

# “I Must Have Been Straightlined”



A common maxim looms over each official's head every game he/she officiates. "I was straightlined" is the declaration of choice. Whenever a play is missed in the primary coverage area it is easy to find that easy scapegoat, "I was straightlined." That is not to say that being straightlined cannot happen to even the quickest and most anticipating official, but all too frequently officials fail to exercise the "move to improve" principle. Anticipate the skip pass and resulting 3-point try, the flop during a block/charge play, press situations, etc. In the above illustration the clock isn't running during this designated spot throw in; there is no reason for the official to miss a breaking of the plane violation or a technical foul for breaking the plane and striking the ball. The message is: "move to improve," have keen "court awareness," be in position to "see the whole play." By exercising these few axioms, the unpleasant "straightlined" cliché will be reduced if not eliminated from your officiating terminology.