have a correct first step, the stance is a vital aspect. Toe to instep but for larger/taller people the foot can be a little further back. Inside foot, the foot closest to the football, needs to be back which means the hand closest to the ball needs to be down. It is vital that left handed stances are needed for the right side of the ball and right handed stances for the left side of the ball. If players are not comfortable with going out of a particular side, they need to get comfortable. Every drill I do I have a left side component and a right side component. I typically start every drill for the left handed stances first as that seems to be the side most players have issues with and if time runs out I know I hit that side of the ball.

Steps vs air drill

x x x x x x
c

- Coach snap his football. Do first step, then 2 steps, then fire out
- 1st step, end up toe to toe, Coach check and have players look down at their feet to check their steps, fix when needed.
- 2 steps, end up back in their stance which is toe to instep.
- Fire out, Coach watches their 1st step, have players behind being quality control. Can have them fire out and then direct them down the line.
- Have players switch sides for another handed stance.

Why is having the inside football back and stepping with that first foot important? Typically, when contact is made, which step does contact happen on? The first? The second? The third? If I were to ask most people they would say the first step. Nope, that's wrong. Contact should happen on the third step. If contact is happening on the first step, that means the step is too long. A long step is a slow step. A long step is a step with no base, no base equals no balance. No balance means the player may end up being balanced on their back. Having a short first step with the inside foot insures that the third step which is the power step has time to engage on contact. The first step should be short, six inches, which means that with a stag-

3 steps to target vs down and out blocks

Ball o o o o o
x x x x x
Coach

- Can be head up or in a shade. O target not moving, then add movement. Indicate where the ball is. Tell players the ball is left. All in left handed stance, stepping with inside (left) foot first straight to target.
- Make sure they are taking 3 steps to target, first step is short (6")
- Add down block movement from offense & then out block movement.
- Coach stand behind, use hand signals for down and out blocks.
- Coach moves down the line giving specific quick feedback.
- Repeat with ball to right so players are in a right handed stance.
- Down block = O guy stepping inside on a path to double an inside DL or to a LB that is inside.
- Out Block = O player stepping toward the D player or a base block.
- Can also add a pass set. Outside zone right or outside zone left.



SUMMER

SHOWCASE



INFORMATION

JUNE 16, 2020

CHECK-IN: 3:45–4:45 P.M.

COMPETITION: 5–8 P.M.

COST: \$80/ATHLETE

LOCATION:

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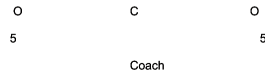
gered stance the players feet should be end up toe to toe. The second step should be six inches which means the player's feet should end up being back in their original stance. The third step, the power step, is now stepping to the offensive linemen to engage feet and hips. Communicating to the players about their target helps. Eyes should be on the V of the neck of their offensive linemen or target. Eyes should be full vision on their target and the ball out of the corner of their eyes. As the ball snaps, their inside foot should be stepping straight to their target.

CHUTES STEP WORK

- 1st step.
- 2 steps
- Fire out down the line
- 2 step launch vs. stand up dummies or agile bags. Have a player hold the stand up to the side. Made sure players step & not hop out of stance. take two steps, on 3rd launch through the bag bringing hands up to punch through. Players finish by landing on the bag.
- D vs O use one block disengagement. Focus still on first step.

A common mistake, especially for five technique defensive linemen is stepping underneath themselves, which means stepping outside. The end result is their inside foot is now in front of their outside foot. They now have no balance and

Set 5 Block recognition and reaction drill



- Focus is always on first step, 2nd focus on reaction to blocking scheme, 3rd focus on block disengagement.
- Blocking schemes use, down blocks, out blocks, reach, outside zone left or right, pass set, trap.
- Hand signals for blocking schemes & snap count
- Use ball movement to simulate snap.
- Can add other OL to work double team
- Can alter drill for a 3 tech or nose emphasis.
- Don't be planted in spot, move to see first step and other aspects in the drill.
- Give quick short feedback, get repetitions. No long sermons
- With many players create 2nd group behind the coach, mirror the drill, switch between each rep.

are prone to getting trapped and opening up a gap for the offense. Typically this happens because they are coached to not lose contain and to keep edge. The problem is they may now lose the edge on reach because it's not a natural step, and now they have to re-adjust with an even more dramatic, longer and slower second step with their outside foot. If it's a pass they now added two to three extra steps turning a possible quarterback sack into a pressure or a non-pressured throw.

Drills for first step are as exciting as writing about the first step. Coaching first step is not fun, it's not flashy, and can be downright boring. Learning new pass rush moves and teaching them is fun but without a proper first step all of that doesn't matter. Every drill I do is a first step drill. During team I watch first step, first step is the first thing I look at on the iPad during games. Communicating to players after practice or before games always starts with, "Take a short first step." I am a firm believer in my drill work that each drill needs a clear focus. I communicate to the players what the focus is on. Each drill has a reason, either a specific concept to get better on, or preparation for our next opponent. I make sure that I do not have drills that involve a lot of players standing around. Feedback should be specific, short, and always coach on the move. People learn by doing not listening. Have your players learn by doing. Don't use backs when it's not necessary. Have your players learn to react to blocks. Backs in drills may teach the player to look into the back field. Keep your drills clean, with a focus on a specific technique. When possible, have something to simulate the snap and start of a play. Always have a check to make sure a player isn't playing the drill. Most of the time I use pass as a check.

SPECIAL TEAMS

SPECIAL TEAMS: IMPROVE YOUR TEAM'S CHANCE OF WINNING

By: Mike Schmitt, Special Teams Coordinator & Wide Receivers Coach, Ripon College



Mike Schmitt

I would like to thank the WFCB for the opportunity to share an article on the topic of Special Teams importance and especially what we do at Ripon College. I would also like to thank Head Coach, Ron Ernst, for asking me to share how we develop some of the finest special teams in D3 football.

Establishing the Mindset!

Every member of our Red Hawk football program must have the mindset that they are a crucial contributor to the success of the team's success every Saturday in the fall. Our Special

Teams Units allow our upperclassmen to develop servant leadership assisting our first-year student athletes to understand our program culture. Our special teams' units are made up of the best players we have in our program to promote team success. Our "Special Forces" follow the Navy Seals belief "There are two ways to do something ...The Right Way and Again!" Our Elite Special Forces players and our Scout Forces players, understand the importance of controlling their three intangibles to "ACE Life's Daily Challenges". These are their "Attitude"; make it a positive one. The "Choices" that they make; are these choices ones they will be proud they made? Last but not least, their "Effort"; do they provide their best effort in everything that they do for themselves and those around them, including their teammates? Our "Special Forces" mission is to provide our Offensive and Defensive units with their best chance of meeting their unit goals.

Hidden Yardage and the "The Battle for Field Position"

In football, we have all heard that there is an importance to field position, special teams have a vital role in winning the "Battle for Field Position". Our emphasis on Everyday Individual Drills, Group, Half Line, Timing, & Tackling Drills, along with our practice efficiency stresses

the importance of striving to win that battle. Special teams' plays are the longest plays of a game and have the most chance of turnovers, if your program fails to strive for perfection. Therefore, the greatest amounts of field position change occur during special teams play. This becomes relevant when you realize that the farther your opponent must travel to score, the greater chance your defense has of stopping them. The closer a team gets in someone else's territory, the higher their percentage is of scoring points. If a team can score points on every drive then that is helping out their defense and special teams during the game. We post (Diagram#1) the Field Position Chart and emphasize the importance of "Valuable Real Estate" from install to post game film analysis each week.

Diagram #1

FIELD POSITION: Valuable Real Estate

Offensive Unit Starts:	Unit Scores Points:	Percent
Inside -20 Yard Line	1 out of 30 attempts	3%
Between -20 & -40	1 out of 8 attempts	13%
Between -40 & 50	1 out of 5 attempts	20%
Between 50 & +40	1 out of 3 attempts	33%
Between +40 & +30	1 out of 2 attempts	50%
Between +30 & +20	2 out of 3 attempts	67%
Inside +20 Yard Line	2.5 out of 3 attempts	83%



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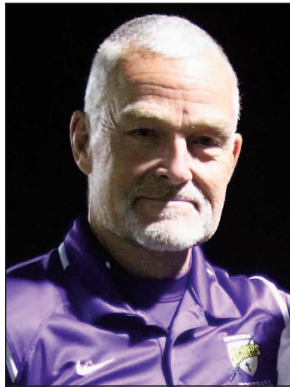


WILAC



SPECIAL TEAMS PRACTICE TIME

By: Robin Jacobsen, Special Teams Coordinator, Racine Lutheran High School



Robin Jacobsen

One often debated football question may well be regarding the importance of special teams (STs) and the amount of practice time the kicking units receive compared to the defensive and offensive teams. Before I address my opinions as the Special Teams Coordinator at Racine Lutheran High School, let me take this moment to thank my Head Coach, Scott Smith and the WFCA for the opportunity to write this article.

I am certain that every team and every coach has discussed the importance of special teams and the amount of practice time that this part of the game deserves. STs make up one third of the team, but it is seldom that STs would receive one third of the practice time. Many coaches will emphasize the importance of STs while refusing to give up practice time from their own units. This certainly isn't surprising. I agree, I don't think that a third of the time is necessary. The amount of time spent practicing is not as important as how the time is spent. In other words, how do you get the job completed in the least amount of time? The answer is by being efficient, with preparation and assistance from other coaches.

It all starts with coaching. There are at least three styles or methods of coaching STs.

1. The Head Coach assigns other coaches duties for each specific unit.

2. The Special Teams Coordinator coaches each unit himself.

3. The Special Teams Coordinator assigns other coaches specific duties to each specific kicking unit.

The first option would not work with our team, nor would it work with most teams. Our Head Coach is the defensive coordinator and is very busy with the duties that only he can complete. He has enough to do.

The second option is doable, but not recommended. I have attempted this option. I was successful with the coordination and organizing portion of the position, but it was difficult to put in any options beyond the basic responsibilities. We were very conservative.

The third option is the best. I have now included other coaches to assist in duties common to their roles. As an example, the offensive line coach has become responsible to coach up the line on the punt and field goal/X-point teams. This may seem elementary, but some coaches may look at STs practice as their own break time.

Efficiency begins with planning and the understanding of the Special Team's philosophy. In order to be successful, a coordinator must have the approval and trust of the head coach. After all, the head coach will take the heat for anything that goes wrong. The display of support from the head coach at practice will assist with player cooperation.

Coordinating and explaining each assistant coaches' role during STs practice time will ensure a more effective practice period. Remind the assistants how important ST's are to the success of the other units. Every coach, no matter his role, should be interested in making STs better. I know all defensive coaches want to start deep on the opponent's side of the field. Likewise, the offensive coaches want to start with the best field position that they can get. Why wouldn't every coach want to invest in the field goal and point after attempt, after all they put points on the scoreboard.

It is a good idea to have a scout team coach. He can talk to every player on the scout team in order to let the player know when and where he should be when called. Having scout teams prepared ahead of time is a very efficient way to save time. I don't want to waste time looking for players to come on to the field when we need a scout team. It's amazing how you can wait for volunteers when you yell out, "I need 11 guys for a kick off team". I recommend assigning those players that will have to fill in a role if your starter is injured or tired. This way the 2nd and 3rd string players get some reps that they would not normally get.

