

Make the Right Call



How to Stay Alert During an Early Blowout

by Julie Sternberg

When a team starts a game with a 15-0 run or three consecutive touchdowns, what's your reaction? Most officials understand that they are in for a challenge. Lopsided contests are rarely fun for the teams, coaches and fans. The same goes for the officials. When you're on your way to a blowout, your mental game better be strong.

Referee asked officials in a recent Facebook callout for advice on staying focused when the game seems to be decided early on. Here are some of the things your peers suggested to keep you alert.

1. Remember that somebody cares. While the politically correct thing to say is, "Treat every game like it's a championship game," the reality is that some match-ups are bad - really, really bad. To "act" like those games are for a title would require some Denzel Washington-type skills on the part of officials.

But the truth is that as bad as some games are, many of the participants still care about them for a variety of reasons. Maybe a skilled player is giving it his or her all for a scholarship. Or maybe second- and third-string players are getting their first action of the season. They care. And so should you.

2. Remind yourself that safety is paramount. Along with focusing on players comes a focus on their safety. Lopsided contests and blowouts can bring

out a lot of emotions on the part of players, coaches and fans. The winning side can become cocky and the losing side can become frustrated. Combining the two attitudes can be explosive.

That's why your focus in "boring" blowouts is critical. Preventative officiating is key. Officials should talk to players more during those contests to make sure emotions stay in check. Prevent a fight with your presence or penalties.

3. Work on the weak areas of your game. Another way to stay in the game is by working on your game. Think of some aspect of your officiating that needs extra emphasis and give some focus to it. It will help you stay mentally aware. It might be something from a recent evaluation or possibly a point of emphasis from the rules committee.

4. Know that a comeback is possible. Sport pages throughout history have covered countless comebacks. A team coming back from a 25-point deficit at halftime is more common than you might think. Therefore a comeback is a real possibility in your game as well. Even if you have your doubts, keeping that in your mind is important. If you aren't focused because of the score or the kind of game you perceive it is going to be, it will be difficult to get back in the game when the tide turns.

5. Talk to yourself and your partners. Tell yourself to "focus"

on the next play or down. Tell yourself what keys you need to be watching coming up. Communicate with your crewmates during a break in the action, if possible.

Whatever you can do to keep your mind active and ready is important. Give yourself some positive self-talk when you ace a call. Ask your partner for more information if you are unsure of a play and the rules allow discussion.

6. Understand it can impact your career. Some assigners believe you can best identify a great official from a good one during the "bad" games. The thought behind that idea is that it's easy to work championship games or other close games in which both teams are playing well, because there is a lot less drama in those contests. Coaches and players are often more behaved and the game flows. It's the blowouts that take true officiating skills.

Take the approach that you are being watched during blowouts - by participants, other officials and potential observers.

Some suggest officials should ignore the scoreboard in blowout games - pretend the game is closer. The better advice is probably to face reality. Accept you're working a blowout and embrace the unique challenge it brings.

(The full version of this article can be found in, *Referee* magazine, December 2013.)

Special Points of Interest:

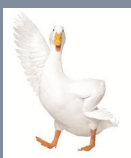
- Focus on the players rather than the playing skills or the caliber of play.
- If you check out mentally because the game has been decided, you might lose control before you know it.
- Whether it's a mechanic, signal or management technique, giving it a little extra focus will help improve your officiating.
- Discuss in your pregame what to do individually and as a crew to stay alert and active.
- By handling a tough game with strength and effort, you can build a lot of respect.

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Aflac is Landing at WOA

AFLAC has designed a web site for officials interested in looking into the benefits currently being offered to WOA members. Please take the time to visit the web site if you are interested in finding out more about these options. The web site is: www.aflac.com/woa.

Please contact Steve Pohlman if you would like to discuss these options or are looking for additional information. Steve can be reached at 206.310.9981 or steven_pohlman@us.aflac.com



2013 State Tournament - Volleyball Officials

1B, 2B, 1A - Yakima County SunDome

Blue Mountain: Stephanie Mayer
Central Washington: Dick Brown
Chelan Douglas: Kirk Einspahr
Columbia Basin: Mike Leonard
Columbia Gorge: Amy McCormack
Colville Valley: Denise Smith
Grays Harbor: Janice Pumphrey
Inland Empire: Blaze Smith
Lewis County: Christina French
Lower Columbia: Bill Tuggle
NW Washington: Tim Williams
Okanogan County: Rae Morris
Olympic Peninsula: Jason Dennis
Seattle: Curtis Stock
Seattle: Clayton Wong
Snohomish County: Donna Vitellaro
Spokane: Alexandra Collins
Spokane: Tom Konis
Spokane: Trent York
Tacoma-Pierce County: Jerry Aeschlimann
Tacoma-Pierce County: Ray Bingham
Thurston County: PJ Jones
Tri Cities: Robert Kramer
Vancouver: Arne Allen

