

## **Last time this year... oh what a bummer!**

Well folks the season comes to an end again. Another year of hits, tackles, runs and passes; another year of emerging talented football players and good kids just playing a game they love, has come and gone. And once again, I am sure going to miss the weeknights of practice and the weekends of watching good football games for the next 9 months, till next year comes around.

Lynden teams didn't win a championship this year although the Lynden Vet team did give it a great try. Good job all season guys, your parents, coaches and I are very proud of you. Sometimes it's not the winning that shows a real champion, but the effort we see every week. You guys showed that, you are champions!

Scotty Browns played a practice game Saturday and really put on a late season show of strength. Coach Rick thinks the season should continue now that the team has found its identity, and thinks they can compete with anyone on the league. I do not disagree! Way to come back you guys, real champs come back from rough times and show what they are made of, and you guys did that for sure!

Yeh Orthodontics won their last game in true form, showing that they were one of the toughest teams in the league. A balanced attack of offense and a stifling defense was the goal at the beginning of the year and boy Yeh sure did accomplish that goal. Nice job Yeh, very proud of you! YAYYYYYYYYYY!

SSK had a tough game this past weekend losing to a very good team, but showed all year long how tough they were. It turns out that you can run and pass even at the younger level I guess! These guys kept coming back all year with new plays, new stars emerging and playing tough football! It was fun to watch you guys! Now come back next year and let's do it again.

LTI-Northwest Propane had a rough one as well this past Saturday, losing to a team they had beaten earlier in the year, but still managing to secure 4<sup>th</sup> place in the league with some great wins all year long. Watching this team and the Scotty Brown team, next years 7<sup>th</sup> grade teams are going to be loaded with talent. Watching Coach Joel and Chad teach football all season long has been a real joy and a real pleasure. Thanks Guys!

I have to raise my hand here and announce a mea culpa for a mistake in judgment on my part. I seemed to have raised a question a little too loudly about a referees call at the Saturday game on the field and found a yellow flag thrown at my back as I walked away from a little “discussion” I had with him on the field. Imagine my surprise when I got back to the sideline and saw them walking off more yards because of something I might have said to him about his heritage! If I had known he was going to do that, I might have said a few more things! Okay a lot of things! Now kids this is when, as an adult, I tell you that you can learn something here. There is a saying that goes, “do as I say, not as I do”, this is one of those times! In the heat of the moment, good ol’ and I mean ol’ Jerry got carried away with his mouth. Learn from me okay? I apologize if I offended anyone, but I still think he was wrong and I am still wondering about his mental state.

If you missed last Sundays “give Jerry all the football gear day so he doesn’t worry all winter”, I still need it back! I will come and get it if you need me to. Here’s my email addy, just send me a quick note! [Kok.jerry@yahoo.com](mailto:Kok.jerry@yahoo.com). Please, please, help me out here!

Now before I say goodbye for another year, I must tell you a story of one of our Lynden players. Every year, there are great stories of what kids say or do, but this year is one of my all time favorites. I will call this player Dustin. I am sure that before the year started

Dustin had dreams of being the next Tom Brady, and as he looked at himself in the mirror after he got his pants, shoulder pads and helmet before that first practice, I am sure he saw a Tom Brady looking back at him.

Then that first practice started and being hit or tackled was not without its aches and pains and maybe being Tom Brady wasn't as much fun as Dustin thought it would be, those hits hurt sometimes! Anyway, during one practice later in the week, the team was doing a tackling drill at  $\frac{3}{4}$  speed, the whole team in a circle learning how to tackle properly, when Dustin's coach looked over and saw Dustin laying on the ground away from the team, hands back, helmet on, looking up at the clouds and the sky on a glorious August evening. The coach walked over, looked down at Dustin and asked, "Dustin, everything okay?" Dustin looked up at him, helmet still on, and said, "Coach, it's been a sad day, a sad sad day for me", a little tear moving down his face. The coach looked down at little Dustin, knelt next to him and said, "Are you alright Dustin? Are you going to be okay?" Dustin is 9 years old, 9 years old, mind you! He looked up into the coach's eyes and said, "I think so Coach, but I might need a little time to 'gather' myself." Now, the coach struggling not to smile said, "Okay Dustin, how much time do you need to 'gather' yourself Buddy?" Dustin looked at him, and said, "I don't really know Coach, but how much longer is practice?"

This is why I love this "Commish" job, these Lynden kids, your kids, are amazing! Thank you all for everything, all of you. To you parents, you players, and you coaches, and to the sponsors who make everything possible, thank you so very much. Is it August yet?

Jerry Kok, ( the Commish)