Complete STs planning should be prepared for preseason and in-season practices. The plans should be presented at your weekly coaches' meetings. The plans may include; kicking team and scout team rosters, scheme techniques, pre-game warm up routines for ST specialists, post-game evaluations, and opponent scouting.

Having the right players on the STs units is imperative. Motivation for the players will assist in efficiency and quality of your practice. I try to walk the line between the most talented player and the player that will give the role 100%. Sometimes a player is both, but often the most talented are playing both offense and defense. This player may tend to use this time for a rest and not give his all. I have observed a player that runs 40 yards in 4.7 get beat down field by a player that ran a 5.2. Why is this? Desire. I want the capable player that has the desire and motivation to play special teams.

No one week of practice looks like the other. Planning practice schedules are not as easy during the season as in preseason. Our game schedule includes, Thursday, Friday, and Saturday games. Mondays are often JV games that end up taking some of our ST players. Still, I can't blame others for a lack of STs practice time. I must take what I can get and make it successful. In order to succeed, I must be prepared and efficient.



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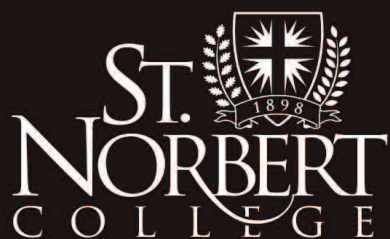
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OFFENSE

FAN AND WHAM TAGS FROM THE INSIDE ZONE SCHEME

By: Craig Loscheider, Head Football Coach, Mondovi High School

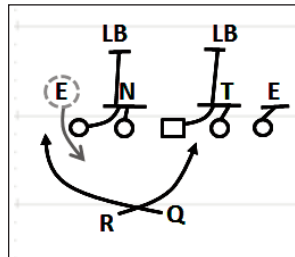


Craig Loscheider

Thank you to the Wisconsin Football Coaches Association for the opportunity to share my thoughts in *The Point After II*. At Mondovi, we run a 20 personnel spread offense with an H-Back in the sniffer alignment about eighty-percent of the time. The other twenty-percent of the time, we flex the H-Back to the slot and run some 4-wide concepts from our ghetto 10 personnel package. Our primary run plays are Power and Counter but we also run a fair amount of Inside Zone. We will always, at our core, be a downhill, gap-scheme run team, but we like Inside Zone for a couple of reasons. First, our backfield mesh is identical for Power, Counter, and Inside Zone and we give it to the back on Power and Counter a lot. Inside Zone gives us the same backfield action but hits B-gap to B-gap (as opposed to off-tackle) and, more importantly, gives us big-play potential with the quarterback keep on the read. The other thing I really like about having the Inside Zone as part of our run game is that we can do a couple different things with tags that give us a lot of flexibility while keeping the scheme relatively simple. There are a lot of variations of Inside Zone: we have experimented with Split Zone and H Iso among others. The problem we have run into is volume. I like it all but at the end of the day, we want to practice what we will call in the games. We are a no-huddle, quick-tempo offense, and we still only average about sixty offensive plays in a game. We just can't justify doing it all. What we have settled on is our base Inside Zone with two variations: Fan and Wham.

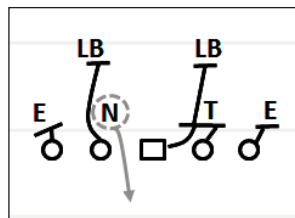
Before getting into the Fan and Wham tags, let's review the Inside Zone concept. All offensive linemen are going to zone step to the play-side and work combination blocks vertically from the first to the second level of the defense. The unblocked defensive end on the back-side is read by the quarterback. There are a ton of coaches who can break down the finer points of

the scheme and the techniques that go with it. At Mondovi, we try very hard not to over-coach it. With our linemen, we work our zone steps and combos, both one-on-one and two-on-two against different looks and tell the kids to work vertically. With our backfield, we work a simple mesh read drill with a coach DE as the read-man. Beyond that, we keep it in the run script throughout the season and try to get our kids to understand that as the defensive



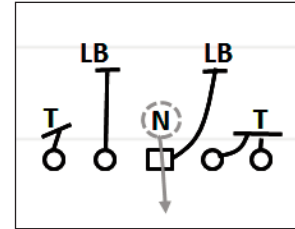
The biggest reason Fan and Wham are our go-to tags for Inside Zone is that they give us good inside run plays without adding much mentally for our kids. Our offensive line has the same rules with both tags and honestly, I doubt any of them could tell you the difference between the two plays. As far as they are concerned, they are the same play. The best way to understand Fan and Wham is to think of them like Inside Zone and Split Zone. With Inside Zone and Split Zone, the OL is zoning to the play-side and leaving the back-side defensive end unblocked. The only difference between the two plays is that on Inside Zone the unblocked defensive end is read and on Split Zone the H-Back kicks him out. Fan and Wham are the same but we move the unblocked defender from the back-side defensive end to the back-side defensive tackle or nose guard. When we read him we call it Fan (essentially Midline) and when we trap with our H-Back we call it Wham.

When we call Fan or Wham, the first thing the offensive line does is identify the unblocked defender. The unblocked defender is always the first defensive lineman head-up or back-side of our center. Against an even front it'll be the back-side defensive tackle and against an odd front it'll be the nose guard. The center and back-side guard communicate to identify the unblocked defender and determine their paths to ensure he is left untouched. The back-side



fronts we see change from week to week, the basic rules for how we work our zone combos do not. Figure 1 shows our Inside Zone.

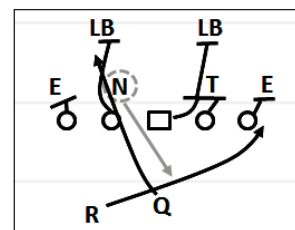
tackle blocks the defensive end out. The play-side guard and tackle block Inside Zone. Figures 2 and 3 show the



blocking scheme against an even and an odd front.

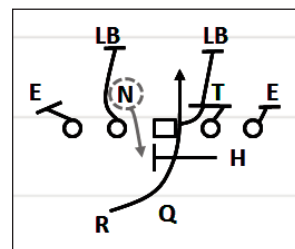
Inside Zone and Fan are very similar, but there are a few differences for Fan that need to be taught and drilled in order for the play to be executed effectively.

The first difference we teach is the path of the running back. On Inside Zone, we teach the play-side A-gap as the aim point, but with Fan, we want him working more East-West than North-South, so we tell him to push his aim point to play-side C-gap. With the running back working across the backfield, the unblocked defensive tackle has to turn and chase the running back off the mesh. At that point, even if he is able to tackle the running back, we have created the hole to straight-line run through and have a good chance at positive yards. The other major difference with Fan is that the quarterback has to stay inside of the out block on the defensive end. Kids have a tendency to want to get to the edge, and that's what you want on Inside Zone, but that cannot happen here. We tell our quarterbacks to replace the read-man and we bark at them whenever they are wrong and that seems



to work. Fan is not an automatic keep for the quarterback, but it's close. Figure 4 shows Fan against an even front.

Wham has become our go-to inside run play. We started running it at the end of the 2018 season and this season we installed it early and ran it often. We used to run the guard trap but as much as I love trap, it's not a great play from the gun and I was always afraid to call it against an odd front anyway so I eventually scrapped it. Wham fits perfectly into our run game because our H-Back is a glorified guard anyway, and we run so much Power that the blocking fundamentals of staying tight to the down



blocks and getting your head in the hole are already engrained in them. Figure 5 shows Wham against an even front.



UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN STEVENS POINT

FOOTBALL

2020 UW-STEVENSON POINT FOOTBALL SCHEDULE

DATE	OPPONENT	LOCATION
SEPT. 5	COE COLLEGE	CEDAR RAPIDS, IOWA
SEPT. 12	SIMPSON COLLEGE	STEVENS POINT
SEPT. 19	MAYVILLE STATE	STEVENS POINT
OCT. 3	UW-LA CROSSE	LA CROSSE, WIS.
OCT. 10	UW-EAU CLAIRE	EAU CLAIRE, WIS.
OCT. 17	UW-PLATTEVILLE	STEVENS POINT
OCT. 24	UW-STOUT	STEVENS POINT
OCT. 31	UW-RIVER FALLS	RIVER FALLS, WIS.
NOV. 7	UW-WHITEWATER	WHITEWATER, WIS.
NOV. 14	UW-OSHKOSH	STEVENS POINT

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Again, up front it's the same concept as Fan. The only difference with Wham is that instead of reading the unblocked defensive tackle, we trap him with our H-Back and it's an automatic give to the running back. Ideally, we find a bad defensive tackle who comes up-field hard and gets trapped into next week, but even against

disciplined players, we have a good chance at positive yards. The key, as with any gap-scheme run, is to not let that kid fight under the trap/kick-out. Our H-Backs work this technique a lot and as coaches we work hard to instill the mind-set in all of our kids that, "If he's bad, I win and if he's good, I win." If you want to

move the ball against good defenders, you better be tight enough to be in a good position on contact and physical enough to win the fight to create the hole. If you have any questions about this scheme or anything else, my email is clscneider@mondovi.k12.wi.us. Thanks again for the opportunity to talk football. Good luck everyone.

THE IMPORTANCE OF THE FIRST STEP

By: Matt Jorgensen, Offensive Coordinator, Bay Port High School



Matt Jorgensen

I would like to thank the Wisconsin Football Coaches Association for giving me the opportunity to write this article. I would also like to thank Gary Westerman, head coach of the Bay Port Pirates and my father Steve Jorgensen, former head coach for the Fond du Lac Cardinals for continuing to push, support, and develop a young coach like myself.

As an offensive line coach, it is all about coaching the little things. Technique. Technique is the name of the game. In addition to emphasizing physical play, a great amount of importance is placed on a lineman's first step in our daily drills. It is imperative linemen have great ball get off along with a six-inch step towards

the crotch of their defender. The first six-inch step can make or break a block and determine if a play will be successful.

Why is the first step important? First and foremost, it creates a mind-set. The offensive line can not be going backwards. They need to have the mind-set and mentality to always be going forward. Against lesser competition, linemen can get away with a backwards step (false step) and be able to execute an effective block. However, offensive linemen need to be prepared to beat the best. If their first step is not going forward six inches, they are set up for failure. Good defensive linemen will take advantage of this.

In preparing for a new football season, a lineman's first step is something that needs to be repped and corrected right from the beginning or it becomes a bad habit. The practice of stepping forward needs to be ingrained into daily culture. Stepping backwards leads to being slow off the ball and late into double teams.

The offensive scheme at Bay Port High School is a gap (down blocking) scheme. Every lineman on the play-side should be in sync with their steps. If they have a solo - down block, their first step should be in the ground quickly. The step needs to be six-inches right at the crotch of the adjacent defender. This prevents inside penetration from the defensive linemen and helps the offensive lineman get their head across the defenders. Our offense also takes ad-

vantage of double teams whenever we get the opportunity. The inside man (postman) should surge off the ball with a six-inch step with his inside foot. The outside man (drive man) takes an adjacent six-inch step (down block) towards the defender's crotch. Their intention is to get lateral displacement on the down lineman. If either of the linemen involved in the double team takes a false step, it throws the whole block off. This results in the linemen not being able to have hip to hip relationship with each other.

