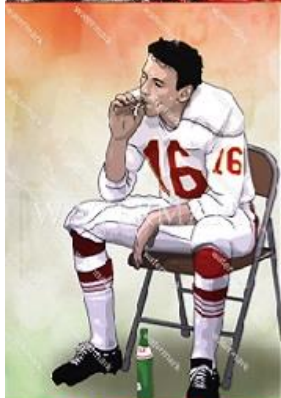


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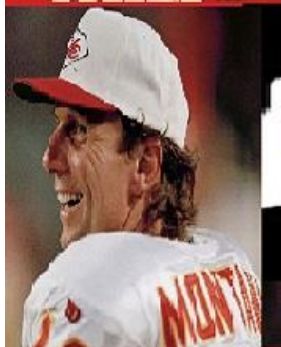
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**KANSAS CITY  
CHIEFS**

*Great Players  
in  
Kansas City  
Chiefs  
Football*

By  
**Brian Kelly**



**KANSAS CITY CHIEFS-1969**





# Great Players in Kansas City Chiefs Football

Begins at the beginning of AFL Football and continues through the Andy Reid era.

This book is written for those of us who love Kansas City Chiefs Football. and who want to know the stories about all those great KC and Texans players and their great championships and Super Bowl victories.

From the very beginning, the book moves you one season at a time, one player at a time, but rapidly through the Texans / Chiefs ages. We meet the great immortal Dallas Texans players from their first best QB Len Dawson all the way to the Chiefs' Patrick Mahomes, the current team's field general. Through the years we also stop to look at some great running backs like Priest Holmes and Abner Haynes, and Marcus Allen as well as great linemen and linebackers such as Derrick Thomas, Tamba Hali and E. J. Holub.

Besides these great players, you've heard of many other great KC players over the years who helped power Kansas City with 481 wins. This book often stops in time and talks about a particular great KC player such as Tony Gonzales, Dante Hall, Johnny Robinson, Buck Buchanan, and of course this year's Super Bowl MVP Patrick Mahomes. Some of these greats played on the Dallas Texans and others played on the KC Chiefs and some played on both. That is why their record is so great. Some played when the team was in the AFL and others played in the NFL and of course some played in both leagues

Those of us who enjoy the teams coming out every week in the fall know that it was because hundreds of Kansas City Chiefs and Dallas Texans players in the 60 years of football that created the Chiefs winning tradition. While the coaches masterminded the victories, the Dallas Texans and the Kansas City players provided the scoring and the excitement.

From day one, the Texans/Chiefs had a winning program—even in the early days when the AFL was a startup and coach Hank Stram was just a kid. Look at the recent record and you will find the best AFL team that now is the best team in the NFL. Kansas City fans need this book on their bookshelves to be able to read the many great players' stories about how the team pulled this off.

This book is your finest source for a great read on your favorite players on your favorite professional football team . It gives you the opportunity to study the history of its great players. It is for your reading pleasure but it also is a great reference for when you want to see how a particular Dallas Texan or KC great player performed during his career. If you are a Kansas City Chiefs fan. you will not want to put this book down until you know every great player's name and a lot more about their stories.

## Brian Kelly





## Great Players in Kansas City Chiefs Football

Author:  
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Brian P. Kelly

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# Kansas City Chiefs Season Records from 1960 to 2020

481-423-12

Total Games 916

Total Wins 481

Total Losses 423

Total Ties 12 \* Prior to Overtime Rules

Stats from 1960 \* Through Feb 2020

1933-1935 Lud Wray final record (9-21-1)

<u>Year</u>	<u>Coach</u>	<u>Conf</u>	<u>Div</u>	<u>Pl</u>	<u>W-L-T</u>
1960	Hank Stram	AFL	Western	2nd	8-6-0
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Abner Haynes (UPI/AP AFL MVP)</li> </ul>				
1961	Hank Stram	AFL	Western	2nd	6-8-0
1962	Hank Stram	AFL	Western	1st	11-3-00
Kansas City Chiefs					
1963	Hank Stram	AFL	Western	3rd	5-7-2
1964	Hank Stram	AFL	Western	2 <sup>nd</sup>	7-7-0
1965	Hank Stram	AFL	Western	3rd	7-5-2
1966	Hank Stram	AFL	Western	1 <sup>st</sup>	11-2-1
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Won AFL Championship (at Bills) 31-7</li> <li>Lost Super Bowl I (vs. Packers) 35-10</li> </ul>				
1967	Hank Stram	AFL	Western	2nd	9-5-0
1968	Hank Stram	AFL	Western	2 <sup>nd</sup>	12-2-0
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Lost Western Division playoff (at Raiders) 41-6</li> <li>Hank Stram (UPI/PFW AFL COY)</li> </ul>				
1969	Hank Stram	AFL	Western	2 <sup>nd</sup>	11-3-0
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Won Divisional Playoffs (at Jets) 13-6</li> <li>Won AFL Championship (at Raiders) 17-7</li> <li>Won Super Bowl IV (2) (vs. Vikings) 23-7</li> <li>Len Dawson (Super Bowl IV MVP)</li> </ul>				
1970	Hank Stram	NFLAFC	West	2nd	7-5-2
1971	Hank Stram	NFLAFC	West	1st <sup>^</sup>	10-3-1
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Lost Divisional Playoffs (Dolphins) 27-24 (2 OT)</li> <li>Otis Taylor (AFC POY)</li> <li>Willie Lanier (Pro Bowl Co-MVP)</li> <li>Jan Stenerud (Pro Bowl Co-MVP)</li> </ul>				
1972	Hank Stram	NFLAFC	West	2nd	8-6-0
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Willie Lanier (NFL MOY)</li> </ul>				
1973	Hank Stram	NFLAFC	West	3rd	7-5-2
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Len Dawson (NFL MOY)</li> </ul>				
1974	Hank Stram	NFLAFC	West	3rd	5-9-0
<hr/>					
1975	Paul Wiggin	NFLAFC	West	3rd	5-9-0
1976	Paul Wiggin	NFLAFC	West	4th	5-9-0
1977	Paul Wiggin (1-6)	NFLAFC	West	5 <sup>th</sup>	2-12-0

<u>Year</u>	<u>Coach</u>	<u>Conf</u>	<u>Div</u>	<u>Pl</u>	<u>W-L-T</u>
1977	Tom Bettis (1-6)	NFLAFC	West	5 <sup>th</sup>	2-12-0
1978	Marv Levy	NFLAFC	West	5 <sup>th</sup>	4-12-0
1979	Marv Levy	NFLAFC	West	5 <sup>th</sup>	7-9-0
1980	Marv Levy	NFLAFC	West	3 <sup>rd</sup>	8-8-0
1981	Marv Levy	NFLAFC	West	3 <sup>rd</sup>	9-7-0
1982	Marv Levy	NFLAFC	West	11 <sup>th</sup>	3-6-0

<u>Year</u>	<u>Coach</u>	<u>Conf</u>	<u>Div</u>	<u>Pl</u>	<u>W-L-T</u>
1983	John Mackovic	NFLAFC	West	5 <sup>th</sup>	6-10-0
1984	John Mackovic	NFLAFC	West	4 <sup>th</sup>	8-8-0
	• Bill Maas (DROY)				
1985	John Mackovic	NFLAFC	West	5 <sup>th</sup>	6-10-0
1986	John Mackovic	NFLAFC	West	2 <sup>nd</sup>	10-6-0
	• Lost Wild Card Playoffs (at Jets) 35–15				
1987	Frank Gansz	NFLAFC	West	5 <sup>th</sup>	4-11-0
1988	Frank Gansz	NFLAFC	West	5 <sup>th</sup>	4-11-1

<u>Year</u>	<u>Coach</u>	<u>Conf</u>	<u>Div</u>	<u>Pl</u>	<u>W-L-T</u>
1989	Marty Schottenheimer	NFLAFC	West	2 <sup>nd</sup>	8-7-1
	• Derrick Thomas (DROY)				
	• Christian Okoye (OPOY)				
1990	Marty Schottenheimer.	NFLAFC	West	2 <sup>nd</sup>	11-5-0
	• Lost Wild Card Playoffs (at Dolphins) 17–16				
	• Barry Word (CPOY)				
1991	Marty Schottenheimer.	NFLAFC	West	2 <sup>nd</sup>	10-6-0
	• Won Wild Card Playoffs (Raiders) 10–6				
	• Lost Divisional Playoffs (at Bills) 37–14				
1992	Marty Schottenheimer..	NFLAFC	West	2 <sup>nd</sup>	10-6-0
	• Lost Wild Card Playoffs (at Chargers) 17–0				
	• Dale Carter (DROY)				
1993	Marty Schottenheimer..	NFLAFC	West	1 <sup>st</sup>	11-5-0
	• Won Wild Card Playoffs (Steelers) 27–24 (OT)				
	• Won Divisional Playoffs (at Oilers) 28–20				
	• Lost AFC Championship (at Bills) 30–13				
	• Marcus Allen (CPOY)				
	• Derrick Thomas (MOY)				
1994	Marty Schottenheimer	NFLAFC	West	2 <sup>nd</sup>	9-7-0
	• Lost Wild Card Playoffs (at Dolphins) 27–17				
1995	Marty Schottenheimer.	NFLAFC	West	1 <sup>st</sup>	13-3-0
	• Lost Divisional Playoffs (Colts) 10–7				
	• Marty Schottenheimer (UPI COY)				
1996	Marty Schottenheimer..	NFLAFC	West	2 <sup>nd</sup>	9-7-0
1997	Marty Schottenheimer..	NFLAFC	West	1 <sup>st</sup>	13-3-0
	• Lost Divisional Playoffs (Broncos) 14–10				
1998	Marty Schottenheimer..	NFLAFC	West	4 <sup>th</sup>	7-9-0
1999	Gunther Cunningham	NFLAFC	West	2 <sup>nd</sup>	9-7-0
2000	Gunther Cunningham	NFLAFC	West	3 <sup>rd</sup>	7-9-0

<u>Year</u>	<u>Coach</u>	<u>Conf</u>	<u>Div</u>	<u>Pl</u>	<u>W-L-T</u>
2001	Dick Vermeil	NFLAFC	West	4 <sup>th</sup>	6-10-0
2002	Dick Vermeil	NFLAFC	West	4th	8-8-0
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Priest Holmes (OPOY)</li> </ul>				
2003	Dick Vermeil	NFLAFC	West	1st	13-3-0
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lost Divisional Playoffs (Colts) 38–31</li> <li>• Will Shields (MOY)</li> <li>• Dick Vermeil (MFC COY)</li> </ul>				
2004	Dick Vermeil	NFLAFC	West	3rd	7-9-0
2005	Dick Vermeil	NFLAFC	West	2nd	10-6-0

<u>Year</u>	<u>Coach</u>	<u>Conf</u>	<u>Div</u>	<u>Pl</u>	<u>W-L-T</u>
2006	Herman Edwards	NFLAFC	West	2nd	9-7-0
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lost Wild Card Playoffs (at Colts) 23–8</li> </ul>				
2007	Herman Edwards	NFLAFC	West	3rd	4-12-0
2008	Herman Edwards	NFLAFC	West	4th	2-14-0

<u>Year</u>	<u>Coach</u>	<u>Conf</u>	<u>Div</u>	<u>Pl</u>	<u>W-L-T</u>
2009	Todd Haley	NFLAFC	West	4th	4-12-0
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Brian Waters (MOY)</li> </ul>				
2010	Todd Haley	NFLAFC	West	1st	10-6-0
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lost Wild Card Playoffs (Ravens) 30–7</li> </ul>				

<u>Year</u>	<u>Coach</u>	<u>Conf</u>	<u>Div</u>	<u>Pl</u>	<u>W-L-T</u>
2011	Todd Haley (5-8)	NFLAFC	West	4 <sup>th</sup>	7-9-0
2011	Romeo Crennel (2-1)	(NFLAFC)	West		
2012	Romeo Crennel	NFLAFC	West	4th	2-14-0

<u>Year</u>	<u>Coach</u>	<u>Conf</u>	<u>Div</u>	<u>Pl</u>	<u>W-L-T</u>
2013	Andy Reid	NFLAFC	West	2 <sup>nd</sup>	11-5-0
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lost Wild Card Playoffs (at Colts) 45–44</li> </ul>				
2014	Andy Reid	NFLAFC	West	2 <sup>nd</sup>	9-7-0
2015	Andy Reid	NFLAFC	West	2 <sup>nd</sup>	11-5-0
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Won Wild Card Playoffs (at Texans) 30–0</li> <li>• Lost Divisional Playoffs (at Patriots) 27–20</li> <li>• Marcus Peters (DROY)</li> <li>• Eric Berry (CPOY)</li> </ul>				
2016	Andy Reid	NFLAFC	West	1 <sup>st</sup>	12-4-0
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lost Divisional Playoffs (Steelers) 18–16</li> </ul>				
2017	Andy Reid	NFLAFC	West	1 <sup>st</sup>	10-6- 0
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lost Wild Card Playoffs (Titans) 22–21</li> </ul>				
2018	Andy Reid	NFLAFC	West	1 <sup>st</sup>	12-4-0
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Won Divisional Playoffs (Colts) 31–13</li> <li>• Lost AFC Championship (Patriots) 37–31 (OT)</li> <li>• Patrick Mahomes (MVP, OPOY)</li> </ul>				
2019	Andy Reid	NFLAFC	West	1st	12-4-0
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Won Divisional Playoffs (Texans) 51–31</li> <li>• Won AFC Championship (Titans) 35–24</li> <li>• Won Super Bowl LIV (3) (vs. 49ers) 31–20</li> <li>• Patrick Mahomes (Super Bowl LIV MVP)</li> </ul>				

## Totals

**481-423-12 (1960–2019, includes only regular season)**

**13-19 (1960- 2019, includes only playoffs)**

**494-442-12 (1960–2019, includes both regular season and playoffs;  
3 AFL Championships, 2 Super Bowl Championships)**

The KC Chiefs –A great AFL & NFL Team!



# Dedication

*I dedicate this book*

*To my wonderful brothers and sisters:*

*Angel Edward J. Kelly, Jr.*

*Carol & Angel Amelia Kelly*

*Angel Nancy "Ann" Flannery & Angel Jim Flannery*

*Mary A. Daniels & Bill Daniels*

*Joseph A. Kelly & Diane Kelly*

*I surely am a lucky person to have*

*Such a great family*

*Edward J Kelly and Irene McKeown Kelly  
Mom & Dad*



# Acknowledgments:

I appreciate all the help that I have received in putting this book together as well as all of the other 300 + books from the past.

My acknowledgments were so large at one time that readers complained that they had to go through too many pages to get to page one.

And, so I put my acknowledgment list online, and it continues to grow. Believe it or not, it would cost about a dollar more to print my books with full acknowledgments.

Thank you and God bless you all for your help. Please check out [www.letsGOPublish.com](http://www.letsGOPublish.com) to read the latest version of my heartfelt acknowledgments updated for this book.

In this book, I received some extra special help from many fine American patriots including Dennis Grimes, Gerry Rodski, Joyce Edward Heck, Wily Ky Eyely, the best non-cartoon character niece there is—Wily would have loved Angel Irene McKeown Kelly, my mom as well as Angel Edward Joseph Kelly Sr., my dad and the other angels listed. Angel Edward Joseph Kelly Jr., Ann Flannery, Angel James Flannery Sr., Mary Daniels, Bill Daniels, Angel Robert Garry Daniels, Angel Sarah Janice Daniels, Angel Punkie Daniels, Joe Kelly, Diane Kelly, Brian P. Kelly, Mike P. Kelly, Katie P. Kelly, Angel Ben Kelly, and Angel Budmund (Buddy) Arthur Kelly.

*Thank you all!*





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## References

I learned how to write creatively in Grade School at St. Boniface. I even enjoyed reading some of my own stuff.

At Meyers High School (HS Diploma) and King's College (BS Data Processing), and Wilkes-University, (MBA Accounting & Finance) I learned how to research, write bibliographies and footnote every non-original thought included in my writings. I learned to hate *ibid*, and *op. cit.*, and I hated assuring that I had all citations were written down in the proper sequence. Having to pay attention to details took my desire to write creatively and diminished it with busy work.

I know it is necessary for the world to stop plagiarism, so authors and publishers can get paid properly, but for an honest writer, it sure is annoying. I wrote many proposals while with IBM and whenever I needed to cite something, I cited it in place, because my readers, IT Managers, and company management, could care less about tracing the vagaries of citations. I always hated to use stilted footnotes, or produce a lengthy, perfectly formatted bibliography. I bet most bibliographies are flawed because even the experts on such drivel do not like the tedium.

I wrote 225 other books before this book and several hundred articles published by many magazines and newspapers and I only cite when an idea is not mine or when I am quoting, and again, I choose to cite in place, and the reader does not have to trace strange numbers through strange footnotes and back to bibliography elements that may not be readily accessible or available.

Yet, I would be kidding you, if in a book about the great players in Kansas City Chiefs' Football, I tried to bluff my way, so you would think that I knew everything before I began to research and write anything in this book. I spent as much time researching as writing. I might even call myself an expert of sorts now for all the facts that I have uncovered.

Without any pain on your part, you can read this book from cover to cover to enjoy the stories about the many great players in Kansas City MO Football.

This book is not intended for historians *per se*, but it does teach a lot of history. It is for regular people of all levels of intelligence. It is for people that want to have a fun read, who like smiling when KC

Football is the topic. It is fun reading about each of Kansas City's 494 wins. This book is for people who love Kansas City Football and perhaps it is also for some Chiefs detractors who want to have command of the facts before they defend a point of view.

There are lots and lots of facts in this book. This book is not for sticklers about the mundane aspects of writing that often cause creative writers to lay bricks or paint houses instead of writing. It is for everyday people, like you and I, who enjoy the Chiefs because they are the Chiefs and who enjoy football because it is football. It is that simple.

When the Chiefs play a team and they win or lose, that is a historical fact, but to discover such facts, it does not require fundamental or basic research. The NFL itself as well as the Chiefs, copyright their original material but not public facts. They copyright so they can say "no" if somebody else's creativity affects the league or the franchise negatively. Even the NFL does not own publicly well-known facts that are readily available about legacies such as Hank Stram, Marty Schottenheimer or even Andy Reid's championship seasons.

The championships and the coaches and the great players are well known and well defined, though some may think the facts belong to the NFL. Facts are facts, period. So, what? As the author of this book, I care but it is a sports book. I use a judicious approach to assure that I am not throwing the bull when I intend to be presenting the facts.

Nonetheless, this is not a book about heavy math algorithms, or potential advances to the internal combustion engine, or space travel, or the eight elements necessary to find a cure for cancer. So, I refuse to treat this book 100% seriously. If you find a fault, I will fix it. This is a book about sports and sports legends and stories about sporting events that have been recorded seven million times already someplace else. Though I tried for sure to get it all right and I used the work of others to assure so, I bet I made a mistake or two.

What is my remedy for the harmed if I have made a mistake? I did not write this book to harm anybody. If I did not write this book, would the harmed individuals from the book be unharmed? So, at the very least, I can unpublish those parts of the book. If any reader is harmed, let me know, and I will do whatever must be done for all to be OK.OK?

## Preface:

"You can't be fat and fast, too; so lift, run, diet and work." And "There are few secrets in football. So execute." These are quotes from Hank Stram, the first and arguably the greatest Kansas City Chiefs coach. Andy Reid may have a case to be the first quote in the preface of my next Chiefs book. That's up to Andy! Right Andy?

The late Hank Stram (RIP 2005) is one of the more quoted of the Chief's past coaching masters. It is no wonder why. His quotes are simple and to the point. In his years at the Chiefs and elsewhere, Stram called it as he saw it, and he was right most of the time. He was a great coach besides, leading the Chiefs to a victorious legacy with 124 wins against 76 losses and 10 ties. Marty Schottenheimer and Andy Reid come in next best. Re. Stram, I can still see him on the sidelines when my twelve-year old eyes needed no help while watching him on the sidelines from the Kelly family 21" B/W Admiral TV.

Everything that is—can be made better. When the 2019 season began, everybody thought the Chiefs would do well but not necessarily win the Super Bowl. Andy Reid had been a great coach at Philadelphia and KC but had never brought in the bacon – all the marbles so to speak. 2019 was supposed to be close but because of Andy—no cigar was expected. Andy thought otherwise.

This was the year that Andy changed a lot of minds. He had the guns and with his panoply of plays, Andy knew how to use them. And, he used his great plays all the way to the Super Bowl and then he kept using them. There were no disappointments on February 2, 2020. For me, it was even better as I was with my brother and sister in Florida so even after the game, it was warm and friendly.

Looking back in history as we do in this book, we find a few especially great coaches, some good coaches, and some OK coaches out of the 13 on the KC list. Despite some poor years, the Chiefs have a very respectable winning record Why? Well, in many ways, the excellent coaches had winning percentages that were very good and the so-so coaches did not drag the record downward like a rock. Take a look at the season one-liner summaries at the beginning of the book and you will see what I mean. KC has been a successful team from the first game it played for Hank Stram.

When the Chiefs hired Andy Reid for the 2013 season, a number of Eagles' fans were very happy. With Reid, the Eagles were so close to pay-dirt so many times in Andy's 14 years—but no Super Bowl victories.

In the pre-Andy past, the Eagles fans saw a number of coaches get them into the playoffs—even before the Super Bowl era. They had achieved the ultimate success a few times with NFL championships in 1948, 1949 (Greasy Neale), and 1960 (Buck Shaw).

However, once the Super Bowl was the target of the big dance, the Eagles were mostly MIA with Andy but once, though the Birds won their division numerous times. Over the years, the playoffs were not kind in bringing the Philadelphia Eagles to a Super Bowl encounter. After 14 years, Andy Reid got the Eagles to the Super Bowl just once and it was a failing effort in which Reid's Eagles were defeated by n 24 to 21 in Super Bowl XXXIX against the New England Patriots.

After some failing years with a number of short-term coaches, Kansas City was very happy to get Andy Reid to come to Missouri. Eagles fans had had enough close calls that they were happy to see Andy become the Chief's coach. Most of us wished this fine coach well at Kansas City.

I know nobody who says that Andy Reid is not a great coach, no matter what. Reid had been one of the most successful coaches in the NFL over the 14 years preceding KC. He led the Eagles to nine seasons with an above .500 record. He was a perfect candidate for the Chiefs whose coaches in the recent past had left them mostly hurting for something good.

Reid's Eagles' track record included nine trips to the playoffs, six NFC East titles, five trips to the NFC title game and one Super Bowl defeat. The Eagles had just three losing seasons under Reid, and six of his previous coaching assistants have found work as head coaches in the NFL. He was and is a great coach—even a great coach's coach. And, nobody regrets bringing him in to win some games for the Chiefs especially those who until 2019/2020 endured his close calls with the Chiefs .

The Andy Reid championship drought was mirrored by the team that had been looking fifty years for another #1 season. The Kansas

City Chiefs won their first championship in 50 years by defeating the San Francisco 49ers 31-20 in Super Bowl LIV. The wait to win the big championship was a long time coming (50 years) for the franchise, and also for head coach Andy Reid. It's behind the team and Andy now and the expectations game has been reset for the 2020 season. I think Mr. Reid will do fine.

After writing about Notre Dame, Penn State, Clemson, Alabama, Florida, Syracuse, and Army, Brian Kelly, your author was moved by the Chief's great season to take a shot at writing a book about this great pro-team led by a coach the author for whom your author has great respect.

