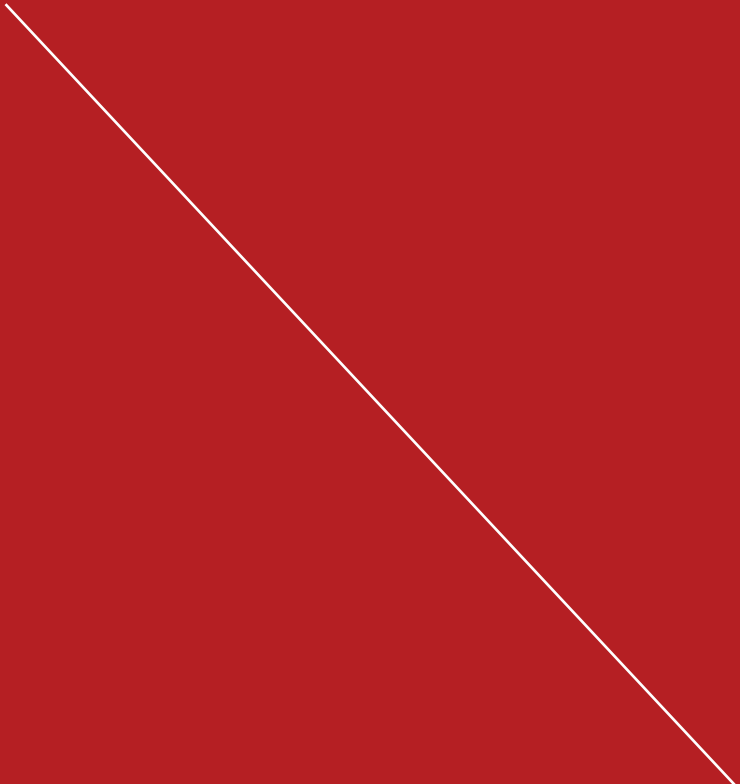




Flag Football Playbook

Crossover

Flag Football



Welcome to the Flag Football Season. I pray that this season will be fun on the field and spiritually challenging off the field. Use this playbook for your devotions throughout the season. Each lesson consists of a devotional thought and a memory verse. Each week I challenge you to read the devotion and memorize the verse. As I look back of my experience being a Christian, I can say that the most important time in my life have come back to scripture. There have been times that have been really good and I pray and thank God for the blessings He gives me. I turn back to scripture and understand what He wants me to do with those blessings. But there are times that have been tough and I've needed scripture to remind me of the promises that God gave to his people who remain faithful to Him. Thanks for taking this journey with us and we are excited to see all of you on the field!

Jesse Harmon



1

Listen to the quarterback

Imagine being in the huddle and having every player in the huddle yelling out a different playcall. It would be absolutely impossible to get the right play called before the play clock runs out. The quarterback is the leader of the offense. He's the one that comes in the huddle with the play and he communicates the play to the other players. Imagine if you weren't in the huddle and the rest of the offense lined up for the play. You wouldn't have a clue what to do or where to go.

It's important to listen to leaders in our lives. What leaders have you surrounded yourself with? Coach's? Parents? Teachers? They have been in your situation and in your shoes before so it's important to listen to what they have to say. It's hard to listen to our parents sometimes because we feel like they don't have a clue what we are going through but in all honesty most of the time they are the ones in our lives that care about us the most. It's important for us to listen to the people in our lives that want to see us advance in life, to advance "down the field".

We can go through life listening to other's advice and taking advantage of their life experiences or we can ignore other's advice or help. It takes humility to listen to others and their advice. Make sure you make an effort to listen to the people who care about you the most.

"Learning from our mistakes is slow and painful but learning from other people's mistakes is fast and easy but takes humility and teachability".
Rick Warren

Principle: Listen to the people who want to see you advance down the field.

Memory Verse: Isaiah 55:3a

*Incline your ear and come to me,
listen that you might live,*

2

Protect the Ball!

There's one thing you need to know about me and my wife and our relationship...We have a split household! I'm proud to say that I'm a South Carolina Gamecock fan through and through. Only bad thing is...she's a HUGE Georgia bulldog fan. I remember times that I would go over to her house while we were dating and if Georgia had played well that week all I heard was "GO DAWGS!" from her dad. She grew up eating, drinking, sleeping Georgia football. Even to this day she has season tickets to the Georgia home football games. Her love for football was a DEFINITE plus when we were dating because she never got mad at me for watching or talking football, usually she was the one that started the conversation!

I remember the game like it was yesterday. South Carolina was playing Georgia in Columbia. I was miserable because I was sitting in the visitor's section in my own stadium! The game was close and Carolina was driving down the field for the winning score. We were about to beat Georgia two years in a row...that doesn't happen! We had the ball on the 2 yard line and that's when it happened. Our quarterback, Corey Jenkins, went to shovel pass the ball to Andrew Pinnock and he dropped the ball. All of a sudden the visiting crowd around me erupted in joy and right then I knew it...we fumbled, Georgia recovered and the game was over. It was a rough night. You can guess what I heard for several weeks after, "GO DAWGS!". That was one of the most painful losses I can remember as a Carolina fan because we were SO close. We were within feet of making the game-winning touchdown but then we fumbled.

How many times do we hear of that same thing happening to people we know, or famous people. They get so close to the end and then they make a mistake and ruin their testimony. It can happen to anybody. None of us are free from messing up. It only takes one mistake, or one misjudgement and we can jeopardize our character.

An important thing you can do is to put people in your life that will help you stay on track. People asking you questions like, "are you reading your bible", or "are you praying everyday", will help you stay on track. We've got to protect the ball and not fumble because we are closer than ever before!

