

Douglas High School



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Jon Martz, Principal
Kevin Wilson, Asst. Principal/AD

Dear Commissioner,

On September 25, 2015 John Wannamaker was flagged for unsportsmanlike conduct early in the 1st quarter. It appeared as though he stood over an opposing player and cheered loudly. John is a very emotional and intense young man. We had just held the defending league champions to a three and out on their first offensive possession, the punt snap went over the punters head, and we tackled the punter for a significant loss. John was not involved in the tackle or part of the pile but he was the first one there after the tackle and was cheering on his teammates very enthusiastically. I do not think that the spirit of what John was doing was in an unsportsmanlike manner however his positioning might have made it look as though he was taunting an opponent.

The next three quarters were very closely contested and both teams played very competitively. We witnessed a lot of talking as well as extra pushing late in plays between players from both teams throughout the game. We spoke to our captains and our line judge about it on a couple occasions. When John was flagged on the second occasion, #21 was involved in some extra action towards our sideline. As John entered the field he and #21 were talking but I don't think what they were saying anything that wasn't permitted for the previous 3 quarters and they were not cursing at or contacting each other.

Sportsmanship and character development are top priorities of our program but we are building this program from one that was struggling in a lot of ways. John is a young man who is an emotional leader on our team. He and his teammates are living through a culture change and it has come with a lot of struggle. John's suspension occurred due to two penalties that resulted from his actions, however for the impact that the suspension will have on John and his teammates I do not think are warranted. As I pointed out in incident one, he was cheering on his teammates after a very emotional start to the game; in incident two, "...come deal with me or something to that extent" doesn't seem specific enough or extreme compared to what was being permitted up to that point of the game and what was permitted for the remainder of the game.

Sincerely,

Siliia Polamalu
Head Football Coach
Douglas High School

"Home of the Trojans"