

## Play #1

The first play on this week's Observer's Plays of Interest is a line of scrimmage situation. Watch carefully as the offensive line comes to the LOS. Note that center has his hands on the ball and the rest of interior linemen go into a crouch stance but do not put their hands on the ground. The QB backs into a deep snap position and then, seemingly on cue, the entire team except the center stands up as if to receive a signal from the sideline. The defense responds by jumping into the neutral zone.

Is the foul encroachment by team B?? A very strong case can be made here for simulating action at the snap and therefore a false start by A, especially considering that the action by A is clearly orchestrated—even the backs stand up at whatever the cue was.

## Play #2

It is first and goal to go from the 6 yard line. A's quarterback will throw a pass to the wide receiver lined up spread to the right side. The receiver catches the pass 4 yards deep in the end zone and right on the sideline. Is it a catch or does he come down with the ball out of bounds? The Linesman should have a great look at this play, but he's far too close and he's moving at the critical moment in the play. In order to properly call this play the covering official should be at 5 to 10 yards away from the play and must be set. A moving camera gets a fuzzy picture. He does make his call clear promptly, but does he have it right? Better position and being set would give him the opportunity to better see if the receiver's knee hit the ground before he touched out of bounds.

After the game the Linesman explained that he called the pass incomplete because the receiver bobbled the ball. Using the supplemental signal to indicate this would have gone a long way toward resolving any question as to the reason for the call.

## Play #3

Second and eight at the B-47 for the offense (in purple), the play goes for no gain and the offense is flagged for holding at the B-46 yard line. The referee properly moves his flag to the correct spot of the foul. After the referee's signal the penalty is walked off from the spot of the foul instead of the end of the run. The umpire then walks off eleven yards to the A-43 where he finds the linesman, who has properly walked off the penalty from the end of the run, waiting for him. Before the ball is placed on the ground the line judge leaves the "enforcement spot" thus removing any possibility of checking the accuracy of the enforcement.

By a quirk of luck the crew ended up getting it right, but you cannot rely on two wrongs making a right every time. Take your time and get the enforcement right, question what is being done if you don't think it is correct.