

The Doggity Chiefs Report

Week 8 – Chiefs vs Bison at the Head – Score: KC 38 – Buf 5

They have yet to 86 the Doggity Report from www.georgeblowfish.com!

Overview – I guess it was good that we had the Monday night game, followed by the Sunday night game – throw in the end of daylight savings – making us wait impatiently for kickoff. It's good training for the long, cold bye week up coming. Besides the extra hour Saturday night did my old heart good thinking that Yankee fans had an additional hour to baste in their own juices after getting fish slapped. Not that I'm that vindictive. What we saw Sunday night was worth the wait. The only problem is, this game left little for a whiny old dog to bark about. Even the zebras did a solid job. That's one game in a row for them! Don't get me wrong the Chiefs weren't perfect. Too many dropped balls, a blocked punt, rancid kicking in the first half, porous run defense in the second half and the team sort of went into hibernation in the fourth quarter. That could be because the scrubs were getting all the minutes by that time. You have to love a regular-season conference game where you can start your backups with five minutes left – because you want to! (Unlike, say, Denver) You have to love 8 – 0 even more. This is the longest winning streak in Chiefs history and the longest of Vermeil's storied career. This team is pitching a no-no and still hasn't played its best ball. Is this the best team in the NFL? It depends upon how you define best. But in the end the only stat that matters is the one on the scoreboard. KC leads the league in scoring, in points per game, in point differential, in points off turnovers and they are the only remaining team that hasn't lost a game. I guess that pretty much makes them the best team in the NFL. But being best for half a season is like kissing your sister (with apologies to the Dog fans in Arkansas). We'll see what the second half brings.

Offense – Can the dog stand on the porch and howl a little? It is Halloween week, after all. Eddie Kennison found those Teflon gloves he used to wear in St Louis and Denver. The truth is the dog didn't come into this one expecting much from the wide outs. Good thing. Buffalo is the #3 pass D in the league. They have what one KC coach called the best secondary in the NFL. Clements and Winfield outside, Milloy and Reese inside are very hard to throw on. Al Saunders had the perfect game plan. Run Priest, pull up the safeties, send the fast guys deep which will open the seams and post for Gonzo and Hall. It worked. Dante didn't score on a kick return, but he got to the paint anyway. His separation from a very good d-back was a thing of beauty. Priest stretched his TD lead in the league with three on Sunday. The thing that no one mentioned was his blocking. The Bills blitzed constantly, but Priest and T-Rich picked up the linebackers, giving Trent enough time in the pocket to reset his VCR. Without LB help to cover Gonzales and the slot receivers, Green was fishing in a barrel. (That means "easy" for you urbanites) And how about those cajones? Nate Clements is probably glad to have next week off to lick his wounds in private after being blown up by a pocket-passing QB. How humiliating. The dog has been quick to growl at Green this year, but I am willing to rethink things. What makes this guy effective is not his arm – Elvis could throw farther with his left hand. It is not his feet – even Bono was more mobile. It isn't his instincts – Montana was better at reading defenses when he was in KC, and he was 80 years old. What makes Green work is his toughness and leadership. The other guys want to play with and for him. He doesn't carry his mistakes around like a wet blanket for the rest of the game, either. He doesn't rail against guys who drop passes. He doesn't scream at people for missing a block. Trent is all about the next play. Maybe that's more important than the stats. The truth is, that describes the entire team. Priest and Dante are not that fast and not at all big. But they play every down like it means winning a championship.

