

The Doggity Chiefs Report
Preseason 2 – Next week it matters.

The Dog's buddy Kev says there are four seasons – Preseason, Regular Season, Post Season and Off Season. Well the long-hot fire of August got a nasty dousing over Labor Day weekend and that can only mean it's time to do it for real. Be sure to follow the Doggity Report this season at www.georgeblowfish.com! Turn on new dog fans and send me their e-mail addresses so we can add them to our growing legion of a dozen or so avid fans.

Overview – All in all it is good to be a Chiefs fan so far this off-season. I cannot help but think that, as I sit here and watch the Jets wheel out a geriatric QB to run Paul Can't Hackett's brilliant game plan. I watch Vinny throw his 17th 7-yard pass on third and nine and I conjure up memories of Steve Bono running the same playbook. I know, I know, at least we had a defense then. But, hey our 53 is in the bank and there are no former Denver Donkeys on our defense. I lit a few candles over that one. Priest Holmes has a justly deserved new deal and the only serious injury from the preseason was Carl Peterson's dislocated shoulder from patting himself on the back during the post-Priest contract extension press conference. Wow, King Carl has now signed two guys in a row without a protracted, nasty media-feeding-frenzy embarrassment of a negotiation. That has to be a new record.

Offense – What's not to love? Holmes is healthy; Blaylock and Johnson have shown signs they can get the job done in relief. Trent looks like he hasn't skipped a beat and Collins finally looks like he has grown into his supporter. The wide-outs are set, T-Rich and Omar Easy are solid, and we slid Joe Hall through waivers to put him on the developmental squad. Tony G is actually blocking and not whining about getting held. Sorry, it would be un-dog-like to blow rose petals up your skirt. Someone has to whiz in the Wheaties, and I'm just the canine for that gig. The O line is the best in the biz one through five, but the only credible backup is Marcus Spears. After that, we're scrounging through dumpsters looking for fat boys. Let's face it, Trent and Todd, Priest, Derrick, Larry, Johnnie, Eddie, Dante, Marc, Tony, Tony and Omar all looked great for the same reason – the lard butts up front. They ARE this offense and we should not kid ourselves into thinking we'll be OK if Brett Williams or Jordan Black is taking snaps with the #1's. Unfortunately, this is the nature of the modern NFL. You gotta feel pretty good about the rest of this unit.

Defense – Will they really be better? Well that's a pretty easy call. They get to play the NFC North this year, so they can't be 32nd again, right? Even Greg "Dr. Evil" Robinson can design a game plan for the Lions and Bears. Actually the front four look like probably a top-10 group. I like Truluck on passing downs as long as Dr. Evil doesn't drop him into pass coverage like he did with Eric Hicks last year. The linebackers are much better with the addition of Barber and Kawika Mitchell along with the re-assignment of Monte Beisel. I even think Fred Jones is a pretty good pick up. Then there is the secondary. Do I have to? OK. The safeties look pretty good with Jerome Woods back, Greg Wesley and Shaunard Harts, but dear god those corners. William Bartee is fortunately injured. Hopefully he will remain that way. Eric Warfield actually looked a little tiny bit better during preseason. Let's see how he handles David Boston on Sunday. All I can say about Dexter McCleon is that a friend from St. Louis told me that a bunch of fans in one end zone used to bring signs to the Rams games that just said "Oh Dexter" for every time he got roasted. Let's hope I am not compelled to invent a new incendiary moniker for Dex. The real problem with this D continues to roam the sideline. Perhaps Dicky V can sit on Dr. Evil and this unit can weasel its way up to the 25th percentile or better. If that happens, we have a fighting chance.

Special Teams – I still hate the undisciplined, sloppy tackling (is that what you call it?) on the coverage units. The big Q though is punter. Jason Baker had a decent preseason, but I remember the last kicker named Baker we hired. Can you say, "four kickoffs out of bounds in one game?" It looks like Dante has help in Larry Johnson. We kept Lyle "Holding, number 30, receiving team. Half the distance to the goal." West. Must have been the "looky here what I

found" interception he had land in his lap during the preseason. I must say it was interesting to watch the Jets/Skins game and see Bryan Barker and Dan Stryzinski punting. Punters – the world's oldest profession.

Here are my predictions for this season in the AFC West. I missed it by two time zones last year, but I was still closer than Sporting News. Anyway, I will set them in stone here and live with the consequences.

- #1 Kansas City Chiefs – Without any doubt, the most talented team in the division. Does that make them win – we'll see.
- #2 Denver Donkeys – Jake Plummer can make you think Warfield and Bartee are Albert Lewis and Kevin Ross, but if their line stays healthy, they should be good on the ground
- #3 San Diego Lightning Bolts – They have some serious growing up to do in that D. I figure it will take them a year to get really good, but they are a team headed up
- #4 East Bay Convicts – Older, slower and hearing the creaking sound of that proverbial window closing. They looked flat terrible in the preseason – heck Quincy Carter and the Cowgirls hung 52 points on them.

Throw Him A Bone Award –

King Carl gets his first and likely only bone for getting deals done and keeping the locker room free from distractions. Let's face it, that is his job, but he gets one for finally doing the right thing.

The Doggity Dog –

The off-season dog also goes to King Carl who raised ticket prices and parking again while saying that he couldn't see paying Priest more money until he proves himself this year. Hey Carl, we can't see paying you any more until you prove yourself once!

Next week –

The Bolts on Sunday. Bring on Marty and the Brees. It has changed seasons!

At the suggestion of our pal Recktoes, wife of our pal Rev Dr Bob, we will start next week with the tailgate recipe of the week. If you have a fave you wish to submit, send it our way. We'll mix it up in the ol' dog dish and see if it makes the grade. If your recipe makes the Doggity report, you'll win the unyielding admiration of our dozens of loyal readers.

Your faithful scribe,
Mr. Doggity