

The Doggity Chiefs Report

Week 13 – Chiefs vs Dolts at the Q – Score: KC 28 – SD 24

The Doggity Report lines the birdcage at www.georgeblowfish.com!

Overview – I hate to see it, but it is hanging out there for all the world to view. This team plays down to its competition. Granted, the Chargers had plenty of incentive to be the “next Bengals” and bump off the once-defeated Chiefs. Marty’s job is on the line, as are the jobs of several players. There are worse places to spend your fall and winter than San Diego, and a lot of players don’t mind it one bit. Some may find themselves in Cleveland or Detroit if they don’t straighten up. All that said the Chargers are really, really bad. They have no offensive line – four starters out with injuries. They have one credible receiver. They have a very inexperienced defense that misses Junior Seau and Rodney Harrison – arguably the souls of this unit. They have quit on their coach and no longer buy in to the Marty-ball philosophy. So why was this game even close? Three reasons – The offense showed no killer instinct. When given the chance to blow it open, they choked. The defense can’t contain a mobile quarterback and can’t tackle. But the biggest reason – the specials were dreadful. One can only hope for home field. I can’t imagine these guys in Nashville for the playoffs. Did that sound like we lost? Sorry. They won. Actually they are still the best team in football and sealed a four game division lead with only four to play. That means a virtual playoff lock.

Offense – In deference to my old buddy, Gary, I promised to be more open-minded. He feels I expect too much from the D and too little from the offense. At least we agree on special teams! To that end, being a reasonable canine, I am disappointed in the play of the offense – yes I know they scored 28-points – which is still a touchdown better than the league average. But, they are allegedly too gifted to drop as many passes as they did Sunday. Kennison can’t catch a cold, and Morton is only marginally better. They still weren’t as bad as the Dolts wide outs, but we should hope they are better than the stinky Chargers. Trent had a very below average day. Starting inauspiciously with a pick on his first play, he went on to ruin KC’s perfect Red Zone record. By throwing the second INT to Quentin Jammer, Green kept the Chiefs from scoring from inside the opponent’s 20 for the first time all year. Hey! Larry Johnson had a 6-yard-per-carry average! One carry – six yards. Thank goodness for Gonzo and Priest. Tony only had four grabs for 20 yards, but half of them were in the end zone. Priest was better than his usual merely unbelievable. Holmes had 162 yards rushing and two TDs (officially). The replay clearly showed he actually had 163 yards and 3 scores, but was ruled down at the one by Tom Fincken (aka - the side judge with the white cane and dog). It is now time for the National press to start talking about this guy in the same sentence as Marcus Allen and Marshall Faulk. He is a touchdown machine.

Defense – In honor of my promise to Gary, this week I will not mention how much I hate this defensive scheme. Instead, I will only say that, if I were coordinator of this unit, I would spend a little extra time this week in tackling drills. It is probably unfair to assume that professional athletes, paid millions of dollars to work about half a year should be held to a high standard of performance. In truth, two of the faves of the dog had a good day. Both Oh! Dexter! and Greg Wesley had circus-act interceptions. Wesley is, thus far, the MVP of the KC defense this year. He is the best tackler on the team, and he has a nose for the ball. Fujita is starting to make a name for himself. Barber and Holliday had better games, and Gary Stills came up with a “lookie what I found” fumble recovery on a bad snap that really allowed KC to ice the game. Mitchell and Beisel subbing for Maz had a tough day at the office trying to contain Flutie. They call this a “single gap” or “one gap” base defense. Judging by the past couple of games, that gap is getting wider. Oh, sorry, I promised I wouldn’t say that!

Special Teams – The special bus hit an all-time low yesterday. Baker had one good punt, but on average both his punts and kickoffs were short, low and returnable. Leon Johnson made them pay with two huge returns. The tackling was nearly non-existent. When they did get Leon Johnson on the ground, Larry Johnson was called for hitting him late – hey, the way I see, it better late than never! Dante was contained most of the day, but did spring one back to midfield.

On a couple of occasions, the Dolts' normally deadly punter, Bennett shanked it to keep it out of Dante's hands. Thankfully, SD kicker Jeff Christie had one kick tipped by Eric Downing and one he just squibbed. Otherwise the final play TD would have mattered.

AFC West – Here were the week's results in the AFC West:

#1 Kansas City Chiefs – Slipped past the Dolts into no worse than a tie for first.

#2 Denver Donkeys – Were on the receiving end of another Convict meltdown.

#3 San Diego Lightning Bolts – They played valiantly – just not well.

#4 East Bay Convicts – Callahan called his team “dumb” in the post game press conference. Well stated – coach included.

Throw Him A Bone Award –

Who gets today's bone Watson? Elementary – it goes to Holmes! Priest was the offense. Even when he was robbed of the third TD, he came back and made the play-action work to spring Gonzo. He is the consummate team guy. He keeps his mouth shut and does his talking between the sidelines. What is not to love about this guy?

The Doggity Dog –

This week, the doghouse keys go to Jason Baker. It ain't the weather, Jason! If you can't kick on a cloudless, breezeless, 70-degree San Diego afternoon, you can't kick. This game was only close because of the great field position the Chargers had all day. Bad dog.

Tailgate Recipe of the Week –

Talk about your troopers, Ms Angie, in addition to her work as a paramedic, and offering a home to over 100 foster teenage girls, is a darn good cook. I guess practice makes perfect! This holiday desert should be the hit of your Superbowl festivities:

Pumpkin Crème Torte

Crust:

1 c. graham cracker crumbs
1/3 c. sugar
6 T. butter, melted

Cream Cheese Layer:

1 8 oz. Pkg. Cream cheese
3/4 c. sugar
1 egg, beaten

Pumpkin Filling:

1 16 oz. Can pumpkin
1/2 c. sugar
1 T. cinnamon
1/2 t. salt
3 eggs, separated
1/2 c. milk
3 1/2 t. unflavored gelatin
1/4 c. cold water
1/4 c. sugar
1 c. heavy cream, whipped

Combine cracker crumbs, sugar and butter. Pat into the bottom of a spring-form pan.

Combine softened cream cheese and sugar, mixing until well blended. Add eggs; mix well. Pour over the crust. Bake at 350 degrees for 20 minutes.

Place pumpkin, ½ c. sugar, cinnamon, salt, egg yolks and milk in saucepan. Cook over medium heat until mixture thickens, stirring occasionally. Remove from heat. Soften gelatin in cold water. Add to pumpkin mixture; mix well. Cool. Beat egg whites and ¼ c. sugar until stiff peaks form. Fold into pumpkin mixture. Pour over cream cheese layer in crust. Top with whipped cream; chill.

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

Next week –

Out to ACS Field at Mile High to Doink coach Rat-face and the Donkeys.

Your faithful scribe,
Mr. Doggity