Defense – So, OK, like, it was a pretty good game plan by Greg Robinson. Eric Warfield had a really good game. In fact, he got a game ball. There, I said it. You happy now? Warfield would have gotten the bone this week except he still doesn't finish plays. Prime example – the best play Eric made on the night was the corner blitz that forced the fumble. Trouble was, he was off prancing like a rooster in a meth lab while John Browning was running after the loose pig. Keep playing until the whistle blows, Eric! What if Travis Henry scoops the fumble and rumbles downfield with our fastest defensive player too busy congratulating himself to give chase? And

one of his two picks was a garbage, end-of-the-half hail-Mary thing. The fact remains, these guys got a whopping seven TO's and Warfield was responsible for three of them. They did allow Bledsoe a 3rd quarter 90-yard drive but capped it when DT Ryan Sims got a pass thrown at his big belly on the goal line. He actually hung on to it and ran it back eight yards. I didn't know defensive linemen could run that far all at once. The thing I liked most – they kept pressure on Drew. Unlike last week when they decided to play prevent against Oakland in the fourth, this week Robinson kept coming at them. Even when Billie "Crispy" Bartee was in at CB, Kawika "Sampson" Mitchell and Quinton "Who?" Caver played LB in the final frame they still blitzed and swarmed. If they do that, they may lose the "bend but don't win" handle. The two huge stats for this unit – they have the most points scored by D in the AFC, the largest margin of victory in the NFL and lead the league total turnovers and points off turnovers. But please do a dog a favor, and tackle somebody! It's just not good for the old ticker to see yards yielded in bucket loads while you wait for a turnover.

Special Teams – Just when I say something nice about Crash Junior, his special kids are back on the short bus. That jailbreak punt block could have been disastrous in a close contest. What's worse, it looked suspiciously like the one in Baltimore. Coaches are supposed correct these things and not let them happen again. I know Kendall Gammon is hired just to long snap, but his roster spot says he is a tight end. Aren't TE's supposed to know how to block? The kick-offs were the shortest all season, dropping on average at about the 15. The punts only netted about 31 yards apiece. That won't get it done in the NFL. Bledsoe didn't start a single first half drive inside his own 30. I hope we don't have to see that in Denver or Minnesota later in the year – it could be un-pretty.

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

#1 Kansas City Chiefs – The most complete game of the year, spoiling Bills coach Gregg Williams' homecoming.

#2 Denver Donkeys – Never more! The Blackbirds picked their rotting carcass. By the way, I have been asked to play backup QB for Denver next week, you should get your invitation soon.

#3 San Diego Lightning Bolts – Play a home game in Arizona on MNF. The "Q" is suddenly short for "BBQ" as SoCal looks like a Weber kettle. Our prayers are with our friends out there.

#4 East Bay Convicts – Were in solitary all week for bad behavior in the first seven games.

Throw Him A Bone Award –

This week's bone goes to Al Saunders. He created the perfect game plan to combat a nasty pass defense. I was a little rough on Al last week, so I'll kiss and make up. Here's your boner!

The Doggity Dog –

This week Jason Baker gets his nose rubbed in it. The kick-offs and punts, particularly in the first half, left a mess on the rug and smelled the place up. Use the bye week to rest that stick, Jason.

Tailgate Recipe of the Week –

A client of mine, Tami is from Buffalo, went to Canisius, and I gather has a frequent-flyer card from the famous Anchor Bar downtown, where Buffalo wings were invented. She has an interesting variation on this bar-fare staple. Buffalo Buffalo! –

2-lb – Bison flank steak, sliced against the grain into 1/4 inch thick slices – like you would for jerky. (Beef works, too, it just doesn't sound as cool)

4 Tbsp – ground cayenne pepper

2 cups – all purpose flour

A bottle of Tabasco

2 cups – white wine vinegar (the good kind that gets your wife mad when you use it)

Instructions:

Mix flour and cayenne pepper and toss the mix into a plastic zipper bag.

Dump the bottle of Tabasco sauce in a separate plastic zipper bag.
Dump the vinegar into a bowl.
Dip the steak strips in the vinegar.
Shake them in the flour mix bag
Toss them in the Tabasco bag
Skewer on water soaked wooden skewers
Grill on high heat for three to four minutes per side (deep frying is the tradition, but the fat content is pretty outrageous, so grilling is the alternative)
Serve with blue cheese dressing as a dip.

Have plenty of cold liquid very close by! You were warned!

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

Next week –
The illusive “bye” week – time for the Dog’s midterm report card

Your faithful scribe,
Mr. Doggity