There are a variety of simple yet effective drills an offensive line coach can implement into their individual time to work on first step. The most basic drill utilizes painted lines on the practice field. When doing the first step progression, line groups up five-yards apart with their toes on the backside of the painted lines. By doing this, a coach can visually see them stepping over the line. Coaches can also use PVC pipes. Lay the pipes in front of the linemen and have them step over. The pipes can be placed in front of a lineman to work on an iso block or at an angle to work on a down block. One last drill is to have a partner place their foot directly behind the heel of the player working. This way if they step back, they step on their partner's foot. These drills may seem very simplistic, but the first step can make or break the block.

As an offensive line coach, do not just focus on the result of a play. It is essential to take time to rep and correct the small details, like the first step. This is what will lead to success.

POWER READ: EASY READS AND ADJUSTMENTS FOR THE QUARTERBACK AND OFFENSIVE LINE

By: Jason Lebeau, Head Coach, Western New England University

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We are an up-tempo, no huddle, and multiple spread offense. Our base inside run play is mid zone, full-field attack play. Our main secondary inside run play is power. We run one-back and two-back power out of every formation in our offense. We have traditionally been a run-first team, but only run a few concepts for our offensive line.

Our quarterback is an athlete who can handle the zone read game as well as RPOs and play-action pass. We do utilize the quarterback run game and like to use our quarterback in the numbers game against the defense. The Power Read play is specifically designed for a quarterback you're okay with running between the tackles. We run the quarterback more than most teams because of our schemes.

Everything we do is about space on the field and finding where we have numbers and better match-ups. For example, if the defense has five defenders in the box, then we want to run the ball there. If the defense has more numbers than we can block in the box, then we want to get the ball to the outside and attack the perimeter. We consider the box to be outside shoulder of a normal tight end alignment on one side to the other and 7 yards deep.

Power Read

We created our Power Read play by mixing the philosophy and techniques of our mid zone and power plays combined.

We spend tons of time getting good at those two plays because we want our offensive line to

continue to use the same skills repeatedly. That is a huge part of our fast-paced philosophy.

The play—side offensive linemen (including the center) execute the same techniques as the backside of our zone read scheme. This scheme adjusts depending on who the read is. The backside offensive linemen run our base power blocking scheme techniques including a skip pull and gap hinge.

The defense needs to defend backside B gap all the way to front side sideline during this play. Their alignment and reactions dictate where the ball is going to go for us.

The Read

Who we read on this play adjusts depending on the alignment of the defense. Similar to



UW STOUT



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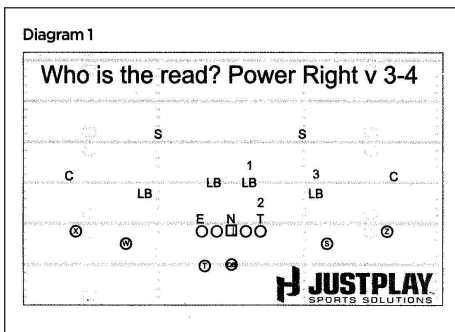
many other plays in our offense, we use a count system to determine who the read is.

We read No. 3 starting in the play-side A gap. We do not count a head—up nose guard aligned on our center.

Our quarterback is ultimately responsible for calling out the read to the rest of the offense. Our offensive line always utilizes a count system as well. The scheme will then adjust once the read has been identified.

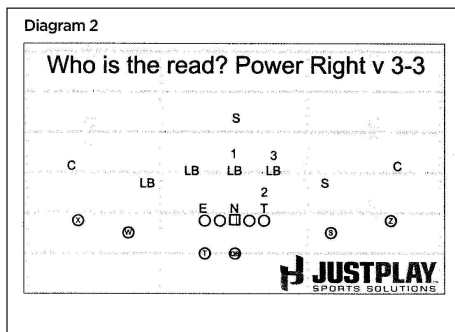
Here are some examples of who the read is. The number 3 in each picture is who the quarterback will identify as the read.

In Diagram 1, the defense is aligned in a 3-4 front. If power is being run right, then the A gap defender to the play side (don't count a head—up nose) is the inside linebacker. The end/tackle to that side is number 2 and the potential B-gap defender. The linebacker just outside the box is number 3 and the read in this front.



The idea is, against this front, if number 3 stays outside the box, then the quarterback will keep the ball and run the quarterback power against a five-man box. We're looking for a 5-on-5 match-up with a quarterback who can run.

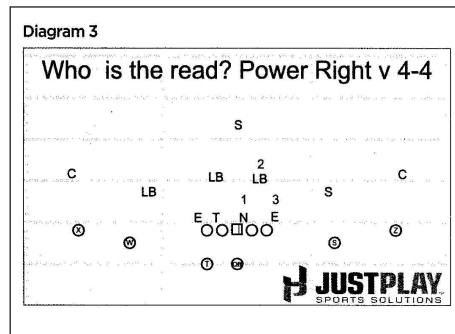
In Diagram 2, the defense is aligned in a 3-3 front. If power is being run right, then the A gap defender to the play side (don't count a head—up nose) is the stacked middle backer. The end/tackle to that side is number 2 and the potential B gap defender. The linebacker stacked over the end/tackle is number 3 and the read in this front.



If number 3 stays in the box, then we want the ball outside. If number 3 moves outside, then the quarterback will keep the ball and run the quarterback power against a five-man box. The potential movement (or lack of movement) of the read allows us to get the ball where we want against appropriate numbers.

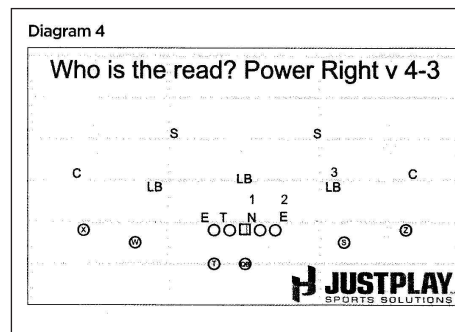
In Diagram 3, the defense is aligned in a 4-4 front. If power is being run right, then the A gap defender is the nose guard aligned in the A

gap. The inside linebacker to that side is number 2 and the potential B gap defender. The end aligned to that side is number 3 and the read in this front.



This is a much more standard look. If number 3 stays at the LOS and in the box, then we want the ball outside. If number 3 moves off-field or outside, then the quarterback will keep the ball and run the quarterback power against a five-man box. The potential movement (or lack of movement) of the read allows us to get the ball where we want against appropriate numbers.

In Diagram 4, the defense is aligned in a 4-3 front. If power is being run right, then the A gap defender is the nose guard aligned in the A gap. The end to that side is number 2 and the potential B gap defender. The linebacker aligned outside to that side is number 3 and the read in this front.



Against this front, if number 3 stays outside the box, then the quarterback will keep the ball and run the quarterback power against a five-man box. We're looking for that 5-on-5 match-up with a quarterback who can run.

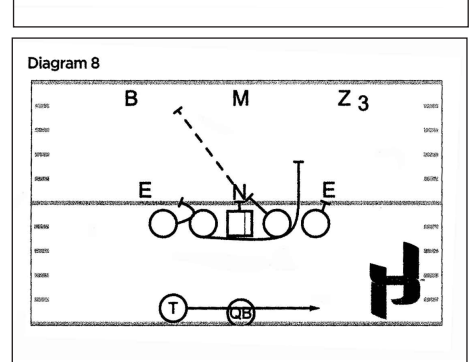
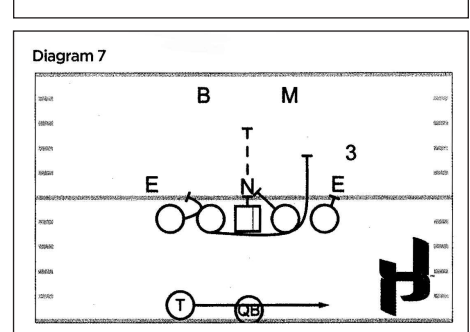
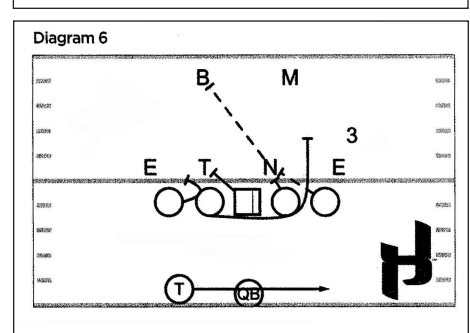
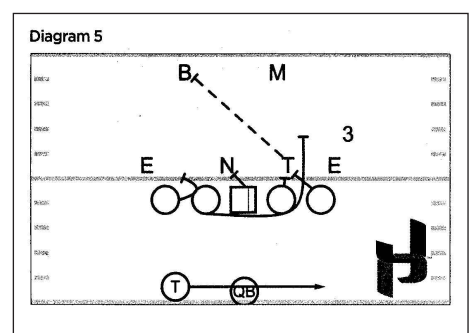
Offensive Line Key Points

There are some key points to teach the offensive line to best execute this play. First, they need to know who the read is. The quarterback must clearly communicate who the read is and then the offensive line can execute their own communication system.

For the attack—side offensive lineman (read side), we want them to treat it like the backside of our zone read scheme.

For example, if the read is the outside linebacker, then the offensive linemen will block the defensive lineman just like they would if we were not reading the defensive end on zone read. We call this our “brick” scheme. If the read is the defensive lineman, then we should zone block through the backside lineman to the backside linebacker.

In Diagrams 5-8, the backside offensive lineman is executing base power techniques. The backside guard is skip pulling for the front-side second—level threat. He is pulling to the zone side so he knows not to chase any flowing linebacker and to just zone climb. The backside tackle is gap hinging for the backside B gap just like he would in our power scheme.



Lead Blocker

This Power Read play can be run with or without a lead blocker. If you are utilizing lead blocking, nothing changes for the scheme, except now, the lead blocker has a job. He is responsible for the fire, wall, alley block. (See Diagram 9)

The blocker does not need to worry who the read is, but he does need to know that he will

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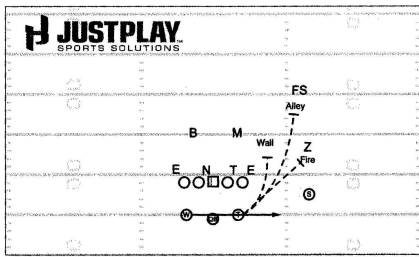
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Diagram 9



never block a defensive lineman. The first block he looks for is the fire block. This is when a defender off the outside comes flying up-field (could be a blitz). The second block is the wall, which is when a second-level defender from inside the box flows outside. The third block which is typically a third-level defender coming downhill through the second level.

Our aiming point for the blocker is the outside hip of the defender. The lead blocker is really meant to be the blocker for the perimeter-run portion of the play.

