

## This Week in Football – Week 1

By Tom Downs Essex Chargers 7/8 Offensive Coach

I think about and plan for football all year round, but the season officially starts for me the Friday before the official kickoff (see what I did there). The Friday before is the start of the Travis Roy Foundation wiffleball tournament that I have been participating in since its inception. While I enjoy that time and look forward to that weekend every year, I really cannot get football out of my mind. I cannot wait for that first Monday of the season. All the planning and anticipation is finally over, and we get to see what this year's group of kids are made of.

This opening week was a good one. The kids and coaches brought a lot of energy and we got an incredible amount done. Families, you may not realize this, but the kids were already running plays up and done the field on night two. Mind you, it was not pretty, nor do we expect it to be. We progressively added more plays and concepts throughout the week until they were able to run dozens of variations of plays.

The coaching staff is meshing nicely and everyone is all in to make this a great season. Everyone is playing their part and has a passion for the game. One of the key things new coaches need to get used to is the ribbing Tony and I give one another through e-mail traffic and on the field. The sarcasm and wit, to which I believe I am a step above Tony, is how we keep it loose. It appears the new coaches are down with it and have even started to join in.

I will end each week with some Charger Highlights. These will consist of actions or events that stood out for me. Not everyone will be mentioned each week, but I will certainly be on the lookout for good deeds, dedication, and actions.

### Charger Highlights:

- Offensive Line! – Great job learning the special line calls in the first week. That is not an easy thing to do.
- Coach Ben! – Working hard with the Gold offensive unit to bring some stability and confidence to that group
- Harry! – Stepped up and volunteered to play QB when we needed one. Harry has the head for the position, and it will be fun to see him grow into the role.
- 7<sup>th</sup> Graders! – Brought in positive energy and quickly distinguished themselves as a hard-working group.

That is it for now. I hoped you all enjoyed a little peak into the week that was. See you all next week!