This new book by Brian Kelly, which highlights the Great Players in Kansas City Chiefs Football is one of the items that is expected to be available all 52 weeks of every year, and in fact all 365 days each year except in LEAP YEAR where the Chiefs add an extra day for your book shopping pleasure. Amazon, Kindle, Barnes & Noble and other online sites in the US and overseas carry this new book and it will add to your year-round football experience especially in the off-season.

Once you get this book, it is yours forever unless, of course you give it away to one of the many Chiefs fans, who will be in awe of your new possession.

Reading this book is like reliving the last game, the last football season, and / or all the seasons before last season without ever having to get on or off a plane. Seeing a game in Arrowhead Stadium is an exhilarating adventure. I know from other experiences but I am waiting to get there next year, if invited by Coach Andy after I send him his copy of this book.

This book will help all the fans who enjoy the Arrowhead games regularly to relive the phenomenon of the Chiefs over and over. Besides the great read, with this book in your hand at your private venue, there is no limit on the hours for book-tailgating. Moreover, there is no charge for your guests to enjoy the read, as long as you have stocked up on victuals and libations before the read.

The book examines more than just great players. There are some games where a few playoff players did not so play so well that are not so great in every team's football seasons and the Kansas City

Chiefs offer no excuses for those times. Your author shows the bad with the good to get the proper perspective for some great games.

Not all Kansas City coaches for example, are named Stram, Schottenheimer, Vermeil, or Reid. And surely not all games are listed in the –W-- column. However, all teams from the inception of the AFL to the present, no matter who the coach was, were AFL and Chiefs tough, nonetheless. That means they all fought hard for wins for the good of the team and the fans. Heck, nobody thought the AFL was even going to survive. But, Lamar Hunt was not a nobody!

Opening with its first story at the very beginning of Football as a sport in America, this book goes all the way to Coach Andy Reid in his seventh season. which by many standards was a miracle season.

This book is written for those of us who love KC Chiefs football as played in a number of great venues over the years. After discussing the origins of football and then the origins of pro-football, the book first tells the story of the first Dallas Texans Football Game in 1960 and progresses through the name change to the Chiefs in 1963.

It then advances to the games, the victories and losses, and then onward to the great immortal Chiefs' coaches of historical fame—Hank Stram, Marty Schottenheimer, Dick Vermeil, and of course the inimitable Andy Reid. If you are a great adder, that's 60 years of fine Chiefs Football, told in a year-by-year fashion.

This book is all about the Great Players in Kansas City Chiefs Football. It touches every aspect of the historical and mythical Chiefs Football Teams—even the great Dallas Texans. It tells exhilarating stories about the 13 coaches and the team's 60 seasons worth of great games. The book stops every now and then, and it takes the reader on a side excursion in time to learn about a particular event or a great player. Chiefs Times have identified the top 100 greatest players in KC, and your author tells you who they are and why they impacted KC football as they did.

The player list always begins with the immortal Derrick Thomas, and glides to the great Len Dawson. It continues with tributes to other KC greats such as Dante Hall, Johnny Robinson. Tony Gonzales, Buck Buchanan, and of course the new guy on the block, Super Bowl MVP Patrick Mahomes. That's quite a list folks. These stops will add substantially to your reading enjoyment. These Pro

Bowlers have made KC Football a bright light experience for the program's many years and many fans.

In my role as Editor in Chief of Lets Go Publish! and a die-hard Chiefs fan, as I have watched a number of games with my dad, your author, and I predict that you will not be able to put this book down

You are going to love this book because it is the perfect read for anybody who loves the Kansas City Chiefs and Chiefs' football, and who wants to know more about one of the most revered professional athletic teams in all of football—the World Champion Kansas City Chiefs.

Few sports books are a must-read but Brian Kelly's Great Players in Kansas City Chiefs Football will quickly appear at the top of Americas most enjoyable must-read books about sports. Enjoy!

### **Who is Brian Kelly?**

Brian Kelly aka Brian W. Kelly, is one of the leading authors in America with this, his 223rd published book. Brian continues as an outspoken and eloquent expert on a variety of topics. Moreover, Kelly also has written several hundred articles on other topics of interest to Americans.

Most of his early works involved high technology. Brian's books taught more than a handful of IT professionals how to excel at the IT game. Later, Brian wrote a number of patriotic books and most recently he has been writing human interest books such as The Wine Diet and Thank you, IBM. His books are always well received. If I could get the pen out of Dad's hand for just awhile, I might be able to write a few books of my own, but my editing chores at Lets Go Publish always come first.

Brian Kelly's books are highlighted at [www.letsGOPublish.com](http://www.letsGOPublish.com). They are for sale at Amazon, Kindle, and Barnes & Noble, [Amazon.com/author/brianwkelly](http://Amazon.com/author/brianwkelly), as well as other fine booksellers.

The best!

Sincerely,

Brian P. Kelly, Editor in Chief  
I am author Brian Kelly's eldest son





# About the Author



Brian Kelly retired as an Assistant Professor in the Business Information Technology (BIT) Program at Marywood University, where he also served as the IBM i and Midrange Systems Technical Advisor to the IT Faculty. In his day, Brian was both a regular computer geek and a great problem solver. He always loved to write. Kelly designed, developed, and taught many college and professional courses. He continues as a contributing technical editor to a number of technical industry magazines, including "The Four Hundred" and "Four Hundred Guru," published by IT Jungle.

Kelly is also a former IBM Senior Systems Engineer. His specialty was problem solving for customers as well as implementing advanced operating systems and software on his client's machines. Brian is the author of 223 books, including this and 56 other Sports Books, and hundreds of magazine articles. He has been a frequent speaker at technical conferences throughout the United States.

Brian was a candidate for the US Congress from Pennsylvania in 2010 and he ran for Mayor in his home town in 2015. Kelly loves the Chiefs and he became a big fan in the 1960's watching AFL games with his dad on the Weekends on the family 21" Admiral B/W TV.

This is Brian's thirteenth "Great Players" book and his fifth about a professional NFL team. Writing about the Kansas City Chiefs and Andy Reid especially, has been a special treat.



# Chapter 1 Introduction to the Book

## The Chiefs celebrate 60 years of football



Everybody loves the Chiefs!

In the Super Bowl 2019 season, the Chiefs celebrated 60 seasons of Kansas City Chiefs football. Of course we are including the original naming mistake of Dallas Texans in the 60-seasons because nobody, even Lamar Hunt at the time, is perfect.

Before I start with some early team history, let me talk about the timeline for this book. It is my 57th sports book and my second about the Chiefs. I started off as a big AFL & Chiefs fan as a twelve-year-old in the early 1960's. They were always the best or almost the best all the time in the old AFL. Hank Stram was a great leader. Living close to Philadelphia, I was also a great fan of coach Andy Reid in his fourteen years as Eagle main coach. When Andy came to KC in 2013, it all came together for the Chiefs and Chiefs' fans like me.

“Writing this book has given me even more respect for the Chiefs and what a bunch of scrappers they were—from day one with a great legendary coach Hank Stram. It was not until Stram’s swan song season in 1974 after 15 years of winning everything that came his way that Stram had a losing season. How about that?”

The price of a current Super Bowl ticket is a little out of my league but I did make it to Florida this year with my brother and sister as snowbirds and we watched the Super Bowl in sister Mary’s Snowbird Livingroom with plenty of grub and libations. It was an away game for us and we loved every minute, even the pregame action by the pool.

We did not talk once about the coronavirus once, which at the time, had yet to be labeled a pandemic. It was not an issue in Pennsylvania in January or so it seemed, and after staying in Florida for a good part of February, even when we got home, it was not at the top of our interest level. That soon changed. Very soon.

Throughout February, we were getting snippets of the situation as it existed in Wuhan, across the world, the US prognosis, and Pennsylvania itself. Our Governor Wolf made some sort of a disaster declaration on March 6, but colleges and schools were not yet closed. He closed everything on March 17 or so it seemed but not all the counties.

By the time, April 1 came around after piecemeal PA county shutdowns and shutdowns of non-life-essential activities in the states, including schools, the Governor expanded the lockdown to all counties in the entire state on April 1. Right now, for example, on April 5, PA is essentially closed for business. Many businesses and business groups have accused Governor Wolfe of over-reach.

We noticed no change in Florida activity while we were there. If there were restrictions we did not notice them. There was no lockdown and no talks about staying home. NY locked down the state and the city about 2/3 into March under duress.

Both Cuomo and De Blasio—the State, and the City of NY had not paid much attention to the pandemic ‘til that point. The Speaker of

the US House was not very concerned either. The signals were very mixed as only the President seemed to think we needed to worry.

The Speaker had been in Chinatown on the West Coast inviting people to come on down and continue to have a good time. You've probably seen the video. The impeachment debacle was over and Congress had yet to get back to work, or so it seemed. A lot of people had this pandemic wrong.

On January 31, long before anybody who was anybody was aroused enough to act, President Donald Trump saw something and despite negatives from the opposing party, he, on his own authority as president banned travel from China to the US.

In retrospect, even the scientists say things would be much worse without that ban. Italy and Iran kept inviting Chinese from China and their countries have been paying for the lack of social distancing from infected foreigners and guests. The analysts often suggest that is why their issue is so bad today..

Florida governor Ron DeSantis had his own reason. Florida is so warm, nobody thinks flu. But even he eventually gave in under pressure. He finally issued a statewide lockdown after revealing coronavirus first started circulating in Miami in early February during the Super Bowl from International travelers and soon state cases surged to 6,955.

Yes, concern in Florida began after we left after the Super Bowl but cases of coronavirus in Florida have surged to nearly 7,000, with 857 people hospitalized and 87 dead at the time this was written. When I was in Florida on February 2 during the Super Bowl, I had no idea anything like this was happening. I am very glad the Chiefs got to play the game and win the game. God works in strange ways for sure.

Before April 1, 2020, Governor DeSantis had refused to initiate a statewide lockdown despite the fact that cases of coronavirus there were spiking. His order went into effect Thursday April 2 at midnight and was scheduled to last 30 days. Hopefully, that will do it.

Testing in the state at the time of Superbowl was only for those who had been to certain parts of China. No wonder I did not know about it. The first confirmed case of coronavirus in Florida was a month later on March 1 , the first death was March 5. I was home for weeks before that happened

As Chiefs fans know very well, the Chiefs Super Bowl victory took place at the Hard Rock Stadium in Miami Gardens with 62,000 people in attendance. Few people in the stadium had any issues with sickness, if any. There are still no reported cases of Chiefs or 49ers coming down with the virus.

Yet, despite a reasonably good record, the experts watching what is now happening, say that Florida is on track to become the next coronavirus epicenter in the US as the number of cases spike there. I hope not. I hope the heat in the Florida air kills it. I do.

The shutdown of our county in PA had not yet happened. We stay home most of the time anyway but in PA before this became a big deal, we had big family athletic plans that for parts of the family rivaled even the Super Bowl.

You see, we, the Kelly's, were planning to go outside driving on March 12 to see my wonderfully talented niece compete in the AAA PA State diving championships held at Bucknell University in Lewisburg. By then we knew about social distancing and other than four of us being in the car both ways for the 100—mile trip, we kept our distances. We did not think it applied to us. Nobody had clued us in seriously at this point. We had been back from Florida about three weeks or so, by then so we figured whatever it was, it was gone.

Because we all support the finest who engage in athletic events, please permit a few paragraphs to help you know why this was important to us all. My niece, Sophia Ginochetti, had placed in the State Championship meet in each of the prior years from Freshman year through Sophomore, to Junior—in which she competed. We had been there cheering her on each year. She was a Northeastern PA prodigy. NEPA was not known for its prowess in swimming or diving. We were all very proud.

Side note: Sophia's dad, Brian, was a high school State Champ, and her mom Liz was a diving star at Meyers High in Wilkes-Barre, PA. So what's that they say about the apple?

This year, her Senior year, after an early season injury, she almost had to drop out of diving completely. There seemed like there might be just enough time for her to recover. And, so, with just the right amount of determination, and great physical training and coaching, Sophia came back. It took much work on her part and her coaches.

Before her injury, she hoped to get a State-Level trophy in this her senior year at Wyoming Valley West High School. She did exactly that. But because of COVID, and her injury, she almost did not get to compete. The meet itself almost did not happen. In fact, we thought it had been called off.

My brother Joe was driving the newest vehicle in the extended family with my wife Pat and his wife Diane maintaining navigational duties. As we got halfway to Lewisburg, we got a call that made us confused about whether the meet was a go or no-go. In fact, we thought it was canceled. So, we turned around half way to Lewisburg. We got the word at about 11:30 AM on March 12, that the meet was off because of the Governor. This was bad news but hopefully it would be rescheduled.

When we got all the way home we learned that the news we heard was about the AA-level diving not AAA. Sophia was competing in AAA. The meet had never been called off but PA has such poor communication about what was or what might be that many were confused and many decided not to attend. We decided to begin again.

After a short while at home, to pack some extra sammiches, we got back in the car and got to see the whole event. We arrived a little after 2:00 PM and we are thankful that we did.



Sophia Ginochetti in Action—A winner--made the state champs finalists

Sophia Ginochetti, my wonderful niece, performed better than ever. She was great and got on the medal stand in eighth place, which was her goal after recovering from injury. She was thrilled as all of us were. After the diving, the call on the meet occurring was so close that Bucknell was shut down tight as a drum and the rest of the swimming & diving was canceled by the State to be rescheduled one day in the futures. The Governor canceled it for good last week. He could have waited until things were safer. Think of Andy Reid's people showing up for the Super Bowl and finding out it was postponed indefinitely for the coronavirus.

So, the same day that Sophia earned her medal, the PIAA announced it was postponing the Class AA meet originally scheduled for Friday and Saturday as the sports world reacted to the coronavirus pandemic.

“On the way there we were just hoping and praying that we were able to compete,” Sophia said. “We didn't know if it was going to happen. Our family bought Sophia a cake, which she loved and she had some great writeups in the local paper. We'll see the Sophia branch of the Kelly family with mom and Dad, Liz and Brian and siblings Fleure and Lukaduke soon. We can't wait.





Andy Reid in some unexpected Super Bowl Action – A Winning coach

Despite the Coronavirus being in the Air in Florida on February, 2, the Chiefs got to win the World Championship. Andy Reid's team were crowned champions. And lucky us a second time, as on March 12, my niece Sophia got to compete and win eighth place in the PA State Championship diving competition. Bravo to Andy and the Chiefs. Bravo to Sophia and Wyoming Valley West High School. God bless us all and keep us safe. Today is April 5 as I prepared to publish the KC Chiefs book.

## Chiefs/Texans/ AFL Early History

Here is a bit of the early history of the Chiefs and entrepreneur Lamar Hunt. 1959, Hunt, who was the son of oil tycoon H. L. Hunt, began discussions with other businessmen in establishing an American football organization that would compete for fans against the National Football League. As early as 1958, a 25-year-old Hunt wanted to purchase an NFL franchise and move them to Dallas, Texas.

His desire to secure a professional football franchise increased further after he watched the historic 1958 NFL Championship Game between the Baltimore Colts and the New York Giants. The game was the first sudden death experience and still to this day it is known as *the greatest football game that was ever played*.

Before the Championship encounter, Hunt was mostly interested in buying the Chicago Cardinals NFL team. The NFL was aware of his interest and the League convinced Hunt to contact Cardinals owner Violet Bidwill Wolfner, and her husband Walter Wolfner. They eventually agreed to sell Hunt 20 percent of the Cardinals franchise. Hunt declined the offer. He wanted his own team. After in essence being rejected by the NFL, his thoughts turned to the idea of forming a second league.

He asked himself "Why wouldn't a second league work", Hunt recalled. "There was an American and a National League in baseball," so Hunt figured, why not football?" The brash young man contacted several other individuals who also had expressed interest in the Cardinals franchise. They were Bud Adams, Bob Howsam, Bill Boyer, and Max Winter. He tested their interest in forming a second league. It was a positive experience.

On August 14, the first meeting of the to-be new league was held in Chicago. Charter memberships were issued to six original cities — Dallas, New York, Houston, Los Angeles, Minneapolis, and Denver. The new league was officially named The American Football League on August 22.

Ralph Wilson was offered the league's seventh franchise on October 28 and Billy Sullivan became the league's eighth team's owner on November 22. Minneapolis withdrew its franchise from the AFL in November after receiving an offer for a team in the NFL. Oakland, California then jumped on the notion and joined the AFL as the Oakland Raiders. And that is how the AFL came to be.

I was about twelve years old at the time, and we had a relatively new Admiral B/W TV that was on its last legs from the moment it was installed. My brother Ed, six years my senior, and his best buddies Bobby Stanton and Jimmy Malacarne became quite adept at fixing tube era TVs. Sometimes when the game disappeared the family

enjoyed watching this trio at work trying to breathe life into a TV model that seemed built to last just one year. Sometime, it would be snowing harder on the TV set than outside in the Pennsylvania Winters. But, even then, the volume worked and we knew what was happening in the games. My dad and I watched the AFL and the NFL games. We could not get enough

With guys like George Blanda and Charlie Tolar in the AFL, it added to the football experience. I was one of many who loved the AFL and hated the merge. Even before watching Joe Namath beat the Baltimore Colts in Super Bowl III, v Johnny Unitas, I loved AFL style football.

In that Namath Super Bowl, by the way, Earl Morrall played most of the game as Namath's Jets were pounding the Colts. Despite not playing until late in the third quarter, the great Unitas still finished the game with more passing yards than the team's starter, Earl Morrall. Namath kept his promise that year of a Jets victory and that game changed football forever. I saw it or at least heard it on the b/w Admiral TV in our living room on High Street in WB PA.

As noted, it was Chief's owner, Lamar Hunt, who was the prime mover in starting the American Football League. The AFL had become my favorite league as a twelve year old who loved playing street football on High Street in Wilkes-Barre, PA with kids on the block with names such as George Elias, George Eget, Rick Solomon, Billy Eydler, & Bobby Broody.

Lamar Hunt owned an AFL team known as the Dallas Texans and even he did not like the name or the locale so he moved the team, lock, stock, barrel but *not the name* to Kansas City Missouri. At this time in 1963, he named them The Kansas City Chiefs. Paul Harvey would tell you that's the *rest of the story* but let me tell you folks, that is just the beginning of a great 60-year run. I was there from the beginning.

So, the Chiefs, a charter member of the American Football League, held a franchise, which for three years were known as the Dallas Texans. The team began its first season in 1960. Three seasons later, Founder and American sports pioneer Lamar Hunt in 1963

relocated the club to Kansas City, renaming it the Kansas City Chiefs.

As we look back on six decades of football, Chiefs Kingdom celebrates the rich history, relentless commitment, strength of character and optimism of a team and its fanbase. Whether it's clear-blue skies in September or blizzard conditions in January, a dedicated 70,000-plus fans in a Sea of Red come together to support their beloved team. Football in Chiefs Kingdom is something that's even bigger than a game – it's a family. It's a network. It's a bond. Together with all parties, most especially the fans, they made this thing special and together Kansas City salutes its first 60 seasons of football in the heartland.

In 1969, the year of KC's Superbowl Season, The Kansas City Chiefs and Mano's Wine partnered to create a Limited Edition, handcrafted wine to commemorate the 60th Season of the Kansas City Chiefs . It was the perfect complement to the season in 2019, for raising a glass to Chiefs Kingdom. I had to mention that—as I am a real red wine guy.



In defining the format of the book, we chose to use a timetable that is based on a historical chronology. Within this framework, we discuss the great moments in Kansas City Chiefs Football History, and there are many great moments. No book can claim to be able to capture them all, as it would be a never-ending story, but we sure

try. The great moments naturally include a lot of great people, including players and the 13 great coaches that over time would make or break the Kansas City Chiefs.

Even before we get into KC football, we discuss the beginning of football, the beginning of the NFL, and the precursor name for the Chiefs, namely, the Dallas Texans.

Looking at the quick snapshot of coaches and seasons at the beginning of the book, it is clear that Kansas City has been able to survive a number of coaches who could not survive themselves, while the Chiefs football program has grown both in acceptance and popularity.

Look across the Internet with your web browser and you will be reminded that the Kansas City Chiefs are current world champions, having defeated the San Francisco 49ers on February 2, 2020 to win the coveted Super Bowl Trophy and those huge individual rings. After all fifty years since the last one, the Chiefs got the prize.

I have done my best to portray an accurate depiction of Kansas City Chiefs Football History, displayed in a properly summarized format so that none of us are reading this book forever. There are about 500 pages to this book however, so there is more than enough to accompany you on those cold winter nights after the close of the football season.

There are a ton of great stories for sure. More importantly, none of us should need to search further than this book for the truth about many of the depictions in this book. Let's talk about some Chiefs football moments and some great athletes and coaches now, before we close out the first chapter of this book highlighting the Great Moments in Kansas City Chiefs Football.

## **Brief Overview**

The Chief's team under Lamar Hunt has been around since the beginning of the AFL in 1960. As noted, the team was founded in 1960 as the Dallas Texans by businessman Lamar Hunt and was a

charter member of the American Football League (AFL). (It is not associated with the NFL Dallas Texans.) In 1963, the team moved to Kansas City and assumed its current name. The Chiefs joined the NFL as a result of the merger in 1970.

The Texans won the AFL Championship in 1962, the year before the relocation to Kansas City, Missouri, the following year. In 1966, the Chiefs won their second AFL title and appeared in the inaugural AFL-NFL World Championship game. In 1969, the Chiefs won the final AFL title and went on to defeat the NFL's heavily favored Minnesota Vikings in Super Bowl IV. The Texans/Chiefs were the most victorious franchise in AFL history, compiling an 87–48–5 record from 1960 to 1969. They won the Super Bowl in January of 1970, and February 2, 2020 at 09:12 p.m. Central. They are quite a team

Today, one must be a billionaire to own an NFL team, The Chiefs are valued at over \$2 billion. Lamar Hunt's son, Clark, today serves as chairman and CEO. While Hunt's ownership stakes passed collectively to his widow and children after his death in 2006, Clark is the operating head of the franchise; he represents the Chiefs at all league meetings and has ultimate authority on personnel changes.

As you can see, the Chiefs were once the kings of football and after 2020, the Kansas City Chiefs reign again.

Super Bowl IV signaled the end to the AFL and the NFL as separate leagues. The merge was then complete. Never again would the AFL play a football game. Super Bowl IV, the fourth and final AFL–NFL World Championship Game in professional American football, was played on January 11, 1970, at Tulane Stadium in New Orleans, Louisiana. The American Football League (AFL) champion Kansas City Chiefs defeated the National Football League (NFL) champion Minnesota Vikings by the score of 23–7.

This victory by the AFL squared the Super Bowl series with the NFL at two games apiece as the two leagues then merged into one after the game. As noted but repeated for effect, they became the AFC Conference of the NFL.





Super Bowl IV Kansas City's Len Dawson became the 4<sup>th</sup> consecutive winning QB Super Bowl MVP.

In 1999 Andy Reid was named the Eagle's head coach. He had been an assistant with Mike Holmgren's Green Bay Packers. He instantly transformed the Eagles into one of the dominant teams in the NFL. Beginning in 2000, Philadelphia won their division six times, appeared in the postseason nine times, and made a trip to Super Bowl XXXIX (39).