Quarterback Key Points

There are some key points to teach the quarterback to best execute this play. He must understand the count system and then effectively communicate who the read is to the offensive line. Then, if there are any motions — and more specifically, jet motions — he must make sure the timing is spot-on for the play to be best. We teach the quarterback to snap the ball during jet motion as soon as the guy in motion enters the tackle box. In terms of technique, the quarterback will first take a step back with his inside foot. We teach our backs to align on the quarterback's heels, and we want them to be able to stay flat through the mesh point. After the step-back by the quarterback, he will then take a flat shuffle

step toward the read. We tell him to keep eyes directly on the hips (and eyes) of the read key.

Typically, a small second shuffle will occur naturally, but we do not want him going further than the play-side B gap. During the mesh, the quarterback must keep a firm grip on the football and his elbows in. Mesh must be practiced many times to get it right. It is our belief that it needs to be a “feeling” and relationships must be created.

Plays With Power Read

Power Read complements other plays well in our offense. Play—action off the jet look (as well as regular mesh) and using pulling guard play-action work well for vertical attacks. We also like to run inside zone underneath the jet backfield action to keep the linebackers honest. Then, counters and running plays opposite the action is a great way to make sure the defense defends the full field against your schemes.

10/11/20 PERSONNEL DOWNHILL RUN GAME WITH BUILT-IN HIGH-PERCENTAGE THROWS

By: Geoff Dartt, Offensive Line Coach, Western Kentucky University

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In the following Chalk Talk, Geoff Dartt from Western Kentucky presents his offensive philosophy, offensive game goals, run game efficiency criteria, run game philosophy and inside zone scheme with multiple running backs. This is presented as a quick-hitting, but in-depth chalk talk that will help you learn WKU's downhill run game with built-in, high-percentage throws.

Offensive Philosophy

- Players, Formations, Players. This is not a system. We fit our scheme to the skill set on our roster and our ability to recruit personnel.
- Physical/downhill run game. We must attack the A gaps and stress the defense.
- Attack vertically in the pass game. Utilize play action and run-pass options (RPOs).
- Tempo. Keep the scheme, formations, motions and shifts simple. Stress the defense and create conflict of assignment. It helps limit missed assignments as an offense and increase focus on execution. This helps mask tendencies that defenses can pick up on during games.

Offensive Game Goals

- Protect the ball. Average less than two turnovers per game.
- Win third down. Convert at 50 percent or better.
- Score in the Red Zone. Convert at 80 percent or better.
- Run game efficiency. Convert at 60 percent or better.
- Win.
- On first-and-10, produce 4 yards or more.
- On first-and-long, first-and-goal or second down, produce at least half the yardage required for either a first down or a touchdown.
- On third down or fourth down, produce a first down or a touchdown.

Run Game Philosophy

- Physical/downhill run game. Attack the A gaps, use multiple running back locations for Inside Zone schemes.
- Built in high-percentage throws. The quarterback and skill players can anticipate defense alignments/reactions. The quarterback always has the ability to throw the ball off his pre-snap read, whether it be the bubble based on leverage or the quick throw to the single wide receiver based on a coverage look. This also helps control perimeter defenders because wide receivers can run routes instead of blocking.
- Keep the scheme simple. It allows us to play with tempo to stress defense and limits missed assignments.
- Create conflict of assignment. It helps set up vertical pass game/RPOs.

Use Of Multiple Running Back Locations For Inside Zone

- Allows offense to stay simple with scheme while stressing defense with three different locations/aiming points while using the same scheme.
- Meshes with play action protections and packages. Allows us to attack vertically in pass game.
- Allows offense to get a feel for how defense will fit scheme. Defense can play downhill in gaps, play behind the zone on a gap exchange, or rotate third-level players down around line of scrimmage. It can also stress the way defensive linemen play, up the field, attacking key, playing off the ball.
- We will always carry all three schemes on our game plan but we can settle on all or one based on how defense plays during game.
- We will also use running back quick mo-

tions right before the snap which is built into the cadence. They can line up in any of the three locations for the inside zone scheme and move to the proper location before the ball is snapped. This helps mask tendencies that defenses can pick up on during scouting/games.

Offensive Line Alignment, Splits and Stance

- The base alignment for the offensive line will be the guards/tackles on same level, breaking the hip of the center to have a legal formation. In certain situations, offensive linemen will move up toward.
- The reason for this alignment helps the offensive linemen in a few different areas. The first is initial separation from the defensive line. This can help in the run game and the pass game.
- In the run game, it can allow the offensive linemen to get their second step in the ground, which allows them to generate proper force and displace the LOS. The ultimate goal is we move defensive linemen out of gaps vertically/laterally. Offensive linemen can also handle/diagnose post-snap movement to the play-side or back-side of the play.
- In pass protection, it gives the offensive linemen initial separation and allows them to get to their spot and settle, ready to redirect force. They can then identify the pass rush or any blitz/movement that may occur post-snap.
- Base two-foot splits will be used with the offensive line, creating the ability to squeeze or widen based off blocking combination calls or tendencies learned from scouting a defense. This also helps create natural running lanes and can help widen the edge and



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7:45 p.m. Award Program
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8:30 p.m. Afterglow Reception
with Entertainment

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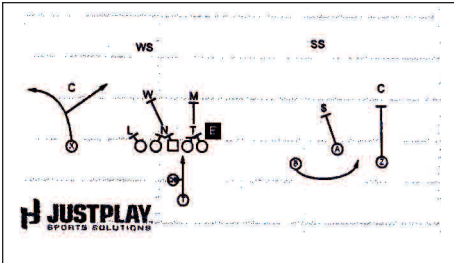
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force the EMOL to play in more space and make the read for the quarterback easier.

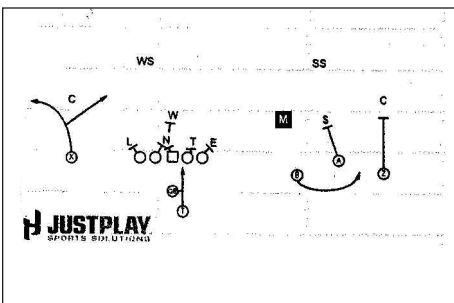
- We will utilize two and three-point stances. This can be influenced by the situation in-game or the location on the field. I believe it is important for players to feel comfortable. Allowing them to use both stances gives them options during games.

10 Personnel Inside Zone



Running back location is 6.5 yards offset pistol, attacking downhill in the backside A gap. Using an open formation allows offense to manipulate how defense defends the box. When the defense shows a six—man box, we will look to read EMOL. In this inside zone scheme, the aiming point for the running back is the backside A gap. This puts immediate stress on the EMOL and he must make decision to take the running back or play the quarterback. If the EMOL takes the running back, the quarterback now has the ability to pull the ball and attack the perimeter. His secondary read is the defender that aligns pre—snap over No. 2 wide receiver. If defender attacks quarterback, he can throw the bubble. This gives us a true extended triple option look, the quarterback can give to the running back, pull the ball and attack vertically or throw the bubble off defender. His first option would be throwing the ball to the single wide receiver based on his pre-snap coverage read.

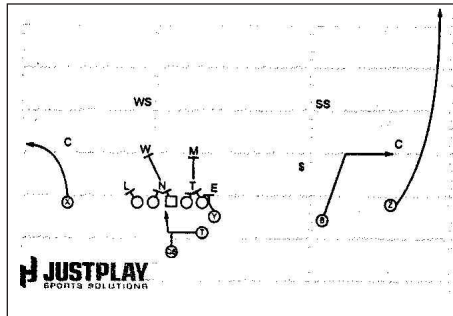
10 Personnel Inside Zone



Now that the defense has given us a five-man box, we will look to read the first defender outside the box. The offensive line must locate/communicate the double-team on the A-gap defensive lineman, pre-snap. The options for the quarterback will be to give the ball if the first man outside plays the pass or throw the bubble if the first man outside triggers on run action. In both examples, the quarterback can always throw the bubble based on pre-snap leverage or the quick throw to the single wide receiver based on pre-snap alignment/coverage.

We believe these throws/completions are extensions of the run game and get our players in space. We tell the quarterback to take and make the easy throws. If the defense shows/rotates a seventh defender to near the box or to covers down on the wide receivers, we now have our outside wide receivers matched up one-on-one and we can attack down the field with our play-action pass (PAP) or RPOs.

11 Personnel Inside Zone

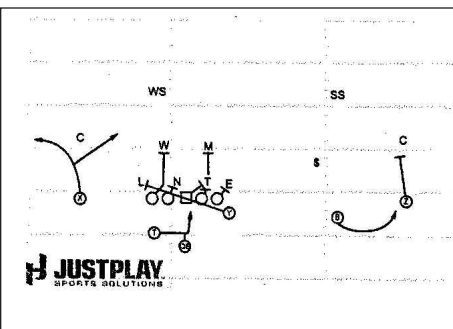


The running back's location is with his heels at 5 yards, standing in front of the quarterback, feet even with tackle. He will tempo across the mesh and read the first man past the center, attacking the play side A gap.

With this scheme, the quarterback still has his pre-snap read of the quick throw to the single wide receiver based on coverage/leverage. Now, we have tagged this play with a quick pass concept. Our read will be the flat defender as the running back tempos across the mesh. We have our quarterback remain in place when making reads so they get into position to throw. This also helps with RPO reads and PAP protections.

As far as scheme for the offensive line, nothing changes in terms of blocking scheme, but they will understand each aiming point and how that can stress/affect the defense. They must also communicate as to where the tight end is located in the zone scheme, play side or backside.

11 Personnel Split Inside Zone

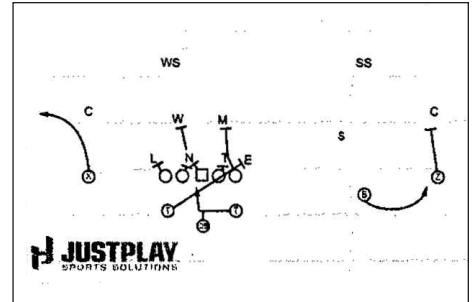


The running back's location is with his heels at 5 yards, standing in front of the quarterback, feet even with tackle. He will tempo across mesh and read the first man past the center, attacking the play side A gap.

Another critical aspect of our inside zone run game is stressing defensive ends in multiple ways. We can do that in different ways, first with the different running back alignments cre-

ating different aiming points and mesh points. This can affect how defenses will play and attack quarterbacks in zone read schemes. The other is to give the defensive end multiple looks at how we control them, read them, block them in play side/backside of zone, or use a split/seal zone scheme. This will slow down what is usually one of the more athletic players on the defensive side of the ball. The split zone blocker will take the path into the line of scrimmage (LOS) and through the inside shoulder of EMOL. He must stay consistent with his path!

20 Personnel Split Inside Zone

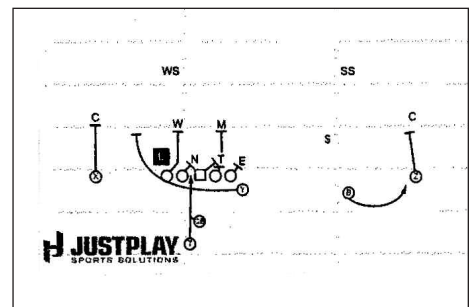


The running back's location is with his heels at 5 yards, standing in front of the quarterback, feet even with tackle. He will tempo across mesh and read first man past the center, attacking the play side A gap.

