

NFL adds to tackling rules, regs

By Charnell Harris
Voice Features Editor

As of October 20, the NFL implemented a new rule that went into effect immediately which seeks to fine and suspend players who violate the new policy on tackling. The intent of the policy is to protect players from serious injuries due to devastating hits and head shots. The punishments are as severe as being fined thousands of dollars to being ejected from the game as well as game and/or seasonal suspension.

Sports announcers and commentators on ESPN argue that by having a rule on how to hit, the NFL is trying to "legislate football" and by doing so they are changing the game for the worse. While the counter-argument is that the new rules are preventative regulations that will further ensure safety of all players in the league.

On October 22, NFL Executive Vice-President of Football Operations, Ray Anderson, released a DVD that shows the type of tackles that can and cannot be done in a game. In the video, Anderson said that "hits to the neck and head area that are reckless and wild must be eliminated." He continued to give play by play commentary on how and why certain tackles were illegal or legal.

For example, when a player is in the act of catching the ball, they are considered defenseless, thus a tackle cannot be made.

Anderson wants to make players work harder on the technique of tackling, which he states a proper tackle should "minimize the risk of injury to the opponent."

The big question is what are players expected to do on the field now with the new rules put into place? A game like football is played at a fast pace with big guys whose job is to stop the other team from making a play. How are they supposed to stop certain plays if the way they were taught to play for years is suddenly changed? As of October 24, 10 players will face penalties due to the new rule.

How does this affect Bronco

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Voice photo by Quinton Graham

Fayetteville State's quarterback, Robert Benjamin, 16 hands the ball off to Anthony Council, 36 for another rushing touchdown, in route to a 64-6 victory over the Johnson C. Smith Golden Bulls Saturday at Luther "Nick" Jeralds Stadium.

Bright future for rebuilding the Bronco football team

FSU is a combined 123-12 in their past two games, with one to go

By Quinton Graham
Voice Sports Editor

Though the season might not have begun the way Bronco fans would have liked, all hope isn't lost in Bronco nation.

"I would say we beat ourselves because we were just a few plays away from winning each game," said John Hicks, a senior safety.

The Broncos have had some shortcomings this year losing four games by two touchdowns or less, but with three losses in a row, the Broncos bounced back and brought home a big win against Shaw University, and then an even bigger win at the homecoming against Livingstone College.

"I thought we played very well against Livingstone, we came out a little flat, but as the game progressed we got the things done that we needed to, to win the game," Head Coach Kenny Phillips said.

59-6 was the score of the game against Livingstone. The Broncos

blocked four punts to secure the win. These signs of excellence leave hope for the future of Bronco football.

This past Saturday the Broncos played the Johnson C. Smith University Golden Bulls. Coming in to the game, Smith had the number one offense in the CIAA, and the Broncos took the challenge head on, and came out victorious.

The Golden Bulls came into the game averaging 338 yards per game, but was held to just 16 yards of total offense in the first quarter, and ultimately finished with 271 yards.

FSU scored five times in the first half, taking a 3-0 lead on their opening series after Turner's field goal with 11:19 to go in the first period.

A week after having a dominant performance by the special teams against Livingstone, Fayetteville State's special teams showed up again. After the defense held JSCU offense inside its own 10-yard line,

The last home game

When: Saturday, 1 p.m.

Where: FSU

Why: Senior night

the Bronco defense blocked a punt through the back of the end zone for a safety, giving FSU a 5-0 edge with 7:50 to go in the first quarter.

They scored again on a pass from Robert Benjamin to Dallin Gray for the touchdown, and it gave the Broncos a 15-0 lead.

After a fumble by Jeremy Franklin of JCSU, the ball was recovered by Marcus Allen in Golden Bulls' territory. Three plays later, Benjamin hooked up with Carlin Jordan on a 3-yard touchdown pass for a 22-0 lead with 42 seconds left in the half.

The Broncos kept things moving after halftime and never lost a beat,

with Benjamin being the dictator on the next four FSU touchdowns. Fayetteville State scored on five straight possessions in the second half, and the lead increased to 43-0 before Smith was able to score on a 2-yard touchdown pass from Robert Johnson of JCSU.

FSU wasn't done though, and tackled on three more touchdowns before the end of the game. Michael Staton added a scoring run in the fourth quarter while Andrew Bowden recovered a fumble and took it in for the score to make it 64-6.

The last two games have been flawless for the Broncos. Successful games only make folks wonder, what could be next for our beloved Bronco football? Judging by the last three games and a roster with many talented returning players, Bronco fans should keep a close eye on their football team.