The Doggity Chiefs Report
Week 17 – Chiefs vs Da Bears at the Head – Score: KC 31 – Chi 3

The Doggity Report is available for gift-wrapping at www.georgeblowfish.com!

Overview – Meaningless? How about "cathartic"? Thanks to the lovely Mr and Mrs Blowfish, the Dog got to see the whole thing from the front row! Fresh from holiday festivities at the farm just in time for kickoff, the Dog took Curtis and KR Johnson to "male bond" at the 50-yard-line behind the KC bench. For long-time readers of this witty scribe, you may remember Mr. Johnson as the original impetus for this report. Mr. J is a life-long Chiefs fan who works around the globe. The Doggity was often his only news about the team while working in such remote environs as Midway Island, Indiana and Coffeyville, KS. For a game with no bearing whatsoever on KC's playoff position, against a team playing out the string on another disappointing season, this one was fun! I think a lot of the folks who usually attend were all at Grandma's and gave their tix to folks who were just glad to be there. There was a loud, almost playoff atmosphere. The weather was as close to perfect as it gets in KC in late December. I'm not sure why, but the Chiefs team that started the season finally found their way back to Arrowhead. They played with a little fire in their belly. It could be they were fed-up with the media trashing they have endured since the Cincinnati game. It could be they were playing a lame-duck opponent who run QB-by-committee. Maybe it was the simplification of the defensive scheme, or the desire to get Priest in the record books, or Dick giving them Christmas day off this year. It was likely a little of all of that. For whatever reason, they needed this badly. You don't want to sit out a week in the playoffs licking your wounds from having your butt served up on a platter. Make no mistake. This game was not easy, despite the score. Chicago played hard. Their D was determined to keep Priest out of the endzone, and frankly, almost did. They have fast linebackers, and KC's D could use an in-service on tackling from these guys. Bears coach, Dick Jauron, was masterful as the Jags D coordinator, but as a head coach, he seems to have located his "Peter principle" level. That was probably best exemplified at the end of the first half. After picking off Trent Green, da Bears moved 70 yards in 1:07 to the KC 8. They used their final timeout with 12 seconds on the clock before halftime. That gives you one shot into the endzone. If you make it – touchdown – 14-10, and a whole new game. If you miss it, no big deal, clock stops, and you have 5 or 6 seconds to line up a chip-shot field goal – 14-6 and a one-possession game. If you guessed either of those outcomes, you lose. No, Kordell throws a two-yard pass to Wade who gets tackled inbounds and the clock runs out. Sheesh! How Elvis Bono can you get? That coupled with the whining about the refs. Hey, I was there. The refs missed a lot of calls on both sides. Boerigter scored, but didn't get the call. The pass interference calls, though, were legit. I didn't see any of them that were particularly questionable. Bottom line – Chiefs get some of ol' Mo back headed into the playoffs.

Offense – He will not be seriously considered for NFL MVP. But only Tom Brady of New England deserves it as much as Priest Holmes. They are the only indispensable players on the two teams with the best records in football. That's called MVP. I'll bet neither one gets it. You can have Clinton – belt as big as his mouth – Portis. You can keep Jamal – runs like stink between the 20's – Lewis. I don't even care about LaDanian – does everything but score – Tomlinson. Give me a guy who knows where the paint starts. Marcus Allen only once led the league in rushing yards. But would you rather have Marcus or Clinton Portis in 4th and goal from the 2 with a critical game on the line? That's what I thought. That's why Marcus Allen is enshrined in Canton, and most of these other guys will always have to pay admission. Priest Holmes is more like the Dallas Emmitt Smith, than any back currently in the league, including the Cardinals' Emmitt Smith. As soon as Smith hangs up those ugly red pants in Arizona, he'll be headed to the podium in northern Ohio, as well. Today, the offense was good enough. The truth is, Chicago put eight and nine in the box to stop Holmes. The passing game would have been fairly easy pickin' except for the desire to get Priest the record. In fact the best play in Al Saunders' playbook was called, "throw toward Tillman and let him interfere with the receiver". There was a variation on that play called, "throw toward Azumah and let him interfere with the receiver". By the way, Al, if you call one more of those @#$ hitch passes to a receiver behind the line-of-scrimmage, I will personally come to the booth and tear that page out of your playbook! Congrats to Priest, but also to T-Rich, who

blocked two guys on Holmes' "Gates BBQ Strut" for the score in the second quarter. Congrats also to the O-line, especially Shields and Dunn, who cleaned the landing strip for the record-setting, Marcus-esque dive by Holmes in the third quarter. Finally, congrats to Larry Johnson who did a little "human joystick" impersonation to get into the endzone himself for the first time.

Defense – You have to ask yourself, why haven't they played like this for the past six weeks? They were without Maz in the middle again. They had William Bartee starting at corner. The Bears have a bruising back in Anthony "A-train" Thomas. Marty Booker is a very big and very good receiver. Granted, this is one of the lowest-scoring offenses in the league, and their O coordinator is the Chicago Dr. Evil. Still, they got pressure, we broke up passes, they sacked the QB and they created turnovers. But how, you ask? Simple – which is the operative word. To quote young Ryan Sims, "We simplified things. We ran a pretty basic defense today. Just get after them, beat your guy and make a play." Hmmm. I think some eloquent (and strikingly handsome, if a bit hairy) author of a weekly e-mail newsletter about the Chiefs has been talking about that *for two years*! You see, what makes Dr. Evil, well, evil, is his unwillingness to dump that overly complicated, ridiculously intellectual playbook of his and let these guys make plays! The cerebellum is pretty handy for nuclear physics and neurosurgery, but kind of gets in the way of tasks involving smashing people upside the head. Coaching, it is said, is strictly about preparation and motivation. Most of the second half of this season, the KC defense has been ill prepared and unmotivated. Thus, despite this week's performance, the coordinator must be sacrificed at the end of this season. Congrats to Ken-L-Ration Truluck, who put the ever dangerously mobile Chris Chandler on the ground, on two consecutive plays. Congrats to young Ryan Sims, who played his best game since September. And, as wild as this sounds, congrats to William Bartee, who despite whiffing on a tackle in the backfield and letting the runner loose for an 18-yard gain, lead the team in tackles, played pretty good corner and still did his part on special teams. Oh! Dexter! McCleon, Scott F-scale Fujita Shawn Barber and John Browning all played the best games we've seen out of them since the bye week.

