

The Doggity Chiefs Report

Week 2 – Chiefs vs Steelers at The Head. Score: KC 41 – Pitt 20

Check out the Doggity Report again this season at www.georgeblowfish.com! You can also follow the Royals slow circling of the drain over the next few weeks – fun for the whole family!

Overview – Two weeks, two blowouts of pretty good teams and two games where the D stepped up to the level of the O. I'm good with that. Let's face it, about five minutes into this thing you were thinking – this looks familiar, I wonder what's on HGTV? After Trent threw a pick-6 TD to Steeler safety Chad Scott, and then Maddox backed it up with a bomb that nearly got Eric Warfield his "Toasty" moniker back, this game had all the markings of a three-touchdown rout. Oh, I guess it was. Thank little Dante Hall, who suddenly remembered what he's supposed to do when a ball falls out of the sky at him. Nice attempted trip, er, tackle by kicker Jeff Reed (an Olathe native – freaking Johnson County kids). Trent never looked great in this game, but then we have Priest, who had an off day with 122 yards rushing and three TDs.

Offense – Two picks to one TD toss to our guys and one to the other guys, 15 of 21 for 125 and a rating of 62.7 is not good enough out of your QB. Sorry. If Trent plays that way most weeks, we lose. He can't count on the D and the Specials to score for him every game. Leave it to the Dog to tinkle on your Teva's, but that's what dogs do. Priest keeps spinning the fantasy football stats. He claims to like running on the 3-4 because he feels he can out run and out corner anybody's linebackers. If you can do that, the 3-4 opens an additional lane. We get two more of those the next two weeks – one of them – Baltimore is as nasty as the Steelers. Kennison and Morton each caught four balls for just over 40-yards each. Johnnie Morton seems to like his move back to his old slot. He is no longer seen modeling on local milk cartons. Tony Gonzales has replaced Morton under the "Have you seen me" sign with another two-grab outing, this time for only 8 yards. In fairness, this is a very good defense these guys lined up against on Sunday.

Defense – Speaking of good defenses. Yikes! I can't believe I just said that. I can't get over it – even when its effective this defense makes me nuts. Tommy Maddox posted 336 yards through the sky. Both Burress and Ward had 100-yard games. I watched in horror as Warfield got roasted on that 50-yard rocket during the first drive. At least twice he broke off his guy in cover-two and let a Steeler wide-out run all alone down the sideline. Thankfully Sims and Browning were in Tommy's facemask, or it would have been an easy 6. But then Warfield comes back with a couple of nice plays – one in the end zone that likely saved a touchdown. I guess the thing that really aggravates me is that no one has stepped up and played badly enough yet to earn a sarcastic nickname. The truth is, we may have one of the best defensive lines in the NFL right now. Ryan Sims has been a stud – working on being worthy of a high first round pick. When a reporter asked him about the line play, he responded that every offensive line they face is a downgrade from the one they see every day in practice. Good point. He said to the reporter, "You guys act like Pittsburgh's inside line is as good as Casey, Shields and Waters – and they ain't." Indeed they ain't. Jerome Wood's return has been triumphant – with a TD and superb play, but the guy who gets missed in all of this is the other guy in the middle back there, Greg Wesley. Wesley has quietly become the team leader in tackles with – count 'em – NINE solos against the Steelers. That makes Oh Dexter McCleon and Slightly Singed Warfield look much better. Shawn Barber saved a score with his pick in the end zone; even Eric got an INT off a carom in the second half.

Special Teams – Dante may have been the difference in the game – so that stuff I said last week about letting Larry play – forget that. Of course the 100-yard kickoff return helped rescue old Mo & bring him back to the south sideline. The 45-yard punt return in the third quarter came at a critical moment in the game and may have been nearly as important. Baker continues to do a credible job on punts and I love his kickoffs. Nearly every one reaches the goal line. It is easy to take the special-teams line play and Morten Andersen for granted until you see what happened to former K-Stater Martin Grammatica in the World Champion Buc's home loss to the lowly Panthers. Three

kicks blocked, including a PAT. By the way, someone should tell the Carolina guys that a blocked PAT is a dead ball.

AFC West – Here were the week 1 results in the AFC West, ranked by my pre-season predictions.

#1 Kansas City Chiefs – They all said Pittsburgh would offer a real test of this team. Consider the test passed.

#2 Denver Donkeys – Jake had his bell rung, Portis got cracked up and the lousy donkeys still slapped the Bolts.

#3 San Diego Lightning Bolts – 0 and 2 is now way to start a season, son. U-G-L-Y they ain't got no alibi.

#4 East Bay Convicts – How does the AFC Champ almost get beat at home by the Bungles? Would all doubters that Callahan rode Chuckie's team to the title match last year please step forward. I didn't think so.

Throw Him A Bone Award –

So many good efforts stand out that the Dog may need to get out a whole bag of bones. The Jumbone this week will be thrown to little Dante who single-handedly willed us back into this game – and then presented the team's other little guy – Tony DiPardo with the ball. Class. Hall becomes the first KC return guy to bring back a kickoff from the goal line since Noland "Super Gnat" Smith donned his #1 jersey in the late 60's. Not even Tamarick "It's not my car, officer" Vanover accomplished that fleet feet feat.

The Doggity Dog –

Several players vied for this week's dog and then redeemed themselves. In the final analysis, it goes for the second consecutive week to the signal caller, Trent Green who accounted for one TD for each team and a paltry rating. Sorry Trent.

NEW FEATURE!

Tailgate Recipe of the Week –

Waterman's Wonderful Spinach-Artichoke dip. Submitted by fellow award-winning scribe – Lisa Waterman Gray.

Ingredients:

1 stick of butter (you gotta love it already)

1 medium sweet onion, chopped

2 packages of frozen spinach – thawed and thoroughly drained (very important to get the water out)

1 14oz can of marinated artichoke hearts, drained and finely chopped

1 8oz package of cream cheese

1 8oz package of sour cream

1 cup shredded Monterey Jack cheese (pepper Jack is an interesting sub)

1 cup grated Parmesan cheese

2 tbsp Tabasco (it just gets better)

Salt to taste

Melt the butter in a large saucepan or skillet then add the onion and cook until tender. Stir in the rest of the ingredients – reserving ¼ of both cheeses. Heat through and spoon into a casserole dish and top with the rest of the cheese. Bake in a 350°F oven for about 10-minutes or until browned. Serve with chips, crackers or toast.

Send your recipes to the Dog, by e-mail or fax them to 913-831-1307.

Next week –

KC hits the road to take on the team that took on their old name – the Texans in America’s most polluted city, Houston.

Your faithful scribe,
Mr. Doggity