2A - Pierce College

Central Washington: Susan Braun
Inland Empire: Jim Nielsen
NW Washington: Flo Dahlstedt
Seattle: Dale Yamamoto
Snohomish County: Jeff Helmer
Tacoma-Pierce County: Tracey Broberg
Tri Cities: Tamara Koegler
Vancouver: Wendy Marvin

3A, 4A - St Martin's University/Timberline

Central Washington: Chris Carter
Lower Columbia: Jocelyn Price
NW Washington: Kenn Johnson
Olympic Peninsula: Jorge Sencil
Seattle: Hiram "BJ" Aea
Seattle: Nydia White
Seattle: David Williams
Snohomish County: Mac Van Hoesen
Spokane: Heide Wehr
Spokane: Rusty Wellman
Tacoma-Pierce County: Paul Jensen
Tacoma-Pierce County: Robyn Buck
Tacoma-Pierce County: Chuck Williams
Thurston County: Naoupu Faatoafe
Tri Cities: Michael Stankovich
Vancouver: Julie Waterman

2013 State Tournament Soccer Officials

1B/2B - Sunset Chev

Columbia: Timo Sanchez
Kitsap Peninsula: Michael Hoyt
Pierce County: Anjee Brooks
Pierce County: Chase Woolley
Quad County: Paul Kennelly
Tri Cities: Randy Coleman
WA Soccer: Chuck Suter
Yakima Valley: Gordon Kelly

1A, 2A - Shoreline Stadium

Columbia Basin: Nick Wallace
Skagit Valley: Kevin O'Daniel
South King County: Craig Allen
WA Soccer: Lisa Broulette
WA Soccer: Romes Curtiss
WA Soccer: Cathy Echert
WA Soccer: Stacy Eldridge
WA Soccer: Katie Fadden
WA Soccer: Logan Griffis
WA Soccer: Sarah Gustafson
WA Soccer: Kelsey Harms
WA Soccer: Connor Hazelwood
WA Soccer: Jim Lee
WA Soccer: Seth Martin
WA Soccer: Doug Nicholson
WA Soccer: Rob Schmidlin
WA Soccer: Christine Suter
WA Soccer: Aleta Walker
WA Soccer: Vernon Winters

3A, 4A - Sparks Stadium

Columbia: Scott Powell
Inland Empire: Saeed Askar
Inland Empire: Tony Richardson
Pierce County: John Snyder
Quad County: Brian Bishop
South King Co: Anthony Ferrucci
WA Soccer: Dan Compton
Whatcom Co: Kelsey Johnson

2013 Semifinal Football Officials

1B Semifinal

R: Chuck Stewart, SSFA
U: Leo Salgado, WWFA
LJ: Ryan Souve, WSFA
HL: Ed Tharp, PNFOA
BJ: Pat Sievers, SCFA

R: Larry Schreckengast, OCFA
U: John Munson, CVFA
LJ: Tim Stern, PNFOA
HL: Jerry Caoile, TRIFA
BJ: Todd Pogorelc, YVFA

2B Semifinal

R: Corky Arthurs, SWWFA
U: Brent Goldrick, PFA
LJ: Jim Van Vleck, WWFA
HL: John Pellerin, EFA
BJ: Steve Wirth, PNFOA

R: Dennis Branstetter, CCFA
U: Brad Ostrander, BMFA
LJ: Chuck Latimer, IEFA
HL: Kyler Bachofner, YVFA
BJ: Mason Moore, LCFA

1A Semifinal

R: Gary Loucks, EFA
U: Rory Schilling, SCFA
LJ: J.R. Lieuallen, NOFA
HL: Lynne Cogger, WWFA
BJ: Robert Berg, SWWFA

R: Todd Kurle, SEWFA
U: Dennis Duke, CBFA
LJ: Randy Price, TRIFA
HL: James Furdell, PNFOA
BJ: Tim Davis, IEFA

2A Semifinal

R: Steve Green, PFA
U: Mike Ellis, PNFOA
LJ: Matt Meister, EFA
HL: Jason Kelley, SWWFA
BJ: Dave Donnelly, WSFA

R: Steve Schwanzenberger, YVFA
U: Dan Duncan, IEFA
LJ: Richard Law, CBFA
HL: Nick Prante, SEWFA
BJ: Larry Edwards, BMFA

3A Semifinal

R: Rob Quello, WWFA
U: Mike Kay, SSFA
LJ: Mike Crawford, PNFOA
HL: Kent Goto, WSFA
BJ: Kevin Kunkel, EFA

R: Dean Corcoran, SCFA
U: Mike Williams, WWFA
LJ: Ryan Chinchin, LCFA
HL: Greg Stevens, IEFA
BJ: Marc Devoir, TRIFA