With the use of 20 personnel, we can accomplish two things. The first is more speed in the Backfield. The Y is out of the game. The second is with both running backs in mirrored alignments, the defense cannot get a pre-snap read/tendency which way the zone will go.

Again, with this scheme, the quarterback always has ability to catch and throw the ball to the perimeter — based on pre-snap leverage — to the bubble or single wide receiver.

11 Personnel Seal Inside Zone

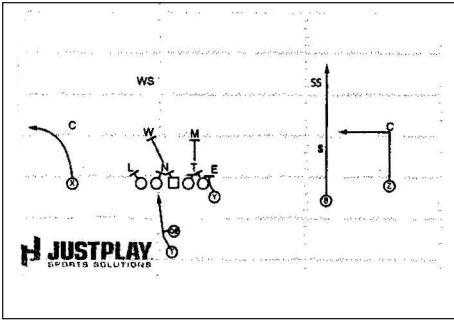


The running back's location is at 6.5 yards in offset pistol, attacking downhill in the backside A gap. This running back puts immediate stress on the EMOL to make a decision. Also with this scheme, this is another way to manipulate the defensive ends based on how they are being blocked/read.

This scheme can be set up after affecting defensive ends with a split zone look. The seal zone blocker will take a path through outside shoulder of EMOL to affect his assignment. The quarterback has ability to give the football or

keep it and attack the perimeter if EMOL attacks the running back. The tight end becomes the lead blocker for quarterback on a keep read.

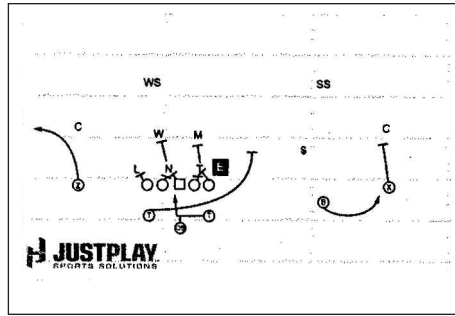
20 Personnel Seal Inside Zone



The running back's location is with his heels at 5 yards, standing in front of the quarterback, with his feet even with the tackle. He will tempo across the mesh and read the first man past the center, attacking the play-side A gap.

The seal blocker in on a path through outside shoulder of EMOL to affect his assignment. The quarterback now has an extended triple-option when running the seal zone scheme away from the No. 2 wide receiver's side. The quarterback has option to give to the running back, pull and attack the perimeter, or pull to attack then throw the bubble. He also has a read to the single wide receiver, pre-snap.

11 Personnel Inside Zone



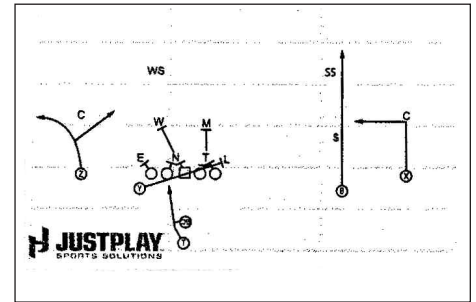
The running back's location is 7 yards directly behind the quarterback in the pistol. His aiming point will be outside leg of the play side guard. While this scheme is somewhat wider than the others in terms of the A gaps, we will have our running back's tempo under control when crossing mesh point so they can help set up offensive line blocks.

The quarterback has a pre-snap read to a quick throw to the single wide receiver or use the quick throw concept to two wide receivers. The quarterback must step away from mesh point if making this throw.

All this is based on pre-snap leverage/coverage like mentioned above in other examples. With this scheme, we also accomplish something often overlooked with zone read scheme offenses. The quarterback does not have a post-

snap read. He can simply secure the snap and hand of the ball.

11 Personnel Split Inside Zone



The running back's location is 7 yards directly behind the quarterback in the pistol. His aiming point will be outside leg of the play-side guard. The split zone blocker will take a path into the LOS and through the inside shoulder of the EMOL.

Again, this is another way to affect the defensive end while giving the quarterback pre-snap options to throw the ball to the perimeter based on pre-snap coverage/leverage.

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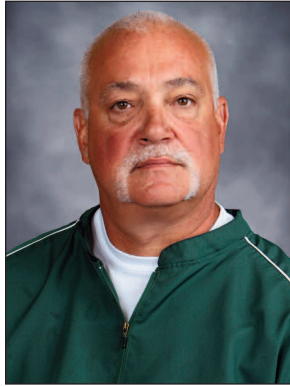


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GENERAL FOOTBALL

8-PLAYER ALL-STAR WEEK PROVIDES COACHING EXPERIENCE OF A LIFETIME

By: Don Kendzior, Former Head Coach Luck High School & WFCB 8-Player League Chairman



Don Kendzior

Why wouldn't you want to coach in a WFCB All-Star game? The experience has been described in this article by ten of the coaches from the 8-player event this past year.

Ryan Humpal

Co-Head Coach, Luck Cardinals –

This is my third time down in Oshkosh coaching at the WFCB All-Star game and this year is just as good as any year. Watching these young men develop the relationships they have over the last week is amazing. We have players all from the same conference who have battled against each other over the past 4 years for conference titles, and now they are life-long friends. This is why I keep coming back to this great game.

The other reason is for the cause. Meeting the families and the champs from Children's Wisconsin is an emotional day. Hearing their stories and hanging out with them for the day is awesome. We had the luxury of having one champ and his brothers in our team meeting. It was fun to watch those kids soak up the football knowledge that the All-Star player shared with them.

Matt Dunlap

Co-Head Coach, Luck Cardinals –

Coaching in the WFCB Children's Hospital All-Star game has been the best coaching experience of my 19 year coaching career. Having the opportunity to coach and connect with the best student athletes in the North 8-player league is something that can't truly be explained until it is experienced. It makes you a better coach period! The week is memorable for so many reasons, however there is nothing better than when the champions from the Children's Hospital come to meet the players. That afternoon is one that is life altering. Go North!

Matt Schoeneman

Head Coach, Mercer Butternut –

It is an easy task to talk about and express my gratitude when asked about my experiences with the WFCB Children's Hospital All-Star Game at UW-Oshkosh. Simply, I am a better person, better football coach, and grounded with my life and family. The weeks leading up to the All-Star week and the week of game is a 24/7 football clinic. I have had the privilege to experience and learn football from the best football minds. My time this week has had a direct and positive impact on my football program back in Mercer and Butternut. Through the All-Star game, I have had the opportunity to create and continue relationships with my coaching peers from throughout our state. I am most proud of the purpose of the game which is to raise money for Children's Hospital. We are giving back to young children and their families in their time of need. Their stories remind me how lucky I am. A loss on a Friday night is not that bad in the big picture of life and football. Overall, the All-Star week is a life changer. Everyone MUST have this experience.

Kent Walstrom

Head Coach, Florence High School –

It's been a privilege to have been a part of the 8-man South coaching staff during football all-star week. I've enjoyed working with this special group of young men and coaches who are so talented beyond just the sports they play and coach. It has been fun to watch these athletes interact and work with each other and it's easy to see the respect they have for each other's talents while showing their own intense competitiveness and desire to be the best. It's a coach's dream to be given the opportunity to work with a whole team of players who all possess such a winning work ethic and a willingness to work together so unselfishly for a common goal.

Max Ayres

Head Coach, Port Edwards High School

Sometimes it is hard to find the right words to describe something and this is one of them. All I can say is wow, what an amazing week and event put on by the Children's Hospital of Wisconsin and the Wisconsin Football Coaches Association. It was truly an honor and a blessing to be a coach on the South 8 man All-Star team. Being a first time coach, I didn't know what to expect coming into the week. Over the week, I have learned so much about the game of football and about myself as a coach. Working with the South players and coaches is something I will remember for the rest of my life and I

couldn't be more grateful to have this opportunity. It was an honor to interact with the athletes who were chosen to play in this game. Seeing them come together as a team in a short period of time was exciting to watch. I wish them nothing but continued success in the future. Thank you to the Children's Hospital, the WFCB, the players, and the rest of the coaching staff for everything that was done to make this week a success. And as always, Go South!

Dave Lindbeck

Assistant Coach, Wausaukee HS –

Coaching in the All-Star game is truly an honor and an experience to last a lifetime. I am extremely grateful and honored to have this experience for the past two years. The takeaways from the All-Star experience is defined by the opportunities it presents.

The first opportunity is to meet the coaching staff and collaborate about the game itself. Established a trust amongst coaches and finding the common path to the Xs and Os, and learning.

The second is meeting the athletes. Establishing a common language, and creating a culture with the best football players in the state of Wisconsin. We watch them grow, bond, and become a family in a matter of days.

The last is competing on Saturday. However the greatest experience is the purpose.

We are inspired by the patients of our friends from Children's Hospital. We learn to play for them, not just ourselves. We raise money to support the cause and have the opportunity to interact and actually play a game with the children from the Hospital. We become inspired and better people because of it. If given the opportunity to coach in the All Star game be honored and take the challenge, it will be one of the best experiences you will ever have.

Karl Thorpe

Assistant Coach, Newman Catholic HS

As coaches, we are able to watch our kids grow up over a period of four years. Here, I've watched this group grow up in a span of one week. Old rivals became friends. Players learned systems completely different from what they're used to. Leadership has blossomed in kids that maybe hadn't shown it before. They've learned about football but, more importantly, they've learned about life. I truly believe these young men are leaving this experience as better people than they were when they arrive on Sunday.

I feel that I can say the same of myself. Thank you to the WFCB and Children's Hospital of Wisconsin for giving all of us this awesome opportunity.

Paul Michlig*Head Coach, Wausau Catholic HS*

I would like to begin by thanking the Children's Hospital of Wisconsin and the WFCa. Having been part of this last year with the North, I can't tell you in words how amazing these people are to work with, and how special they treat each and everyone of the coaches and players. UW-Whitewater is a tremendous university and they opened their arms to anything we needed. Tim Shields has to be the hardest working man in Whitewater! Thank you! What is neat about this experience is on Sunday night when you put 20 kids and 5 coaches together and try to become a team in one week! You don't know what to expect and hope that at the end of the week you do! It is a week of enjoyment that usually is done over a full season. It is something that I always dreamed about, and if you have the chance to coach in this game you won't be disappointed. Lastly, I would like to thank my coaches and all of the South coaches who were great to work with. They did everything first class. Very proud of the group of

young men we had play for the South this year. They started it off by hitting their goal with donations! (And beating the North off the field!) I truly believe they are better people going forward because of this experience. Thank you guys for being such a great TEAM. I hope nothing but the best for them going forward in life. Thank you once again to Children's Hospital and the WFCa.

Dan Gilbertson*Assistant Coach, Clayton High School*

I'm a first time assistant coach for the WFCa 8 man All Star game. Before getting here, I heard how great this week is from former players and coaches, wow how true that is! Between everyone with the WFCa and UW Oshkosh, this is a fine oiled machine! When you have the best of the best as far as players and coaches go your experience is second to none! I have definitely grown as a coach through this opportunity. The Children's Hospital is a great cause that I'm proud to be part of! Very thankful for the opportunity to experience this whole week. Thank you

Ryan Karsten*Head Coach, Siren High School*

This is my favorite week of the year. I have had the pleasure to be involved for the last 3 years and each experience is better than the last.

