

Sports Column: **Equipment Rules Cramp Players' Style**

by Dewuan McCullum

Gold cleats. Tinted visors. Colored towels. None of them are permitted at Nation Ford. In high school football, rules are taking style away from players, and individuality away from the game.

The players on the electrifying Falcon football team want to stand out. The team always says, "If you look good, you feel good, and you play good."

Confidence has a lot to do with the way you look, and a confident mindset is powerful in football.

Running Back Nathan Mahaffy also disagrees with the no tinted visors rule. More than looking cool, he says visors help players by blocking out the sun, making it easier to see the ball. Visors also protect players from eye injuries.

There are those, such as Head Coach

Michael Allen, who agree with the rule. "If the equipment is not required, you shouldn't wear it because it slows you down," he said.

But Offensive Coordinator Zack Lendyak is neutral about this rule, stating that he "just wants the team to play to the best of their ability."

The rule against colored cleats should be the first one to go because it doesn't distract anybody – if anything, distinctive cleats help the players because college scouts can easily recognize individual players by the unique equipment they wear.

The football players believe the rule is against individuality and should not be enforced since it's not negatively affecting the game.

Freedom of choice just might motivate the Falcons and help them defeat their opponents.