

# This Week in Football – Week 10

## By Tom Downs, Essex Chargers 7/8 Offensive Coordinator

For the sixth straight week, the Chargers competed for all four quarters against Colchester. We struggled in the first half to execute, but that was mostly because of the offensive coordinator (that would be me). More on that later.

We had a good week of practice despite some poor weather on Thursday. We took advantage of that time to have a film study of our previous game against Colchester instead of practicing. It gave the players valuable insight on what they might see last Saturday. While Colchester ultimately made some adjustments, the film study proved to be a big part of our confidence throughout the game. It's been several years since we have had someone to film our games. It cannot be understated how valuable it is to have film to study during the playoffs.

The first half was too close for my liking, but most of that is on me. Colchester presented many flaws in their pass defensive scheme that I thought we could take advantage of. I started calling plays that got us away from what we do best, which is RUN THE BALL! While some of pass play calls made sense, they were still low percentage for this age group in most years. Perhaps Colchester used this as part of their game plan? I would like to think so, but I doubt it. I got enamored with throwing the football and that one is on me.

As we went into half time, I finally wised up and told the kids we would come out in the second half and run the ball. I also told them that Colchester was believing in themselves and I wanted that taken away. The kids seemed to respond to that idea.

We came out in the second half only up 12-6. By the end of the third quarter, the score was 40-6. We adjusted our play calling and the kids took every run play and executed. We have a long history with Colchester and a lot of respect for their program. Even down 40-6, we expected nothing less but for them to continue to compete. We certainly started rolling in all of our kids, which helped Colchester to put some points on the board, but that does not take away from the never die attitude they showed. They are a class act, and it is exactly how I would expect our kids to act if put in the same situation.

Once again this past week, we were able to get the Gold kids in the game to give them valuable experience in a playoff atmosphere. This bodes very well for us going into next year. Our coaching staff always has an eye towards our future, and this past game was satisfying for us to see our young team compete.

Our next opponent, Chittenden South, has been a strong rival to us in recent years. They have had our number recently including our regular season game against them earlier this year. While we did not play well in that game, we also did not coach well in that game. The whole team was still trying to find themselves. I believe we now know who we are and, more importantly, want to show who we are.

As always, we have nothing to lose which will allow us to play like we have everything to lose. Let's leave it all on the field Chargers and play loose. Let's bring it to Chittenden South. We win or we go home!

This week's Charger Highlights

### **Charger Highlights:**

**Colby** – Showed up to play and put on clinic as he pulled on tackle trap and dominated all game.

**Don Bowers** – Blast from the past! Don was the offensive coordinator for the Essex Chargers from 1999-2010. He was at the game this past Saturday and on the sidelines to support the Chargers. It was great to see him again.

**Tobey and Mason** – Are you kidding me! Yes they made a lot of good plays throughout the game, but there option to the opponents sideline in the second half was something to behold. As Tobey was going down, he flipped the ball to Mason at the last second and Mason proceeded to score a 40 yard touchdown. It was a thing of beauty!

**Brady** – Had an important interception and maintained good pass coverage throughout the game. He also had a good punt return that put us in good position.

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