- 1) The amount of learning that takes place from the other coaches on your staff is tremendous. All the coaches have great ideas and schemes that make your program better in the fall.
- 2) The amount of growth you see in some kids is the greatest. It is so rewarding to see where a kid comes in on Sunday and where he ends up on Saturday. Some of the kids are sponges and just learn and grow so much.
- 3) The networking that takes place down here is so great. The amount of coaches from all size schools, D1 to 8 Man, is so great. Just having the ability to be around like minded people that love to talk football is great.

My experiences over the last 3 years have been so great, it has made me a better coach in so many ways. Even though it is a long, hard week, I hope I get to do it again very soon.

THANK YOU to all of you who so generously submitted articles for

————— ***“The Point After II.”*** —————

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MARQUETTE UNIVERSITY HS – STAYING THE COURSE

By: Adam Reed, AFCA Magazine/AFCA.com – Reprinted with Expressed Permission from the AFCA



The Marquette University (Wis.) High School football team started the 2019 season on a three-game skid, but bounced back in a big way, learning lifelong lessons in the process.

Most football coaches feel the weight of expectations.

Whether those expectations come from within the program, the local community, or even from public perception on a national scale, expectations abound in the coaching profession.

For Marquette University High School (MUHS) football program in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, expectations seemingly ascend to new levels each and every year, this year was no different.

Coming into the 2019 campaign, MUHS Head Coach, Jeff Mazurczak's crew was poised to make another deep playoff run, having earned a spot in the quarterfinals of the Division I Wisconsin Interscholastic Athletic Association Playoffs five times in the last six years.

And who would their first opponent of these promising new season be? They faced none other than their final opponent of the 2018 season the reigning state champions from Muskego, who had edged them the year before and ruined their hopes for an unbeaten season.

The rematch would end in much the same way, with the Warriors taking a hard-fought victory, 14-10.

While starting 0-1 is less than ideal, it was far from the end of the season for MUHS. But the situation quickly snowballed on the Hilltoppers, dropping their next two games and suddenly finding themselves at 0-3.

If there was to be any chance of continuing their recent run of success, the team needed to stop the bleeding – in a hurry.

Structured Support

The famous boxer Mike Tyson once said, "Everyone has a plan until they get punched in

the mouth." After starting the year on a three-game skid, the MUHS coaching staff was certainly feeling like they had been, and their mental toughness was being put to the test.

Fortunately, in times of adversity like this, Mazurczak knows exactly where to go to find the support he needs. First and foremost, he looks to his family.

"[As coaches], we're all fortunate to have wives that allow us to get out of the house six days plus a week to be little boys and be involved in football, in a game," he says.

Beyond the support of his family, Mazurczak leans on his staff. Having been involved with the program for over three decades, he realizes that if they can't solve their problem with the great group of men he is surrounded by, they likely won't solve it all.

"I've either coached the guys that are on my staff or coached with them for along time," Mazurczak says. "I know what they're all about. I know that they're competitive. I know that they're going to give me their best effort." The last place Mazurczak draws strength from in times of adversity may be the most obvious, and yet underutilized — his players. "In the 30 years I've been here, the best teams we've had have been player led," he says.

But in order for a team to be able to rely on player leadership, coaches have to set processes in motion that intentionally develop that leadership. Mazurczak and his staff have been working hard at finding increasingly better ways of doing just that.

About 10 years ago, they started the Junior Hilltopper program for grade-school athletes. From the time players come into that program, until the time they are seniors, the MUHS staff instills concepts within them like responsibility, compassion and excellence both on and off the field.

Years later, as players get ready to write their final chapter as Hilltoppers, Mazurczak goes out of his way to talk to the seniors about the standard they want to set for the next generation, and the legacy they want to leave.

Practically, on a week-to-week basis, the MUHS staff constantly forces players to think like leaders. The players who have "been around the block" take those who haven't under their wing, and the interaction makes both groups appreciably better.

"We make sure our older guys are coaching our younger guys," Mazurczak says. "Two things happen. You create those relationships between the older guys and the younger guys — those younger guys buy-in and feel that

relationship being built with those older guys. sometimes you learn more about the sport by coaching and it really augments the playing aspect of it."

Communicating Confidence

In the eye of the storm, with no apparent reason to be calm, and seemingly every reason to panic, the MUHS staff took inventory of the situation.

On the one hand, the team had performed well in terms of their attitude, preparation, focus and effort. On the other, they were an 0-3 football team. So what gives?

"You have to know your team and you have to know the personality of your team," Mazurczak says. "We might've had to change some of the script if we weren't getting great effort or if our shortcomings were effort or philosophy related.

After evaluating the film, doing their best to set aside their emotions and personal biases, the staff came to a simple conclusion — the team was on the right track. Regardless of the story the wins and losses told, they simply needed to make a few more plays and tighten up their execution.

How could the coaching staff, who had been unified in the same message practice after practice, and year after year, abandon the process that they believed in? What message would it send to the players, after telling them all off-season not to worry about results, if the results dictated to the staff that the process of getting better required wholesale changes after three tough games?

As simple as it sounds, provided the effort and discipline is there, sometimes a team just



needs to put their head down and keep grinding. And that's precisely what the Hilltoppers did.

"As we went from week to week, we kept with the same philosophy and the same mantra that we need to keep getting better, Mazurczak says. We came up short, but we're not going to focus on that anymore. We're moving focusing on the next step.

The whole while our coaching staff did a terrific job of maintaining positivity and building these guys confidently. We had some injuries, so we had to put energy and focus into getting the next guy ready. We've always had a next man up mentality, but at one point in the season we had lost four defensive backs."

The pile of injuries the team suffered represents another convenient scape goat that a lesser staff may have latched onto. But the MUHS staff took the injuries as an opportunity for the younger players to take the lead.

"This is their opportunity. So, you always try to use that as something to build confidence in that next guy," Mazurczak says. "You have and idea of what the next guy looks like that's got to go in. And, sometimes it's not always the next line on the sheet. Sometimes I'm going to move my corner to safety and then I'm going to bring in the next corner.

"And you have to be careful in how you present that to players, because that can be somewhat demoralizing to that second safety. He was the second safety, but is left questioning why he is still the second safety, when there's still someone ahead of him on the depth chart and the number-one safety is hurt."

The reoccurring thread with the way the MUHS staff conducted themselves boils down to this: clearly communicating reasons for the players to be confident in the face of adversity. Regardless of what misfortune they had endured, trusting each other would be the only way the 2019 MUHS football team would have a chance to leave their mark.

By communicating their confidence in the process, and more importantly, their confidence in their players, the staff sent the message that the team would eventually find the success they had worked so hard for if they continued to apply themselves.

"I learned through my playing career how important it is for coaches to instill confidence in their players," Mazurczak says. "It means a lot when you're a player that your coach believes in you."

Powering Through

In the fourth week of the season, the Hilltoppers were victorious.

Slowly but surely, the team started to stack success. Seven weeks later, the 8-3 Hilltoppers found themselves preparing for a quarterfinal playoff game yet again.

MUHS, refusing to be defined by their rough start, adds yet another chapter to their legacy, one that has not only produced good football players, but those who have gone on to great careers in business, the armed forces, as doctors and lawyers — even an F-16 fighter pilot.

But the most impressive aspect of the program isn't the type of people the program produces, it's the greater Marquette family it has helped to create over the years.

One such example is Mark Spellman, a Hilltopper center who went on to earn First Team All-Conference Honors at Illinois State. During the year, Spellman volunteered to come in and work with the MUHS center, who had been struggling through the first couple of games. The poor snaps disappeared.

Another more well-known example is Oluwadare "Dare" Ogunbowale, who currently plays for the Tampa Bay Buccaneers. When the Bucs had their bye week in October, Dare could have gone anywhere and done anything with his free time.

He came back to Milwaukee to be on the sideline for the Hilltoppers final regular season game.

"We're fortunate to have that type of loyalty, camaraderie and brotherhood," Mazurczak says. "Our players really do feel like they're coming back home. I think that's a tribute to our coaching staff and how we mentor these guys."

When the playoffs arrive, Mazurczak will dress the entire Sophomore class, as well as a handful of freshman. It's not uncommon to see 130 to 150 young players, brimming with pride, lining the field on a chilly Wisconsin evening.

For all the accomplishments of Mazurczak's career, nothing can steal his joy in seeing those young men who represent all that is good about high school football standing on the sideline united in one common goal.

"It's a balancing act, because I'd love to bring all of our freshman to playoff games, but I don't quite have the ability," Mazurczak says.

"The athletic director says, 'Listen, we're not going to send four buses to the game,'" he jokes. The 2019 Hilltoppers didn't have a fairy-tale ending. They fell in the quarterfinal round, losing to the eventual Division I runners up, the Bay Port Pirates from Green Bay.

In many ways the game was a microcosm of their entire season. They fell behind early and all hope deemed lost.

But when faced with tough adversity, they did not quietly accept losing. They fought back with everything they had.

This seemingly small footnote in a losing effort captures one of the greatest lessons that football can teach — no matter what comes your way, you have to keep fighting. If nothing else, the 2019 season certainly taught those young men this lesson.

"When you battle adversity you see that work ethic pays off," Mazurczak says. "Whether it's life that's kicked you around or football season has kicked you around, you have to push through those moments."



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ARE YOU DOING ANY BRAIN TRAINING?

By: Ryan Humpal, Co-Head Coach, Luck High School



Ryan Humpal

I would like to thank the WFCA and *The Point After II* for publishing a great coaching resource and for asking me to write this article. I want to send a big thank you to Chippewa Falls School District and Head Coach, Chuck Raykovich, for hosting a great 8-player state championship game; they rolled out the red carpet for us and Newman Catholic.

We have all heard the famous quote from Yogi Berra, “Baseball is 90% mental and the other half is physical.” But, how many of us have actually thought about this quote and put this into action in our football programs. Yes, the quote is mathematically incorrect; but the idea of paying attention to the mental game is 100% accurate.

As coaches, we always talk about how a kid is mentally tough or weak; well, have you ever thought about how you can make all your players mentally stronger through some brain training? The full implementation process for brain training has taken us years within the Luck football program and this last fall we were finally able to use brain training as an invaluable tool to lead us to a state championship.

In August we brought in a sports psychologist, Hans Skulstad of Center for Sports and the Mind, out of Golden Valley. Hans came to Luck High School and presented on brain training to all of our male and female athletes. This was an 8-hour day of brain training and team building. Half of the day was spent with Hans and half spent with coaches doing team building and goal setting exercises. This was a great way to kickoff the fall sports season for all of our athletes and coaches.

One message that stuck with me from Hans, “coaches and athletes need to move away from viewing brain training as something they should do; but view it as something they need to do to win.” Over the years we have used some visualization and done occasional brain training exercises; but not enough. So as a coaching staff we decided we were adding one more piece to our program to help achieve the ultimate goal of winning and building a state championship culture.

Here are a few things we have done to help us get to the level we are at as a program; weekly mental messages, brain exercises, brain resets and visualization. There are many variations of all of these you can try to implement in your program or your daily life. I know I have used many of these tools in my daily life. This is a great way to get student-athletes to buy into brain training; that it is not just about performing well as an athlete. It also helps you to perform well as a person, which is the goal of every program, to produce nice young men.