4A Semifinal

R: Warren Morrison, PNFOA
U: Larry Musselwhite, WSFA
LJ: Joe Basil, SSFA
HL: Scott Pattison, SCFA
BJ: Philip Basham, WWFA

R: Bill Turnquist, IEFA
U: Jeff Kinne, TRIFA
LJ: Brad Cramer, YVFA
HL: John Herberholz, WWFA
BJ: Brooks Schomburg, PNFOA

2013 Gridiron Classic Football Officials

1B Final

R: Bradly Clark, WSFA
U: Sam Bakotich, SWWFA
LJ: Larry Gilman, OCFA
HL: Rick Pearson, SSFA
BJ: Scott Kramer, WWFA

2B Final

R: Cliff Watkins, TRIFA
U: Tom Rosenbach, SCFA
LJ: Dave Paul, PFA
HL: Jeffrey Holm, CBFA
BJ: John Love, IEFA

1A Final

R: Eric Cheatley, LCFA
U: Gene Hayward, YVFA
LJ: Rich Salstrom, WWFA
HL: John Meridieth, EFA
BJ: Lonnie Langford, PNFOA

2A Final

R: Mike Wilson, NOFA
U: Jeff Mattson, PNFOA
LJ: Frank Slusser, SEWFA
HL: J. Brian Addleman, CCFA
BJ: Joe Beltico, SSFA

3A Final

R: Neil Rochelle, WWFA
U: Jon Shultz, EFA
LJ: Eric Crone, IEFA
HL: Wane Dallosto, PNFOA
BJ: William Gaethle, YVFA

4A Final

R: Ryan Fleming, PNFOA
U: Dan Stivers, WWFA
LJ: Murray Gordon, SCFA
HL: Tim Peterson, IEFA
BJ: Tim Osborn, WSFA



Writers Needed

The WOA is always looking for officials interested in writing articles for the monthly newsletter. If there is a topic you are interested in writing about, please send an email to the WOA with the potential topic.

If you are just interested in writing an article, regardless of the topic, please contact WOA to find out if there is a topic that has been submitted that is in need of an author.

The success of the monthly newsletter is due to the continued involvement of the membership.

Thank you for considering getting involved.



WASHINGTON OFFICIALS ASSOCIATION

435 Main Ave S
Renton, WA 98057

425.687.8009

www.woa-officials.com
info@woa-officials.com



www.gerrydavis.com
1-800-916-9088
safe@gerrydavis.com



Mark Johnson, Whatcom-Skagit

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NOTE FROM THE COMMISSIONER:

Congratulations to everyone selected to work a WIAA State Championship. Please remember to have FUN! Thank you to everyone who helped coordinate each of the state tournament sites. Each site has one coordinator, but then that coordinator has a group of dedicated officials to make sure it all comes together so the officials have a great experience.

Here is an update on what is happening with the RTO Program:

Football - Close to 100 games were observed during the regular season and postseason. The committee will take the information gathered over the last couple years to help develop training modules for next season.

Volleyball - The committee is currently working to complete a New Official Training Program. The goal is to have the program ready for the committee to review in February.

Soccer - State assessors will be working during the Fall State Tournament. This program will be the beginning of the RTO Observation program for soccer. The WOA will work with the current USSF soccer assessors to develop a comprehensive program for high school soccer.

Basketball - The WOA will be finalizing observers for the upcoming basketball season. Please let your assigner know if you are interested in participating in the program. A request for observers will go out to all the basketball observers at the end of November.

Todd Stordahl
WOA Commissioner

www.woa-officials.com

2014 WOA Golf Tournament Sponsor Request

You may be aware that your golf committee is constantly working to improve the golf tournament experience each year. In addition to efforts aimed at making the event more enjoyable for the participants, we also try to increase the amount paid into the WOA scholarship fund each year. To continue to enhance the tournament, we need your assistance to obtain new sponsorships for the 2014 tournament. If you are aware of any business that would be interested in adding their name to the great list of WOA Golf

Tournament sponsors, please contact one of us.

This past year, we were able to add one new corporate sponsor and we now have three. Our state-wide Board/ Association sponsorships continue to provide strong support. To continue delivering quality prizes, maintain low green fees and add to the scholarship, we really do need additional corporate, business and association/board sponsorships.

Any leads, suggestions and possibilities will be checked out and it only takes a phone call or email from you to one of us,

Steve Colby (steve.colby@comcast.net 360-708-8230); Kevin Erickson (kj_erickson@comcast.net 425-422-0610), Michael Thorner (mjt@tkglawfirm.com 509-952-4880). Sponsorships start with relationships and many of you have existing relationships with potential sponsors. Please give it some thought..... you never know when a little lead may make a big difference. WE seriously do need your help.

Sincere thanks,

Your WOA Golf Committee