

The Doggity Chiefs Report

Preseason 1 – There will be another one at the end of Preseason. Don't expect one every week until it counts – sheesh!

***Oh Lord, he's baaaack! It is indeed that time of the year again when the Mr. Doggity comes in out of the sprinkler and turns his muzzle toward football. To the new Dog lovers – we are happy to announce that the ageless Mr. Blowfish has picked us up for another year. You can show your friends, amuse pets and frighten children again this season at [www.georgeblowfish.com](http://www.georgeblowfish.com)! While you're there, you will enjoy new features including the Blowfish Royals calendar! For a trip down memory dirt road, be sure to visit the Good Guys, Hall of Shame and Odds and Ends – No, I'm not playing the Quiz with Michael Feldman. These are real Chiefs McNuggets on the Blowfish website. Drop a line while you're there. The Illustrious Potentate himself will gladly answer and then post your hate mail.***

Overview – If it's all the same to you, I don't plan to talk much about the mess on Monday. From all we hear this camp is better than the last one. Well that's a relief. For one thing our first round pick is in camp on time. What is that now, one year in a row? By the way, the last time the Royals were in first place in July AND the Chiefs had their #1 in under the wire was 1992! That pick, by the way was Dale Carter, who at age 87 is likely still a better cover corner than William Barteel. Priest looks pretty good so far, but he keeps complaining that he is feeling a little something wrong in his hip pocket. The D lost several stellar regulars from last year's Doggity Reports. Glenn "Mini Me" Cadrez, Ray "Alter" Crockett, Lew "Shrub" Bush and Duane "Speed bump" Clemons are all selling insurance this semester. Michael "Not Mike" Cloud was seen at the Hall of Fame inductions asking Marcus Allen for an interview at his Ford dealership. Speaking of HOF inductions, raise your hands if you noticed that Marcus thanked everyone in the free world EXCEPT his wife. Otherwise a moving speech. The real hero was Henry Stram – who although at 80, mostly matriculates all over himself now, is still the "Mentor." It seems to me that the Hall kept him out this long just because in his prime, his speech might have taken two days. Why did it take 25 years? Probably the same reason Otis Taylor is not in – (whiny small market paranoia warning) because they were in Kansas City. Weeb Ewbank was a first ballot induction with a worse record than Stram, and Weeb only won one stinkin' championship – Stram had three! But Weeb coached in New York. OK, OK enough already.

Offense – Of course we are all anxiously awaiting confirmation that Priest Holmes is going to be fairly compensated. Well, at least his agent is. Nothing needs to be said about this group's potential. The big concern that seems buried in the Priest press is the shallow offensive line. The five #1's are the best in the game, but I'm not sure we have a back up at Tackle who could stop one of my kids from getting to the QB. If that fiasco on Monday was any indication, we should all keep Willie the Loaf and the Big Mormon in our prayers. Willie Jones, who got a backboard ride Monday to Canton General, will need that work comp check, because he won't be getting paid for his work on Sundays. The only way Wide Willie could slow down a defensive end is to make him run all the way around his waistline. Trent and Todd both wore Jones' man about every other play. While it's nice to hear that Willie Jones will be OK, Mr. Blowfish thought from the beginning that this was like the lay-down Harvey Williams did after three fumbles in a game a few years ago. Along the lines of Rodney Dangerfield's "broken arm" in Caddy Shack. Marc Boerigter continues to impress. There are only two reasons for Johnnie Morton starting ahead of this guy 1) Johnnie is paid way too much to ride the pine, and 2) Johnnie is much prettier. I like Omar Easy and you really have to think someone, if not KC will start the season with Joe Hall on their roster. How can you not love a 311-pound fullback who can out run most linebackers and has soft hands?

Defense – Much of the dead wood was culled from this infested elm tree during the off-season. The only thing they missed was the disease itself, D-coordinator Greg Robinson. As last year's Dog readers recall, he earned the moniker "Dr. Evil" for insidiously complicated and incomprehensible schemes. You remember – dropping Eric Hicks into coverage on third and

long? Asking Bartee and Warfield to play cover two? The list goes on. Robinson has never had a top-ten defense in all of his years of coaching. However, I will eschew the name-calling until the season starts. Crispy and Toasty will have to earn their handles once we go live. So far, Warfield actually appears to have improved some. Dexter McCleon will eventually start on the other side – mark my words. Shawn Barber and Vonnie Holliday are significant upgrades over Bush and Clemons. I like Monte Beisel at linebacker. They should have done that in the first place. The one guy who did not disappoint last year, and is starting off like his pants are on fire again is Greg Wesley. I love this kid. With his running mate Jerome Woods back, he may have a break out season. The real question on the minds of the Dog's readers – now that Cadrez is gone, who will Robinson have carrying his books this year?

Special Teams – Dante should be good to go. Morten is still money. Did you see him nail one 51-yarder and barely doink another? The problem will be punting. Baker has the early lead and he can kickoff. Remember the last kickoff specialist named Baker we signed? Something to think about. The one thing that could hold back our special teams is Lyle West. He has more holding penalties than Mark Chumura at the senior prom. Lyle grabbed a pick on Monday night while pretending to be a safety. He must have confused it for a punt team flyer.

It is way too early to make my AFC West predictions final, but here goes the first draft –

- #1 Kansas City Griefs – best all around talent. If they don't win it will be their own fault.
- #2 San Diego Lightning Bolts – I love what Marty has done with this team – they may actually have the best back in the division.
- #3 East Bay Convicts – Older, slower and hearing the creaking sound of that proverbial window closing.
- #4 Denver Donkeys – Jake Plummer can make you think Warfield and Bartee are Albert Lewis and Kevin Ross.

Throw Him A Bone Award –

Let's hope a few guys can challenge Priest Holmes for the boners this season. My early favorite is R-Kal "Ken-L-Ration" Truluck. His name means "Ruler of the canned dog food" or something like that.

The Doggity Dog –

Let's hope we can get through a couple of consecutive weeks without giving it to someone in the secondary.

Next week –

We have a couple of non-descript preseason games against vanilla opponents and then we play for the big enchilada – Bob Holden's cup – Not that one (I hope).

Finally, I will be back at the end of the month with a camp wrap and season preview. I know you are on the edge of your seats.

Your faithful scribe,  
Mr. Doggity