2016 REPLAY QUIZ #1

1. 4/5 @ B-35. A12 initiates a feet-first slide, and the covering official marks the ball at the line to gain, A - 1/10 @ B-30. Video shows that when A12 had obviously begun his slide, the ball was at the B-31, but the ball was at the B-30 when something other than A12's foot or hand touched the ground.

Reverse to B - 1/10 @ B-31. By the June 14, 2016 interpretation, when a ball carrier gives himself up and goes into a feet-first slide, the ball is declared dead at its forward-most point when he obviously begins his slide.

- 2. 1/10 @ A-20. A9's pass to A82 is ruled incomplete; however, B45 is flagged for targeting only of A82. Video shows that B45 led with his forearm and made forcible contact to A82's neck. Video also shows that A82 took four steps:
 - a. without firm control of the ball before it fell to the ground. B36 then fell on the ball at the A-40.

Confirm the rulings of both an incomplete pass and targeting, bringing up A - 1/10 @ A-35. A82 remains a defenseless player as long as he is attempting to complete the catch, and B45 forcibly contacted A82's head and neck area while displaying an indicator of targeting action (leading).

b. after establishing firm control of the ball and tucking it to his body before it fell to the ground. B36 then fell on the ball at the A-40.

Reverse to a catch and a fumble with immediate recovery. A82 clearly became a ball carrier, and consequently was not defenseless when contacted by B45; therefore, the targeting foul is also reversed. After review, it will be B - 1/10 @ A-40. Perhaps this should have been ruled a personal foul as well, in which case Team A would retain possession, but it is not targeting.

3. 4/15 @ A-30. B26 does not signal for a fair catch of A17's punt. He muffs the kick at the B-30, after which A88 (who was at the B-33 at the time of the muff) contacts his head. A40 subsequently recovers the ball at the B-35. The covering official flags A88 for kick catch interference with targeting. Video shows that while there was considerable helmet-to-helmet contact, A88 was attempting to block B26 with his helmet to the side.

Reverse the ruling of targeting. While A88 is still defenseless as long as he is attempting to catch or recover the kick, B26 did not display an indicator of targeting (thrust, leading, launch, etc.). This is not kick catch interference either because A88 was three yards from B26 at the time of the muff, and -- absent a fair catch signal -- his protection ends when the kick is muffed...but Replay does not have a dog in that fight. (Had B26 given a fair catch signal, this could still be interference if A88 had an opportunity to complete the catch.) While the targeting foul is reversed, enforcement of the penalty for the errant kick catch interference foul will still make it B - 1/10 @ B-45.

4. 3/10 @ B-25. A4's pass is intercepted by B18 at the B-5 and returned to the A-20 where A32 brings him down by the face mask. Officials enforce the penalty with a result of B - 1/G @ A-10. Video shows that B41 launched and delivered a blind-side block to A79 at the B-40, making forcible helmet-to-helmet contact, but no foul was called.

Replay should initiate a ruling of targeting from the booth as all the elements of targeting (defenseless player, indicator of targeting action, and forcible contact to the head / neck) are present. B41 will be disqualified. There are now fouls by both teams, but the team in final possession fouled after gaining possession; consequently, they may refuse offsetting fouls and thereby retain possession after completion of the penalty for their foul. After enforcement of the penalty for B41's targeting foul, it will be B - 1/10 @ B-25.

5. F/K @ A-35. The covering officials rule that A87 legally recovered A2's onside kick at the A-46, resulting in A - 1/10 @ A-46. Video shows that A87 voluntarily stepped out of bounds at the A-41, then re-established inbounds before recovering the ball at the A-46.

Not Reviewable. Replay may still become involved with pass receivers who go out of bounds and then illegally touch a forward pass (See 2016 Replay Case Plays #43 and #46), but may not review plays involving members of the kicking team who go out of bounds and then return inbounds. This is not a rule change! Such plays were reviewable in 2013, but have not been reviewable the past two seasons since eight plays which supported such review (#8, #9, #10, #102, #103, #104, #105, and #108) were removed from the 2014 Replay Case Book. The addition of Plays #17 and #118 to the 2016 Replay Case Book confirms that these plays are no longer reviewable. Part of the issue is that a pass receiver only fouls when he goes out of bounds on his own, and then touches the ball before it has been touched by an opponent or official. A kicking team member who goes out of bounds fouls simply by returning. If reviewable, at what point should replay intervene? Only if the player who goes out of bounds recovers the kick? Or simply touches the ball? Or perhaps delivers a key block? Or should replay become involved just because he returns, even though he has no effect on the play? The 2016 Replay Case Book makes it clear. Even in the most "egregious" circumstance, where the kick is recovered by the player who went out of bounds, it is not reviewable.