

This Week in Football – Week 6

By Tom Downs, Essex Chargers 7/8 Offensive Coordinator

For the second straight week, the Chargers competed for all four quarters against Colchester. Although Colchester has struggled this year, they certainly had size across the line on both sides of the ball. They also had a couple of good backs that were tough to keep in check.

We had a slow start where we gave up an early touchdown, and our offense had a three and out. We stayed patient and stuck to our game plan. If you are wondering what our game plan typically is, here is a small glimpse behind the curtain. If you have not noticed, every team seems to be bigger than us, sometimes much bigger. That was no different this week against Colchester. They had some very big kids that knew how to cover all the gaps on defense.

Now if you cannot shove another team around, you must find another way to even the playing field. We do that by keeping our plays going east and west (sideline to sideline) during the first half until we feel we have the defense gassed, meaning they are very tired. This is the philosophy used by many college teams that use the hurry up offense. Our goal is to keep the game close in the first half, and then hope to wear down the defense in the second half. We have been able to achieve our goal for the first half in all four games, but in only the last two games have we been able to capitalize in the second half. That was on display first against Rutland a week ago, and we did an even better job of it this past week against Colchester.

Our goal is to be a little bit better every week. This week our defensive contain on the outside by our corners, as well as our defensive ends, was a huge improvement. We worked hard this past week incorporating drills that would give the corners their best chance of success. We also mixed in a lot of new blitz techniques and moved some personnel that showed some promise.

On paper, our next opponent, Chittenden East, looks to be a pretty evenly matched challenge. They are well coached and have had great success over the years. More than likely they will be bigger than us, but we have a plan for that. No matter the outcome, I know our kids will play for all four quarters, and I am confident we will

continue to see weekly improvement. We will continue to control what we can control, and improving week to week is certainly a big part of that.

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 East.

This week's Charger Highlights

Charger Highlights:

Hunter – Not only did Hunter have a couple of big runs, he was the poster boy for contain on the outside

Michael – On defense he was moved to an interior lineman role. He was a great shot in the arm giving us continual pressure up the middle. I think we have found a new spot for Michael.

Blocking by our receivers – I saw a big improvement by our receivers down blocking and blocking down field this past week. It was a big part of the huge plays we had with our running game.

Tony Arcovitch – Thank you for the surprise honorary plaque for my 20 years of coaching with you on the Chargers. I am looking at it on my office wall as I type this. Also thank you for recognizing my wife for allowing me to coach for all these years. I know that was not easy, especially when our son was younger.

The Team – Everyone that showed up to the game got playing time. Our younger team members are getting a lot of quality experience. This can only mean good things for next year.

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