

Good morning!

Today is a better breakdown of yesterday's clip. It is a little longer to show earlier action and a slo-mo part. Take a look [here](#).

So the ball is near the weak side (C side) corner and L initiates a rotation as a potential drive started. L 'went back' in this case. Going back or finishing the rotation is probably a 50/50 split among officials and their preference. This warrants a pregame mention.

As blue 21 starts the drive, C is in good position and has a good angle. Blue 21 then spins. He gathers the ball (ends his dribble) with the left foot as the pivot foot. He then puts the left foot back to the floor. It is easy to see in slo-mo, but we don't have that luxury in real time. As you know I have said many times before, I feel the travel call is the toughest call we have. If you are not positive, we cannot blow the whistle.

On the spin, white 30 reaches in and white 5 is defending on the other side. C cannot tell if white 30 fouls him. But again, we must be sure. It LOOKS suspicious but C would be guessing. L is just backing away and had the best look at it. He passed.

As blue 21 goes to the floor, white 5 'almost' seems to 'strand over him' ever so briefly. Tuck this in your head for the rest of the game just in case.

The shot is blocked and as blue 20 goes to the ball, white 30 completely knocks him off his line and should have been called for a foul. If these two players were upright and running and this contact happens we have an easy foul. Some advice I was given many moons ago was to 'stand the players up when going for a loose ball on the floor and officiate it that way.' GREAT advice and helps a ton on loose ball plays when players go to the floor.

White 30 then pulls the ball closer to him with his foot. Striking the ball intentionally with any part of the foot or leg defines a kicked ball violation. Did the player wind up and kick the ball? No. There is a range of ways to kick the ball and this is a subtle one – a violation nonetheless.

White 30 then passes the ball to white 23 who potentially travels. Even slowing it down I am not positive he traveled (several replies yesterday indicated a travel). This type of play sometimes results in an official 'bailing out' and calling a travel instead of the PC or blocking foul. This is definitely a bang-bang play and a couple of my partners and I would have a heated discussion even watching the film of it, but I have no foul on blue since I see him getting to the spot just before contact. No time or distance is needed when defending a ball handler, but the defender *must* be to the spot first. Regardless, this play needed a whistle also and we had one. I would assume that C would explain to the blue coach that the defender did not get to the spot first. VERY close either way.

This was a 9 second clip from 32 minutes of game time! Obviously not all 9-second clips have as much action as this, but a clip worthy of looking at and breaking down. A discussion can also be had about L coming over as the loose ball is happening to help out. Crews that work together a lot comfortably work this way, but certainly is not the norm. We definitely do not want L looking across and not rotating or looking across as a ball watcher.

If you ask coaches, most will always share film. With the prevalence of live streams and the NFHS Network these days, many games are available without even asking for a Hudl link. Take a look and be honest about what you are seeing – from mechanics to positioning to play calling. Even getting films and watching after the season is a great idea! Think about it!

Friday extra: I received a phone call yesterday morning that the man who came to me my first year teaching at Oil City High School passed away completely unexpectedly. We are one week from the end of the season. Make EVERY day and EVERY game count. Tell your partners you appreciate them. Tell your family you love them. We just never know from day to day. RIP Rick Fletcher.

Have a great game tonight and appreciate that we are able to do what we do.

Tim