Weekly Messages

First to take a look at weekly mental messages; I really enjoy this piece of our weekly routine. We post a quote on the front white board in our meeting room each week. During our game plan meetings on Mondays during the regular season or Sunday evenings during playoffs; one of the seniors reads the quote and we talk about it as a team and what it means to them. This can stem from a character ed lesson or any message you feel fits the week. My favorite message from last year was one that I picked up from All-Star week in Oshkosh. We listened to a Marine talk to the players during the week. He stressed going into battle there are two things Marine’s live by. 1) Do Your Job and 2) Take Care of your People. After each week; we print and post the previous weeks message on the front wall of our meeting room. It is fun to watch players walk up to re-read one of the messages from earlier in the season.

Brain Exercises

Weekly messages are easy to do and one you will enjoy doing if you already do not. Now to get into the crazy world of training the brain, with brain exercises. There are endless exercises to train your brain, I am going to give you a couple exercises that we do within our program and other programs at Luck High School. First, I will answer the question of what do brain exercises do for your performance. According to Skulstad, “The brain needs to be comfortable with the uncomfortable. This means, if a player misses a tackle or misses a block; the brain needs to be ok with that and realize it needs to be focused for the next play. Putting stress on the brain in a non-football situation will allow athletes to perform at a higher level under stress.

Now to get into the brain exercises we have implemented within our program with the help of Skulstad. The first being setting mouse traps; the kicker is athletes have one minute to set the trap as many times as they can with their eyes closed. Ok, I get it, you just thought about that and your heart rate increased, thinking how the heck am I going to do that. This is the point of the exercise, it is stressful to think about setting a mouse trap with your eyes closed; but then you have to figure out a way to disarm the trap to set it again. Let the players go through the

first time without any explanation besides how to set the trap, yes some of your players will have no idea how to do that.

After the first round, explain to them how to disarm a trap by simply moving the arm from the cheese and using your palm to let the trap back easy. (You might want to practice this so you do not slam your finger in it in front of your players). This not only allows players to start to feel comfortable with an uncomfortable situation, but it is also a situation where you can gain trust from your players. Use it as a lesson to let them know you will always do your best to put them in a situation to succeed. According to Luck all-conference defensive end, Riley Runnels, “It is trying at first, but once you have a system that works for yourself it is real easy to succeed.” He is the program champion of 23 in a minute. There are many other variations of exercises using mouse traps, but this is just one example that our players seem to enjoy.

The other brain exercise we have done with our players is timed number grids. Print off a 100 square number grid and give the players 2 minutes to count up from 1 to as many as they can find within those 2 minutes. It sounds real simple, but the stress that begins to build when you cannot find a number is a real mental block. With this exercise we talk about; focus on the controllables. The only thing a player can control is finding the next number on the grid. Just like in a game the only thing he can control is his performance on the next play. There are other variations of brain exercises we have done as a program, but these two are the ones we use the most.

Brain Resets

The brain exercises done before, during and after practice directly correlate to the next topic of brain resets. A brain reset is something to help an athlete work out of a mental block and try to reach their optimal performance zone (OPZ). The OPZ is also known as “being in the zone,” we have all heard of this before; athletes within brain training spend a lot less time in the OPZ than an athlete who has the tools to reach OPZ. Some examples of brain resets are breathing techniques, rapid eye movement, reading a sign forward and spelling it backwards, and reset words.

The one we use the most is reset words or trigger words; there are two ways this can be done. The first way is at the beginning of the season we had each player partner up with someone of their position group and come up with three words or phrases that help bring the stress level down. The reason why you have them partner up is they are responsible for each other; if a player sees his partner in a bad mental state, they use the trigger word to help them regain focus. It is really fun to watch teammates help each other out in stressful situations during a game; and who knew it was as easy as a word or a phrase to help out.

The technique that many of our players prefer is reset words written on the tape of their wrists; players write their trigger words on their wrist and read it forward and spell it backwards when things are not going their way. This technique is real discrete and easy for the players to feel confident in doing; because no one in the whole place knows that they are resetting their brain. As Dawson Van Meter, all region middle linebacker, states, “In stressful times it helps calm the brain and stop thinking.” For those of you that witnessed any portion of our season; this is one big reason why we were able to perform at high levels for 13 straight weeks. Our players had the tools to get them closer to the OPZ at all times.

Another brain reset we did in the fall of 2019 was breathing exercises during training camp. We purchased a set of breathing technique cards from Skulstad. These cards give scenarios of daily life, practice and game situations for athletes to focus on while they are lying on their back doing controlled breathing. These breathing techniques are hard to implement during the game; the one place we tried to always implement breathing was after a score. Whether it be in the huddle for kickoff or kick return; we were always reminding the guys breathe. In through the nose out through the mouth; if you try it, you feel a sense of calm. The breathing techniques are something that can really transfer into a great life habit to relieve stress.

Visualization

Now onto the most powerful tool of brain training and one every athlete needs to reach the

OPZ with ease, visualization. This is also the one that is the hardest to get all players to buy into. Many athletes are going to treat this as a time to not focus and think it is a joke; but as the season goes on and athletes start to see how valuable this tool is they will put more effort into visualizing. We saw this play out all season long just as I explained, more and more athletes buying into the visualization process as the season progressed.

Visualization can be done as a team or individually; Skulstad put together about a 15 minute visualization audio file specifically fit to the Luck Football Program. In this audio it had key terms and phrases from the last four years of team mottos for added buy in for the players. We fit the team visualization in after our pre-game practices and team meals the night before games. By the end of the year it was interesting listening to some of the players repeat phrases during the week from the visualization audio; it was about week 5 or 6 when I first heard any of it. This reassured us a coaches that we were doing the right thing to help us win a state championship.

Another great story about how our players bought into visualization was the morning of the state championship game. We were doing room checks leaving the hotel to head to the stadium and we were missing two sets of room keys and about eight players. I began to search the hotel and knocked on one of the doors where a player answered the door; it was pitch black in the room and said, “Coach, we have about 3 minutes left on visualization audio and then we will be

down.” I quietly shut the door and headed back down to the lobby to wait to check out. The player that answered the door was 8-Man Player of the Year, Levi Jensen and this is what he has to say about the power of visualization, “Visualization has helped me feel prepared and ready for games. Seeing what you need to do before the game even starts is huge for me. Even in game having something to immediately think about and having words to stay calm and collected helps a lot”

As you can see within the Luck Football program we have become very passionate about the power of brain training. All of these techniques I have shared with you were vital components to us running the table and winning the 2019 State Championship. Just like anything new into a program you are going to have some athletes take time to buy in; but brain training is worth the battle to get them to buy in. Let’s refer back to Skulstad’s quote, “Coaches and athletes need to move away from viewing brain training as something they should do; but view it as something they need to do to win.” If you want to take your program to the next level and give your athletes some lifelong tools to help cope with stress you need to implement brain training into your weekly regiment.

If you have any questions feel free to email me at ryan@lucksd.k12.wi.us and I will be happy to help you implement any techniques. Lastly, if you have the resources to bring a sports psychologist to talk with your team; you will not be disappointed with the results.

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BUYING IN: BECOMING A LINEMAN IN A SMALL SCHOOL

By: Casey Brownell, OL & DL Coach, Pepin-Alma Football



Casey Brownell

Think back to your days in elementary school out on the playground with all your friends. Friday night football games spent on the practice field playing two hand touch, while your high school team was playing under the lights. Who did you want to be? I remember looking up at the lights on the game field thinking that someday I'm going to be playing on that field, and everyone will be cheering when I score the game winning touchdown. Fast forward 10 years later and I'm that high school senior lead blocking for the game winning score. As the crowd went crazy, I saw my best friend score the game winning touchdown and you know what? I was fine with that because I was part of an elite group of guys referred to as "Hog Nation"

Graduating from Pepin High School, I had eight boys in my entire class. The first game of the year we dressed 16 kids for a non-conference game, grades 9-12 mind you. That means about one-third of our entire team was made up of the starting offensive line. The guards on each side weighed in at around 140 lbs. Both were former position players, one running back and the other a tight end. The five of us played every snap that season we were asked to play, and not a one of us asked to do anything different. It was a mind set that was created and a

montra I still instill in my linemen to this day. We are the hogs, we are deep down in the trenches getting dirty and loving every minute of it. But how do you get a high school kid to buy into this?

Something we do for the Pepin-Alma football program is to instill this at a young age. Being a small school, our 7th and 8th grade kids practice alongside the high school kids. They are never physically engaged in a drill together. The high schoolers will do the drill first, and then along side the junior high kids to help with form and proper technique. The younger kids get a sense of pride being with an older role model. We crank up the intensity in blocking drills. The older kids are encouraged to support the younger guys, improving form and developing aggression. We then put the older guys up against each other and let the younger guys sit back and watch. They hear the sounds of shoulder pads cracking against each other and see their legs pumping to drive the opponent backwards. I sit back and look over at the young kids eyes. I got them, they are hooked. A new generation of Hog Nation is born.

It starts with good kids, then getting them to mentor the next generation to carry on the tradition. The relationships made in the game of football last forever. We teach the players that football is only temporary. Most of us only get four years, but the friends you make will last forever. I encourage the players to socialize with each other outside of football. Wednesdays is wing night at a local restaurant in Pepin, and as a group they get together and try to eat them out of stock. It's tradition. I asked an 8th grader a few years back what he was looking forward to the most about high school football. His answer: Wing Night with the Hogs.

The atmosphere you create around your players will reflect on them. I remind my guys at a young age if I yell at them to not get upset, telling them I know they can do better and I'm not giving up on them and neither are their brothers on this offensive line. We encourage

each other from day one until the last whistle of the season is blown. If you can create an atmosphere in your program that brings kids back years down the road to teach summer camps to a younger generation, you know you have something there.

Lastly, love what you do. If you are not passionate about what you are trying to teach your players, they won't become passionate either. Every year when the head coach announces the coaching staff to the team the linemen always yell when I'm introduced. I never really understood this, so I asked one of the seniors once why they always did that. His response was "Coach, I've been doing it since I was a freshman it's what we were told to do by the older guys. It's a sign of respect for the Head Hog!"

Small school football is hard to explain. In my coaching career I've seen a 135 lb kid play Defensive Back and Offensive Guard. I've seen a Quarterback also play Nose Guard. As a coach, you need every kid out there to buy in and compete. Start a tradition, something you do well and instill it in every player's mind from a young age. Have fun doing your job and enjoy everything along the way.

In closing I want to thank the WFCA and all my fellow coaches out there for your love and support of the game. Your dedication to this sport and teaching the future generation the rights and wrongs in life are essential to our future.

**"All that I accomplish is
not because of me.
It's because of God
and the offensive line."**

--Walter Payton

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A FIRST FOR BOTH... A WIN FOR FOOTBALL!

By: Rob Nelles, Defensive Coordinator and Mike Cunningham, DB/RB Coach, Cambridge High School



Rob Nelles

At Cambridge, we recruit our CHS hallways on a daily basis. With a student body of 270, roughly half being young men, we have to get as many of those men, in the school, to fill our roster. The young men are only half the battle. Along with them, we also have to recruit the mom's into believing that we will do our best to protect their child. This article is one success story that we experienced this past football season.

