

Play-off Game in the Regular Season

“Hold the rope” chanted by my head coach, Clayton Maple, as we got ready for the biggest game in the regular season. “Hold the rope” was an expression that I heard from my head coach from day one. It meant that if you were hanging off a cliff and all you were holding on to was that rope, who you would want on the other side of that rope to make sure you wouldn’t go falling to the bottom. It went great with the team because we would want all 30 people on the team at the end of the rope to make sure that our brother on the other end doesn’t fall. As I’m sitting there waiting to go out all I could think about was the first half, half time, and the second half hoping we would come out on top against Liberty.

Going out we knew that if we didn’t win this game our play-off hopes were out the window and that meant that I only would have one game left as a senior. As I am standing in the tunnel of the Indian tepee getting ready to lead my team out on to the field all I could think about is don’t let my teammates down. As we did our run out, it was finally game time. We got the ball first and got stopped fast. They got the ball and seemed to have no problem moving the ball on us, and took the ball down and scored. This happened most of the first half. We got stopped and they would score.

Going in to half-time they were beating us 24 to 0. All the coaches were so angry at us because it looked like we just gave up. We got straight to work, working on what has happened and why we can’t move the ball on them. We learned a few new plays that could possibly work so we could get some points on the board and get back in the game. When we broke in to our

positions and the offensive lineman went to our lineman's coach he looked like he wanted to hurt us. He was sitting down talking to us, and it seemed like he was getting louder and louder to where it got to the point he was yelling at us. He got up and was screaming in every one of our faces. He turned around and got the metal chair that he was sitting in and threw it against the wall and began to motivate us to give it all we had for two more quarters. As we met up as a team before we went out to start stretching, everyone was looking at him like he lost his mind.

As we went out for the second half we knew that liberty wasn't going to give us any slack. We kicked the ball to them first, and again they took the ball down and scored. We knew that if they kept scoring then there wasn't any chance that we would win. Liberty kicked the ball to us and my best friend Braxton Rivera caught it and started running. With every other person blocking he followed his blocks to take the ball all the way to score. That one play changed our attitude and the game. Now that luck was on our side, we kept stopping them and started scoring more and more. Offense finally started making big plays and defense making big stops. I just knew we were going to win this game, and I wasn't leaving until we did. With time running out of the game we were on our final drive that would make or break us winning this game. The last play we had, Tyrell Franks, the running back got the hand off at the 34 yard line and ended up scoring up the middle thanks to the offensive lineman getting all the defenders blocked. The final score was 37 to 31; the Cleveland Indians were going to the playoffs!

This game taught me so many morals and lessons in life. It taught me that if you put your mind to something and never give up, than you will come out on top. The game of football also teaches you so much about life. It teaches you how to be a great man, father, and coworker. It also teaches you that with just a small saying as "hold the rope", you can base your whole life

around it and to know even on your worst day you will always have someone at the end of that rope who will always have your back.

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