

## This Week in Football – Week 4

By Tom Downs, Essex Chargers 7/8 Offensive Coordinator

This past Saturday's game opened our eyes to a lot of things. First off, we are a talented team but we are also a very young team. The vast majority of our players are seventh graders. This can make it tough to compete with teams that have an older group. Second, our coaching staff realized that because we are so young, we need to put in extra effort to make incremental achievable short-term goals for our team.

We never quit on our kids and we will continue to do everything we can to make them successful not only on the field, but also in life. We are all facing an uphill challenge, much like what many of our players may face in life. Together we will get through it and come out the other side stronger for it.

We are going to look at what we can do to compete for all four quarters of a game. This past week, we played even with Chittenden South in the first half. We were knocking at the door for our second touchdown before the half and could not quite punch it in. At the half, Chittenden South had only gained twenty more yards than we did. That's a large improvement over the week before against St. Albans who was an equivalent team to Chittenden South.

The second half was a mess, no doubt about it, but I will not dwell too much on that. I look at our improvement in the first half and we need to build off of that.

Our next game is against a tough Rutland team on their home turf. This will be yet another challenge for the kids and the coaching staff. However, I am confident we will continue to see incremental improvement week to week. We need to control what we can control and continue to show improvement and face adversity. I am confident we will continue to do that, and if we all pull together, we may have a team by playoff time that looks nothing like the team we have seen in weeks 1 and 2. We need to pull together and practice and play like we are the hungry underdog that has nothing to lose, because in the end, we truly have nothing to lose.

Let's leave it all on the field Chargers and play loose. Let's bring it to Rutland.

## This week's Charger Highlights

### Charger Highlights:

Carter – Played both the blue and the gold game without complaint at many positions and showed incredible leadership as a 7<sup>th</sup> grader.

Ethan – Has continued to show incredible effort and willingness to do whatever the team needs

Mason – While he had a very good game, it was also an emotional game. Mason took on everyone he could on the opposing team and managed to keep his cool in some tough situations. He should be proud of his effort and for being able to keep his head throughout the game.

Dallas – Dallas gets another mention this week because his tackling stood out on Saturday. He tackled exactly how we teach it, which is a rugby style, where you wrap up around the waste keeping your head to the opposite side of the opposing player's momentum. Then you roll him to the ground.

Hazen – Made a couple of great catches in traffic. That is very impressive concentration and he managed to haul the catches in during a couple of key moments during the first half.

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