



High Hits

2017 NILOA MEMO

Disclaimer: As with the NCAA film, all the clips sent out should be used as a learning experience and is not meant to be degrading or to criticize any of the officials.

Let talk high hits or contact to the head

As with many of the calls we have to make in a split second angles are everything. As you watch the clip below you will see it from a number of angles. Perhaps from one angle the check will not look bad and from another it looks severe. These angles are why at times we need help from our partners. A hit such as the one in the clip really needs the attention of multiple officials to get it right. As you watch this clip there are many things that an official has to run through their mind

- **During the initial dodge was the initial contact a penalty or good defensive by the two defenders?** Appears to be good defense.
- **The hit in question** - Was the contact solely due to the offensive player losing his balance and then he makes contact with the defender? Pretty sure we can discount that.
- **Was the contact going to be legal** until the offensive player lost his balance and was on his way to the ground? Don't think so.
- **Was the contact legal then slid to the head?** Again doesn't look that way.
- **Did the player making the check lower his body to insure contact was made with the offensive player?** This looks to be true. the player committing the foul probably could have jumped over the ball carrier.
- **Was the contact directly to the head?** It would appear to be the case.
- **Was it targeting the head?** From the players action of lowering his body to the follow through of delivering the check the answer to this would have to be yes.
- **What type of follow through occurred?** Certainly finished the check unnecessarily.
- **What was the player demeanor after the check?** The player's actions are one that could be construed as one of intimidation or a sense of "I showed you."

The officials on the game did call a 1-minute, full-time foul on the play. So just like every other Monday morning quarterback using multiple angles, slow motion, and replay, we should conclude this was deserving of a multiple minute penalty.

So how can we attempt to get this right? - The easy answer: PREPERATION

- Did we discuss high hits in the pregame?
- If this discussion existed was a protocol for such hits established?
- Stress the need to take our time with this call.
- How and when will we engage our partners? At all times
- How are we going to communicate with partners?
- Discussion of types of hits that warrant different penalties needs to be held. Examples- Did the check start legal and end to head with a follow through? Possible one minute full time. Did the check start legal and end to head with a violent follow through? Multiple minute foul. Targeting the head to the extent that player safety and chance of serious injury exists. Multiple minute and possible ejection
- Are we willing to call multiple minute fouls? We should be player safety is important.

 [High Hit.mp4](#)