The first part of this article is from a senior who decided to try out football. At the end of our season, we had him write a paper about his experience and unknown to him, we had him read it at our end of year banquet. The second part of the article is from his mother who really did not want him to come out. With his mother being a general practice physician, we knew we had our hands full. His mom finally gave in and the rest is history.

"My First and Only Football Experience"

William "Fritz" Kaiser, Senior, DB/WR CHS

I joined football my senior year and it has exceeded my expectations in the first few weeks. I was always skeptical of joining the team with possible injuries and other factors, but since the first day of camp all my nerves were calmed. It took a little time to get used to the coaching styles in football. The emotion is unlike any other sport; it was intimidating at first because I didn't understand it. As we go into our Homecoming game I feel confident every time I step onto the field. My coaches have prepared me for just about every situation the opposition could throw at me.

When I joined the team I wasn't sure I would get a single second of time in a varsity game, but I went in with the mind-set of learning and working as hard as I could and just give my one year everything I had. I am a two-way starter at wide receiver and cornerback. I still have a few moments in which my lack of experience catches up to me but as the season goes on they come less often.



Mike Cunningham

Football is a lot more than a just a sport. I have learned life lessons in football that I never would have learned in other sports. I also got to insert myself in the brotherhood of the team. The time all the guys spend together is so great that the only choice is to become a group of close friends. The long practices and rainy days just strengthen the bond we have together because everyone is going through it together. Football has given me confidence that the men I play with will always be my friends and have my back. Football is a true team sport, 10 guys could complete their assignment but the one that doesn't will make all the difference. When you run out on a football field you have to have the utmost confidence in your teammates to make the plays and have your back.

My senior year has probably been the best year of my high school career and football has attributed to that immensely. It gives me the opportunity to run out on the field every Friday night and represent the community that has given me a wonderful environment to grow up in. The feeling of pride after a tough victory is unlike any I have ever felt. I played in the regional finals for the varsity basketball team, but each and every football game brings the same if not more adrenaline and excitement.

Football was always one of my favorite sports to watch but given the opportunity to play for one year made me wish I had played in the past. However, I cannot go back and join the youth team but I hope any one who is on the fence about playing football gives it a try. It will be better than most other sports you've played and the friends will last forever. I can proudly say I did not regret playing football and I hope others take the chance I did, and have just as much fun as I did.

"Why I'm Glad I Let My Son Play High School Football."

Physician Diane Wendland, Mother, CHS

I have struggled with internal conflict about football for years. I enjoy the excitement of the game and the camaraderie of a shared team (or

good-natured competition) among family and friends, but have concerns about the players who put their health, even lives, on the line to play the game. This conflict became a personal reality when my high school senior decided he wanted to play football.

My sons have played sports since they were very young. I am aware that basketball, soccer, baseball, even track and swimming, all come with risks of injury, but football seemed worse. I mean, the whole point of the game was to hit the opposing player. The risk of broken bones and sprained joints in other sports seems more acceptable than head injury in football. I knew that rule changes, coaching changes, equipment improvements had been made to make the game safer, but, still, this was my baby. At 5'8" and 155 lbs, he is smaller than most high school football players. He never played tackle football in his life. Cross country, his fall sport for the previous 6 years, seemed like a much better life-long sport. This just seemed like a bad idea to me. He persisted and I relented.

He was set to play cornerback. At least, defense seemed a little better. He would be making the tackles instead of taking the hits. By the first game, he was starting at wide receiver as well as cornerback. The first couple games were pretty nerve wracking for a mom.

As the season rolled on, I came to see that the coaching focused on safety as well as performance. My perception that football coaches were screaming bullies was replaced with awareness that they were educators who were constantly teaching the players in a positive manner. They recognized effort and hustle as much as scoring and stats.

My son made friendships forged in the camaraderie of the "I've got your back" mentality of a sport where individual statistics mean little without team play. He developed confidence and leadership skills through the trust his coaches and teammates had in him as well the individual and team success his hard work and hustle earned. He also had a blast! Turns out that football players are not the "dumb jock" caricatures in movies, but hard working, often very bright young men who share goals for a successful football season.

As parents, we enjoyed watching young men we came to know better through time spent with them and their families. Tackling techniques were safer than I had expected. There were no "vicious" hits from opposing teams. Injuries occurred. One teammate suffered a broken arm, a few others with strains and sprains. No concussions.

I am still conflicted about the risks of tackle football, but am glad my son persisted and I relented. In our case, the benefits definitely outweigh the risks.

COMMUNICATION IS THE KEY

By: Brian Smith, Associate Principal and Athletic Director, Northwestern High School



Brian Smith

I would like to thank WFLA Region 1 Rep Coach Pete Lawton for asking me to share of few thoughts for *The Point After II*. I have been very fortunate over my career of 36 years to work with and be associated with Hall of Fame Football coaches Jim Strommen (Pecatonica), Gary Larsen (Brodhead-Juda) Pat Rice (Waukegan) and now Andy Lind (Northwestern). All are great football coaches, but more importantly they are great men who have shaped countless young people lives over their coaching years and made a lasting impact on me. I thank you for the knowledge I have gained from you all.

Over the years, a lot my philosophy of coaching has been shaped by Dr Greg Dale, Sports Psychologist at Duke University. I have had the pleasure of hearing Dr. Dale speak on numerous occasions and believe in what his thoughts are. In his book *The Seven Secrets of Successful Coaches* he talks about be a “credible coach”. I believe coaches need to be credible with players, parents, school staff, and community members. He outlines the 7 Cs of what credible coaches are: consistent, character based, competent, committed, caring, confidence builders, communicators.

In this article, I would like to touch on communication, specifically a communication with your athletic director and/or other school administration.

If you ask coaches for a one word response to the question, “What do you want from your Athletic Director?” the answer would most likely be Support (which comes in many forms). If you ask ADs what we want from our coaches, it is to get NO SURPRISES. Athletic Directors want coaches to communicate with us, ask questions, and keep us informed regarding issues surrounding their programs. The same can be said about coaches and their athletic director and other administration. Coaches want to be supported, they want to be kept informed about school and player issues, and they want input on changes that may be made. So, how do we as Athletic Directors and coaches work to keep each other informed about our programs when everyone is always so busy?

Communication is key in building and maintaining this relationships. Now a days, communication comes in many shapes and sizes and it is easy to say we just need to communicate and all will be well. But the communication needs to be two –way, efficient, and effective. Here are some strategies, thoughts, and ideas that I have been able to make use of over the years to promote this type of communication:

- 1) Formal Meetings: These take many forms. There can be individual or group meetings, pre-season or post season, one topic/issue or multiple topics/issues, or they can be for evaluation purposes. My thoughts on formal meetings are that there cannot be too many of these type of meetings or too often. They lose their effectiveness. Get them on a calendar and do not make a habit of re-scheduling. There needs to be agendas and the agenda needs to be followed. The meetings cannot last forever. Again, everybody is really busy, especially in-season. There needs to be an action or outcome of the meeting. Meeting just to meet is not productive.
- 2) Informal/Drop-in meetings: I find these very effective, especially in-season. At Northwestern, part of my job as Assistant Principal is supervising the Commons area before school and during lunch. (That Master’s degree I got helps doing this job!!). But it does give me a chance to talk to students and also staff including coaches. Each Monday during FB season our Head Coach Jovin Kroll and I have a conversation during this time before school. Not really planned it just happens but it is sure nice to catch up on how the team is after the last game, how the staff is doing, any injuries, or any equipment concerns etc... I find this time very beneficial. Quick and effective, can multi- task to save some time. A key to drop- in meetings is to make sure the AD or coach is not busy with something else.
- 3) Email: I love email. I am an email freak. Always checking it. As someone who worked before email was invented, I find it to be extremely effective at giving and receiving information quickly. Again, keep email brief and have a point to them. To me the more specific the better. Also, do not leave them sit around in your inbox. Do something with them! Act on them, pass on to someone else who can act on them, or discard them!
- 4) Text Messaging: Due to my advanced age, this is relatively new to me over the last few years. Sending a text, especially regarding something that needs immediate attention or discussion is a good idea as well as just for information. When I get a text from a coach saying please call ASAP, I know to follow through because something is up. Same if I text that message to a coach.
- 5) Pick up the phone and call: Sometimes, you just need to talk to each other.

Side Note: Social Media platforms: I do not use! They scare me! Be Careful! Social media is a good way to promote your program and to communicate. But please be careful. At Northwestern we use the “Team Reach App” and that seems to be very effective. I have suggested that if you are on social media to have a personal and profession account. I do not take much stock in stuff that is posted on social media. It is too easy for the haters to hide behind some weird name.

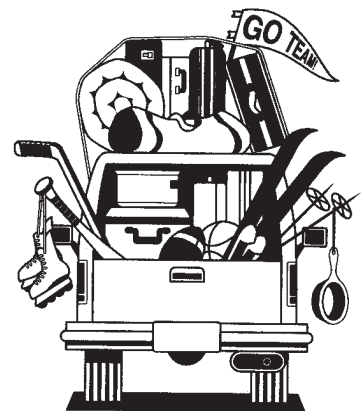
In this world of education-based athletics, it is a relationship business and the best relationships have the best communication. Think of the great coaches and teachers you have known and they very likely have the best relationships and communication skills.

I wish you all the best as you prepare for your upcoming seasons and thanks for all you do for the student athletes at your school.

“First we will be best,
then we will be first.”

-- Lou Holtz

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THANK YOU!



GENERAL LIABILITY INSURANCE PROGRAM

As a membership benefit, coverage is provided by the Commercial General Liability Policy issued to the National Organization of Coaches Association Directors. This policy will provide general liability coverage to the Wisconsin Football Coaches Association and its members.

CARRIER

Houston Casualty Company

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August 1, 2019 – August 1, 2020

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- ❖ The use of automobiles, buses, watercraft and aircraft
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- ❖ This insurance does not apply to members that coach at an All-Star game that is not approved by your state coaches association.

CAMP INSURANCE

Today, most Coaches are involved in some type of sports camp. Please note that our General Liability Program follows insured members while working at camps and/or conducting their own personal camp.

In addition, Participant/Accident Coverage is required for coaches and/or participants. Should an accident occur during a camp, clinic or event, this secondary coverage helps offset the loss suffered by families affected by such accidents.

NEW PROCEDURE FOR CAMP INSURANCE

As a member benefit of your state coaches association, all members in good standing have a \$1,000,000 General Liability policy limit that provides coverage for their coaching activities. In order to protect the General Liability policy from potential claims, the insurance company has mandated that all coaches must obtain signed waivers and provide Participant/Accident insurance for their participants.

In order to obtain a certificate of insurance showing proof of insurance or naming an additional insured, the following must be in place:

- ❖ **Waivers:** Signed waivers showing indemnification language
- ❖ **Participant/Accident Insurance:** You must have Participant/Accident coverage in place for all participants attending sports camps.

PURCHASE INSURANCE

- ❖ Camp Insurance Request form is available on our website: www.loomislapann.com

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