Reid served as the team's head coach for 14 seasons, the longest tenure of any coach in franchise history. Close but no cigar. Reid had a tough time with so many chances to bring a Super Bowl to Philadelphia.

In 2013, University of Oregon head coach Chip Kelly took the Eagles head coaching job and the Kansas City Chiefs hired Andy

Reid to replace Romeo Crennel. Both teams played lots better in 2013.

In his seven seasons with Kansas City, he has led the Chiefs to six postseason appearances, four division titles, two American Football Conference (AFC) championship games, and one Super Bowl title in Super Bowl LIV, the franchise's first in 50 years and his first as a head coach.

The Chiefs are alive and well, and it is because of Andy Reid.



# Chapter 2 Chiefs Launch First Football Team—the Texans



THE 1960 DALLAS TEXANS

Front Row: 14 Henger Erik, QB; 18 Don Flynn, DHB; 19 Cotton Davidson, QB; 21 David Webster, DHB; 22 John Bookman, DHB; 28 Abner Maynes, HB; 30 Jack Spawt, LB. Second Row: 32 Bo Dickinson, FB; 33 Curley Johnson, HB; 35 Smokey Stover, LB; 36 Clemm Daniels, DHB; 42 Jimmy Robinson, HB; 44 Jimmy Harris, DHB; 45 Duane Wood, DHB; 50 Jim Barton, C. Third Row: 54 Ted Greene, LB; 55 Tom Dimmick, C; 56 Walt Corey, LB; 60 Al Reynolds, G; 62 Sid Fearless, G; 63 Maxey Tee, LB; G 64 Bill Risher, C; 66 Dick Fry, DE. Fourth Row: 69 Sherrill Headrick, LB; 70 Jack Stone, T; 71 Ray Collins, DT; 72 Paul Rochester, DT; 74 Jerry Cornelius, T; 76 Buffalo Nasser, DT; 79 Charley Diamond, T. Fifth Row: 80 Max Boydston, E; 85 Ed Berne, E; 86 Paul Miller, DE; 87 Mel Branch, DE; 88 Chris Barford, E.

## The Dallas Texans

The Kansas City Chiefs launched their first football team in 1960 as The Dallas Texans. The first team is featured in the picture above. Most fans understand the Chiefs recent history which includes Andy Reid’s six championships at various levels. Topping the last one off was a big Super Bowl Win v the 49ers, 31-20 on February 2, 2020 the Hard Rock Stadium in Miami Gardens, Fla..

Here's a look at Hank Stram's record for 15 years with Dallas / Kansas City

<u>Year</u>	<u>Coach</u>	<u>Conf</u>	<u>Div</u>	<u>Pl</u>	<u>W-L-T</u>
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#### Dallas Texans<sup>1</sup>

1960	Hank Stram	AFL	Western	2nd	8-6-0
	• Abner Haynes (UPI/AP AFL MVP)				
1961	Hank Stram	AFL	Western	2nd	6-8-0
1962	Hank Stram	AFL	Western	1st	11-3-00

#### Kansas City Chiefs

1963	Hank Stram	AFL	Western	3rd	5-7-2
1964	Hank Stram	AFL	Western	2 <sup>nd</sup>	7-7-0
1965	Hank Stram	AFL	Western	3rd	7-5-2
1966	Hank Stram	AFL	Western	1 <sup>st</sup>	11-2-1
	• Won AFL Championship (at Bills) 31-7				
	• Lost Super Bowl I (vs. Packers) 35-10				
1967	Hank Stram	AFL	Western	2nd	9-5-0
1968	Hank Stram	AFL	Western	2 <sup>nd</sup>	12-2-0
	• Lost Western Division playoff (at Raiders) 41-6				
	• Hank Stram (UPI/PFW AFL COY)				
1969	Hank Stram	AFL	Western	2 <sup>nd</sup>	11-3-0
	• Won Divisional Playoffs (at Jets) 13-6				
	• Won AFL Championship (at Raiders) 17-7				
	• Won Super Bowl IV (2) (vs. Vikings) 23-7				
	• Len Dawson (Super Bowl IV MVP)				
1970	Hank Stram	NFLAFC	West	2nd	7-5-2
1971	Hank Stram	NFLAFC	West	1 <sup>st</sup> <sup>^</sup>	10-3-1
	• Lost Divisional Playoffs (Dolphins) 27-24 (2 OT)				
	• Otis Taylor (AFC POY)				
	• Willie Lanier (Pro Bowl Co-MVP)				
	• Jan Stenerud (Pro Bowl Co-MVP)				
1972	Hank Stram	NFLAFC	West	2nd	8-6-0
	• Willie Lanier (NFL MOY)				
1973	Hank Stram	NFLAFC	West	3rd	7-5-2
	• Len Dawson (NFL MOY)				
1974	Hank Stram	NFLAFC	West	3rd	5-9-0

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## The Inaugural Season 1960

Coach #1 Hank Stram

<u>Year</u>	<u>Coach</u>	<u>Record</u>	<u>PI</u>	<u>Conf/Div</u>
1960	Hank Stram	3-5-1	4 <sup>th</sup>	East



1960 Dallas Texans Team Picture

### Intro to Texans/Chiefs 1960 Football

The 1960 AFL based Dallas Texans competed in their first season of Professional American Football League (AFL) football. They were led by Hank Stram in his first season of fifteen as head coach of the Kansas City Chiefs.

This season was the inaugural season of Lamar Hunt's American Football League franchise from Dallas, Texas. Head coach Hank Stram led the team to an 8–6 record and second place in the AFL's Western Conference

Team owner Lamar Hunt was actively involved in the affairs of his new team. He pursued both legendary University of Oklahoma coach Bud Wilkinson and New York Giants defensive assistant Tom Landry to lead his Texans franchise. Both men turned out to be among the greatest coaches ever. Wilkinson stayed at Oklahoma U. Landry went on to coach the NFL's expansion franchise in Dallas.

Still needing a coach for the new squad, Hunt settled on a relatively unknown assistant coach from the University of Miami, Hank Stram. "One of the biggest reasons I hired Hank was that he really wanted the job", Hunt explained. "It turned out to be a very lucky selection on my part." You bet it was

The Texans conducted training at the New Mexico Military Institute in Roswell, New Mexico. In the preseason, the Texans went on a barnstorming tour with road games in Oakland, Tulsa, Boston, Abilene, and Little Rock. An announced crowd of 51,000 at the Cotton Bowl witnessed a 24–3 victory against Houston on September 2 as the club concluded a perfect 6–0 preseason record. Things looked good too great for the Texans season prospects.

The Texans selected quarterback Cotton Davidson from Baylor, linebacker Sherrill Headrick from TCU and running back Abner Haynes from North Texas. Lots of Texans, Haynes led the league with 875 rushing yards and nine TDs, as well as combined net yards (2,100) and punt return average (15.4).

The Texans became a flashy, high-scoring club which finished the year at 8–6. If it were not for three close losses, they would have had a shot at the division title. The Texans averaged 24,500 attendance for their home games, the highest average in the league. Lamar Hunt was either a genius or the luckiest man in the world.

## **Top Chiefs Players Johnny Robinson, S, 1960-1971**

Robinson was the No. 3 overall pick in the 1960 NFL Draft by the Detroit Lions, but the Louisiana native chose to play closer to home for the AFL's Dallas Texans instead. He started off his career as a running back and is the only player in NFL history to record 1,500

career rushing yards and 50 interceptions. Robinson was elected to six consecutive AFL All-Star Games from 1963 through 1968.

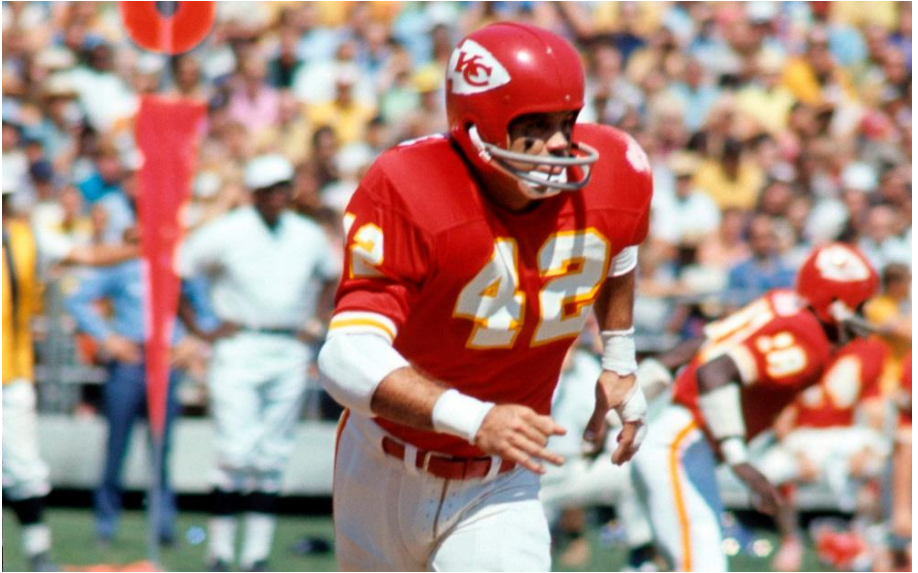


Photo of Johnny Robinson The Kansas City Star via AP

He played in Super Bowl IV and recorded both an interception and fumble recovery despite playing with three broken ribs. Robinson recorded 57 career interceptions, which ranks 13th in NFL history and second in Chiefs franchise history. He was inducted into the Pro Football Hall of Fame in 2019.

### *Quote:*

**Football is a brotherhood that you will always carry with you. The locker room creates a bond for life.**

Johnny Robinson was drafted by the Dallas Texans (who became the Kansas City Chiefs) in the 1960 AFL Draft. The All-Conference running back at LSU was also drafted in the NFL with the third overall pick by the Detroit Lions but chose to sign with upstart league. He excelled as a halfback (1960-61) and safety (1962-1971) during his 12-year career.

Robinson, as a halfback during the franchise's first two seasons, rushed for 658 yards and six TDs on 150 carries and caught 77 passes for 1,228 yards and nine scores. He was switched to the defensive secondary by Coach Hank Stram as it was felt Robinson's size, speed, aggressiveness and leadership were better suited at safety. In just his second game at the new position, he snagged two interceptions against the Oakland Raiders on Sept. 23, 1962. He recorded a pair of interceptions again, in the 1962 AFL Championship Game to help the Texans to 20-7 victory over the Houston Oilers to claim the league title.

Robinson was the third-leading interceptor in AFL history with 43 picks and was named to the AFL's All-Time Team. He was also recognized as a member of an All-Pro (NFL & AFL) Team of the decade. By the time his career came to an end in 1971, his 57 career interceptions ranked first in team history. He led the AFL in picks with 10 in 1966 and topped the NFL in 1970 with 10. Opponents soon learned that an interception by Robinson equated to a certain loss. The Texans/Chiefs recorded a remarkable 35-3-1 record in games when he had an interception.

Robinson was named All-AFL five straight seasons (1965-69), All-Pro, 1969 and All-NFL, 1970. He was voted to the AFL All-Star Game six times and to the AFC-NFC Pro Bowl following the 1970 season.

### **Games of the inaugural season**

In the season opener on Sept 10 at Los Angeles, the Chargers beat the Texans L (20-21) in a nail biter before 17,724. On Sept 16 at Oakland's Kezar Stadium, the Texans beat the Raiders W (34-16) before 8,021. Then, on Sept 25 at home in the Cotton Bowl before 42,000, the Texans shut out the Los Angeles Chargers W (17-0). In a close defeat at home in the Cotton Bowl, on Oct 2, the NY Titans edged out the Texans L (35-37) before 37,500.

On Oct 9, in another very close match, the Oakland Raiders defeated the Texans L (19-20) at the Cotton Bowl before 21,000. On Oct 16, at Houston, the Texans lost to the Oilers L (10-20) at Jeppesen Stadium before 19,026. In Week 7, the Texans rested from games in their bye week. Then, on Oct 30, at Denver, the Texans

edged out the Broncos W (17–14) at Bears Stadium before 13,102. At Buffalo on Nov 6, the Texans whooped the Bills W (45–28) at War Memorial Stadium before 19,610.

On Nov 13, at home in the Cotton Bowl, the Texans defeated the Denver Broncos W (34–7) before 21,000. At Boston on Nov 18 at Nickerson Field, the Patriots skunked the Texans L (14–42). Then, on Nov 24 at New York, the Titans defeated the Texans L (35–41) at the Polo Grounds before 14,344. At home in the Cotton Bowl, on Dec 4, the Texans defeated the Houston Oilers W (24–0) before 20,000.

At the Cotton Bowl in a home game, on Dec 11, the Texans defeated the Boston Patriots W 34–0 before 12,000. At home in the Cotton Bowl the next week on Dec 18, the Texans beat the Buffalo Bills W 24–7 before 18,000. The regular season ended. The Texans did not participate in the AFL Championship by finishing the season in second place of the Western Conference





# Chapter 3 Dallas Texans Football with Coach Hank Stram

Coach #1 Hank Stram



Hank Stram 1<sup>st</sup> Texans/Chiefs Coach

## 1961 Hank Stram, Coach #1

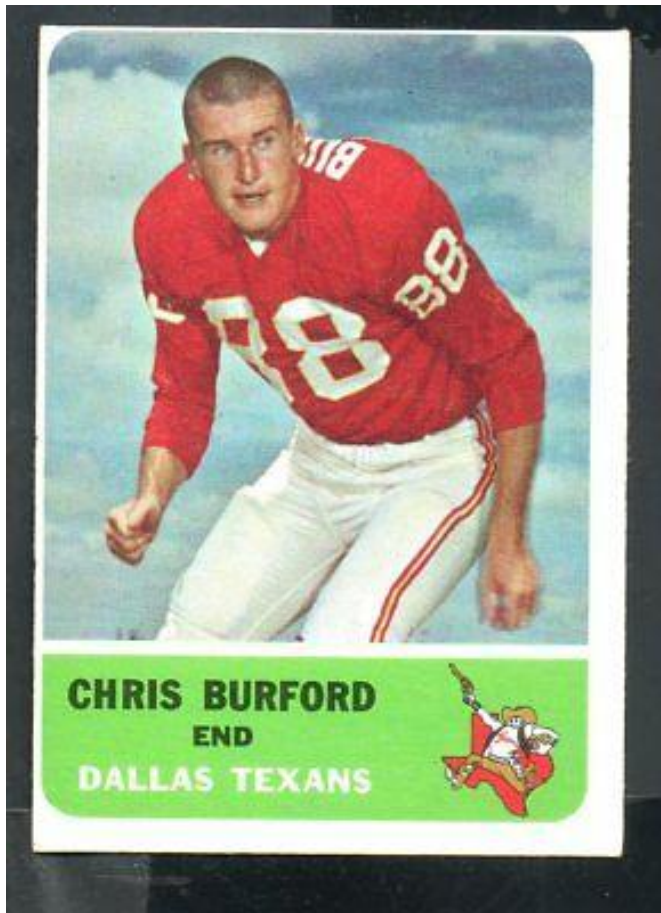
The 1961 Dallas Texans football team competed in their second season of Professional American Football League (AFL) football. They were led by Hank Stram in his second season of fifteen as head coach. This Texans team finished with a losing season record of 6-8, winning just six games. They gained a second-place finish in the AFL Western Conference. They failed to qualify for the playoffs for the second consecutive season. There were not many losing seasons in Hank Stram's tenure as coach but this was one of them.

The team moved its training camp to Lamar Hunt's alma mater of Southern Methodist University and started the regular season at 3-1 before hitting a six-game losing skid, the longest such streak of head

coach Hank Stram's tenure with the franchise. One of those losses was a 28–21 decision in a Friday night contest at Boston (11/3) which featured a bizarre ending.

## Top Texans Player Chris Burford, WR, 1960-1967

Burford also played 5 years for the KC Chiefs after the move



Burford was an original member of the Dallas Texans; Burford led the team in receptions from 1961 through 1963 and became one of the most consistent receiving threats in the AFL. His 12 touchdown catches in 1962 led the AFL and helped the Texans win the AFL championship that season. Burford ranks sixth in Chiefs history with 391 receptions and eighth with 5,505 receiving yards.

He was inducted into the Chiefs Hall of Fame in 1975.

## Top Chiefs Players Abner Haynes, RB, 1960-65



Abner Haynes outfoxing a lineman

In the AFL's inaugural season, Haynes led the league in just about every meaningful rushing category. He was one of the most electric players in the AFL in its early days, and he was named the league's Player of the Year in 1960. He shares the Chiefs franchise record for most touchdowns in a season by a rookie (12) with Tyreek Hill. He also shares the Chiefs franchise record for most touchdowns in a game (five) with Jamaal Charles. Haynes ranks sixth in franchise history with 3,814 rushing yards and led the club in rushing four times in five seasons.

Born: September 19, 1937 (Denton, TX)

College: North Texas

Drafted: By Raiders, 1960 / 1st Rd

### Career Highlights:

- AFL All-Star game, 1961-62, 1964
- All-AFL, 1960-62, 1964
- AFL Player of the Year, 1960
- Chiefs Hall of Fame Inductee, 1991

As the crowd was filing out of the Cotton Bowl after a Dallas Texans game one day, the public address announcer said: “As you leave, please drive carefully. The life you save may be Abner Haynes.”

The charismatic native of nearby Denton wasn't merely the first star of the Dallas Texans, he was the dynamic emblem of the early days of the American Football League a fast, elusive runner and receiver who transformed games and electrified crowds. In Hank Stram's words, he was a franchise player before they talked about franchise players.

Haynes led the AFL in rushing with 875 yards in 1960, and won the league's rookie of the year and player of the year honors. During the Texans championship season of 1962, he scored 19 touchdowns (13 on the ground), then a professional football record.

Everybody would ask me why I didn't go NFL, he once said. They said I'd have a lot more prestige. I'd just tell them I wanted to play right away, and that I couldn't put prestige on my dinner table and eat it. Though he never matched his all-league accomplishments of his first three seasons, Haynes retired as the AFL's career leader in all-purpose yardage with 12,065.

## **Top Chiefs Players Jerry Mays, DE, 1961-1970**

One of the most versatile players in Chiefs history, Mays joined the Dallas Texans as a fifth-round pick in the AFL draft out of SMU. Former Chiefs head coach Hank Stram said Mays was the only player he ever coached capable of playing at an All-Pro level at every spot on the defensive line. Mays appeared in 140 games with the Chiefs, never missing a single game.



(AP Photo of Jerry Mays recording a sack)

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Jerry Mays was a captain for the team in Super Bowl I and Super Bowl IV, recording a sack in the Super Bowl IV win against the Vikings.

In the midst of hall of fame teammates on offense, defense and special teams. Mays played at defensive tackle for the Kansas City Chiefs by the name of Jerry Mays. He stood at 6'4" and weighed in at a tough 252 lbs.,. He was a Dallas Texas native who became a local hero when he signed with the hometown Texans out of Southern Methodist University.

By all accounts Jerry Mays was a special person. A phenomenal player with a work ethic that set him apart from most others, he quickly became one of the league's best at his position.

He earned First Team All-Pro honors in just his second season, and was honored with the first of his seven trips to the AFL All-Star or NFL Pro Bowl Games.

In fact, so beloved was Mays that when he considered retiring early to join his father in the construction business, a local dairy printed a form letter on the side of milk cartons that fans could sign and send



to Mays. He was inundated with requests to rejoin the team, and soon ended his thoughts of leaving the game.

Still a young man when he was first diagnosed with cancer, Jerry Mays fought the disease for several years before finally succumbing in the Summer of 1994, at the age of 54.

Kansas City Chiefs owner Lamar Hunt sent out a package to Chiefs alumni following Mays's funeral. Each envelope consisted of four pages – a letter from Lamar and Norma Hunt, a copy of a poem written by Jerry Mays, and two articles that talked about his importance to the franchise that he helped build.

You will find a link to the contents of the package below. After reading them it is easy to see how much Jerry Mays meant to his friends and teammates, and how his loss affected the entire team.

<https://talesfromtheamericanfootballleague.com/remembering-the-chiefs-jerry-mays/>

## Top Chiefs Players E.J. Holub, C/LB, 1961-1970

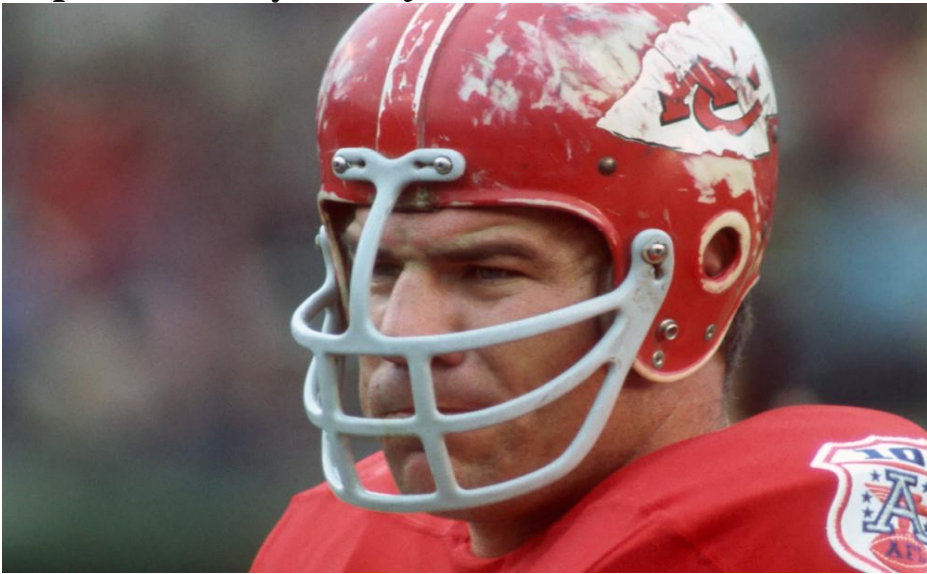


Photo of E J Holub by Tony Tomsic-USA TODAY NETWORK

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Holub was selected sixth overall in the AFL draft out of Texas Tech and opted to join the Dallas Texans rather than the NFL's Cowboys, who picked him in the second round of the NFL draft. Holub was a

two-way player, playing both linebacker and center for the Texans and Chiefs. He appeared in Super Bowl I and Super Bowl IV and was named to five AFL All-Star Games. Holub played through multiple knee injuries and underwent 11 surgeries during his playing career. Ultimately, the injuries forced his permanent switch to center.

EJ Holub was one of the best players ever in pro football.

Mike Rathet was the AFL's publicity director early on in the league's history. He had been an Associated Press sports writer and ended his career as sports editor of the Philadelphia Daily News, considered to be one of the best sports pages in the country, when Rathet was there with a wealth of columnists and beat reporters to include Mark Whicker, Ray Didinger, Bill Conlin, and Stan Hochman, among others.

In his role, Rathet wrote about many of the characters the AFL attracted – actually all professional sports teams had more than their share of characters back then, when character had a different meaning than we know it today.

EJ Holub, the Chiefs famous cowboy, played both offense and defense over his 10-year career in Dallas and Kansas City.

Holub didn't have a phone growing up in Texas, admitting to Rathet he was "sort of a hillbilly," chewing away on an ever-present wad of chewing tobacco he always seems to have in his mouth. His family didn't have a phone and it wasn't because they didn't want one; it was, as he said, "complicated by living 170 miles from the closest telephone facility." Holub made this comment in 1966, not 1866.

