

The Doggity Chiefs Report  
Week 10  
Chiefs vs Powerpuffs

Overview – Zzzzzzzzzzz, huh, oh, do we have the ball back yet? Sorry, you caught the Dog napping. I was curled up by the fire; right next to Back Judge Bill Schmitz. The NFL rulebook says that after the snap, the Back Judge, “Keys on tight end, concentrates on his path and observes legality of tight end’s potential block(s) or of actions taken against him.” If Schmitz was actually doing his job, he must have put his entire 401k on the “under.” He flagged Gonzalez and Dunn for holding calls that wiped out big gains by Priest. The replays were not kind to his view of those penalties. On the other hand, SF linebacker Julian Peterson was pawing at Tony G like a co-ed in a Berkeley nightclub. Schmitz response after the game was, “Yeah, I saw it, but Trent wasn’t throwing that way.” Duh! Maybe that’s because Tony couldn’t get open? Did you ever think of that, Mr. Stripe-guy? Enough about the zebras. They didn’t lose this game. The offense appeared to think that the week after a bye you only have to play 30 minutes. The defense, on the other hand thought the game was ninety minutes long, so they didn’t really need to worry about time of possession.

Offense – What was Al Saunders thinking? Priest had only 11 carries and two catches. Eddie Kennison had a nice day with eight for a buck-34. When we really needed a circus catch by Eddie, he dropped it. That’s nice; we got a wide out involved. We did it at the expense of winning. Does that remind you of the Raiders’ attempt two weeks ago to get Tim Brown the ball? We could expect Mariucci to know how to handle Gonzo, since he coached him in college. The real reason Steve will be rubbing that rosary this morning – he didn’t have to even mount an effort to stop the most powerful offensive weapon in the NFL. The Chiefs did it for him. The truth is we did only have the ball less than 21 ½ of the game’s 60 minutes, but we had it enough in the fourth quarter to win. We even had the ball at the two-minute warning with a timeout left, down by four. NFL offenses drill that drive every freaking week of their lives. The offense didn’t get the job done.

Defense – Once again, everyone is singing the praises of the “heroic effort” by the D to keep us in the game. Yeah, yeah, yeah. What will a “bend-but-don’t-break” defense do for you, even when it is working well? How about the opponent keeping the ball out of your offense’s hands? The 9ers had the ball for nearly 39 minutes – two thirds of the game clock! I hate this scheme. Even on it’s good days it is infuriating to watch. The good news is the players are playing better. William and Eric had another decent game. Eric collected a pick in the end zone at the end of the first half that would have put SF up by 14. Collectively, the secondary neutered the powerful 9er passing game. Warfield kept Terrell’s Sharpie in his sock all day, holding him to just 51 yards and no TD’s. The entire team only collected 175 yards passing – about half what this defense was allowing earlier in the year. The line got banged up a little, but still registered a couple of sacks. Maslowski came off his “player of the week” gig to have another nice game, eight tackles and two assists. Old Ray Crockett got a sack. You could hear his knees creaking as he and his walker blasted around end, yelling, “Wait up Jeff!”

Special Teams – I thought going into this game that our superior special teams might make the difference in this game. They were superior. It did not make a difference. MA was perfect and their guy Cortez blew a make-able 46-yarder. Dante had a couple of nice returns, bringing one back to midfield, leading to the only KC TD. Stryzinski has had a nice career, but not this year. He shanked a 25-yarder that should have led to SF points at the end of the first half, except for Warfield’s end zone INT. An opportunity to bury them deep – Dan’s alleged specialty – went harmlessly into the end zone on the first drive of the second half.

The AFC West (in order of my preseason predictions) –

#1 (6-3) San Diego Chargers – Managed to snatch defeat from the jaws of victory against the St. Louis Ewes.

#2 (4-5) KC Chiefs – Does Priest Holmes still work here?

#3 (6-2) Denver Broncos – Host MNF against the Convicts

#4 (4-4) East Bay Convicts – Squiggy and his motley losers schlep into Denver on MNF.

Throw Him A Bone Award –

The boner goes to – I can't even believe I'm doing this – Eric Warfield. WHAT?!!! Yes, that Eric Warfield. He was asked to cover the most dangerous receiver in football, and he shut him down. Maybe it was SF's game plan, maybe it was dumb luck, but Terrell Owens was poised to have 400 yards and 5 TD's, but he did not. Eric's pick at the end of the first half single-handedly kept KC in this game. Warfield can get out his Sharpie and sign this bone.

The Doggity Dog –

Al Saunders gets to sit in the doghouse this week and think about it. Hey, Al, you ever heard that you should dance with the one that brung ya? It is absolutely inexcusable to be in a game this tight and give Priest only 13 total touches. Now that Al has gotten his TWO buy weeks behind him, can we get back on track?

Next week back to the Head against our doppelganger – the Bills. This could be the most exciting game in the history of the NFL, or one of the worst.

Your faithful scribe,  
Mr. Doggity