



A FREE PDF

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Stand Up Comedian

How to Pretend You Understand Football During Thanksgiving

HOW TO PRETEND YOU UNDERSTAND FOOTBALL DURING THANKSGIVING

A Survival Guide for the Couch, the Kitchen TV, and That One Uncle Who Yells at Refs

By Steven David Lampley
Officially Not Qualified, But Very Confident

INTRODUCTION

The Mission.

You are not here to understand football. You are here to survive it.

Thanksgiving football is not optional. It will be on in the living room, the kitchen, the garage, and probably on someone's phone at the dinner table.

Your goal: Look knowledgeable for 3 hours, eat pie without being quizzed, and avoid being exposed as the person who thinks a "tight end" is a yoga pose.

This guide will teach you how.

PART 1

The 11 Phrases That Work in ANY Game.

Memorize these. You can say them at any time and 90% of the room will nod.

1. "That was a terrible call!" Works no matter what just happened. Refs are always wrong.
2. "They've GOT to make an adjustment at halftime." — Makes you sound like a coach.
3. "He had a wide open man!" There is always a wide open man somewhere. Trust me.

4. "They're leaving too much time on the clock." — Say this in the 4th quarter. You will look brilliant.
5. "That's just good defense." When you have no idea what happened.
6. "They need to establish the run." Grandpas love this one.
7. "That's why you don't throw across your body." After any interception.
8. "Ooooh, play-action got 'em." After a fake handoff. Crowd pleaser.
9. "That offensive line is getting MANHANDLED." Say it loud. Flex a little.
10. "This is where coaching matters." When the game is close.
11. "That's game." Say it 3 times per game. One of them will be right.

PART 2

Body Language. Look Like You Know.

THE SLOW HEAD SHAKE: After a bad play, shake your head and mutter "Unbelievable." Do not elaborate.

THE LEAN FORWARD: On 3rd down, lean forward, elbows on knees, hands clasped. This is the international signal for "I understand 3rd down."

THE ARMS CROSSED SIGH: When your team punts. Sigh, cross arms, say "Gotta do better than that."

THE POINT-AT-THE-TV: Point at a random lineman and say "See, THAT'S the problem right there." No one will check.

THE THANKSGIVING SPECIAL: Hold a plate of turkey while yelling at the ref. This establishes dominance.

PART 3

Vocabulary to Throw Around.

Red Zone = The last 20 yards. If they are close to scoring, just whisper "Here we go, red zone..."

Pick Six = Interception returned for a touchdown. Yell "PICK SIX!" like you knew it was coming.

Blitz = When everybody runs at the quarterback. Yell "They brought the blitz!"

Holding = A penalty that happens every play but only gets called when it ruins your team. Yell "WHERE'S THE HOLDING?!"

Play Clock = If the clock is low, yell "Get the play off! Get the play off!" You will fit right in.

Prevent Defense = Prevents you from winning. Say "Oh no, not prevent..." and shake your head.

Tight End = Not a yoga pose. A big guy who catches sometimes. Just go with it.

PART 4

The Thanksgiving Conversation Plays.

SCENARIO 1: Uncle Larry asks, "What do you think of that quarterback?"

Answer: "He's got all the physical tools, I just question his decision-making under pressure." Works for EVERY quarterback. Ever.

SCENARIO 2: Someone asks, "Who are you rooting for?"

Answer: "I've got money, I mean an emotional investment, in [say winning team's name]."

SCENARIO 3: The game is boring.

Say: "This is a classic defensive battle. Not for casuals." Then go get pie.

SCENARIO 4: You get caught not watching.

Quickly say: "Sorry, I was watching the all-22 on my phone." No one knows what all-22 is. They will leave you alone.

PART 5

The 4th Quarter. How to Close Like a Pro.

With 5 minutes left, do this:

1. Stand up. Say: "If they don't go hurry-up here, this thing is over."
2. When someone scores, clap once very loudly and say "Now THAT'S situational football."
3. When the game ends, say "Heck of a game. That third quarter was the difference."
4. Immediately ask: "Who's got pie?"

Congratulations. You have successfully pretended to understand football for an entire Thanksgiving. You are now qualified to do it again at Christmas.

BONUS

Printable Cheat Sheet for the Coffee Table.

Cut this out and keep it next to the remote:

- Flag on field? Yell "Oh come ON!"
- Slow motion replay? Say "Yeah, his knee was down."
- Coach yelling? Say "He's lost control of this team."
- Need to escape? Say "I need to check the other game" and walk to the kitchen.

Remember: Football is just 22 millionaires fighting over one ball while 70,000 people who need to be at work tomorrow scream about it. And on Thanksgiving, it's tradition.

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