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The following is the result of the University of Vermont protest of their 1:00 pm game against Onondaga Community College on November 2nd, 2013.

Game protested by Vermont for an In-Game Known Roster Violation.

Requested action - Forfeit game.

Protest:

Vermont has protested their 1:00 pm, 11/2/13 game against Onondaga, requesting a forfeit victory because Onondaga has zero players on their eligible roster as per section 5.02.2 of the NCFA Rule Book.

5.02.2 Any team found playing any **NCFA Sanctioned Football Game** with ZERO players on their eligible roster will AUTOMATICALLY be forced to forfeit any victories achieved while having no eligible roster.

Vermont Club Football Representative Steve Sheeler stated, "THE REASON FOR THE PROTEST BY VERMONT AGAINST OCC IS BECAUSE OCC DID NOT HAVE ANY PLAYERS ACTIVATED ON THEIR NCFA ROSTER ON THE WEBSITE. THE GAME WAS PLAYED WITH FULL KNOWLEDGE OF THE ROSTER ALLEGATIONS AGAINST OCC PRIOR TO THE CONTEST. THE INFORMATION PROVIDED TO US BY THE NCFA CLEARLY AND EXPLICITLY DESCRIBED OCC'S FAILURE TO ABIDE BY THE PERSONNEL REQUESTS OF THE NCFA. AS WE ARRIVED AT THE SCHOOL I SPOKE TO A LOCAL OFFICIAL FROM THE HOSTING HIGH SCHOOL, AND HE INFORMED ME OF THE MULTIPLE PLAYERS ON OCC WHO ATTENDED HIS HIGH SCHOOL ROUGHLY 8 YEARS AGO. NOT THAT THIS DISQUALIFIES A PLAYER, BUT 25 YEAR OLD PLAYERS DID RAISE FURTHER SUSPICION. WHEN I FIRST MADE CONTACT WITH THE OFFICIALS, I INFORMED THEM THAT "WE ARE PLAYING THIS GAME UNDER PROTEST." ALBEIT SHOCKED, THE OFFICIALS RECOGNIZED THIS REQUEST AND WE CARRIED ON WITH THE GAME. I WAS NOT GIVEN AN OPTION BY THE HOME TEAM OR THE OFFICIALS TO WHICH RULES WE WOULD BE PLAYING, NCFA OR NCAA. I MADE THE MISTAKE OF ASSUMING NCFA. GIVEN OUR NUMBERS, NCAA RULES PERTAINING TO TIME MANAGEMENT WERE AN EXTREME DISADVANTAGE. THE CLOCK STOPPED CONTINUOUSLY AND OFTEN UNNECESSARILY, AND AS A RESULT, THE RISK TO OUR PLAYERS INCREASED. THE FIRST QUARTER WAS CLOSELY CONTESTED. WE HELD THE LEAD FOR MUCH OF IT, HOWEVER, WE BEGAN TO LOSE YOUNG MEN TO INJURY. I FEEL STRONGLY THAT THE MEN FROM OCC WERE NOT VERY WELL COACHED AND PLAYED THE GAME IN A VERY DANGEROUS MANNER. BE AS TOUGH AS YOU WANT TO ON THE FOOTBALL FIELD, BUT IF YOU APPROACH THE GAME WITH THE INTENTIONS TO HURT ANOTHER PLAYER, THEN I HAVE NO TOLERANCE FOR THAT. WE LOST A KEY PLAYER MIDWAY THROUGH THE FIRST QUARTER TO A DANGEROUS AND OBVIOUS "DEFENSELESS RECEIVER" HIT. WE SUBSEQUENTLY LOST 4 OTHER PLAYERS TO CONCUSSIONS, AND ANOTHER DUE TO EXTREME PAIN IN HIS EAR. IT IS AT THIS POINT THAT WE HAD FIRST-YEAR FOOTBALL PLAYERS PLAYING AGAINST A HIGHLY SKILLED, AND HIGHLY UNDISCIPLINED OPPONENT. ONE OF THESE FIRST-TIME FOOTBALL PLAYERS IS A FOREIGN EXCHANGE STUDENT. HE ENTERED THE FIELD LATE DURING A PLAY DUE TO THE DEPLETED DEPTH CHART AND MY STATE OF



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CONFUSION. UPON MAKING THE TACKLE FROM THE SIDE LINE HE INJURED HIS ANKLE. AS I RAN ON THE FIELD I HAD TO CALM MY PLAYERS DOWN BECAUSE THE BETTER PART OF THE OCC TEAM ON THE FIELD WAS LAUGHING AT MY INJURED PLAYER. IN DOING SO, THEY DISRESPECTED THAT YOUNG MAN, SPIT ON THE BEST GAME IN THE WORLD, AND EMBARRASSED THEIR OWN COMMUNITY. WE PLAY THE BEST GAME IN THE WORLD, AND I AM PERSONALLY DISGUSTED WITH MYSELF FOR HAVING MADE A DECISION THAT I WOULD NEVER HAVE THOUGHT MYSELF CAPABLE. I PLAYED THE GAME IN A MANNER THAT WAS VERY RECKLESS. AS A COACH, YOU HAVE TO UNDERSTAND YOUR RESPONSIBILITY TO ENSURE THE WELL BEING OF YOUR STUDENT-ATHLETES. AS SICKENING OF AN EXPERIENCE AS IT WAS, AND FOR ALL OF THE PRIDE I HAD TO SWALLOW, I WOULD MAKE THE SAME DECISION AGAIN.”

Defense:

Onondaga Vice President, Student Engagement and Learning Support Dr. Julie white stated, "We are doing our best to allow our students to complete their season and compete for the championship [Yankee Conference] based on the standards the College expects from all students. While we do not agree with the allegations made by the opposing team, this is important information for us as we continue to evaluate our program."

Investigation:

It is widely known that Onondaga hasn't had an official NCFA roster all year, in large part due to a number of players on the team not meeting academic standards in place by the NCFA. They were given the opportunity to get an official NCFA roster in place before this game so that the game could be played as a legitimate NCFA Sanctioned North Atlantic Conference game, however they failed to submit roster paperwork admittedly because they couldn't field a team with just the players who meet the academic standards, and their goal at this point is just to play football and finish out the season.

This type of protest is considered an "On Field Protest" for an "In Game Known Roster Violation" meaning that it requires the protesting team notify the officials at the time of the incident that they are playing the game under protest. It is also required that the protesting team files a formal protest form with the NCFA no later than midnight on Tuesday following the game. Since Vermont did inform the Referee at the game that they were playing this game under protest and they submitted their formal protest form to the NCFA on Tuesday, it has been decided that this is a valid protest. NCFA Rule 5.02.2 dictates that this protest result in the issue of an automatic forfeit.

Ruling: Protest Granted –. The score of this game will be updated to reflect a 2 to 0 victory for Vermont and all player statistics should be disallowed for each team as per rule 5.02.2.2. Additionally, as per rule 5.02.2.1, Onondaga is automatically placed on probation, which they already are.

5.02.2.1 Additionally the team is AUTOMATICALLY placed on probation.

5.02.2.2 Player statistics for both teams of a game forfeited due to a participating team having no eligible roster DO NOT count.



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