

The Doggity Chiefs Report

Week 4 – Chiefs vs Blackbirds at ACS* Field at Camden Yards Score: KC 17 – Bal 10

(*ACS = Anonymous Corporate Sponsor – The Dog is refusing to play along with the greedy prostitution called stadium naming rights. Just think of those classics like Enron Field in Houston and Adelphia Stadium in Nashville. Sorry – I will not participate.)

The Doggity Report is brought to you in living color by www.georgeblowfish.com!

Overview – Hey, a game with an actual fourth quarter! Any time you get a W on the road in the NFL, you'll take it. Especially given this team's recent history. The Chiefs have already matched their road victories total from 2002. And, let's face it – they shouldn't have won that Cleveland game last year. Forget all the pre-game hype about #31 vs #31 – Priest returns to face the team that seduced and abandoned him – and all that other generally meaningless pabulum. This was not about either feature back. It was about the fat boys up front on both sides for both teams. It was about field position, turnovers, special teams play and controlling the line of scrimmage. But that crap won't sell beer ads on Sports Center. Last week was the complete team victory; this week had plenty to complain about from all three phases. The offense served up its most offensive performance of the year – but give some credit to a very good Baltimore D. Priest couldn't do much, but they all did enough and Green only threw to our guys for the first time this season. The D held Jamal in check for a half, but got run over later. They compensated by getting the INTs when they needed them. The special teams gave up a blocked punt, but had a TD and recovered a fumble on a return. If every team needs to steal one every now and then – Carl was seen pocketing the silverware in this one.

Offense – I remember this Raven team winning the Superbowl with a QB named Trent who did just enough and didn't lose games for them. That guy was Dilfer, and his thanks? He got fired, landed with Seattle and was replaced by Elvis Grbac. Talk about salt in the wound. Elvis proudly proclaimed during his first press conference in Baltimore that he would take the World Champs to a "new level". He certainly did. Then he left the building. Our Trent is not terribly unlike their Trent, except ours did the replacing when it came to Elvis Grbac and will not likely go anywhere soon. So get used to 17 of 28 for 159 and 88.0 rating. The best thing was the one TD and no picks. Finally Gonzo got off the schneid and grabbed one in the paint. How did Gonzales get that wide open? Everyone on the Eastern Seaboard bit on the play-action fake up the gut to Priest. Johnnie Morton had a very nice little day – with 5 catches and a 36-yard reverse, he posted over 100 yards in total offense. Holmes had an "off" day with "only" 26 touches and 103 total yards. Headline news – Priest didn't score for the first time this year. Still, I question the overall play calling and effort. I know this is a good defense, and we were in a hostile environ, but still. Please – that late fourth quarter debacle after we revered the fumbled punt return was the worst. A "what the hell was that" screen pass followed by a reverse blown up in the backfield on successive plays when we had just gotten a turnover and needed first down to run out the clock. I figured we could trust our All Pro back and line to move the ball forward at least.

Defense – Don't let Jamal Lewis beat you, make the rookie throw the ball. It was a well-chosen mantra. For the most part it worked. Jamal got his licks in late in the game, but for the entire first half, Lewis was Claude Raines (Mr. Raines played the Invisible Man in a movie years ago for you younger readers). Every time little Kyle Boller went deep it landed on a red guy. Oh! Dexter! had two picks – one on our five-yard-line and the other in the end zone negating probable points. Can anyone other than William Barteel's mother honestly think he will ever start for this team again? Sorry Crispy, you're toast. I love my boy Ken-L-Ration Truluck, you faithful know that – but what was he doing shoving Boller out of bounds after he had already thrown the ball away? It kept them on life support when they should have been unplugged. My boy Wesley had another pick. Once again we faced a baby QB and failed to put the heat on him. The D nabbed one sack when Gary Stills went bowling for Boller. Otherwise he was relatively un-accosted. Overall, if you can walk out of a game in their house, having only given up 10 points and holding the opposing QB to a 33.0 passer rating, you had a good day at the office.

Special Teams – Dante, Dante, Dante. This is getting stupid. Why do teams continue to kick to this guy? Baltimore has great coverage units – as witnessed by the minus 4-yard punt return average for the game. But he only needs one free chance. That came in the form of an 85-yard offsides penalty that forced a replay on a kickoff. The first attempt was stopped on the KC 15. The re-kick went to the house. Marc Boerigter came up with a “lookie here what I found” fumble recovery in the fourth quarter. All was not peachy for the Special kids, however. A first half blocked punt deep in KC real estate led directly to Baltimore points, and again the blocking on punts and kicks was generally poor.

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

- #1 Kansas City Chiefs – Won a close one, but in this league there are no ugly road wins.
- #2 Denver Donkeys – Nearly got spanked at home by Detroit, after manhandling the Convicts.
- #3 San Diego Lightning Bolts – No, I mean they really, really suck. Lost to the Convicts in OT.
- #4 East Bay Convicts – Managed to recover from three scores down to beat the Bolts in OT.

Throw Him A Bone Award –

There is no other, there is only Dante. The micro-blender scrambled the vaunted Raven coverage units for his third consecutive week with a score. Little man, you are going to run out of relatives and short people to give these balls to. This bone’s for you!

The Doggity Dog –

Something I have not done yet is to grab Offensive Coordinator Al Saunders by the scruff and rub his nose in the Doggity Dog. That play calling in the final frame would have cost us the game against any team in the NFL with an actual passer or receivers. Whatever that was you trying to do – don’t. Not ever again.

NEW FEATURE!

Tailgate Recipe of the Week –

The divine Mrs. D’s celebrated black cherry Jell-O comes from her Norwegian ancestry. It is well documented that all Scandinavian Lutheran housewives teach their female offspring at a very tender age that Jell-O and canned cream of mushroom soup are staples required for nearly all recipes. This stuff is so good I ask for it on my birthday instead of a cake.

Ingredients:

- 1 Large box of Black Cherry flavored Jell-O
- 2 bags of frozen pie cherries – thawed
- 1 can of Pineapple – chunked or tidbits

Dissolve Jell-O in 2 cups hot water (near boiling). Drain liquid from thawed cherries into measuring cup and add liquid from pineapple. Use this to replace 2 cups cold water in the Jell-O instructions. Pour into Pyrex or mold and cool in the refrigerator. Once the mixture is just cool, add the cherries and pineapple pieces. Refrigerate until set.

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

Next week –

Back to the Head against the Snake and the Donkeys – strap it on kids; this should be fun!

Your faithful scribe,
Mr. Doggity