"Yeah, the guys kid me, because I'm sort of a hillbilly," Holub admitted as he chomped away on more chewing tobacco. At the time, Holub was living on his ranch on the Pecos River, some 125 miles from Odessa, Texas, and shopped there twice a week for groceries and other supplies.



Holub had only recently stopped chewing tobacco during games, had avoided an operation for the first time since he could remember and found a solution to the problems of being lonely at camp.

"I still chew during a workout," he admitted, "but I stopped doing it during games, a long time ago. You do it during a game and you get excited and you forget. A couple of times I swallowed it and that made me stop."

Holub had seven operations on his knees by this time in his career but, according to him, "I don't consider them serious, unless, it's a ligament and I haven't had any of those." [These were days before scoping.]

Finally, as a way of feeling completely comfortable, far from his Texas roots, Holub trucked two horses to camp to help pass the time.

"They give me something to do," he explained. "[In 1965] I just about went out of my mind, when we weren't working out. This year, I got them over at this place near camp and I went over and worked with them, when I had time." [Years later, tight end Jonathan Hayes became a quarter-horse enthusiast and in time, he lured quarterback Joe Montana to take up an interest.]



There was still one thing missing from Holub's life back then; "The television down home is fuzzy, because we're so far away from anything," he said. "And sometimes when the deer run around, they break the cable all together."

*This article has been reproduced in a new format and may be missing content or contain faulty links. Please use the Contact Us link in our site footer to report an issue. <https://www.chiefs.com/news/a-chiefs-historic-look-ej-holub-11065402>*

## 1961 Games of the season

At its peak the Cotton Bowl could host up to 92,000 fans. The Eagles pulled out of this stadium for Municipal Stadium in Kansas City when the team moved in 1963,

On Sept 10 at home at the Cotton Bowl in the season opener, the Texans lost to the San Diego Chargers L (10-26) before 24,500

On Sept 24, at Oakland, the Texans defeated the Raiders W (42-35) before a scarce attendance of 6,700. On Oct 1, at home in the Cotton Bowl, the Texans beat the Oilers W 26-21 before 28,000. Then, on Oct 8, at Denver, the Texans beat the Broncos W (19-12) before 14,500.

The Texans then lost six in a row as follows

Oct 15, at the Buffalo Bills L (27-24) before 20,678

Oct 22, at the Houston Oilers L 7=38) before 23,228

Oct 29, at Home, Cotton Bowl v Boston Patriots L (17-18, 20,500

Nov 3, at Boston Patriots L (21-28) before 25,063

Nov 12, at Home, Cotton Bowl v Buffalo Bills L (20-30), 15,000

Nov 19, at the San Diego Chargers L (14-24) before 33,788

It was not until Nov 26 that the Texans won again, v the Oakland Raiders W (43-11) before 14,500. Then, on Dec 3, at New York's Titans, the Texans lost again L (7-28) before 14,117. On Dec 10, at home in the Cotton Bowl, the Texans defeated the Denver Broncos W (49-21) before 8,000. Then, on Dec 17, the Texans beat the New York Titans at home in the Cotton Bowl W (35-24) before 12,500

## **1962 Hank Stram, Coach #1**

The 1962 Dallas Texans football team competed in their third season of Professional American Football League (AFL) football. They were led by Hank Stram in his third season of fifteen as head coach. This Texans team finished with a great winning record of 11-3. They came in first place and won the AFL Western Conference and the AFL Championship.

This was the third and last season in Texas for the 1962 Dallas Texans of Lamar Hunt's American Football League franchise before its relocation to Kansas City from Dallas.

This was the first AFL championship (and only title they would win as the Texans in Dallas) when they defeated their intrastate rivals, the two-time defending champion Houston Oilers, 20–17 in double overtime—a game which now stands as the second longest game in pro football history and the longest in AFL history.

Coach Hank Stram was named the AFL Coach of the Year and RB Curtis McClinton (Kansas) was named AFL Rookie of the Year. Haynes became the franchise's first 1,000-yard rusher, concluding the season with 1,049 yards and an AFL-high 13 rushing TDs.

The Texans set an AFL record for completion percentage in a season (60.6%). They led the league in both points scored (389), fewest points allowed (233), and total touchdowns (50; 29 passing, 21 rushing) in 1962.. It was a fine season and the last for the Texans.

## Top Chiefs Players Curtis McClinton, RB/FB, 1962-1969



McClinton was drafted by the Dallas Texans out of Kansas and was named AFL Rookie of the Year in 1962. He was a member of all three AFL championship teams in Texans-Chiefs history and also won Super Bowl IV with the Chiefs.

McClinton scored the Chiefs' only touchdown in Super Bowl I and ranks ninth in franchise history with 3,124 rushing yards. He also was an excellent receiver at a time when few running backs played such a role, recording 1,945 career receiving yards and 14 touchdown catches. Play by play announcers were very familiar with his name.

- Born: June 25, 1939 (Muskogee, OK)
- College: Kansas
- Drafted: 1961, by Texans / 14th Rd (110th overall)

### Career Highlights:

- AFL All-Star Game, 1962, 1966-67
- Outstanding Player AFL All-Star Game, 1962
- AFL Rookie of the Year, 1962
- Chiefs Hall of Fame Inductee, 1995

Mc Clinton was the consummate team player. The “Count” was a member of all three AFL championship teams, and excelled as a runner, receiver, blocker and clubhouse presence. He won the AFL rookie of the year award in 1962, gaining 604 yards with a league-leading 5.4 per carry average during the Texans championship season.

A sturdy blocker-once referred to as the third guard in the Chiefs attack-he also possessed unusually good hands for a big man, and in his final season with the club was switched to tight end. Curtis is the kind of person you’d like to have in your organization forever, said Hank Stram on the day McClinton announced his retirement.

He has always been a great credit to our team and organization both on and off the field. I’ll always deeply appreciate his loyalty and the attitude he has consistently expressed.

The son of the first African-American state senator in Kansas, McClinton went on to a distinguished career after his playing days were over, working on a wide range of economic development projects, serving as an appointee in the Carter Administration, and the deputy mayor of Washington, D.C. He was no only a great player. He was a great man.

## **Top Chiefs Players Fred Arbanas, TE, 1962-1970**

Arbanas was the prototypical tight end back in the days of the AFL — meaning he blocked first and caught passes second. While his blocking helped power the Chiefs’ rushing attack, the Michigan State alum ranks third among tight ends in franchise history with 3,101 receiving yards and 34 touchdown receptions — behind only Tony Gonzalez and Travis Kelce in both categories. Arbanas was a three-time AFL champion and appeared in Super Bowl I and Super Bowl IV. Photo of Arbanas on next page



Fred Arbanas AP photo

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Arbanas was a special man and a special player. He began his professional football career as a member of the Dallas Texans Football Club, after being selected in the 1961 AFL/NFL Draft in the seventh round by Dallas in the AFL and the second round by St. Louis in the NFL. He played for Dallas from 1961 to 1962, where he gained All-Pro honors and played in the AFL Championship Game in 1962. He was named “Rookie of the Year” by Pro Football Illustrated.

From 1963 to 1970, he played with the Kansas City Chiefs as a tight end and received many honors including being selected by his team members as “MVP” in 1964. He played in the AFL/NFL Championship Games in 1967 and 1970 and was a member of the Superbowl Champions team in 1970. In 1972, he was inducted into the Kansas City Chiefs Hall of Fame and in 1987, was selected to the All-Time Kansas City Chiefs 25th Anniversary “Dream Team”.

## Top Chiefs Players Len Dawson, QB, 1962-1975



Len Dawson Photo by Manny Rubio-USA TODAY Sports

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Lenny Dawson signed with the AFL's Dallas Texans in July 1962, just a few weeks after being cut by the NFL's Cleveland Browns. What a big mistake made by the Browns!

That season, he piloted the Texans to the AFL championship and earned AFL Player of the Year honors. After the franchise moved to Kansas City, he guided the team to two more AFL championships and appearances in Super Bowl I and Super Bowl IV.

Dawson was named MVP of Super Bowl IV as the Chiefs overwhelmed the Vikings, 23-7. With 28,507 passing yards, Dawson leads the Chiefs franchise, with the next-closest behind by 7,000. His 3,696 career pass attempts, 2,115 career completions and 237 passing touchdowns are the most by a Chiefs QB in franchise history.

Dawson enjoyed a decades-long media career after retiring as a player in May 1976 and was inducted into the Pro Football Hall of Fame in 1987.

Len Dawson played with the KANSAS CITY CHIEFS & PITTSBURGH STEELERS & DALLAS TEXANS (NFL) & the CLEVELAND BROWNS. He was the best QB in the AFL in his day.

Quote from Len Dawson:

*"I guess the main reason is I always wanted to do it. I enjoy doing it. I enjoy the competitiveness of it. I enjoy the money we make."*



Although Len Dawson ranks among the elite forward passers of all time with an 82.56 rating compiled over 19 seasons of pro play, he is perhaps best remembered for his courageous performance in leading the Chiefs to a 23-7 upset of the Minnesota Vikings in Super Bowl IV.

Dawson connected on 12 of 17 passes for 142 yards in the now-historic game, and his 46-yard pass completion

to Otis Taylor wrapped up the surprise victory that evened the AFL-NFL portion of the Super Bowl series at two wins each. Dawson was named the game's Most Valuable Player.

He was a # 1 draft pick of the Pittsburgh Steelers in 1957. Nonetheless, the former Purdue sharp-shooter struggled through five seasons as a seldom-used backup with the Steelers and the Cleveland Browns before finding his niche with the Dallas Texans of the American Football League in 1962, two years into the franchise and two years into the league.

He paced the Texans, who became the Kansas City Chiefs the very next year, to their first AFL championship in a double overtime victory over their Texas nemesis, the Houston Oilers. He was also

the chief architect of Kansas City titles in both 1966 and 1969 that led to his participation in Super Bowls I and IV.

Lenny Dawson was noted for his calm, poised approach to every situation. Yet, the 6-0, 190-pound Dawson was often lauded by his coach, Hank Stram, as "the most accurate passer in pro football." His record adds credence to that contention. Dawson, who was born June 20, 1935, in Alliance, Ohio, won four AFL individual passing crowns in 1962, 1964, 1966 and 1968.

He was good, period. He was selected to play in six AFL All-Star games and the 1972 AFC-NFC Pro Bowl. He was an All-AFL selection in both 1962 and 1966, and Dawson was named the AFL Player of the Year in 1962. During his career, he completed 2,136 of 3,741 passes for 28,711 yards and 239 touchdowns. He also rushed for 1,293 yards before retiring after the 1975 season.

## Games of the Season

The team name would change the next season with the move to Kansas City so bye bye Texans. On Sept 8 at the Cotton Bowl in the home and season opener, the Texans whipped the Boston Patriots W (42-28) before 32,000. In an early season bye, the Texans had a no-date on September 15 in week 2. On Sept 23 at Oakland, the Texans beat the Raiders W (26-16) at Frank Youell Field before 12,500. On Sept 30 at home, the Texans beat the Buffalo Bills W (41-21) in the Cotton Bowl before 25,500. Then at San Diego, on Oct 7, the Chargers defeated the Texans L (28-32) at Balboa Stadium before 23,092.

At home on Dec 9, the Texans defeated the Denver Broncos W (17-10) in the Cotton Bowl Stadium before 19,137. In the last regularly scheduled game for the Dallas in the Cotton Bowl, on Dec 16, the Texans beat the San Diego Chargers W (26-17) before 18,384

## 1962 AFL Championship Game

The Texans won the AFL Championship Game at Houston against the Oilers, 20-17, in 2 OT periods. Dallas won the '62 AFL



Championship when kicker Tommy Brooker connected on a 25-yard field goal during the second overtime of the title game, giving the Texans a 20–17 victory at Houston (12/23). Spanning an elapsed time of 77:54, the game still stands as the second-longest contest in pro football history as the franchise claimed its first of three AFL titles. The game is the longest in the history of the American Football League.

Deep *thank you's* to all the folks at goldenrankings.com for this great history lesson on this great game. They did such a great job on writing up this great notion of the 1962 AFL championship game that I was compelled to correct a few typos, make some changes, and use it as the basis for describing all the goings-on for the third AFL championship game. After the game, the Dallas Texans were gone and the KC Chiefs have lived on well from 1963 on. It is not presented as exactly as they wrote it but it is very close and all corrections needed that I found were made. Enjoy.

This is one of my favorite game play-by-plays. It is a great read for football fans, especially for those that enjoyed the AFL and who continue to love the World Champion Kansas City Chiefs. Thank you for all the great perspectives shown at this site

## 1962 Dallas Texans @ Houston Oilers

This series covers the history of the AFL through the prism of its yearly championship games. What is included below is about the 1962 season.

<https://goldenrankings.com/AFLchampionship1962.htm>

## The 1962 AFL Championship Season

This was such a pivotal moment in Texans / Chiefs history, I hope you enjoy this replay of a championship of championships.

In many ways Lamar Hunt was a lucky young man and he stayed pretty lucky most of his life. Having been very instrumental in the

formation of the American Football League in 1960 and then as the owner of his own football franchise, the Dallas Texans / Kansas City Chiefs, Hunt had a very successful career. Even if he did nothing more until his passing in 2006 than manage his football assets, what a career!

In 1962, the AFL entered its third season full speed ahead. It still was not assured of success but it looked for like it was going to make it big. My dad and I for the ten years that the AFL existed, we loved watching some AFL games on Friday nights and Saturdays while most AFL and the NFL games were played on Sunday. Our 21" B/W Admiral TV was always on while we were watching a pro football game.

In 1962, the same eight teams competed in two divisions of four. The Dallas Texans would move to Kansas City in 1963 so this was technically the last year for the Texans in Dallas Texas. They would make the most of the year while winning the AFL Championship.

The league had some concerns about the New York Titans, whose owner, sports announcer Harry Wismer, was loaded with debt. Some might say that attendance plummeted but the fact is that it was not good to start with.

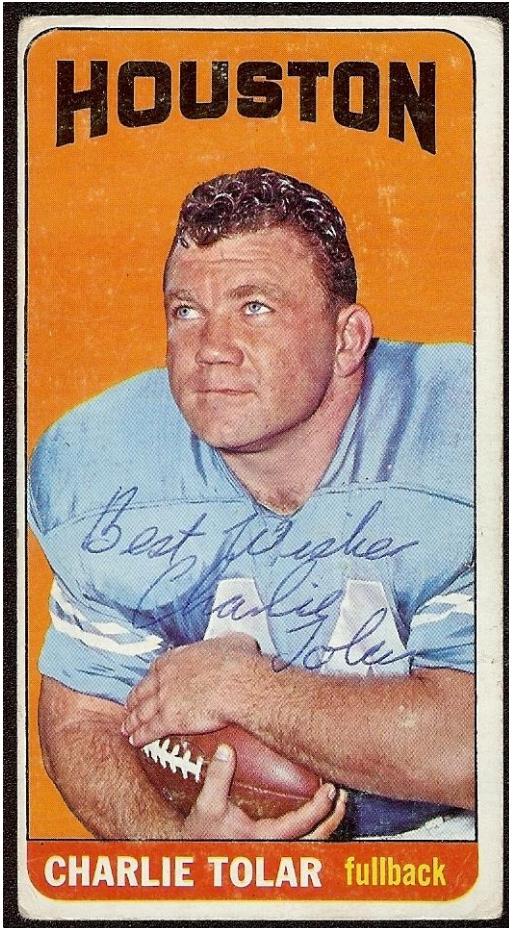
Yet, the AFL was successful enough by then that the teams had some real market value. For example, in January 1963, Wismer sold the Titans \$1 million to a five- man syndicate headed by Sonny Werblin. The Titans immediately became the New York Jets. .

The Houston Oilers were having their own sort of struggle. Despite employing their third coach in three years, they again won the Eastern Division crown. Their coach this year was Lee "Pop" Ivy. He had been an NFL coach with the Chicago/St. Louis Cardinals from 1958-61. His record was not the greatest at 15-31.

The Oilers were a winning team having won the AFL championship for two years straight from day one of the league until the beginning of year 3. Pop Ivy's team had almost all the talent from the two-time defending league champion teams still available. The Oilers made Pop look like a great coach finishing 11-3 to take the East crown by 1.5 games over the Boston Patriots.

I can remember watching the Oilers go-everything ageless George Blanda seemingly for years. He was the Oilers QB but he also did the kicking and had a knack for making the three-pointers. Blanda was a 13-year pro veteran. His offense led the league in yardage with 4,971. George had plenty of weapons to choose from, although star RB Billy Cannon suffered a back injury in Game 3 that would change his career.

Cannon offered these comments about his setback: "I still had speed, but I couldn't cut as well. My movements were a little more tentative. I'd lost something off my edge. I was playing well but not the way I'd played in '61 and not the way I felt I should be playing."



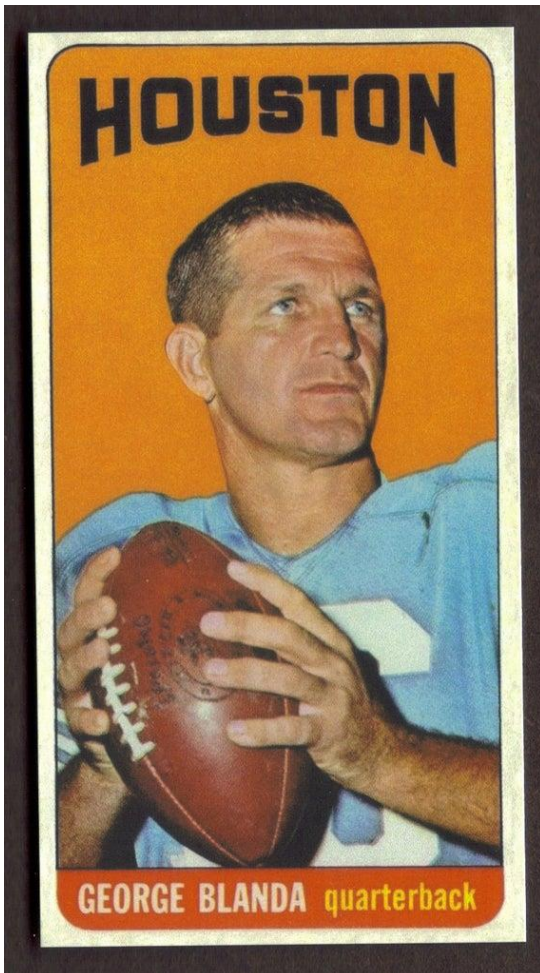
Cannon gained almost as many yards receiving (451) as rushing (474) in the double wing formation that Ivy had installed. My favorite player besides Blanda in the league was a mighty-might with the name, Charley Tolar. He played fullback and was listed as 5 ft. 6" but he looked smaller than that. He was known in the leagues as "the Human Bowling Ball." He seemed to be able to get under the arms of would be tacklers all the time. Tolar led Houston in rushing with 1,012y. Charley Hennigan again topped the receivers with 54 catches for 867yds.

Tolar had an unusual off-season occupation: oil well firefighter.

The Houston defense finished second in the AFL in yards allowed (4,130). LCB Tony Banfield and RDE Don Floyd made the All-Pro team. Banfield combined with LS Jim Norton for 14 INTs.

The Western Division race produced a new champion. After the Los Angeles/San Diego Texans took the first two titles, the Lamar Hunt's Dallas Texans jumped to the top rung.

Hank Stram was the youngest coach in a league with an average age of 23. He was a great coach for fifteen years with the Texans/Chiefs. Stram's team reversed the Oilers finishes in yardage, topping the league in defense (3,951yds allowed) and finishing second in offense (4,862yds).



Texans owner Lamar Hunt, known as the Founding Father of the AFL, had taken a big chance on Stram in 1960. It really paid off. Hank's entire young career at the time had been spent in college but never as a head coach. He had forged a reputation as an offensive innovator in stops at Purdue, Notre Dame, SMU, and Miami (FL).

Hank Stram could have been an NFL coach. Instead he took a fly with the fledgling American Football League. It was a risk for Stram in moving to the AFL since the future of the fledgling league was in doubt. To protect himself, he insisted on a salary of \$20,000 for the first

season. The investment didn't pay dividends until '62 after the Texans went 14-14 in their first two years of existence.

The key to Dallas's offensive success was a new QB named Lenny Dawson. Stram knew everybody or so it seemed. He knew Lenny because he had coached Len at Purdue. Dawson led the AFL in completion percentage (61.0), TD passes (29), and yards per attempt (8.9 - a stat computed retroactively). He had a great career at Purdue, then he spent five seasons in the NFL, three with Pittsburgh and two with Cleveland, without much success. The AFL somehow brought the best out in Len Dawson.

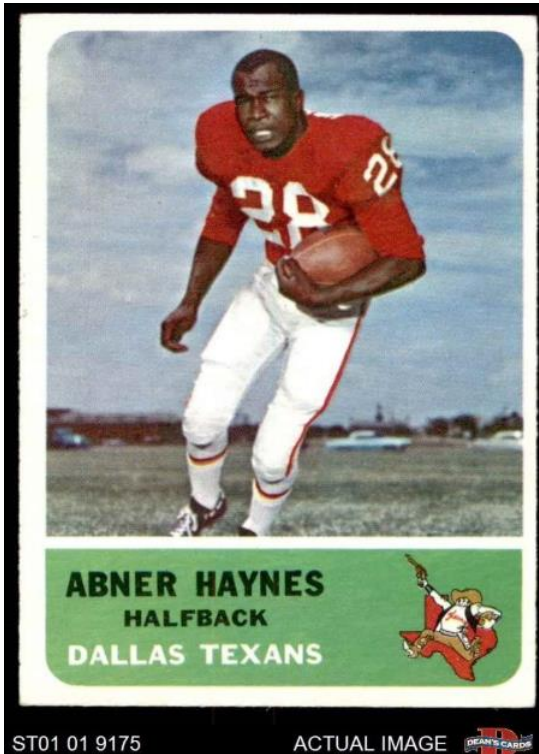
Len Dawson about his NFL prior to AFL days: "I started maybe two games and never started and finished a game ... I asked Paul Brown for my release [in 1962] because they had drafted a QB, and I thought that, after five years there is no way I am going to get an opportunity. He was kind enough to give it to me ..." When no NFL team picked up Dawson on waivers, Stram outbid several other AFL teams to sign him.

Hank did not take him as is. Instead, Stram rebuilt Len's fundamentals from the ground up, literally, and turned him into a Hall of Fame QB. Hank Stram was more than a great coach. He was a great teacher. He could shine excrement if need be or so it seemed.

## **Top Chiefs Players Abner Haynes 1961-**

Stram helped HB Abner Haynes, who joined Dawson on the All-Pro 1st team after gaining a combined 1,622y rushing and receiving. SE Chris Burford led the club in receptions with 45 for 645yds despite missing the last three games with a knee injury. He would not play in the championship game.





Abner Haynes was revered in the AFL because he had chosen the AFL after being drafted by both leagues. So no one could call him "an NFL reject." In 1961, Haynes scored a record five TDs in one game. The next year, he set another record with 19 TDs in a season. His popularity and importance was so crucial that, after one Dallas game, the PA announcer told the fans: "Please drive carefully on your way home. The life you save may be Abner Haynes".