Special Teams – The kicking was solid, including three kickoffs to or beyond the goal line. Morten did everything he was asked to do. I feel bad for Dante. He had one that was close, but he finished the season in a tie for the record. Keep in mind, though that the last guy to get 4 TD's in a season was Rick Upchurch way back in 1976 – in a time when most of the league didn't even have special teams' coaches. Dante had three solid chances to break the record, despite having almost nothing kicked to him since early October. All off-season he'll think about "the one that got away". The Cleveland game at Arrowhead when Gary Stills missed a block on the eight-yard-line as Dante headed for the East endzone on a kickoff return. He still changes the game even when he doesn't touch the ball. KC leads the NFL in kick return yards, punt return yards and starting field position. Some of the field position comes from kickoffs out-of-bounds, and punts shanked in an effort to keep Hall's hands off the pig (in compliance with chapter 11 of the book of Leviticus).

AFC West – Here were the week's results in the AFC West:
#1 Kansas City Chiefs – Finally got their act together in the dress rehearsal game.
#2 Denver Donkeys – Sat everybody on offense and got spanked by the Packers.
#3 San Diego Lightning Bolts – A great day – they punked the Convicts and still have the #1 draft pick – can't beat that!
#4 East Bay Convicts – Hey Callahan – see ya, woudn't wanna be ya!

Throw Him A Bone Award –
Priest! Priest! Priest! A lot of people had good days. Only one set two NFL records, and one all-time franchise record in the single most important stat category – scoring. Place Holmes along side Bonds, Gretzky and Chamberlain as the top scorers in the history of their respective sport. That is, after all, what the game is about.

The Doggity Dog –

Al Saunders could make a case for himself, but this week the rolled-up paper goes upside the noses of da Bears' crybaby cornerbacks, Charles Tillman, Jerry Azumah, and R.W. McQuarters for being sniveling sore-losers. We should ask coach Vermeil what "whine" goes with dog chow.

Tailgate Recipe of the Week –

Without a doubt, the most anticipated recipe of this season is the here-to-for top-secret side-dish for the ages – the coveted UJDBB, created by Mr. Blowfish. For the privileged few who have partaken of this delicacy, you know what I mean. For the rest of you, you can now cross this off your list of things you must do before you 'slip the surly bonds of Earth':*

UJDBB (Uncle Jeff's D!#* Best Beans:

- 4 cans bargain pork & beans (pick out the little pork pieces..icky!)
- 1/2lb BBQ brisket pieces. Roast beef, turkey or ham from your grocer's deli is OK too, but brisket is best.
- 1/3 can of applesauce
- 1/4 of a minced Vidalia onion..soak it in a bowl first to get the extra stink off it…
- 1/3 bottle of Gates BBQ sauce (or use whatever sauce you like except Maull's. I'll KILL YOU if you use this St. Louis crap)
- 1/3rd bottle of Black Sweet Molasses
- 1 small can of Tomato Paste (we'll use this later)
- 4 tablespoons Old Bay
- 4 tablespoons Lea & Perrin Sauce
- Dash of salt & pepper…just because it seems like the right thing to do…
- Enough Tabasco to sober up Glen Campbell

Dice up the roast beef fine. Same with the onion. Throw all the ingredients(except tomato paste) into a crock pot if you have one, or in a pot on the stove at a low temperature. Let it cook for three or four hours. Do something productive with your time while the mixture cooks down. Give it a stir and taste it every now and then to make sure everything is OK. Add aforementioned spices to taste if you like…drink a beer too. When you're about 20 mins from serving, add 1/2 of a small can of tomato paste to thicken up the sauce. Don't over-do it. You don't want to overpower the spices. Have another beer. Serve it up hot!!!

Add a little more Tabasco (just a pinch) if you'd like it to leave a scorch mark on your sofa. Please eat this in conjunction with other foods. Not responsible for spontaneous combustion. Might be a good idea to keep some counter measures handy. You should be explosive in approximately 30 to 45 minutes. Do not use in low-lying areas where fog may develop. Refrigerate any leftover portion. Fire it up later in the Microwave. Yum. If you don't have Gates BBQ Sauce, SHAME ON YOU! You can buy it on the web at www.gatesbbq.com.

BBQ does not hurt. Enjoy UJDBB responsibly.

-Geo Blowfish-

**Sorry Gipper-lovers, that quote was not invented by Ronnie Reagan for the speech after the Challenger disaster. John Gillespie Magee, Jr., a British fighter pilot wrote it in a poem entitled "High Flight" written on the back of letter to his parents on September 3, 1941. Three months later, on December 11, 1941, Magee was killed test-piloting the new Spitfire V in a midair collision with an Oxford Trainer over Tangmere, England. His parents had it published posthumously. A Reagan speech-writer pulled it from that poem.*

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

Next week –

The Chiefs have the week off to watch the poor saps who didn't get a bye week.

Your faithful scribe,

Mr. Doggity