

Vikings 21, Derry 7. Our first loss comes to a very fast & talented team.

Defensively we played pretty well save for a couple of cracks they found on the outside, which again proved to be our Achilles Heal. The results were costly this time as the Vikings backs proved to be as fast as billed and took two long runs to the house. Their third TD was due to some poor tackling attempts and again, a very fast back getting loose to the outside. Very strong games turned in by Hayden Sturdevant & Mike Horak on the inside as well as Tyler Gendron & Bread Truck. Some VERY nice filling in by Nick Hamilton in keeping things closed down in the middle as well. We got to see an improvement in our pass coverage skills and see the need to continue improvements in this area as well. Very nice job in particular by Tucker Obrey..... now can we reach step 2?

Offensively was a struggle to say the least. We did move the ball and nearly every series we had it, only to see multiple turnovers kill drives. I'd like to point out our guards had strong games on the inside, keeping a very big & strong nosetackle off of our ball carriers. Nice jobs turned in by Sturdevant, Brown, Gibbons & Schoff. We saw many mistakes made on this side of the ball and in the end, I feel game changing ones which provided big parts of our loss. Included were lining up incorrectly, not following proper routes, not running proper holes & some missed assignments on the outside of the line and FBs. One obvious caveat is Nate Ralston who had a couple of big blocks sealing the corner for some tosses... nice job Nate.

This week will have an emphasis on all areas of our game and in particular, conditioning & focus. Hopefully everyone is ready to hit the field Wednesday and get back to business. We'll be looking forward while teaching to learn from areas of the past.

I'd like to thank the parents on the sidelines for their support throughout the game. Even when the chips were down we still had words of encouragement streaming in from the sidelines. Almost enough to help the boys push another one in to the end zone. I hope that same level of commitment and positive support continued in closed doors with them. One area our kids seem to need some help in is overcoming obstacles and/or recovering from mistakes. As we all know.... There are plenty of these for them to have to deal with in life and these training grounds can prove bountiful in such lessons at a young age.

On a sidenote... I have received not such good news. Brandon McColligan has been diagnosed with a shattered growth plate in his wrist. He will be out of action for at least 3 weeks. For all intent and purpose, this ends the regular season for Brandon who was unable to play more than one full game. I know he's taking things very hard and hope everyone has some words of encouragement for him. Anyone who has spent any time around him knows how important this sports is to him and his absence on the field carries a tremendous impact across the board for us. This means the team will need to unite and pick up for him and we plan to do exactly that. With a little luck and God's grace he may be able to return for playoff action and we're working towards fulfilling our end... if the former occurs.

As always... any questions or comments please do not hesitate to reach out to me.