Stram's Texans' defense was built around All-Pro LBs Sherrill Headrick and E. J. Holub as well as S Johnny Robinson and DEs Jerry Mays and Mel Branch. Stram had created a great lineup. It would prove to be a championship lineup.

I've got to get to find a place some day to sit in an amphitheater someplace filled with lots of people watching old AFL games and drinking fresh beer served by people excited to deliver the cold ones. Wouldn't you, especially of the times let us shake hands with hands.

The two Texas teams met twice during the regular season. The Texans humiliated the Oilers on a dark, rainy October 28 in Houston, 31-7. Dallas accounted for six of Blanda's record 42 INTs for the season and also recovered three fumbles.

But Houston gained revenge the next Sunday in the Cotton Bowl, 14-6. Running the ball twice as many times as the week before, they won the turnover battle 3-1. Would the Oilers maintain that approach in the championship event?

In almost three years of the AFL, the two clubs had split six games. Dallas was the only club to even tie the Oilers in their head-to-head series. At this time in 1962, nobody had ever won the Championship besides the Houston Oilers.

When the big game came, this title clash was billed as "the well-balanced Dallas Texans" against the "pass-minded Houston Oilers." The Oilers were favored by 6 1/2 points. Hank Stram and Lamar Hunt had other ideas.

Houston's attack, as in 1960 and 1961, would be centered on Blanda's "explosive passes." His great passing had accounted for about 2/3 of the team's yardage, backed by the running of 199 pound bowling ball Tolar and Cannon.

Dallas balanced and blended the "brilliant passing" of Lenny Dawson, who was chosen AFL Player of the Year, with the power and speed of FB Curtis McClinton, the Rookie of the Year. McClinton gained 937yds running and receiving, and of course, there was still Haynes, the AFL's second-leading ground gainer. The Texans gained 2,456yds on passes and 2,407 rushing - an almost perfect split.

Stram often talked over the years about his game plan. "Pop Ivy ... liked his defensive backs to blitz often. I thought two tight ends could neutralize their blitz, leaving the remaining defensive backs to go man-for-man against our flankers, both of whom had great speed."

Houston owner Bud Adams wanted to move the championship game to spacious Rice Stadium.

However, the university refused to allow its site to be used for a professional "for money" game, especially the day after it hosted the Bluebonnet Bowl. The bowl winner, Missouri, stayed over for the pro game.

So the game was set to be in Jeppesen Public Schools Stadium with its 32,000 seat capacity. Temporary stands were installed that allowed the attendance to hit 37,981. That number in attendance

would be a record for any AFL game. The game had sold out in just three hours a week earlier. They could have filled Rice Stadium and several others.

On December 22, the day before the game, the city of Houston voted to approve a bond issue to fund a new domed stadium. They had a lot of confidence in the Oilers as well as the AFL.

ABC would televise the contest nationally starting at 2 PM CT with Curt Gowdy and Paul Christman at the microphones and Jack Buck on the sidelines.

Hank Stram did not like the weather as he watched the route as the busses took his team to the stadium.

There were blustery winds off the Gulf of Mexico that would make passing hard and kicking, a Texans' weakness, even more difficult.

As Stram walked around the turf while the teams warmed up, he said, I hate this field. Look at it ... mostly mud. But underneath it's concrete. Poorly laid concrete. That gives the pass receivers a big advantage. The defense has to play them loose.

Pop Ivy had many of the same thoughts. If the wind bothers Blanda, we'll be in a load of trouble. But George had assured him that the wind wasn't as bad as it might seem.

Ivy told his team, "if we win the championship three years in a row, we'll be considered one of the great teams in all of football, not just the AFL.

A drizzle fell during warmups but stopped before kickoff. The television crew asked that the lights be turned on.

The Texans were tense in their locker room before the game.

LB Sherrill Headrick moaned that he didn't feel well. Let's go back to Dallas, he said while the team physician massaged his back. Sherrill always would get sick, grinned injured E Chris Burford. He gets sick before every game. He has for the last three years.



FB Jack Spikes said, I've been nervous for two days. There's more excitement to this than there is to a big college game. Besides, a lot of college guys never get to play in a bowl game.

From the opening kickoff, the Texans dominated the first half. In the first quarter, Dallas started from the 28 against the 15 mph wind. Dawson called three straight running plays before having to punt. Houston then began its possession from its own 44. The typical formation had Charlie Tolar just behind and outside one end of the line and Billy Cannon in a similar position on the other side.

Sometimes, one of the two moved behind Blanda. After two FB runs gained 5, Blanda passed to Hennigan to the 32. Cannon, wearing a back brace, got outside LE to the 26. Tolar then gained 7 for another first down. Then it was Charlie up the middle for 1, and Cannon on a power sweep around RE to the 12.

Blanda faked the ball to Tolar and handed to Billy Cannon, who again turned the corner at RE before Jerry Mays knocked him out of bounds at the 5. But the Texans rose up and blunted the drive. Mays and MLB E. J. Holub wrapped up Cannon at the 4. Blanda turned and lateralled to Cannon around LE. But another LSU player, DE Mel Branch, and DB Dave Grayson fired through and dropped the runner for a 4yd loss.

Will Blanda pass now? Yes, but he was hit just as he threw the pigskin. The ball sailed behind Charley Tolar, fortuitously right into the hands of Holub under the crossbar. The 235 lb. man of steel ran out to the 48 to not only end the threat but he gave the Texans excellent field position.



Cannon runs behind John Frongillo's block on E. J. Holub.

After rookie fullback Curtis McClinton gained 7, Dawson threw to his fellow All-Pro, HB Abner Haynes. Haynes caught the low ball while on the ground at the 36. He made the 1st down. On 3rd-and-3, Dawson rolled right in one of Stram's innovative "moving pocket" formations and he hit FB Jack Spikes at the 15 to move the chains again. This drive bogged down. So rookie E-K Tommy Brooker booted a 16yd Field Goal. It made the score Dallas 3 Houston 0 with 4:30 on the clock.

Bobby Jancik took the kickoff and scooted from the 10 to the 28. Under a rush, Blanda hit safety valve Tolar who advanced the ball to the 36. The next play was a crossback to Charlie through a big hole at LT behind Cannon's block. This made it 1st-and-10 from the 44. On 3rd-and-6, Blanda was perfect with a pass to his big 6'4" 235 lb. TE Bob McLeod. The ball was now on the Dallas 40.

But at that point, three straight pass plays gained zero yards. So Blanda tried a FG from the 47. It was long enough with the wind but just wide left. The first quarter ended one play later. The score was Dallas 3 ;Houston 0.



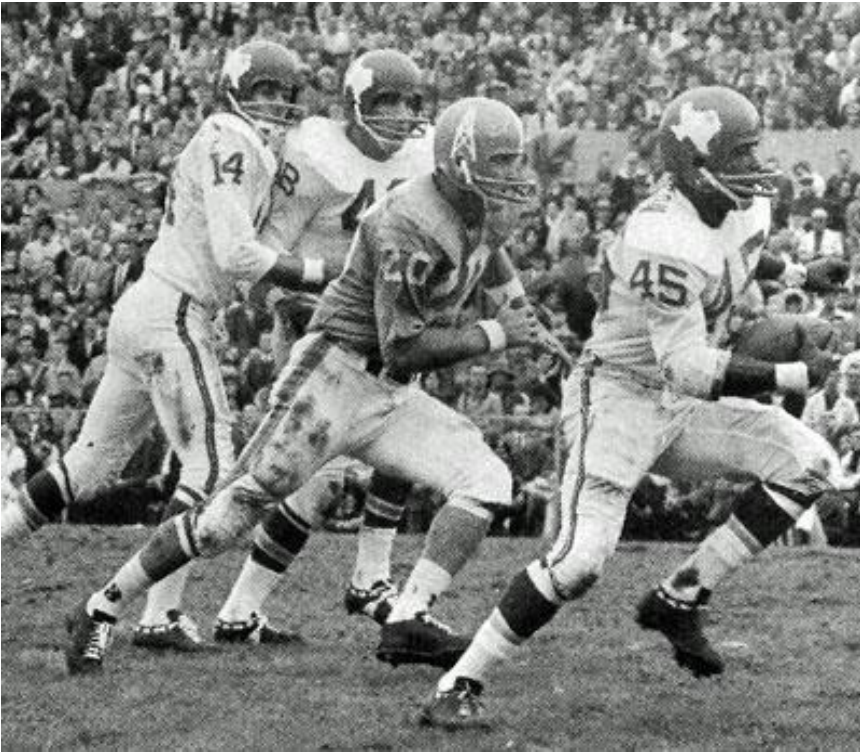
Curtis McClinton runs early in the game.

On the next play as Q2 began, Spikes bolted 33yds down left sideline to the Oiler 45. Dallas got 15 more for a face mask violation. Dawson scrambled to 28, then rolled right and threw on the run to Haynes who took it in stride just beyond DB Tony Banfield's reach and raced down the sideline for the score.

That climaxed a drive that covered 80yds in just four plays. Dallas now had a 10-0 lead over Houston.

Dallas held and Houston went three-and-out. So Jim Norton, 2nd in the league in punting, booted to Haynes, who made a fair catch at the Dallas 31. Dawson & Company gained several first downs before punting the pigskin into the end zone.

The Oilers' next possession ended quicker than the previous one. On 2nd down, in what appeared to be a mix-up between Blanda and Charlie Hennigan, Grayson stepped in front of a Blanda pass on the midfield stripe and returned to the 29.



Dave Grayson returns INT as Cannon chases.

McClinton and Haynes alternated carrying the ball to the two yard line. Then, Haynes slashed through the side from the 2. Dallas was then ahead by 17. Houston had yet to score with (3:40).

Staring into the face of another humiliation at home shutout against the Texans, the Oilers got a spark when Jancik returned the kickoff 48yds to midfield. Finding more success down the middle than on the flanks as Dallas double-teamed Hennigan on almost every play, Blanda hit McLeod to the 30. Three plays later, it was 4th-and-5. The Pilfers decided to go for it. But, Blanda's toss to E Willard Dewveall was knocked down. Houston had to give up the ball.

Not sitting on the lead but throwing safe passes as time wound down, Dawson faked a draw and threw to Haynes, who ran 8y to the 33. After the two-minute warning, two runs got the Texans 4 yds before Dawson made a quick flip to TE Fred Arbanas down the middle to the Houston 49. With the wind, another first down might set up a FG try. The Texans called a timeout at 0:39. When play resumed, Dawson threw long to Haynes out of bounds. It wouldn't

have counted anyway because of a holding penalty. Time was up and so the halftime score was the same: Dallas 17 Houston 0.



Abner Haynes rambles through the defense

The weather changed for the worse during the second half. The temperature was down 25° and the wind picked up even more. On the kickoff for the second half, Jancik got another good return, 31y to the 33. George Blanda set up shop. He was good at bringing his team back when behind.

Three other times during the season, he had been taken out of a game because of poor play only to return and lead a team comeback. This time, he moved the Oilers 67yds in six plays as follows: (1) Blanda over the middle to Dewveall to the Dallas 43. (2) Tolar on an inside handoff to the 39. (3) Tolar up the middle from the other wing for 13. (4) Blanda to Dewveall to the 15. (5) Holub almost intercepted the next pass, which fell incomplete. (6) Dewveall fell into the EZ as he caught the ball. Dallas 17 Houston 7. The score gave the Oilers a better outlook on the game.

Hank Stram offered this commentary about what had just happened. Stram: George Blanda came out in the third quarter behind a slot double-wing. We were playing it safe, trying to protect our big lead with zone coverage, and old George just picked at the soft spots, patiently taking short yardage we were conceding. You can't comeback if your defense doesn't hold the opposition.

The Oiler D took the field with fire in their eyes. Disaster nearly struck the Texans on the kickoff when a hard hit forced Grayson to fumble. But G Marv Terrell recovered at the 29. LB Mike Dukes set the tone on the first snap by dropping McClinton for a loss of 5. A defensive holding penalty gave Dallas a first down, but the next series ended with a punt.

Houston was in gear. The Oilers drove to midfield before facing 4th-and-3 at the 46. The crowd yelled "Go, go!" But Ivy was unmoved. Norton angled his punt for the coffin corner, and the coverage team stuffed Frank Jackson at the 5.

Three runs gained a Texans 1st down at the 15. Then the Oilers dodged a bullet when Dawson looped a pass just over head of Spikes in the clear down the left side. After opening up the defense with that pass attempt, Dawson gave the ball to Haynes, who broke loose over LT to the 29 where LB Doug Cline tackled him from behind. Dawson stumbled as he went back to pass and was snowed under at the 19. On the next snap, LE Gary Cutsinger got his paw on Haynes' arm just as he took the handoff from the QB. That caused a bobble that Ed Husmann covered at the 20. Would Houston make the most of it?

Blanda flipped a quick pass over the head of Tolar. On 2nd down, S Johnny Robinson snagged Blanda's pass headed toward an open Dewveall and raced from the goal line all the way to the 37.

Any momentum that carried over to the Dallas offense was extinguished when Cline red-dogged and sacked Dawson at the 28. The Texans ended the period with no points with the wind. Dallas 17 Houston 7





Dawson sacked as Ed Culpepper comes in to help.

The Oilers began the 4<sup>th</sup> period with 2nd and 10 on their 43. Blanda fired to his favorite receiver of the afternoon, Dewveall, for 9 big ones. Cannon continued the march by running around the left side for 5. Then Blanda threw down the middle to McLeod at the 15. The Houston fans were yelling "Go, go!" so, Blanda tried the same play but misfired. Then came a strange play that took the Houston steam out of the drive.

Blanda's pass was batted by a charging lineman into the hands of T Walt Suggs, who lateralled right back to Blanda. But Walt would have been better off dropping the deflection since George was dropped for an 8yd loss. Undaunted, the ole QB saw Cannon on the other side of the goal line. But Robinson made another great play, hitting his old teammate right as the ball arrived. So Blanda did the next best thing, He kicked a perfect Field Goal from the 31. The teams were separated now by just one TD. Dallas had 17 and Houston had 10 and the clock had (11:00).



Blanda boots FG out of Bill Groman's hold.



Cannon catches as Walt Corey comes over.



The Houston Defensive-line continued its domination of the Texans' O-line. When three plays gained little, Wilson punted into the wind to the Dallas 49. Blanda took over like he meant it. He threw a quick look-into WB Cannon to the 33. Facing 3rd-and-3, Blanda found Billy Cannon again. He was downed immediately at the 10. But, just ten yards would mean a different game.

Mr. Blanda rolled right and hit Hennegan sliding down at the 1. Tolar pushed over RT to pay dirt. Blanda booted the tying point. Dallas 17 Houston 17 (5:58). Holding on had not worked for Dallas.

Stram offered this: “We got a little rain, and the field grew progressively worse. Like some thoroughbreds, however, George Blanda was a great mudder and was just enjoying himself no end as he marched his guys deep into our territory.”

Grayson decided to run out the kickoff from 5yds. deep in the EZ. But Mark Johnston and Bill Herchman hauled him down on the 15.

Things got worse when an ineligible receiver downfield penalty moved the ball half the distance to the goal with a loss of down. Two runs gained only 3 but at least the plays ran some time off the clock. Wilson's kick traveled only 22y to the 41.

Knowing the Oilers might already be in range for the winning FG, the Dallas defense stood tall. Holub hit Tolar for a loss of 1. The Blanda-McLeod combo clicked for 8. On 3rd-and-3, George Blanda tried to clear a swing pass to Tolar but it was not close. So the Ancient One lined up a 42y FG. With the wind over his right shoulder, he needed to play a hook. It was not going to happen because Dallas had other plans.

MLB Headrick, with Grayson in his wake, smashed over the blockers and slammed an angry hand squarely against the screaming football.

Prior to that play, Headrick almost never rushed a place kick. He always left that job to his quicker teammates. But he took a step forward, saw a hole, and his instincts took over, so he guesses in the retelling of the story. Dallas took over at its 40 with 3:10 on the

clock. There was plenty of time to drive close enough for a FG attempt, although it would be against the wind.

After a 1y run, Dawson had plenty of time to survey the field before finally finding Arbanas at the 49 just before the two-minute warning. On 3rd-and-1, McClinton banged into the pile. The ball was spotted just across midfield strip. The measurement revealed a 1st down by the length of the football with 1:44 remaining.

But their new downs did not help as the Texans went backward to their 40. So Wilson punted to the 31 with a mere seven ticks on the clock. Dallas rushed one and dropped ten. Blanda waited, then threw what in later years would be called a "Hail Mary" that sailed too high at the 10.

It would be OT

So, the next field event was the most famous coin toss in football history.

As the visitors, the Texans would call the toss.

Stram offered these thoughts: "Our offense had produced zero points for two quarters, and our punting wasn't the world's best, so I decided that if we won the toss, we would elect to kick and defend with the wind at our backs.

During the three-minute break, Stram instructed his captain, Haynes, on what he wanted to do. If we win the toss, we don't want to receive. We want the wind. If they win the toss, we want to kick to the clock [with the wind].

One of the officials, Bob Finley, interrupted the discussion. We're ready for the toss. Haynes said, Okay, but coach wants to talk for a second. Finley: Abner, get your butt out here or it's fifteen yards. Haynes and Oilers captain Al Jamison shook hands. With Jack Buck holding a field mike close so that the entire nation could hear the dialog, Referee Harold Bourne flipped the coin as Haynes yelled "Heads." "Heads it is," said Bourne.

"We'll kick to the clock," blurted Abner. Bourne explained that Dallas had to option to receive or defend. "We'll kick," Haynes repeated.

Jamison wasted no time in saying, "We'll take the wind."

## **Abner Haynes called the coin toss.**

The Dallas bench went wild. Not only would the Texans have to kickoff, but they'd have to do it against the wind.

Buck went to the Dallas bench for an explanation. G Marvin Terrell told him; Abner made a mistake.

Stram recalled: "Abner just said it wrong. As soon as he said the word "kick," the Oilers automatically had their choice of which side of the field they wanted. It was a mistake you don't like to make. But what can you do after it's made. ... The tension level in the stands and on the field was tremendous; the players were exhausted and fired up at the same time. "Abner," I said, "listen. Forget about it. Everybody, forget about it. It's ancient history. We still got to win the game. That's the only thing that's important. Win the game!"

Lamar Hunt, an unpretentious owner if there ever was one, sat in the stands with other Dallas fans. He missed the infamous coin toss because he took his small son to the bathroom.

In the 1st OT period, Brooker laid the ball on its side on the tee and kicked low to Jancik at the 20. Bobby returned 14y. Blanda started strong, hitting Dewveall to the 42. But instead of running for the remaining yard, George threw two incompletions to Cannon on the right side.

Dallas had escaped a big one and began their victory march (hopefully) on the 22 after the punt. On 3rd-and-8, Dawson back-pedaled deep and threw over the rush to McClinton, who gained only 6. Jancik called a fair catch on Wilson's punt into the wind at the Houston 45.

Cannon ran through RT to the 49. Tolar headed left but crashed into Holub at midfield. Charlie left the game injured and never returned. Amazingly, it was the first injury of the hard-fought game. Blanda flipped a pass down the middle, but the Texans' Robinson picked it off and fought his way to the Oiler 47. The game was even and the wind offered no advantage at this point.

Nonetheless, the Texans could not take advantage of the excellent field position. On 3rd down, Dawson faded back to throw but was sacked by Husmann. So Wilson punted dead on the 11. Houston had to move the ball further away from its goal line by 20-30yds before having to punt. Cannon tried the right side but got only to the 14. Blanda was asking himself: "Do you chance a pass deep in your territory? Blanda did to save the game. He coolly hit Dewveall on a slant-in from the left to move the chains to the 25. Then the old maestro pulled a dipsy do out of his bag of tricks.

He handed the ball on a draw to Dave Smith. Tolar's replacement at FB immediately lateralled back to Blanda, who threw incomplete to Cannon. Billy showed the effects of his back injury as he could not bend over to catch the ball that hit his thigh pad. Curt Gowdy pointed out to the TV audience that the game was now the longest ever played, exceeding the famous 1958 NFL Championship Game between the Colts and Giants.

On 3rd-and-6, Blanda retreated and lobbed a flare pass to Smith, who ran to the 36 to keep the drive alive. Following a swing pass to the left to Cannon, Holub downed him after a gain of 4. Maestro George Blanda then hit Hennigan sliding at the 50. He got the 1st down.

A light rain began falling. After another misfire, the Big George connected with McLeod at the 40, and the TE tussled to the 35. The 54y drive had put the Oilers barely into FG range, but the quarter was about to end!

Blanda was one of the best kickers in the league. He had made FGs of 42 and 54y during the season. And he would have an Abner Haynes 15mph wind at his back.

Cannon offered these words: "In the huddle, I told George, "Kick the ball through there, and let's get this thing over with and go home." But Blanda said, "No, I want to run this play first." "This play" called for a fake to Cannon off-tackle and a rollout to the right. Blanda threw a pass that he would love to have had back.

It was intercepted by a huge 6'7" tall rookie DE Bill Hull on the 26. He was a basketball player at Wake Forest and he had some speed. He ran the ball back to midfield with one minute to go before the change of directions.

Hull comments: "We were rushing only three guys against their spread, so I dropped off to become a fourth linebacker - kind of a strange position for me, a little uncom-fortable, but [Stram] would do things like that, and they worked. George Blanda threw the ball right to me; he had no idea I was there. It surprised me, but I wasn't about to drop it.

Two McClinton runs gained a net of 2 to run out the clock. We were a little tired, Stram recalled, but I think we were more concerned with winning. After we had that big lead so early, we were very determined.

In the 2nd OT period, the game now went where no game had ever gone before a 6th period. The questioners had a field day with their questions. "Who would be the hero? Would it be someone you'd expect like Blanda or Cannon or Dawson or Haynes? Or would it be an unexpected individual?" It turned out to be the latter. Facing 3rd-and-7, Dawson flipped to Spikes at the 45, and the third-year man from TCU, who began the season as the starting FB before suffering a leg injury in Game 4, hustled to the 38 to earn the 1st down.

It was Dallas's deepest penetration since the first half. Then Jack cut through LT, veered outside, and sprinted all the way to the 19.

Dawson's commentary: "Their blitz had been coming from alternate sides all game. This time they guessed wrong. They came from the right, and we ran to the left.

Spikes: "It was an off-tackle play. McClinton kicked their LB out. Arbanas blocked down on their E and Al Reynolds knocked down their S. The rest was easy."

Although in FG range already, Dawson decided to stay with the player with the hot hand. Determined to avoid a sack at all costs, Lenny somehow eluded the rush and threw to Spikes who was open at the 5.

But Jack tripped as he pivoted to grab the ball, and it fell incomplete. McClinton came back in but was hit low as soon as he took the handoff by Herchman for no gain. Then Dawson sneaked forward and slightly to the right to put the ball in the center of the field at the 17.

Len called timeout and went over to consult with Stram. Stram offered this commentary: We weren't much better at kicking field goals than we were at punting. Our kicker, Tommy Brooker, didn't have great range or much consistency. We always held our breath on field goals that year. Especially this one. ... The field was sloppy, and I was worried about how well Tom Brooker might do, kicking on that muddy surface. "Tommy," I said on the sideline, "make sure you keep your head down and still and kick it through."

"Don't worry, Coach," he shot back. "I'll kick that sucker right through there."

