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NBC

['Friday Night Lights' - 'Swerve'] As the season progresses on 'Friday Night Lights,' we've been concentrating on some stories while others have seemed to vanish in the Texas heat. (Remember Epic?)

Has that resulted in an up and down set of episodes? Yes, but when 'FNL' is good, it's very good. This was one of the 'very good.'

Turmoil is filling the Taylor household and there seems to be no easy resolution to the problems they're facing. And while Coach (Kyle Chandler) is struggling to deal with his family issues, so is Vince (Michael B. Jordan) when a nemesis from the past returned to threaten his future.

When Julie (Aimee Teegarden) came home from college after that soap opera moment with Derek's (Gil McKinney) wife last episode, you would have thought that she was definitely going to ask Tami ((Connie Britton) -- more than Eric -- to make it all better. That's what mommies do.

But no, that's not what Julie was thinking. Julie lied to her family by initially concealing why she returned, and then piled on the lie by crashing her car to avoid returning to college. Home was a place to hide. Her conscious decision to destroy her car was unworthy of Julie Taylor.

Even when Julie finally broke down and told the truth, she chose to open up to mom. Guidance counselor Tami responded with compassion, even telling Eric to quell his anger about Julie's affair with a married man and to be understanding and patient.

The Coach's instincts were to confront his daughter and to fix the problem. Unlike his football team, he couldn't force Julie to run laps until she agreed to his solution to the problem. After having the car repaired, Eric tried to force Julie to get in the car and go back to school -- to face her scandal and deal with it -- but Julie refused.

To see how the inability to help Julie hurt Eric was insightful. The stress caused him to walk out on a practice and he was late arriving on game day. In the confines of his home, Eric was like a caged animal, unable to deal with his upset over Julie. The father in Eric was beyond frustrated.

How ironic that in a football season when Eric Taylor has his team 5-0 and he's being hailed 'Kingmaker' by a national magazine, at home he can't win. It was cold comfort when Julie apologized for disappointing him.

For Vince, Kennard's return couldn't come at a worse time. Kennard wanted his $5,000 back and threatened Vince ... and then Jess (Journee Smollett) and her family's business. Vince confided in Jess, and she made him realize he needed somebody to help.

She recommended Vince turning to the cops or Coach Taylor, but Vince turned to his father. It was a major step for Vince. Would Ornette (Cress Williams) be there for his son just once in his life?

The beat down that Ornette delivered to Kennard was brutal. But has he truly taken care of it for Vince? That remains to be seen. Still, it was nice to see a bully like Kennard bleeding in pain.

The Riggins extended family added a new member. Billy (Derek Phillips) recognized in Luke (Matt Lauria) the same quality that made Tim (Taylor Kitsch) a star player on the football field. And Luke, who was ticked off about the TMU situation, needed someone to remind him that football is not just about scholarships and a ticket out of Dillon; football is fun.

While Billy was taking Luke under his wing, Mindy (Stacey Oristano) has adopted Becky (Madison Burge). She even played matchmaker for the teenager, pushing Luke and Becky together while advising Becky to forget about Tim. Considering Luke and Becky's troubled past, could they really have a romance? The ship has sailed on that one.

'Friday Night Lights' is on Wednesday nights at 9 PM on DirecTV's 101 Network.