

The Doggity Chiefs Report
Preseason 3 – 2004
Chiefs vs Cleveland Browns from The Head, Kansas City, MO

This week, from the front row at the Head, and accompanied by Miss Morgan and KUMC's Dana Cunningham. As fine a Chiefs fan as you will ever meet – her first trip to the 'Head was on row one! As always, you can find the Doggity Reports from this and previous years at www.georgeblowfish.com! And visit "Radio Blowfish"- Whose motto is, "They don't play stuff like this on your radio!" If you know others who might want to get this report in the 'junk' folder of their e-mail inbox – send me their addresses so we can add them to the worldwide fan base of the Doggity Report each week. Remember our privacy policy - "We won't give your address to any deposed Ethiopian royalty in need of a loan."

Overview – Sorry for the one-day delay. The storms here left a leak on the doghouse roof and it had to be fixed. Somehow it seems appropriate that I didn't show up to do the report yesterday – the Chiefs seemed to have missed the bus to the game, as well. This sucker was about as exciting recreational mold-growing. It should have been a clue when the biggest ovation during player announcements was for Cleveland WR Quincy Morgan – who was a star at Kansas State. The #1s didn't do much and the #3s did worse. Only the #2s made things happen. Collins, Easy and Blaylock looked like they were in sync. Too bad they won't play once the season starts. The only real excitement came with a bench-clearing wrestling match that started when Casey Wiegmann blew up LB Eric Westmoreland after the whistle on a second-quarter play. Leave it to Cleveland to offset three KC personal fouls in that melee by some schmoe taking off his hat. The next time it got interesting was in the final three minutes when the game was being played by a whole bunch of guys who will be selling mutual funds in two weeks. Cleveland erased a 12-point deficit to win by 2 on the final play of the game. It was eerily like the Dave Kreig to Paul Skansi "Hail Mary" versus the Seahawks in 1990 – when Derrick Thomas with seven sacks on the day had Kreig in the grasp when the ball was thrown. It was also some vindication for the "Dwayne Rudd helmet toss" on opening day of 2002.

Offense – Granted, this is the best defense that KC has faced this preseason. Still the penalties, dropped passes and total lack of rhythm were disappointing after the machine-like efficiency of the first two games. The worse thing that happened was the likely loss for the season of Marc Boerigter. On the heels of picking up last week's "bone", Bo blew a knee out in the first quarter when he was brutally attacked by the Arrowhead turf monster. That leaves the biggest weakness on this unit even weaker. Johnnie Morton has what appears to be a career-threatening boo-boo. Don't be surprised if KC makes a play at a receiver in the next week or two. Keenan McCardell is an option. KC has an estimated \$7.5 million in cap left and McCardell is involved in a holdout with Tampa Bay – asking for just over \$4 million. In any case, this leaves the door open for walk-on rookie from Arkansas – Richard Smith – to get some major playing time. He has out performed NFLE standout Chris Horn and draftee Sammie Parker both at camp and game day. This will also allow rookie Kris Wilson to play a role similar to Mikhael Ricks in 2001 – as Tony G's running mate. Still a huge question mark is back up O line. Jordan Black has the inside track on the outside spot – he even played LT for Willie Roaf with the #1s. Chris Bober was a free-agent pick up in the off-season. His play has been merely adequate, but he likely gets the nod because he can play all five line positions and he has game experience, including two years starting for the Giants.

Defense – Granted the number one D unit was playing a sad Cleveland offense. The Browns had eight false start penalties if that's any indication of their disarray. I know Arrowhead is famous for being so loud other teams can't hear the signal call, but this was a sparsely attended pre-season game. Still, credit where due, the KC defense lined up without more than half their starters. Vonnie Holliday, Mike Maslowski, Kawika Mitchell, Greg Wesley, Jerome Woods and Dexter McCleon were all sidelined. Despite the special-bus guys giving Cleveland great field position – starting four drives on KC's half of the field – the Brownies only hung one score on the board in the first half. The bug-a-boo of long runs from scrimmage bit KC again. A couple of big breaks by

William Green and Lee Suggs – one around left end and one right between the tackles caught KC napping. The Green run around end had preseason phenom Jared Allen out of position. The Suggs run up the gut caught Scott Fujita asleep. In both cases it appeared William Bartee had the assignment for run support on that side and badly misplayed it. Crispy seems to have found a new way to irritate Chiefs fans – blown coverage on running plays! Overall Jared Allen had a good game, as did third year DT Ryan Sims – who established himself as a fixture in the Browns' backfield. Another guy with a solid performance was safety Willie Pile.

Special Teams – The Specials need some remedial work this week. Even though the kick cover units started well by blocking a field goal attempt in the first quarter – overall the coverage was not very good. They allowed two big runbacks – one negated on a ticky-tacky penalty. The punting was dreadful enough to cause Vermeil in the news conference after the game to say that he has about run out of patience with Jason Baker. Lawrence Tynes could have cemented his job except that he doinked a 48-yard FG attempt off the left upright. His kickoffs are solid. Morten Anderson never saw the field. Dante Hall was the non-Factor. They seem to be saving him for work in the offense since the WR corps is running out of warm bodies.

My AFC West predictions will begin at the start of the regular season.

Throw Him A Bone Award –

This week the bone is chucked in the general direction of backup safety Willie Pile. He had a nice day overall. OK, a holding penalty on a fair catch was pretty stupid, but his play filling in for the injured pro-bowler Jerome Woods was very solid.

The Doggity Dog –

The Dog goes to the historically most prolific recipient of this prestigious award – William “Crispy” Bartee. He was beaten by mediocre receivers on several plays and was out of position even in the running game. After seeing Julian Battle play, I guess I know why he still has a job, but maybe not.

Next week –

Headed to Texas Stadium to play the Tuna's Cowgirls on Thursday night.

First round of cuts this week. The Dog predicts some pretty big names may be on the block either this cut or next. Among those I wouldn't be surprised to see gone include Johnnie Morton and Vonnie Holliday. Morton may be salvaged by the fact that he has five years left on his deal and the cap ramifications could be prohibitive. If they don't cut him – look for him to show up on the IR list. Also gone will be Darnell Alford and possibly Julian Battle. WR Dave Klemic – who has the world's most interesting summer job – football fantasy camp – will be let go after three games of keeping the exercise bike warm. This camp's feel good stories like John Booth – former Mid America Nazarene QB and Shawnee Mission Northwest's O-lineman Ryan Lilja may not make the final cut either.

Again props to the Blowfish family and Mom & Pops for the seats. Also to Ms Vickie for the two spares so everyone could go!

Expect the full playbook Doggity Report to resume when the regular games start.

Your faithful scribe,
Mr. Doggity