The Oilers called timeout to "ice the kicker" as we say today. Ivy ordered an 11-man rush. Dawson returned to the field and tried to clean the mud out of the cleats on his kicking shoe. Teammates tried to relax Brooker in the huddle. But the product of Bear Bryant's Alabama program exuded confidence. Boys, it's over. We've got it.

Lenny knelt at the 24 and placed the ball for the rookie K, who calmly booted the pigskin through the uprights. The clock stopped with 12:06 showing. The game had lasted 77 minutes and 54 seconds.

## FINAL SCORE: DALLAS 20 HOUSTON 17

Houston almost won again but instead it was Hank Stram's Dallas Texans who walked away with the AFL championship.

c

Brooker booted the winning FG.

Both Stram and Brooker were hoisted onto the shoulders of jubilant Chiefs.

Jack Buck interviewed winning coach Hank Stram on the field right after the game. Little did they know they would be paired on the radio broadcasts of Monday Night Football for 18 years (1978-95).

The Outstanding Player Award went to Jack Spikes, who gained 77yds on 11 carries and another 24 on two receptions. Above all, he accounted for 29yds on the winning drive.

Dawson tried only 14 passes, completing 9 for 88y. Most importantly, he threw no picks.

Blanda, on the other hand, took to the air 46 times but connected on only half, 23. He gained 261yds but was intercepted a staggering five times.

The gross receipts totaled \$170,000. Each Texan earned \$2,261.80. \$1,471.09 went to each Oiler.

Hank Stram Commentary: This was the greatest team effort I have ever seen. This team never gave up. They just stayed in there and fought. ... I've never seen a team work harder to win a football game. These kids wanted to win a football game and they went out and did it. ... Houston was too good a football team to not come back like they did. We knew it might happen, but they did it despite all we could do. ... There's no doubt Holub's interception was one of the top two or three plays in the game. Instead of 14-7, it was 17-0. We were very confident at the half. On Robinson's hit on Cannon in the end zone.

It probably was a game-saving play, as it turned out. On "Lil Abner's Goof" (as one writer called it): Everybody was excited and tugging at Ab. He just didn't understand the option.

Brooker on his winning kick. It never occurred to me that I would miss.

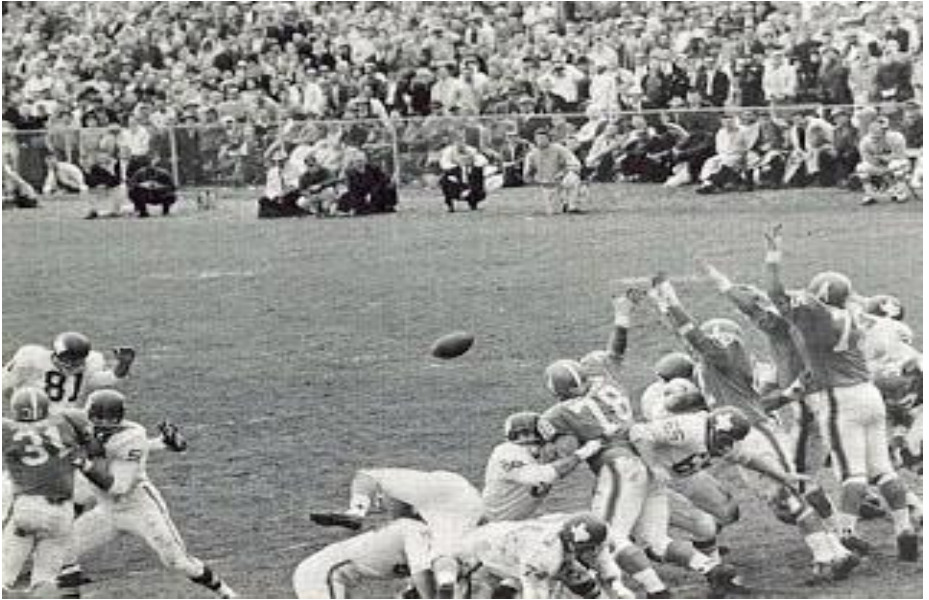
Haynes: It took us three years to get it (the championship), but, boy, it is worth it. I thought I'd go blind before it was over. Abner revealed that he cut an eye in Q3 and was bothered with bleeding the rest of the game.

Entering the locker room, Lamar Hunt was overcome with emotion. He reached up to an overhanging water pipe and did three quick chin-ups, punctuated with a war whoop. A non-drinker, he even took a brief sip of champagne.

Ivy: I'll lose sleep for years to come over that one. We had them on the ropes all the second half and even in the overtime period. We just couldn't capitalize on all the chances we had. ... We hand-cuffed everything they tried.

Blanda talked about Dallas jumping to a 17-point lead. We were probably keyed up too high and a little sluggish. ... Dallas was a conservative team. If we played it that conservative, we would never score.





Booker boots winning Field Goal



Commissioner Foss (C), Congratulates owner Lamar Hunt as Coach Stram tried to dry out.



Texans douse their coach



Texans celebrate with their owner (lower left).



The Dallas Texans 1962

### 1963 Hank Stram, Coach #1 Kansas City Chiefs

The 1963 Kansas City Chiefs football team competed in their fourth season of Professional American Football League (AFL) football. They were led by Hank Stram in his fourth season of fifteen as head coach. This Chiefs team finished with a losing record of 5-7-2.

They came in third place in the four team Western Division.

This was the inaugural season for the Kansas City Chiefs as a professional AFL franchise. They were renamed and relocated from the AFL Dallas Texans, which ceased to operate in 1963. Despite winning the AFL championship game the previous year, the Chiefs were 5–7–2 in 1963, third in the four-team Western division.

Lamar Hunt was well aware that his roster had a ton of players who had played college football in Texas. These players wanted to maintain a lineage to the team's roots and wanted to call the club the Kansas City Texans. The Lakers, for example stayed the Lakers when they moved from Minnesota to California. Nonetheless, GM Jack Steadman convinced Hunt that wasn't too smart. It wouldn't sell."

The team was thus renamed the Chiefs—one of the most popular suggestions Hunt received in a name-the-team contest and the Chiefs

began playing in Kansas City's Municipal Stadium without missing a beat in 1963. A name also considered at the time for the team was the Kansas City Mules.

FYI, the name, "Chiefs" is derived from Mayor Bartle, who 35 years prior, founded the Native American-based honor society known as The Tribe of Mic-O-Say within the Boy Scouts of America organization, which earned him the nickname, "The Chief."

The Chiefs' first Kansas City home was at 22nd and Brooklyn, called Municipal Stadium. It was in OK shape though it had originally opened in 1923. It had 49,002 seats. The Chiefs shared Municipal Stadium with the Kansas City Athletics of Major League Baseball. The first appearance of the Chiefs in Municipal Stadium attracted just 5,721 fans for a 17–13 preseason victory against Buffalo on August 9.

### **Background information re: the move**

The Chiefs' first season in Kansas City began with owner Lamar Hunt trading quarterback Cotton Davidson to the Oakland Raiders. For this, Hunt got the number one overall draft selection in the AFL Draft. Kansas City used this to pick Buck Buchanan. I rest my case.

One move begets another. Because the Chiefs gained Buchanan, the rival Raiders would later select Gene Upshaw in 1967 for the express purpose of blocking the agile and strong Buchanan. The Chiefs tabbed offensive guard Ed Budde from Michigan State with their own number one selection, while stealing another future Hall of Fame inductee, Bobby Bell from Minnesota in the seventh round.

Buchanan, Budde and Bell all became starters on their way to a combined 526 games with the KC team and all three of them played their entire careers with the Chiefs. It was a good move. Kansas City fans loved it.

Rookie running back Stone Johnson, fast as sin, if that is a proper description, had been a sprinter in the 1960 Summer Olympics in Rome. He was to add to the team's abilities but he suffered a serious fractured vertebra in his neck in a preseason game against Oakland



on August 30 in Wichita, Kansas. Johnson died 10 days later on September 8 and his jersey number 33 was subsequently retired.

The Chiefs had a lot of the same startup issues that new teams have even though they were transplants. They finished their first season in Kansas City with a 5–7–2 record and failed to reappear in the AFL Championship game for a consecutive year.

Nobody expected 5-7-2 after a 13-3 championship. Nonetheless it is what it is. Coming off the longest game (at that point) in football history against the Houston Oilers in the AFL championship game, hopes were high for a repeat title. After the move all was not the same as it was with the Texans . The Chiefs could not find the same swagger in their new home in Kansas City for their inaugural season. They finished at 5–7–2, which included three wins to finish the season *so well!*

## Top Chiefs Players Bobby Bell, LB, 1963-1974



(AP Photo of Bobby Bell by Robert D. Scott)

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Bell played quarterback in high school and defensive line at the University of Minnesota. He then spent two years on the defensive

line in Kansas City before being switched to outside linebacker. He was named to the AFL All-Star Game or Pro Bowl nine consecutive seasons from 1964 through 1972.

Bell, who never missed a game in 12 seasons with the Chiefs, holds the franchise record for most career interceptions returned for a touchdown with six. He also scored two touchdowns on fumble recoveries and one on a kickoff return.

In 1983, he became the first Chiefs player inducted into the Pro Football Hall of Fame.

## Top Chiefs Player Buck Buchanan, DT, 1963-1975



Buck Buchanan Photo by Tony Tomsic-USA TODAY NETWORK

In 1963, Buck Buchanan became the first African American player selected with a No. 1 overall pick when Chiefs owner Lamar Hunt personally arranged a trade to move up to the top spot in order to acquire the Grambling standout. Buchanan's massive 6-foot-7, 270-pound frame, combined with rare speed and strength, made him extremely difficult for offensive linemen to handle.

In 1967, he batted 16 passes at or behind the line of scrimmage. Buchanan played in 182 games for the Chiefs, including 166 in a

row at one point. Buchanan was an asset in Kansas City's Super Bowl IV victory, recording a sack and helping to hold the Vikings to just 67 yards on 19 carries.

He was named to the AFL All-Star Game from the 1964 through 1969 seasons and the Pro Bowl the following two seasons.

Quote from Buck:

"THE ONLY THING I EVER TRIED TO DO AS A FOOTBALL PLAYER WAS BE CONSISTENT. I NEVER DID A LOT OF SPECTACULAR KINDS OF THINGS. BUT WHEN WE GRADED OUT YEAR IN AND YEAR OUT, WEEK IN AND WEEK OUT, MY GRADES WERE RIGHT THERE, AND THATS WHAT I PRIDED MYSELF ON.

A long time ago in KC football history, Buchanan was the first player taken in the 1963 American Football League Draft. He was selected by the Kansas City Chiefs but he could have been an NFL player. Buck quickly proved the rave notices that preceded him were not unfounded. Eddie Robinson, his coach at Grambling, where he had been an NAIA All-America in 1962, called him "the finest lineman I have seen." Such accolades in those days were earned.

Others who had watched Buchanan in action were equally enthusiastic. Born September 10, 1940, in Gainesville, Alabama, Buchanan had the huge physical size of 6-7 and 270 pounds plus the athletic instincts to be exceptionally successful at his job of foiling opposition offenses.

He knew his job and was particularly effective at intimidating the passer. In one season alone in 1967, with his height and long arms, he was able to bat down 16 opposition passes at or behind the line of scrimmage. He was clocked at 4.9 in the 40 and 10.2 in the 100 at Grambling and, with that speed; he could range from sideline to sideline to make tackles. He could actually snatch a beer from the "beer man" that had been paid for and that was otherwise on its way to a fan. But he did not do that and that is why the fans loved him.

In spite of the weekly pounding Buck took from guys just inches shorter than him, he consistently won the scrimmage line. He never broke but he had to bend to get through the game, He played in 182 career games that included a string of 166 straight.

After playing DE briefly as a rookie, Buchanan settled down to his permanent job as the Chiefs' defensive right tackle. He was named to his first AFL All-Star game after his second season in 1964. It was the first of an eight-season period during which he played in either the AFL All-Star game or the AFC-NFC Pro Bowl.

Buchanan was a top player who was virtually unanimous as an All-AFL choice from 1966 through 1969 and then he won All-AFC honors in 1970 and 1971. He was a defensive leader for the Chiefs in their losing effort in Super Bowl I and then was outstanding leader in Kansas City's 23-7 upset of Minnesota in Super Bowl IV. In that game, the Buchanan-led defense completely stifled the vaunted Vikings attack.

### **Games of the 1963 season**

The team played as the Kansas City Chiefs this season after the completed move to Kansas City. As of 1963, there were no more Texans.

On Sept 7 at Denver, in the season opener, the former Texans, now the Chiefs, smashed the Broncos W (59-7) in Bears Stadium before 21,115. It looked they were a repeat. In another early season bye, the Chiefs had a no-date on September 15 in week 2. On Sept 22 at Buffalo, the Texans tied the Bills T(27-27)) at War Memorial Stadium before 33,487. Things were about to turn south.

On Sept 29 at San Diego, the Chiefs lost to the Chargers L, (10-24) in Balboa Stadium before 22,654. At home in Municipal Stadium KC MO, on Oct 6, the Chiefs beat the Houston Oilers W(28-7) before 27,801. Then, on Oct 13 at home in Municipal Stadium, the Buffalo Bills pounded the Chiefs L(26-35) before 25,519. Then, on Oct 20, at home, the San Diego Chargers beat the Chiefs L (17-38) before 30,107.

On Oct 27 at Houston, the Oilers handed the Chiefs a loss L (7-28) at Jeppesen Stadium before 26,331. At Oakland, on Nov 3, the Raiders beat the Chiefs L (7-10) in Frank Youell Field before 18,919. Then at home on Nov 8, the Oakland Raiders slammed the



Chiefs L (7–22) before 24,897. At Boston on Nov 17, the Patriots tied the Chiefs T (24–24) at Fenway Park before 17,270.

On November 24, the entire AFL schedule for rest of season rescheduled one week later because of postponed games in wake of Assassination of John F. Kennedy.

At New York, on Dec 1 the Jets beat the Chiefs L (0–17) at the Polo Grounds before 18,824. On Dec 8 at home, the Chiefs scorched the Denver Broncos W (52–21) before 17,443. Then, on Dec 14, Kansas City ripped the Boston Patriots W (35–3) at home before 12,598. In the season finale, on Dec 22, the Chiefs walloped and shut out the NY Jets W ( 48–0) at home in Municipal Stadium before 12,202.



# Chapter 4 Hank Stram & the KC Chiefs 1964-1973

## **Hank Stram, Coach #1**

The 1964 Kansas City Chiefs football team competed in their fifth season of Professional American Football League (AFL) football. They were led by Hank Stram in his fifth season of fifteen as head coach. This Chiefs team finished with a losing record of 5-7-2. They came in third place in the four team Western Division.

The Chiefs began the year with a 2–1 mark before dropping three consecutive games as several of the team's best players, including E.J. Holub, Fred Arbanas and Johnny Robinson, missed numerous games with injuries. Arbanas missed the final two games of the year after undergoing surgery to his left eye, in which he suffered almost total loss of vision. Running back Mack Lee Hill, who signed with the club as a rookie free agent and received a mere \$300 signing bonus, muscled his way into the starting lineup and earned a spot in the AFL All-Star Game.

The club rounded out the season with two consecutive wins to close the season at 7–7, finishing second in the AFL Western Conference behind the San Diego Chargers. An average of just 18,126 fans attended each home game at Municipal Stadium, prompting discussion at the AFL owners' meeting about the Chiefs future in Kansas City. Attendance revenue was an existential element in team survival.

## **1965 Hank Stram, Coach #1**

The 1965 Kansas City Chiefs football team competed in their sixth season of Professional American Football League (AFL) football. They were led by Hank Stram in his sixth season of fifteen as head coach. This Chiefs team finished with a winning record of 7-5-2. They came in third place in the four team Western Division and missed the AFL playoffs.

For the 1965 season, the Chiefs were one of the many teams caught in the middle of the AFL and NFL's bidding wars for college talent. Kansas City made running back Gale Sayers from the University of Kansas their first-round draft pick, but Sayers eventually signed with the Chicago Bears, who had also drafted him with their first pick in the NFL's draft. The AFL and NFL were independent entities and had no agreements at the time about drafting the same players.

The Chiefs also suffered some injury misfortunes. For example, they lost Mack Lee Hill late in the 1965 season when he suffered torn ligaments in his right knee in the next-to-last regular-season game of the year at Buffalo on December 12. Following what was expected to be a routine surgery on December 14 at Menorah Hospital in Kansas City, Hill died from what was termed "a sudden and massive embolism." Hunt called Hill's death "the worst shock possible." Just days after Hill's unexpected death, the mourning Chiefs defeated the Denver Broncos on December 19 to finish the year with a 7–5–2 record.

## Top Chiefs Players Otis Taylor, WR, 1965-1975



(AP Photo of Otis Taylor in Action)

Selected in the fourth round of the 1965 AFL Draft out of Prairie View A&M, Taylor would become one of the most feared receivers in a league known for wide-open passing. He went to the AFL All-Star Game in the 1966 season and the Pro Bowl in the 1971 and 1972 seasons. Taylor ranks fifth in franchise history with 410 receptions and second with 7,306 receiving yards, behind only Tony Gonzalez. His spectacular 46-yard touchdown reception in Super Bowl IV, in which he humbled two would-be tacklers, was called “the signature play in team history” by legendary owner Lamar Hunt.

### **1966 Hank Stram, Coach #1**

The 1966 Kansas City Chiefs football team competed in their seventh season of Professional American Football League (AFL) football. They were led by Hank Stram in his seventh season of fifteen as head coach. This Chiefs team finished with a winning record of 11-2-1. They came in first place in the four team Western

Division. They defeated the Buffalo Bills to win their second AFL Championship, their first in Kansas City.

The American Football League was also in its seventh season. This year, it added a team—the expansion Miami Dolphins—making it a nine-team league in 1966. The AFL schedule was 14 games at the time and so the teams played six opponents twice and the remaining two once, both from the other division. The sole games for the Chiefs in 1966 were against the New York Jets and Houston Oilers, both victories.

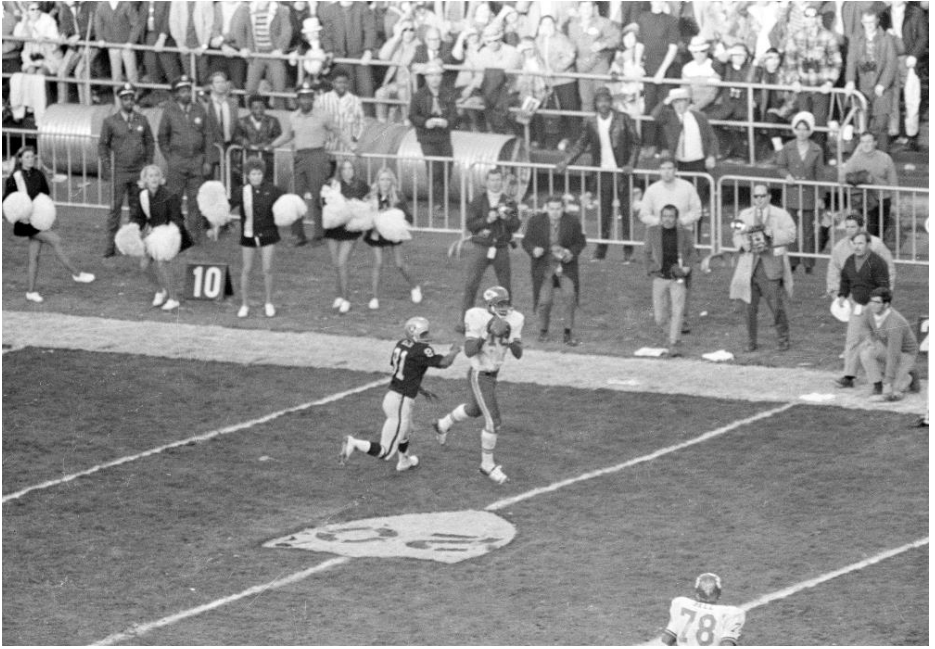
In previous years, the AFL title game concluded the season, but not in 1966, following the merger agreement in June. The Chiefs were invited to play in the inaugural AFL-NFL World Championship Game. Later, this game would be known as Super Bowl I.

The Chiefs lost the game against the NFL's Green Bay Packers. After a competitive first half, the underdog Chiefs lost momentum and the Packers overwhelmed Kansas City and won 35–10. The franchise's previous AFL title had been was four years earlier in 1962 when the Chiefs were the Dallas Texans. Not too shabby having two titles in seven years.

With nine teams this year, to make the schedule work, each team received two byes. The Chief's byes were week 1 and week 14 of a sixteen week season in which each team played fourteen games. ,

## **Top Chiefs Players Emmitt Thomas, CB, 1966-1978**

Who would have thought that an undrafted free agent out of Bishop College would go on to become one of the greatest cornerbacks in NFL history? During the Chiefs' Super Bowl championship season in 1969, Thomas led the AFL in interceptions with nine. In 1974, he led the NFL with 12 interceptions.



(AP Photo of Emmitt Thomas)

Thomas earned one AFL All-Star selection and four Pro Bowl nods during his career. Thomas holds Chiefs franchise records for career interceptions (58), single-season interceptions (12) and career interception return yards (927). He was inducted into the Pro Football Hall of Fame in 2008 and returned to the Chiefs as defensive backs coach from 2010 through 2018.

## AFL Championship

The Chiefs defeated the Buffalo Bills to win their second AFL Championship, their first in Kansas City.

By 1966, the American Football League had become successful and its Championship Game was a big event. This year was the seventh AFL championship game. It was played at War Memorial Stadium in Buffalo, New York, on January 1, 1967. The game matched our favorite team, the Western Division champion the Kansas City Chiefs (11–2–1) and the Eastern Division champion Buffalo Bills (9–

4–1). The objective of course was to determine the American Football League (AFL) champion for the 1966 season.

The host Bills entered in 1966 were the two-time defending champions, but the visiting Chiefs were three-point favorites, mainly because of their explosive and innovative offense led by head coach the great Hank Stram. The Bills were what would be called a more conventional team with a solid defensive line and a running mindset on offense.

The two teams played twice during the regular season and had split the games. They had played during the schedule without weather as a factor, with the road team winning each game. The Chiefs beat the Bills W (31–7) in this game and advanced to play in what is was retroactively named Super Bowl I to play against the National Football League (NFL) champion Green Bay Packers.

This championship game had been originally scheduled for Monday, December 26, which in 1966 was the week after the conclusion of the regular season. Since the AFL–NFL merger agreement of June 1966 called for a "world championship game" between the league champions, this had to be considered for the first time so after the date of January 15, 1967, was established for the "Super Game", the AFL title game was moved to January 1, which was the same date as the NFL championship game in Dallas. This gave both the AFL and the NFL teams a two week rest before they played each other

## **Kansas City Chiefs**

Sections taken from a Main article titled: *1966 Kansas City Chiefs season*

The Kansas City Chiefs had a great year finishing the 1966 regular season with an 11–2–1 record. This gave them undisputed claim to the Western Division title five weeks earlier, on November 27. Chiefs QB Len Dawson finished the season with 2,527 passing yards and 26 touchdowns, with only 10 interceptions, giving him a 101.7 passer rating.

