

Football Officiating Y & Z

YESTERDAY

As the old saying goes, you're only as good as your last game. Many officials work more than one game each week. The last game you worked — yesterday's game, if you will — is gone. If you experienced problems in that previous game, you can't carry the problems over to your next game. The same with your last call. If you kick one, forget about it for the moment. If you let it eat at you, you won't be thinking about the next call and you'll kick that one, too.

The time to dwell on your mistakes and examine your performance is after the game. Solicit advice from crewmates, mentors or veteran officials whose opinions you trust. Fix the problem, then get on with your life.

ZEBRA

There may be places where "zebra" is still used as a derogatory term to describe officials. But in most areas officials use it to describe themselves. It's a badge of honor. Some officials have personal stationary

emblazoned with zebras. They've chosen to turn a negative image into a positive one.

Officials should take pride in their avocation. That means being a professional at all times, not just when you're in uniform. Unacceptable behavior brings disrepute to the entire officiating community. Officials should be role models.

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