

The Doggity Chiefs Report
Preseason 1 – 2005

Chiefs at Norsemen from the Loser H. Humphrey Dumpty Dome. **MN=27, KC=16**

Sorry, but as sure as hay fever season and back-to-school sales at Target, August means the return of the Doggity Chiefs Report.

For four years, the Illustrious Potentate, George Blowfish has been the gracious and ignoble host of the Doggity Report at www.georgeblowfish.com! Be sure to check out the link to “Radio Blowfish” – The official voice of the “Jane, You Ignorant Slut” political and social blog. If you know others who might want to get this report blocked by the spam filter of their e-mail inbox every week – send me their addresses so we can add them to the score of people who regularly read the Dog. I promise not to sell any email addresses to anyone who would loan me money.

Overview – Ahh, it’s that time of year again – the dog days of August when once again pigs fly. As you know, the Dogg does not waste mental energy on the scores of preseason games. This is no exception. We got out of MSP with hurting anyone. That’s a successful preseason game, in my book. Da Bears lost their starting QB last night. I did see a few things that concerned me – like, for instance the personal fouls on kick coverage, a kicker with a bad slice, the fact that we have to go to the fourth guy on the depth chart to find a competent back-up QB and some guys on D who still think you we’re playing flag football. All of that will get sorted out over the next month. The good stuff included some serious speed at linebacker, Kawika actually knowing his assignments and blowing up plays, Ryan Sims in the backfield a couple of times and the play of Billy Barteel at safety. And we have a really good punter! Happy, happy, joy, joy! And one question. Is everyone on the Vikings named “Williams”? It reminded me of all the “Johnsons” in Rock Ridge from Blazing Saddles.

Offense – Despite missing two starters from the O-line, and Tony G’s mind on some chick or his next MTV gig, the #1 O looked like it’s going to pick up right where it left off last season. Priest was remarkable with a 10.5 yard average on four carries. LJ has obviously shed the diapers, and even the Pull-ups. He’s looking like he is about to outgrow his Underoos, too. The big question on this unit is at wideout. Milk Carton Morton is officially missing, and Kennison didn’t play last night. FredEx is still on the mend, so that gave the guys scrapping all the snaps. Boerigter and Horn looked ready to step in, even though Horn had one uncharacteristic drop. Richard Smith was wide open but he wasn’t aware of the sideline on what would have been a big play. I thought Craphonzo looked pretty good, but his routes need to be better. Best quote of the night – Doggy daughter Morgan was watching the game and I mentioned Craphonzo. She giggled and asked, “What’s his *real* name?” I said, that is his real name. She said, “At least he isn’t wearing number 2!” The RB depth chart contest saw Ronnie Cruz look a lot more impressive than the veteran Dee Brown. Neither got much work, but Cruz had two really sweet screen passes. Brown spent a lot of time falling down. Oh, and that rookie QB, James Killian has spunk! I hate spunk.

Defense – Dost that which we call a turd, by another name, smell... Nah. Let’s not forget that the D has had almost no full-contact practice time together, and nothing that approaches game speed. Also, two of the big-dollar free agents, Carlos Hall and Kendrell Bell didn’t play. Knight and Surtain saw limited action. And these guys were playing against one of the most explosive offenses in the league. Their backup QB started in a SuperBowl a couple of years ago. I watched the individual performances. I’m pretty sure Derrick Johnson is using nitrous – is that legal? That kid is fast enough to make up for being so out of position he needed a road map. Kawika Mitchell finally looked like a middle linebacker last night. The front four got some pretty good push, even from Ryan Sims. Although, by the third quarter, Sims was going backward more than forward. Last year’s D-end phenom, Jared “Subway” Allen had a bad night. Viking LT Bryant McKenzie manhandled Subway. And Allen’s backside contain on running plays, or QB scrambles was dreadful. Keyron Fox did a respectable job filling in for Bell, even though he totally blew one 50-yard running play. Two guys that left opposite impressions – Jerome Woods sucked out loud. He

looks like a jilted lover who can't believe the team has fallen for Sammy Knight. How dare they challenge Woods to earn his starting job back. Waaa. On the other hand there was the job by TDBFKAC (The Defensive Back Formerly Known As Crispy) -- Billy Bartee. He ACTUALLY had a interception!!! No kidding! After 6 years in the NFL he got his first pick in a game (so what if it didn't count?) Appropriately, it took the move to safety for him to finally lose his Deron. Bartee had a good game. I felt he had a better game than starter Greg Wesley. Granted, Wesley was against the #1's and Bartee against the backups. Still -- it's nice to have options in your d-backs. A luxury not seen here in a few years.

Special Teams -- Dr. Jekell and Mr. Tynes may present some issues for the coaching staff. He's like Longfellow's little kicker with the little curl in the middle of his forehead. This guy nails a beautiful 51 yard field goal, but misses an easy 38 yarder. He put two kickoffs in the endzone, but shanked one out of bounds. That stuff makes coaches drink. The loss of Derrick Blaylock and Monte Beisel really showed on special teams coverage. It stunk. Having Boerigter back will help, and Bartee has shown good open-field tackling ability, but they need work as a unit. On the plus side of the special kids is the guy who does wear #2 -- rookie punter Dustin Colquitt. I never thought a team could justify a 3rd round pick for a punter. I may be wrong. This kid boots as the strangest kick you have ever seen. It hangs forever, and it spins and tumbles and flutters as it drops. Combined with the fact that he's left-footed, so it spins backward, this is a very difficult thing for return guys to field. He cause a fumble last night, even though the Vikes recovered it. If he can cause five or six drops this year, that could be the difference in a few games.

As in the past, I will not give my AFC West predictions until the final week of pre-season.

Throw Him A Bone Award --

The bone for the game last night will go to punter Dustin Colquitt. He may not get another chance at this prestigious honor again, but he impressed me last night. This kid has the potential to be special.

The Doggity Dog --

The inauspicious paper upside the muzzle goes to whiny strong-safety Jerome Woods. He might have gone to a Pro-bowl two years ago, but he better change his attitude or the only way he'll win a trip to Hawaii this year is as Northwestern Mutual's life insurance salesman of the month.

Next week --

The OLD governor's cup game comes back home as the Chiefs host the Glendale Cardinals.

Expect the full playbook Doggity Report to resume when the regular games start. It's good to be out of that long -- off season kennel.

Your faithful scribe,

Mr. Doggity