The team's top wide receiver was Otis Taylor who caught 58 passes for 1,297 yards and 8 touchdowns; Chris Burford also contributed by catching 58 passes for 758 yards and 8 touchdowns. Mike Garrett



was the team's leading rusher, gaining 801 yards and 6 touchdowns. Other reliable options included Curtis McClinton (540 yards, 4 touchdowns) and Bert Coan (521 yards, 7 touchdowns). The Chiefs' offense consisted of five All-Stars: Len Dawson, Curtis McClinton, Otis Taylor, Jim Tyrer, and Ed Budde.

The Chief's defense consisted of six All-Stars: Johnny Robinson, E.J. Holub, Sherrill Headrick, Bobby Bell, Buck Buchanan, and Jerry Mays. The Chiefs were as good as they had ever been in 1966 and they meant business.

## **Buffalo Bills**

Sections taken from a Main article titled: 1966 Buffalo Bills season  
Main article: 1966 Buffalo Bills season

### **Game summary**

The weather was chilly and it was drizzling in early January. .When the game was tied at 7 apiece, Kansas City broke open the fierce 7-7 battle and took over the play action for the rest of the contest. The team would not be pushed around. Instead, they forced four turnovers (without losing any themselves) and they outscored the host Buffalo Bills 24-0 over the last three quarters.

Fletcher Smith kicked short on the opening kickoff. The ball was fielded by defensive end Dudley Meredith, who was unaccustomed to kickoff action that included receiving the ball. He fumbled the kickoff, thereupon, KC punter Jerrel Wilson, who also played on the kick coverage team, recovered it for the Chiefs on the Bills 31-yard line.

This prompted the first score of the game, a 29-yard touchdown pass from Len Dawson to tight end Fred Arbanas . After an exchange of punts, Buffalo tied the game when receiver Elbert Dubenion raced ahead of defensive back Fred Williamson aka "the Hammer", who caught the pass from Jack Kemp at the Chiefs 45, and raced all the way to the end zone for a 69-yard touchdown reception.

Later on, Mike Garrett brought back a 27-yard punt return giving the Chiefs a first down on the Bills 45-yard line. After a few plays, Dawson made a key 15-yard completion to Arbanas advancing to the Buffalo 29. It would be the last catch of the day for Arbanas, who ended up leaving the game with a separated shoulder; however, the play paid off big time as Dawson threw a 29-yard touchdown pass to Otis Taylor on the next play, giving the Chiefs a 14–7 second quarter lead.

The Bills responded with a drive deep into Chiefs territory. The drive featured QB Jack Kemp's 30-yard completion to rookie receiver Rob Burnett bringing the pigskin to the KC 12-yard line. The next play became one of the most crucial parts of the game. QB Kemp's next pass was intercepted by safety Johnny Robinson in the end zone. The fleet-footed DB returned the football 72 yards to the Bills 28. Mike Mercer then collected on the turnover with a 32-yard field goal giving the Chiefs a 17–7 halftime lead.

In the third quarter, both teams featured their defenses. Each team punted twice before offensive action resumed. Near the end, Kansas City got possession of the football on the Bills 42-yard line, but failed to score when Mercer missed a 49-yard field goal attempt.

The Chiefs put the game away with consecutive touchdown drives in the fourth quarter. First, Dawson's 45-yard completion to Chris Burford gave the team a first down at the Buffalo 4-yard line. Garrett then ran the ball on the next four plays, concluding with a 1-yard touchdown run. On the first play of Buffalo's next drive, receiver Glenn Bass lost a fumble that Bobby Hunt returned 21 yards to the Bills 20-yard line, which led to another Garrett touchdown run, the final score of the game from 18 yards. Buffalo could do nothing with their next drive, and on their final one of the day, Kemp was intercepted by Emmitt Thomas. And that's all she wrote.

Lenny Dawson completed 16 of 24 passes for 227 yards and two touchdowns and ran for 28 yards. Garrett rushed for 39 yards and two touchdowns, caught 4 passes for 16 yards, returned a kickoff for 3 yards, and added another 37 yards on 3 punt returns. Jack Kemp completed 12 of 25 passes for 253 yards and a touchdown, but he also threw two costly interceptions. Burnett caught six passes for 127

yards. The KC Chiefs would go on to the first Super Bowl in two weeks after winning the AFL Championship.

## Super Bowl I

The first AFL-NFL World Championship Game in professional American football, became known retroactively as Super Bowl I and it was referred to in some contemporaneous reports, including the game's radio broadcast, as the Super Game. It was played on January 15, 1967 at the Los Angeles Memorial Coliseum in Los Angeles, California. The National Football League (NFL) champion Green Bay Packers defeated the American Football League (AFL) champion Kansas City Chiefs by the score of 35–10.

The AFL and the NFL were not on friendly terms from the moment the AFL showed some signs of success. Fighting for fans and players did not make these two leagues become friends. It would take another few years, after the merger for peace to come but by then, they were one league called the NFL.

And, so, to repeat, there was a lot of animosity between the AFL and NFL. And, so, in this Super Game, representing the two rival leagues, both teams (Kansas City and Green Bay, respectively) felt tremendous pressure to win. This year, KC played only AFL teams, and this year, Green Bay played only NFL teams. Never had a team from one league played a team from the other. There were a lot of bragging rights at stake.

The Chiefs had a great record playing against AFL teams--11–2–1 during the 1966 AFL season. They had defeated another great AFL team, the Buffalo Bills 31–7, in the AFL Championship Game two weeks earlier. The Packers had finished their 1966 NFL season at 12–2, and they had defeated the Dallas Cowboys 34–27 in the NFL Championship Game. Still, many sports writers and fans believed any team in the older NFL was vastly superior to any club in the upstart AFL, and so the pundits expected Green Bay to blow out Kansas City. It did not make for friendly chatter.

When the game started, just the game mattered to both teams. The first half of Super Bowl I was very competitive. The Chiefs got the better start and outgained the Packers in total yards, by 181 to 164. The score was 14–10 at halftime.

Early in the 3rd quarter, Green went ahead for good as safety Willie Wood intercepted a pass and returned it 50 yards to the 5-yard line. The turnover in the second half added some attitude to the Packers play as they then scored 21 unanswered points. Green Bay QB, Bart Starr, completed 16 of 23 passes for 250 yards and two touchdowns, with one interception. For this performance, he was named the game's MVP.

The AFL had their favorite network and the NFL had theirs. Consequently to this day, this game remains the only Super Bowl to have been simulcast in the United States by two networks. NBC had the rights to nationally televise AFL games, while CBS held the rights to broadcast NFL games. Both networks were permitted to televise this game.

## The AFL–NFL merger

For two leagues that grew up hating each other. It was tough to find peace between the two. The NFL saw itself like God--as *always was* and always would be. The AFL saw itself as having the right to exist and prosper. When the NFL began its 41st season in 1960, it knew there was a new kid on the block—a new and unwanted rival known as the American Football League.

The NFL had successfully kept itself pure over the years and had prevented other rival leagues from getting established. In its seventh year in 1966, the NFL knew the AFL was not going away even though the old NFL initially ignored the new upstart and its eight teams. Early on, the NFL figured the AFL would be made up of nothing but NFL rejects, and that fans would prefer the real deal in the NFL. They were wrong.

However, unlike the NFL's prior rivals, the AFL survived and prospered, in part by signing well known "NFL rejects" who turned out to be highly talented players that the older league had badly

misjudged. Soon the NFL and AFL found themselves locked in a massive bidding war for the top free agents and prospects coming out of college.

Originally, to keep the cost of new players manageable, there was a tacit agreement between the two leagues not to raid each other by signing players who were already under contract with a team from an opposing league. This policy broke down in early 1966 when the NFL's New York Giants signed Pete Gogolak, a placekicker who was under contract with the AFL's Buffalo Bills. As you might suspect, the AFL did not stand still and began to retaliate. The AFL owners considered this an "act of war." The AFL wasted no time to sign several contracted NFL players, including eight of their top quarterbacks. War is hell!

Eventually the NFL saw it was costing them. The NFL owners had enough and they began negotiations with the AFL, hoping to resolve the issue. As a result of the negotiations, the leagues signed a merger agreement on June 9, 1966. Ironically, the fans had grown accustomed to the two leagues and liked the idea of more football and not all of it the NFL way.

Among the details, besides a common draft in order to end the bidding war for the top college players, the leagues agreed to become a single league after the 1969 season. In addition, an "AFL-NFL World Championship Game" was established, which, in the time before the merger, it would have the AFL and NFL champions play against each other in a game at the end of the season to determine which league had the best team. The NFL of course believed they would win all the games.

## **That brings us to Super Bowl I**

### **Where would the game be played?**

Los Angeles wasn't awarded the game until December 1, less than seven weeks prior to the "Super Bowl" kickoff. Besides, the game date itself was not set until December 13. This was previously discussed in the above section.

As one would expect, coming into this "first" game, there was still a lot of animosity between the two rival leagues. Both leagues put pressure on their respective champion teams to trounce the other and prove each league's dominance in professional football. Still, many sports writers and fans believed the game was a mismatch, and any team from the long-established NFL would perform in a far superior fashion to the best team from the upstart AFL. The Green Bay Packers expected to pound the Kansas City Chiefs and the Kansas City Chiefs expected they would pound the Green Bay Packers. When the game was actually played, the Packers got the "W" (35–10). The game was played in the LA Coliseum



LA Coliseum Super Bowl I Game Day

The players' shares for being on their respective teams were \$15K each for the winning team and \$7,500 each for the losing team. This was real money. This was in addition to the league championship money earned two weeks earlier: The Packers shares were \$8,600 each and the Chiefs received \$5,308 each.

## **Kansas City Chiefs**

The Chiefs entered the game after recording an 11–2–1 mark during the regular season. In the AFL championship game, they defeated the Buffalo Bills 31–7.

Kansas City's high-powered offense led the AFL in points scored (448) and total rushing yards (2,274). Their trio of running backs, Mike Garrett (801 yards), Bert Coan (521 yards), and Curtis McClinton (540 yards) all ranked among the top-ten rushers in the AFL. Quarterback Len Dawson was the top-rated passer in the AFL, completing 159 of 284 (56%) of his passes for 2,527 yards and 26 touchdowns.

## **Green Bay Packers**

The Packers were a long-time NFL dynast which had ups and downs like all long-term pro teams. They had just turned their team around from a bunch of losers just eight years earlier. The team had posted an NFL-worst 1–10–1 record in 1958 before legendary head coach Vince Lombardi was hired in January 1959. "Their offense was like a conga dance," one sportswriter quipped. "1, 2, 3 and kick."

Lombardi was determined to build a winning team. He did. His hard work paid off, and the Packers improved to a 7–5 regular season record in 1959. Green Bay went on to win NFL Championships in 1961, 1962, 1965, and 1966. They thought they were the best and many pundits thought so also.

Packers veteran quarterback Bart Starr was the top-rated quarterback in the NFL for 1966, and won the NFL Most Valuable Player Award, completing 156 of 251 (62.2%) passes for 2257 yards (9.0 per attempt), 14 touchdowns, and only three interceptions. His top targets were wide receivers Boyd Dowler and Carroll Dale, who combined for 63 receptions for 1,336 yards. Fullback Jim Taylor was the team's top rusher with 705 yards, adding four touchdowns, and caught 41 passes for 331 yards and two touchdowns.

In the week prior to the game, Chiefs cornerback Fred "The Hammer" Williamson garnered considerable publicity by boasting he would use his "hammer" – forearm blows to the head – to destroy the Packers' receivers, stating, "Two hammers to (Boyd) Dowler, one to (Carroll) Dale should be enough. "His prediction turned out to be partially correct as Dowler was knocked out of the game early in the first quarter (although it was because of an exacerbation of an injury he had previously received during the NFL Championship game in Dallas on January 1). However, Williamson himself was knocked out cold and carried off the field on a stretcher near the end of the game.

The two teams played with their respective footballs from their respective league. The Chiefs used the AFL ball, the slightly narrower and longer J5V by Spalding, and the Packers played with the NFL ball, "The Duke" by Wilson.

The AFL's two-point conversion rule was not in force; the NFL added the two-point conversion in 1994 and it was first used in the Super Bowl that same season, Super Bowl XXIX in January 1995.

Ironically, despite all the hype, Super Bowl I was the only Super Bowl that was not a sellout, despite the TV blackout in Los Angeles (at the time, local blackout was required even at a neutral site and even if the stadium did sell out). Of the 94,000-seat capacity in the Coliseum, 33,000 went unsold.

Days before the game, local newspapers printed editorials about what they viewed as a then-exorbitant \$12 (\$92.18 in 2019 money) price for tickets, and wrote stories about how viewers could pull in the game from stations in surrounding markets such as Bakersfield, Santa Barbara and San Diego.

All known broadcast tapes of the game in its entirety were subsequently wiped by both NBC and CBS to save costs, a common practice in the TV industry at the time as videotapes were very expensive (one half-hour tape cost around \$300 at the time, equivalent to \$2260 in 2019 dollars), plus it was not foreseen how big the game was going to become. This has prevented studies comparing each network's respective telecast.



On January 11, 2016, the NFL announced that, "in an exhaustive process that took months to complete, NFL Films searched its enormous archives of footage and were able to locate all 145 plays from Super Bowl I from more than a couple dozen disparate sources. Once all the plays were located, NFL Films was able to put the plays in order and stitch them together while fully restoring, re-mastering, and color-correcting the footage. Finally, audio from the NBC Sports radio broadcast featuring announcers Jim Simpson and George Ratterman was layered on top of the footage to complete the broadcast. The final result represents the only known video footage of the entire action from Super Bowl I.

"It then announced that NFL Network would broadcast the newly pieced together footage in its entirety on January 15, 2016—the 49th anniversary of the contest. This footage was nearly all on film with the exception of several player introductions and a post-game locker room chat between Pat Summerall and Pete Rozelle. Ceremonies and entertainment.

The Los Angeles Ramettes, majorettes who had performed at all Rams home games, entertained during pregame festivities and after each quarter. Also during the pregame, the University of Arizona band created a physical outline of the continental United States (shown above) at the center of the field, with the famed Anaheim High School drill team placing banners of each NFL and AFL team at each team's geographical location.

The halftime show featured trumpeter Al Hirt, the marching bands from the University of Arizona and Grambling State University, 300 pigeons, 10,000 balloons and a flying demonstration by the hydrogen-peroxide-propelled Bell Rocket Air Men.

## The First Super Bowl

After the opening kickoff, the teams traded punts on their first possessions. Then, the Packers began to dominate. They jumped to an early 7–0 lead, driving 80 yards in six plays. The drive was highlighted by Bart Starr's passes, to Marv Fleming for 11, to Elijah Pitts for 22 yards on a scramble, and to Carroll Dale for 12 yards.

For the TD, Starr threw a pass to reserve receiver Max McGee, who had replaced re-injured starter Boyd Dowler earlier in the drive.

Cowboys defensive back Mike Gaechter upended him several steps after scoring and he landed awkwardly. McGee slipped past Chiefs cornerback Willie Mitchell, made a one-handed catch at the 23-yard line, and then took off for a 37-yard touchdown reception. McGee had also caught a touchdown pass after replacing an injured Dowler in the NFL championship game.

On their next drive, the Chiefs seemed ready to engage. They moved the ball to Green Bay's 33-yard line, where the drive was halted and kicker Mike Mercer missed a 40-yard field goal.

Early in the second quarter, Kansas City got tolling and drove 66 yards in six plays. The drive featured a 31-yard reception by receiver Otis Taylor, to tie the game on a seven-yard pass to Curtis McClinton from quarterback Len Dawson. That was it for the Chiefs.

The Packers responded going 73 yards on their next drive, and then scoring on fullback Jim Taylor's 14-yard touchdown run with the team's famed "Power Sweep" play. Taylor's touchdown run was the first in Super Bowl history. This drive was again highlighted by Starr's key passes to Max McGee for 10; Dale for 15; Fleming for 11 and then Pitts for 10 before Taylor's TD on the next play.



DL Willie Davis (left) and Henry Jordan (right) sack Chiefs QB Len Dawson

Dawson was sacked for an eight-yard loss on the first play of the Chiefs' next drive, but he followed it up with four consecutive completions for 58 yards, including a 27-yarder to Chris Burford. This set up Mercer's 31-yard field goal to make the score 13–10 at the end of the half.

The Chiefs still were looking for a win but the Pack was not ready to give it to them. At halftime, the Chiefs appeared like they were taking the game someplace good for them. Many people watching the game were surprised how close the score was and how well the AFL's champions were playing. Kansas City actually outgained Green Bay in total yards, 181–164, and had 11 first downs compared to the Packers' nine. The Chiefs were thrilled at halftime. Perhaps they were too caught up with their fine play.

Hank Stram said later: "I honestly thought we would come back and win it." The Packers were disappointed with the quality of their play in the first half. "The coach was concerned", said defensive end Willie Davis later. Lombardi told them the game plan was sound, but that they had to tweak some things and execute better.

On their first drive in the third quarter, the Chiefs moved the ball to their own 49-yard line. But on a third-down pass play, a heavy blitz by linebackers Dave Robinson and Lee Roy Caffey collapsed the Chiefs pocket. It was designed that Robinson, tackle Henry Jordan, and Packer right end Lionel Aldridge would converge on Dawson who threw weakly toward tight end Fred Arbanas. The wobbly pass did not reach Arbanas but was intercepted by Willie Wood. Wood raced 50 yards to Kansas City's five-yard line where Mike Garrett dragged him down from behind.

This was a crucial game play Bart Starr later wrote about it: "the biggest play of the game," wrote Starr later. With just five yards to pay dirt, running back Elijah Pitts scored on a run off left tackle to give the Packers a 21–10 lead. Coach Stram agreed that it was the critical point of the game.

The Packers defense then dominated the Chiefs offense for the rest of the game, allowing them to cross the 50 yd line just once, and for just one play. The Chiefs had to scrap their game plan, and that hurt them. The Kansas City offense totaled only 12 yards in the third quarter, and Dawson was held to five of 12 second-half pass completions for just 59 yards.

Meanwhile, Green Bay dominated by forcing Kansas City to punt from their own two-yard line after sacking Dawson twice. The Packers got the ball back with good field position on their own 44-yard line despite a clipping penalty on the punt return. McGee subsequently caught three Starr passes for 40 yards on a 56-yard drive. Taylor ran for a first down, Starr then hit McGee for 16 yards on third-and-11, and a third down sweep by Taylor netted eight yards and a first down at the Kansas City 13. The drive ended when Bart Starr reared back and threw a perfect 13-yard touchdown strike to McGee on a post pattern.

The fourth quarter was uneventful until about the midway point when Bart Starr completed a 25-yard pass to Carroll Dale and a 37-yard strike to McGee. This put the ball on the Chiefs 18-yard line. Four plays later, Pitts scored his second touchdown on a one-yard run to close out the scoring. The Packers had enough to win the game with their final score of 35 to the Chiefs 10. They got the win.

Also in the fourth quarter, Fred Williamson, who had bragged about his "hammer" prior to the game, was knocked out when his head collided with running back Donny Anderson's knee, and then he suffered a broken arm when Chiefs linebacker Sherrill Headrick fell on him. Williamson did achieve three tackles for the game before his exit.

Paul Hornung, one of the Pack's star players, was the only Packer to not see any action. Lombardi had asked him in the fourth quarter if he wanted to go in, but Hornung declined, not wanting to aggravate a pinched nerve in his neck.

McGee, who caught only four passes for 91 yards and one touchdown during the season, finished Super Bowl I with seven receptions for 138 yards and two touchdowns. After the game was over, a reporter asked Vince Lombardi about if he thought Kansas

City was a good team. Lombardi responded that though the Chiefs were an excellent, well-coached club, he thought several NFL teams such as Dallas were better. Some things are better left unsaid.

Packers 35; Chiefs 10. No other words were necessary. The Chiefs would be back in the Super Bowl for two victories with the first coming in about three years.

### **1967 Hank Stram, Coach #1**

The 1967 Kansas City Chiefs football team competed in their eighth season of Professional American Football League (AFL) football. They were led by Hank Stram in his eighth season of fifteen as head coach. This Chiefs team finished with a winning record of 9-5-0. They came in second place in the Western Division.

The 1967 Kansas City Chiefs season was the 8th for the Kansas City Chiefs as a professional AFL franchise; Despite their AFL championship win and an appearance in the inaugural AFL-NFL championship game the previous year, and a respectable 9-5 record, the Chiefs missed the AFL playoffs for the first time since 1965.

The club's special teams got a boost with the addition of kicker Jan Stenerud from Montana State and kick returner Noland "Super Gnat" Smith from Tennessee State. Interest in the team skyrocketed, forcing an increase in seating capacity at Municipal Stadium from 40,000 to 47,000. In June, Jackson County voters approved a \$43 million bond issue for construction of a sports complex to be completed by 1972.

The Chiefs' first non-playoff game against an NFL team resulted in a commanding 66–24 Chiefs preseason victory against the Chicago Bears at Municipal Stadium on August 23. Injuries again hit the club hard during the regular season as the Chiefs clawed their way to a 9–5 record. Despite a winning record, their achievement brought them in well behind the division-winning Oakland Raiders (13–1).

## Top Chiefs Player Jan Stenerud, K, 1967-1979

Born in Norway, Stenerud came to the United States in college, and that's where he took up football. He joined the Chiefs via the 1965 redshirt draft, which was basically a futures draft, reserving the rights of a player to enter the league in the future.



Photo of Jan Stenerud by Malcolm Emmons / USA TODAY Sports

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Stenerud quickly established himself as one of the premier kickers in the game. Stenerud played a big part in the Super Bowl IV victory, kicking three field goals to give the Chiefs a 9-0 lead en-route to a 23-7 win over the Vikings.

Stenerud holds team records for the most career field goal attempts and the most field goal attempts in a single game with seven. In 1991, he became the first kicking specialist inducted into the Pro Football Hall of Fame, and his 1,231 points ranks second to Nick Lowery in Chiefs history.

## Top Chief Players Willie Lanier, LB, 1967-1977

A second-round draft pick out of Morgan State, Lanier earned the nickname Contact for the vicious hits that he delivered against opponents. He also was one of the best coverage linebackers in the game, recording 27 career interceptions. Lanier recovered 18 fumbles for the Chiefs, second only to Derrick Thomas in franchise history.



(Photo of Willie Lanier by Kirby Lee-USA TODAY Sports)

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A second-round draft pick out of Morgan State, Lanier earned the nickname Contact for the vicious hits that he delivered against opponents. He also was one of the best coverage linebackers in the game, recording 27 career interceptions. Lanier recovered 18 fumbles for the Chiefs, second only to Derrick Thomas in franchise history.

In Super Bowl IV, Lanier picked off Vikings quarterback Joe Kapp early in the fourth quarter to help Kansas City secure a 23-7 victory. He played 149 games for the Chiefs, missing just five games during his career, and was enshrined into the Pro Football Hall of Fame in 1986.

## 1968 Hank Stram, Coach #1

The 1968 Kansas City Chiefs football team competed in their ninth season of Professional American Football League (AFL) football. They were led by Hank Stram in his ninth season of fifteen as head coach. This Chiefs team finished with a great regular season record of 12-2-0 but it was not enough as they came in second place in the Western Division after losing the playoffs..

The Chiefs had what could only be called a great regular season, finishing with a 12–2 record. This resulted in a tie for first place in the AFL Western Division with the Oakland Raiders, before the Raiders won the championship in a tiebreaker playoff, defeating the Chiefs 41–6.

