



To: National Referees
National Instructors/National Assessors
State Referee Administrators
State Directors of Instruction
State Directors of Assessment
State Directors of Coaching

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Subject: **Courageous Call**

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On February 11, 2009, in a World Cup qualifier match between the United States and Mexico (played in Columbus, Ohio) a courageous call was made by the referee under circumstances which, while clearly requiring a red card, might well have been handled less correctly by many referees.

In the 65th minute, Mexico captain Rafael Marquez tackled US goalkeeper Tim Howard and, as a result, Marquez was sent off with no hesitation by the referee. The photograph below captures the moment:



Note the nature of the tackle: studs up, delivered in the knee area, while the victim was entirely up in the air.

Given that the match up to this point had been calm, generally friendly, and virtually devoid of misconduct, referees must decide whether they would have the presence of mind and courage to take the necessary action.