Principle: Anybody can mess up and ruin their character at anytime, make sure you surround yourself with good friends and good influences to help you stay on track.

Memory Verse:

James 1:12

God will bless you, if you don't give up when your faith is being tested. He will reward you with a glorious life, just as he rewards everyone who loves him.

3

with the first pick in this year's draft...

I remember growing up and playing pickup football with friends. It was always nerve racking playing with new people because I would always get picked last! I would always say to myself , "you don't understand, I'm good!"

Every year we make a big deal of the NFL draft. Teams pour large amounts of money and pay people to try and figure out which athletes are worthy of being picked first. They want the best players for their team. They want the best players to help their team win the championship. What if we put as much effort into choosing our friends as we did choosing the players on our team. We want the best players on our team because we want to win, but do we want them as best friends? Do you hang out with people who disrespect authority? Do your friends break the law, say the wrong things? We need to make sure that the influences in our lives are people who will "help us win" in life. We want to succeed so we need the best players on our team. Make sure you choose good friends and influences in your life.

Are you hanging around people who you know are a bad influence? Why?

It's a natural reaction to want to be accepted and when we are accepted we gravitate towards that group of people. Choose your friends wisely.

Principle: You make the choice of who your friends are, choose wisely.

Memory Verse:

1 Corinthians 15:33

*Do not be deceived,
bad company corrupts
good morals*

Triple Option

In highschool, our football team ran a pretty sophisticated offense called the triple option. It's a tough offense to defend when executed. The quarterback is the player that really drives this type of offense. When the quarterback gets under the center he begins to read the defense. He calls hike and at that time there are 3 options he can choose from. The first is that he can hand the ball off to the fullback coming out of the backfield, this is called the fullback dive. If the quarterback decides not to hand the ball off then he and the running back take off towards the sideline. As they run towards the sideline he has a choice, he can either "pitch" the ball to the running back or he can keep the ball. The entire offense is determined by the quarterback's decision making ability based on what the defense gives him. The quarterback has to make quick decisions in this offense. His decisions determine how effective this offense will be. The quarterback has many responsibilities and choices.

It's the same way with us as believers. We have many choices in life and our choices determine where we end up. We can make a good choice and advance the ball down the field or we could make a few bad choices and start going backwards.

That's why it's very important when making decisions that we go to God in prayer and we ask for Him to help us when we make decisions. Whether it's choosing which college to go to, which job to take, what to do about a certain situation in our family life, we always have decisions to make that will determine how far we make it.

Don't try to do it all alone without the guidance and words of God. Make sure all decisions you make have included prayer and reading of God's word. Choices we make determine how far we make it, make sure you lean on God when making those decisions.

*Principle: Make good decisions
because our decisions
determine how far we make it.*

Memory Verse:

*Proverbs 20:18
Plans succeed through
good counsel,
don't go to war
without good advice.*

2 minute warning..

The last two minutes of each game take on a new dynamic. You see teams begin to operate their offense at a quicker pace because they know they only have a little bit of time left to score. The teams know that they have a small window of time to operate their offense. Some teams even incorporate a “new” offense called the “two-minute” offense because of the speed that the offense needs to operate. I’m sure you’ve seen games that have come down to the wire and seen teams not be able to conduct the necessary offense within the given amount of time and because of a small error they lose the game.

The last two minutes are filled with urgency because we know the game is almost over. We know we need to be aware of the clock, position on the field, speed of the plays, because if the team doesn’t pay attention to these things then there’s a chance they will lose the game.

Imagine if the team played with this heightened awareness during the entire game. What if the players were just as focused or played just as hard as they do the last 2 minutes in the first 2 minutes. Do you think they would play differently?

What about our lives? The things that are most important to us seem to matter more when we know our lives are about to end. What if we lived with the same urgency today that we would live with if we knew our time was almost up.

What would you do differently? Why couldn't you live like that today?

Principle:

Don't wait until the 2 minute warning to start paying attention to the things that matter most, start today.

Memory Verse:

John 20:21

Again he said, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I am sending you."

Jesus is sending us out as his people to make an influence in the people and places that we go to everybody. Today is your opportunity to make a difference in people's lives. Don't waste time, the job God gives us is large but use your time wisely...DON'T WASTE YOUR TIME!

It's another...FIRST DOWN!

Everytime I go to a Carolina football game and they make a first down the crowd erupts in a cheer when the guy comes over the loud speaker and says..."IT'S ANOTHER CAROLINA"...and the crowd says.."FIRST DOWN!". Just in case the opposing team and their fans missed the referee signaling first down we wanted to remind them of our teams accomplishment.

Getting to that first down is a different story. Our team doesn't always make it to the first down, sometimes we have to punt the ball back to the other team. In our pursuit for the first down our players get hurt, we fumble the ball, we get penalized for something we did wrong and we don't achieve our goal.

What happens in our lives when we set our minds and hearts to something and we don't achieve it? Do we quit? Do we feel discouraged?

Rick Warren, a famous pastor and author, described success this way, "Going from one failure to the next without losing enthusiasm". Pretty much what he is saying is that everyone messes up. No one can live this life without making mistakes or falling short of reaching their goals. If we desire to live a life for God we must learn to live with adversity and work through the tough times in our lives. Tough times could look like a loss of a job, a death in our family, stepping out on faith and trusting God with our lives. If we pursue through those tough times and trust God with what He wants for our lives then there are times when we get to see the reward. We get a FIRST DOWN!! When we achieve those times in our lives remember to celebrate and thank God that he walked with you through those times. Don't try and survive the 2nd and 15 by yourself, but surrender your life to God and walk with Him and He leads you through life.

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