



### **The Doggity Chiefs Report**

AFC Divisional Playoffs – Griefs vs Horseshoes at the Head – Score: KC 31 – Ind 38

***The entire mess is still wasting bandwidth at [www.georgeblowfish.com](http://www.georgeblowfish.com)!***

**Overview** – For there is no joy in Muddville, mighty KC has again struck out. On a Chamber-of-Commerce perfect day, all of the mojo was concentrated to exorcise the Chief's playoff demon. There was an A-10 "Warthog" flyover, Patty DiPardo Livergood sang the Anthem, and there was a ceremonial review of the color guards of each branch of the service. The crowd was as loud as I have ever seen in this house – and that's saying something. Nobody left early and the noise was about the same decibel level in the fourth quarter that it was in the first. This is really getting old. The only real differences between this loss and the previous 13-3, bye week, home playoff game losses are the side of the ball responsible and the weather. Thanks to the Lovely Blowfish's, as well as Dwain and Mary, I again had the mixed fortune of viewing this mess up close – front row, 50-yard-line. After the game, we got to talk for several minutes to former Chief and now Charger linebacker, Donnie Edwards. He had some choice words about Greg "Dr. Evil" Robinson's unique ability to waste talent by putting people in the wrong place at the wrong time. He said he would never say these things to the media because you never know who you'll be playing for in this league. I guess he didn't recognize me as media. Edwards told us he was going nuts on the sideline because he couldn't put on the pads and go help. "I could have helped you guys today", he told us. Well, on the upside, unlike the last loss to the Colts, I was not freezing. That doesn't make it feel any better. Cue Don Meredith's acrid cover of Willie Nelson – "Turn out the lights – the party's over..."

**Offense** – They weren't perfect, but they were awfully darned close. Unfortunately today, close wasn't going to get it done. I am not one to blame the zebras, but what was that pass interference call against Gonzo that erased a touchdown? I have looked at it over and over again. Heck, I was right there, and I am still looking. Field Judge Scott Edwards was roundly booed and harassed well into the second half by 80,000 or so others who apparently missed it, too. By the way, that was the same drive that MA missed a chip-shot field goal, so it took the tying points off the board. The one glaring weakness in this unit is at the wide-out position. Calling the guys who line up outside in this offense "receivers" would be a bit of a misnomer. That would imply that they 'catch' things. The stone-hands corps amassed five drops, including two in the endzone and one inside the five – forcing two field goal attempts (one good, one not). And Priest had the most amazing day by a KC back since Ed Podalak on Christmas day, 1971. Unfortunately, at the end of his 48-yarder he did what he never does, and laid the ball on the ground. The lone turnover in the game gave Peyton Manning one more drive that the defense couldn't stop. Still in all, they put up 31 points at home. Priest had 26 totes for 176 and two scores. Trent Green nearly matched Manning, if not for the drops. Both threw 30 times, Green completed 18 with 1 TD and Manning connected on 22 and three scores – but remember, Green had five dropped, including two TDs, and one called back on a phantom penalty. No, it was not absolutely perfect, but with any other defense on the field, it would have been plenty good enough.

**Defense** – What defense?

**Special Teams** – Morten stunk. Dante was amazing. The little guy was all over the field. He had one huge return called back by a questionable holding penalty against Monte Beisel. Then there was the one that put the fire back into the crowd – 92 yards to the house. He also made a couple of great catches on offense, including one in double-coverage at the goal line that he punched in for a score. A nod to Quinton Caver for the key block that sprung Hall's runback.

**AFC West** – Here were the week's results in the AFC West:  
#1 Kansas City Chiefs – Done

- #2 Denver Donkeys – Gone
- #3 San Diego Lightning Bolts – Never were there
- #4 East Bay Convicts – Rick Neuheisel? You must be joking

**Throw Him A Bone Award –**

Most days – with 176 and two scores, Priest would get it, but the fumble was one of about five key plays that cost us this game. Today, the playoff bone goes to Dante Hall for two scores – one a spectacular kickoff return.

**The Doggity Dog –**

There are just too many to count – so I won't. The dog house is inhabited this week by the entire defense – coaches, players and anyone in the stands wearing a jersey of any current defensive player – all y'all (which I understand to be the plural of y'all). Not even one stop! Not one! The Colts' punter was playing Monopoly on the sideline. The only time he had to ask the banker to watch his money was when he went to the bathroom. I'll bet he just hung his uniform back on the hanger and didn't bother putting it in the laundry. This was by far the worst defensive performance – or lack thereof – I have ever witnessed in this storied venue. I know, "losers make excuses, winners make plays," and all of that. Still, why is R-Kal Truluck, dropped into pass coverage against the tight end? This is a guy with only one discernable skill – speed rushing the QB. Why was is so necessary that to get Crispy Bartee on the field for a third and nine that they get flagged for illegal substitution, allowing the Colts to continue the only drive the D stopped all day? Toasty Warfield and Oh! Dexter! were positioned 10 yards off the receivers, after Warfield told the media before the game that they were going to "have to get physical" with Harrison, et al. The coverages were constantly putting Harrison – one of the fastest and best receivers in the league – in man coverage with safeties. Oy! The ghosts of Derrick Thomas and Buck Buchanan will not rest until this offensive defense is gone. It is a shame that Willie Lanier, Bill Maas, Kevin Ross and Donnie Edwards had to witness it first hand. I think any of them could have suited up and played a better game – including the 60 year-old Lanier. Vermeil and Peterson need to treat the defensive coaching staff with the same respect as Paul Wolfowitz showed Baghdad. Robinson had to be escorted off the field by five security guards – seriously. If Dr. Evil is the good guy everyone says he is – I don't know him personally – he will do what any noble knight does and fall on his sword. Dr. Evil – do the right thing. Don't make your only cheerleader and longtime buddy – Dick Vermeil, fire you. Be a man and quit.

**Next week –**

The year end report card. This should be interesting.

Your faithful scribe,  
Mr. Doggity