The 1968 Chiefs boasted one of the finest defenses ever assembled by the club, allowing an AFL record (and still franchise-low) 170 points, or 12.1 points per game. The nucleus of the defensive unit was clearly in its prime, producing six AFL All-Stars, including all three of the squad's linebackers.

Offensively, quarterback. QB Len Dawson was at the top of his game leading the AFL in passing for the fourth time. KC Guard Ed Budde won the AFL Offensive Player of the Week award for the October 20 game against the Raiders. It was the first time the award was given to an interior lineman.

The Chiefs were hot all season beginning with a 7–1 record. They then pounded out five straight victories to close the regular season at 12–2, sharing the division crown with the Raiders and setting up their playoff on December 22. Something unexplainable happened at the end of the season as the Chiefs did not look good in the championship game against the Raiders. And, so, instead of the Chiefs, the Raiders advanced to the AFL Championship Game against the NY Jets. The loss to Oakland was a major event in the Chiefs' rivalry with the Raiders, one of the NFL's most storied feuds.



## Top Chiefs Players Curley Culp, DT, 1968-1974



Curly Culp Photo by Jason Miller/Getty Images

Culp was traded to the Chiefs shortly after being selected by the Broncos in the second round of the 1968 draft, and he became a key cog of the defense that would hold the Vikings to seven points in Super Bowl IV.

A national champion as a heavyweight wrestler at Arizona State, his athleticism and quickness were rare for that era of football. Culp appeared in 82 regular-season games and five postseason games with the Chiefs and was traded to the Houston Oilers during the 1974 season in a deal for defensive end John Matuszak.

Culp was inducted into the Pro Football Hall of Fame in 2013.

## Western Division Championship Game

On Sunday December 22, 1968 at 1:00 p.m. PST, before 53,605 TV, the KC Chiefs were whipped by the Oakland Raiders. The game made Oakland the Champions.

The Chiefs had five-game winning streak on the line having had sizable victory margins at the end of the season. They were even favored by 3½ points. The Raiders had won their last eight, but had close calls in the last three. The teams had split the season series, each winning at home.

Oakland quarterback Daryle Lamonica overwhelmed the Chiefs with five touchdown passes, while the Raiders defense intercepted four passes from Chiefs quarterback Len Dawson and held KC to a pair of field goals in the second quarter.

After forcing Kansas City to punt from their 47-yard line, Oakland drove 80 yards for a touchdown, aided by a controversial third down pass interference call against Kansas City after the ball had already hit the ground.

After the penalty, Lamonica completed two passes to Fred Biletnikoff, the first for 18 yards, and the second a 24-yard touchdown pass. A terrible punt into the rain by Jerrel Wilson inside his own goal line enabled the Raiders to start their next drive on the Chiefs 25-yard line, and they scored another touchdown with Lamonica's 23-yard pass to Warren Wells.

After some punting from both teams, Oakland got the ball with 1:02 left in the quarter. Lamonica started the drive with a short pass to rookie running back Charlie Smith, who turned it into a 26-yard gain. On the next play, Lamonica hooked up with Biletnikoff for a 44-yard touchdown pass to give the Raiders a 21–0 lead.

In Q2, Kansas City got a golden opportunity to get back in the game when Dawson completed a 55-yard pass to receiver Otis Taylor, who managed to drag defensive back George Atkinson nearly twenty yards before he finally went down on the Raiders eight-yard line. But despite six plays after that as a result of a Raiders penalty, Kansas City could not get into the end zone and had to settle for Jan Stenerud's 10-yard field goal. Kansas City later blew another big opportunity after a Wilson put pinned the Raiders back on their own one-yard line. It was a bad omen.

On the next play, Lamonica threw a pass right into the hands of Chiefs DB Bobby Bell, only to see him inexplicably drop the ball.

Kansas City still managed to force a punt and got the ball back with great field position on the Raiders 38.

On the next play, Dawson completed a 31-yard pass to receiver Frank Pitts, but once again Kansas City could not dent the goal line and settled for another Stenerud field goal, making the score 21–6. Kansas City seemed to be inching their way to a comeback, but it was snuffed out with twelve seconds left in the half, when Lamonica completed a long pass to Biletnikoff, who evaded three Chiefs defenders on the way to a 54-yard touchdown reception, giving the Raiders a 28–6 halftime lead.

In the first half alone, Lamonica had completed nine passes for 220 yards and four touchdowns. Both teams blew scoring chances in the third quarter, as Dawson missed a 39-yard field goal, while Lamonica threw an incomplete pass on fourth and goal from the Chiefs 1-yard line.

However, the period ended with Oakland driving into Chiefs territory, a drive that ended on with Lamonica's 5th touchdown pass, throwing a 35-yard scoring pass to Wells after the man covering accidentally fell down. He had a chance to tie Tom Flores's postseason record of six touchdown passes later on, but Wells ended up dropping a potential touchdown catch on the 3-yard line. However, they did get to score two more times on field goals by veteran kicker George Blanda, which were set up by interceptions from defensive backs Willie Brown and Nemiah Wilson.

Lamonica finished the game with 19 of 39 completions for 347 yards and 5 touchdowns. His top receiver was Biletnikoff, who caught 7 passes for 180 yards and three touchdowns, while Wells added four receptions for 93 yards and two scores. Smith was the leading rusher of the game with 13 carries for 74 yards, while also catching five passes for 52. Dawson finished the day 17/36 for 254 yards with four interceptions. Taylor caught four passes for 117 yards.

### **1969 Hank Stram, Coach #1**

The 1969 Kansas City Chiefs football team competed in their tenth season of Professional American Football League (AFL) football.

They were led by Hank Stram in his tenth season of fifteen as head coach. This Chiefs team finished with a great regular season record of 11-3-0 for 2<sup>nd</sup> place but they went on to win the Super Bowl.

This was the Kansas City Chiefs 10<sup>th</sup> overall season and their 7th in Kansas City, and also their final season in the American Football League. It resulted in an 11–3 record and in the final game, it gave KC a 23–7 victory in Super Bowl IV over the NFL's heavily favored Minnesota Vikings. The team beat their rivals, the Oakland Raiders in the final AFL Championship Game, claiming their third AFL Championship in franchise history.

The Chiefs were coached by Hank Stram, led by quarterback Len Dawson and a powerful defense led by Bobby Bell, Willie Lanier, Buck Buchanan, Emmitt Thomas, Johnny Robinson and Curley Culp. The Chiefs' defense became the fourth defense in the history of pro football to lead its league in fewest rushing yards, fewest passing yards and fewest total yards. Kansas City was the second AFL team to win the Super Bowl and last AFL team to do so before the AFL-NFL Merger in the following season. Joe Namath's Jets were the first.

The season was marred not only by an injury to quarterback Len Dawson but also controversy surrounding Dawson and his purported involvement in a sports gambling ring. Back-up quarterback Mike Livingston and the Chiefs' stellar defense led the Chiefs back to the Super Bowl, this time, to win it all.

Along with owner Lamar Hunt, nine future Hall of Famers were members of the 1969 Chiefs, including QB Len Dawson, LBs Willie Lanier and Bobby Bell, DT Buck Buchanan, DT Curley Culp, CB Emmitt Thomas, S Johnny Robinson, K Jan Stenerud, and Coach Hank Stram. What a team!

In 2006, the 1969 Kansas City Chiefs were honored with a ranking of being the 18th greatest Super Bowl champions on the NFL Network's documentary *America's Game: The Super Bowl Champions*.

In 2007, ESPN.com ranked the 1969 Chiefs as the seventh-greatest defense in NFL (not AFL) history. They noted that "Hank Stram's 'Triple Stack' defense, which gave the linebackers lots of room to

room, was superb, holding five opponents to fewer than 10 points and giving up an average of less than two touchdowns per game.

Then the pundits got serious. Against the defending Super Bowl champion Jets in the AFL divisional playoff game at Shea Stadium, the Chiefs held on for a 13–6 victory, thanks to a remarkable three-play goal line stand that stifled the Jets on the one.

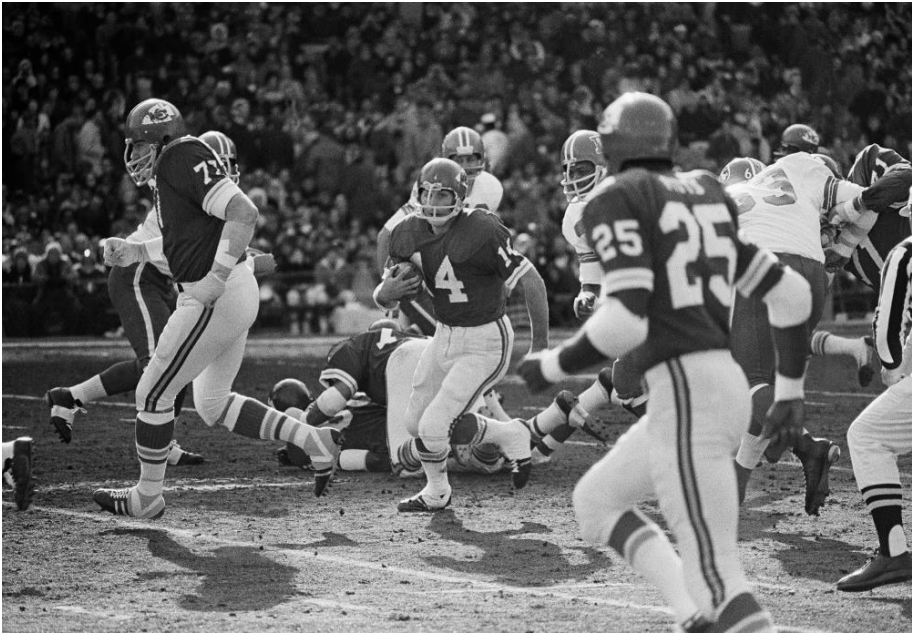
After losing twice to the Raiders during the regular season, the Chiefs had enough. Allowing just one TD in the first quarter, to win the AFL title over Oakland 17–7. The Chiefs defense then stifled the Vikings in the Super Bowl, allowing only two rushing first downs and picking off three passes in the fourth quarter to win 23–7. What a super game for the Super Bowl.

**Total points against the Chiefs in the playoffs: 20.**

" Kansas City is the only team in the Super Bowl era to win the title without allowing as much as 10 points in any postseason game. The Chiefs would not return to, or win, the Super Bowl again until 2019. Andy Reid decided it was time for KC to win the big one after 50 years of delays.

## **Great Chiefs Players Ed Podolak, RB, 1969-1977**

In a divisional-round game against the Dolphins on Christmas Day in 1971, Ed Podolak was a hero again. It was not a new role for Ed but this time as he set an NFL record with 350 all-purpose yards in a single playoff game — with 85 rushing yards, 110 receiving yards and 155 punt return yards.



Ed Podolak AP Photo/William Straeter)

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The record held up for 48 years. Podolak won Super Bowl IV with the Chiefs as a rookie and ranks fifth in team history with 4,451 rushing yards. He was inducted into the Chiefs Hall of Fame in 1989. Well deserved. Thanks Ed for working so hard.

### **Games of the 1969 Season**

The KC Chiefs played their season opener on September 14, 1969 at San Diego and beat the Chargers W 27–9 in San Diego Stadium. On Sept 21 at Boston’s Alumni Stadium, the Chiefs whipped the Patriots in a shutout W (31–0). At Cincinnati, on Sept 28, the Bengals beat the Chiefs L (19–24) in Nippert Stadium. At Denver, on Oct 5 at Mile High Stadium, the Chiefs defeated the Broncos W (26–13).

Then on Oct 12 at home, the Chiefs pounded the Houston Oilers in a shutout W (24–0) in Municipal Stadium. On Oct 19 at home, the Chiefs beat the Miami Dolphins W (17–10). On Oct 26 the Chiefs bullied the Cincinnati Bengals W (42–22) at home in Municipal Stadium. On Nov 2 at Buffalo, the KC Chiefs whipped the Bills W 29–7 at War Memorial Stadium.

Then, on Nov 9 at home, the Chiefs whipped the San Diego Chargers W 27–3 in Municipal Stadium. At NY on Nov 16 in Shea Stadium, the Chiefs prevailed W 34–16. On Nov 23 at home, the Oakland Raiders beat the Chiefs L(24–27) in Municipal Stadium. Then, on Nov 27 at home, the Chiefs defeated the Denver Broncos W 31–17.

At home on Dec 7, the Chiefs edged the Buffalo Bills W (22–19). On Dec 13 at Oakland, in the Chiefs season finale, the Raiders defeated the Chiefs L(6–10) at the Oakland–Alameda County Coliseum.

## The Playoffs before the Championship Game

The AFL had a new playoff system for 1969. Before the two divisions or more specifically, the playoff winners would face each other in the AFL Championship game. They had to win a playoff game. In other words, the Eastern Division would not necessarily play the Western Division. This year, two Western Division teams would play in the Championship game. Here is how that happened:

The 1969 American Football League playoffs was the postseason of the American Football League for its tenth and final season in 1969. For the first time, the ten-team league scheduled a four-team postseason, consisting of the top two teams from the two divisions. The division champions hosted the second place teams from the other division. Both Western division teams won and both advanced to the league championship game.

The winner of the AFL Championship game would then advance to play the NFL champion in Super Bowl IV in New Orleans on January 18, 1970.

Eastern runner-up Houston (6–6–2) had the league's fifth-best record; San Diego (8–6) was fourth, but finished third in the West and did not qualify for the postseason. Oakland (12–1–1) and Kansas City (11–3), both from the Western division, had the best records and both advanced to the AFL title game.

In a preliminary game, Kansas City, was favored by three points. The Chiefs had had defeated the Jets 34–16 five weeks earlier on the same field. They knocked off the defending Super Bowl champions in dominating form, holding them to just 234 yards and forcing four turnovers.

In the second preliminary game, Oakland was favored by thirteen points. QB Daryle Lamonica tied a playoff record with six touchdown passes as the Raiders racked up 412 yards and 56 points, while keeping the Houston Oilers to just 197 yards and forcing five turnovers.

So, the teams for the Championship Game were set. Both Western Division teams, the Chiefs and the Raiders had two weeks to prepare.

## **1969 American Football League Championship Game**

The 1969 AFL Championship Game was the tenth and final championship game between the American Football League, and the league's final game prior to its merger with the National Football League on February 1, 1970.

When the two leagues decided to put on the big game. the leagues' owners chose the name "AFL–NFL Championship Game." There was no Super Bowl. However, things change as important people are heard expressing opinions. That's what happened in July 1966 when the Kansas City Star broke the news that Lamar Hunt, the father of the AFL, when discussing the future Super Bowl quoted Hunt as having labeled the game as "the Super Bowl. Hunt said: "—that's my term for the championship game between the two leagues", and the media immediately began using the term. Lamar Hunt was the guy who saw it as it was and he said it.

This game was played on January 4, 1970 at the Oakland-Alameda County Coliseum between the AFL Western Division champion Oakland Raiders (12–1–1) and the division's second-place team, the Kansas City Chiefs (11–3. Both had won divisional playoff games to advance to the championship.



Oakland had won the two regular season games between KC and the Raiders. Oakland was favored by 4 to 5½ points to beat KC. Even with Hank Stram at the helm of KC, the fact is that Oakland had whipped the Chiefs in seven of their last eight meetings. Despite history and the prognosticators, the Chiefs won 17–7 on the strength of seventeen unanswered points in the last three quarters and got to represent their league, the AFL, in Super Bowl IV the following week.

This game for the enumerators out there was the 616th and final AFL game. If there were an AFL resurrection game, I would try to get tickets but it appears the best French I could say right now about the prospects of the AFL coming alive again is “C’est fini!”

The summarians say in the recordings of this preview game to Super Bowl IV is that the Chiefs edged out Oakland 17–7 in a hard fought defensive struggle. They say that both teams combined for just 440 yards (233 for Oakland, 207 for KC) and each lost four turnovers. For my sensibilities, I am pleased to say that KC emerged victorious.

It was a very satisfying win for Kansas City, who had been swept by the Raiders twice during the season and lost 7 of their last 8 meetings, including a crushing 41–6 loss in the previous year's postseason. Luck has a lot to do with football but perhaps attitude is the major determinant of success.

The Raiders opened up the scoring in the AFL Championship game with a 66-yard drive, featuring Daryle Lamonica's 24-yard completion to Warren Wells on the Chiefs' 3-yard line. Running back Charlie Smith could handle a three yard carry and he did it well when he ran the ball across the goal line on the next play, giving Oakland its first lead at 7-0.

Both D's would take over the majority of the rest of the first half, but with 3:24 remaining in the second quarter, KC, a team that had gained only two first downs, got the stamina and the desire to drive 75 yards to tie the game. Whoda thunk?

Quarterback Len Dawson thunk and masterminded the victory on the field. Coach Hank Stram thunk on the sidelines.

Lennie started off the drive with a 14-yard completion to Otis Taylor, while Robert Holmes' 8-yard run moved the ball into Raiders territory on their 42 for the first time in the game as the clock ran down to the 2-minute warning. On the next play, Dawson threw a 41-yard completion to receiver Frank Pitts. Then Wendell Hayes plowed through on a 1-yard TD run to tie the game at seven at halftime. The tie was a lot better for bragging in the locker room than being behind 0-7.

Oakland seemed ready to come back as the third quarter commenced. They put together a drive that landed them at the Chiefs' 33-yard line, But Luck pulled a fate trick on the team. In what should have been a crucial and positive play, QB Darryl Lamonica jammed his thumb and fingers when his throwing hand struck the helmet of Chiefs defensive end Aaron Brown, and to loosen up his throwing hand for the rest of the game, he had to miss the rest of the drive.

Backup QB George Blanda, who was playing for the Raiders now, never was anything but great in a game that counted. He took over the team for Lamonica. He then tried to take the team the rest of the way to the end zone. However, a few plays later, Chiefs' defensive back Emmitt Thomas made a clutch interception on the Chiefs' 5-yard line. KC then drove 95 yards for a go-ahead score.

The key play on the drive was a 35-yard reception by Taylor through triple coverage with the team facing 3rd and 13 from their own 2-yard line. Dawson also completed a 23-yard pass to Holmes on the drive. In this sequence, defensive back Nemiah Wilson's pass interference penalty gave Kansas City a first down on the Raiders' 7-yard line. What happened next was a score but not immediately.

Holmes carried the ball three straight times after that, the last a 5-yard touchdown run to put the Chiefs up 14-7. Darryl Lamonica got his fingers unjammed on the sideline and he returned to the game in the 4th quarter. For some reason. He was unable to lead the Raiders to any points, despite numerous opportunities. Have you ever had a jammed finger? Think about it.

There was one promising drive for Oakland drive into Kansas City territory that was stymied when Jim Kearney intercepted Lamonica's pass on the Chiefs 18-yard line. Two plays later, defensive end Carlton Oats recovered a fumble from Holmes on the Chiefs' 24. But on the next play, Oakland gave the ball right back with an interception to rookie cornerback Jim Marsalis. Amazingly, Oakland got the ball back on another Holmes fumble, this one recovered by linebacker Dan Conners on the Chiefs' 31.

Still, that was not enough to assure anything . Lamonica threw another interception—this one to Thomas. Seeing pay dirt a million miles away. Thomas returned the ball 62 yards to the Raiders' 18-yard line. The Chiefs stalled but this had set up Jan Stenerud's 22-yard field goal. Kansas City's lead was now 17–7.

Oakland had one last chance to get back in the game when defensive end Ike Lassiter recovered a fumble from Dawson on the Kansas City 13 with just two minutes left. The normally accurate Lamonica then threw four straight incompletions and the Chiefs happily helped the Raiders run out of the clock.

The pundits said that neither quarterback had a particularly good day. Dawson completed only 7 of 17 passes for 129 yards, while Lamonica finished 15/39 for 167 yards and three interceptions. Charlie Smith was the sole offensive star of the game, with 31 rushing yards and a touchdown, along with 8 receptions for 86 yards. That's the way the football bounces. And so, KC moved on two weeks later to Minnesota in their first Super Bowl Victory before 2019.

## Super Bowl IV

In the 1969 regular season, the Kansas City Chiefs were the second best team in the American League West standings. It was a great 11-3 season. On January 11, the same Chiefs, after having won the playoffs played for the Super Bowl against the Minnesota Vikings in New Orleans Tulane Stadium as they became the champions of all football after this game with a smashing 23-7 upset of the Minnesota Vikings in the Super Bowl.

The Chiefs, somewhat insulted with the 13-point spread favoring the Vikings, established the AFL's superiority over the best NFL team in the nation. KC gained a 16-0 advantage by the second quarter, and buoyed by the Namath-lead AFL Jets win a year earlier, they showed AFL superiority over the best the NFL had for the second straight year.

AFL fans remembered that in 1969 NFL rooters waited expectantly but in vain, for the Baltimore Colts to overtake the New York Jets. It did not happen then and on January 11, 1970, it did not happen again. The 80,997 witnesses in Tulane Stadium awaited only the final gun, so total was the Chiefs' domination.

The victory marked a courageous personal comeback for Kansas City quarterback Len Dawson, whose interception in the first of these four Super Bowls touched off a 35-10 victory for Green Bay. Dawson brought it off despite the pressures created by his link to a gambling investigation earlier in Super Bowl week.

That's not to say that Len Dawson did not do some gambling in his Super Bowl play. He threw an end-around at the vaunted Viking defense from a double-reverse formation, did it again from a single reverse, and after Minnesota finally scored a touchdown in the third quarter, he did it again on third-and-seven with split end Frank Pitts just making the first down that set up the Chiefs' last TD.

Dawson was spitting in the eye of the Vikings' defense by mixing up his tricky calls with shotgun formations as early as the second quarter. He frequently mocked the front four of Minnesota with quick-count plays off the I formation.

It was no surprise that the versatile Dawson got the votes for the game's most valuable player in a Sport Magazine poll after completing 71 per cent of his passes 12 of 17, for 142 yards including a shorty that flanker Otis Taylor stretched into a 46-yard touchdown by flouting the tackles of two Viking defenders.

Dawson, weighing in at just 190-pounds nonetheless ran the ball three times, too, once for 11 yards and a first down in the fourth quarter after the Chiefs' third interception left the Vikings for dead.

Dawson ran the ball only once during the regular season, his mobility limited by a knee injury.

Joe Kapp of the Vikings ran the ball twice for nine yards total and was knocked out of the game with 5:44 to go in the final period while in desperate retreat from the Chiefs. He suffered a shoulder injury when he went down under massive Aaron Brown. Gary Cuozzo replaced him.

It brought back a recollection of a prophecy by Weeb Ewbank, coach of last year's big winner in the Super Bowl, the New York Jets. He said this past week that Kapp was going to be hurt running the ball unnecessarily.

Kapp was throwing relatively well early in the game but the KC defenders had his receivers smothered. Split end Gene Washington, his favorite target all season, was held to one reception. The huge Chief defenders began overrunning the Minnesota offensive line early and Kapp was intercepted twice and thrown for losses three times. Cuozzo also was intercepted once.

Kapp finally took Minnesota 69 yards to cut the Chiefs' lead to 16-7 in the third quarter. He rolled to his left to evade the charge of Buck Buchanan and Aaron Brown and hit tight end John Beasley for 15 yards, threw a screen pass to his left to fullback Bill Brown for 11 yards, and on second-and-one drifted to his left and connected with running back Oscar Reed for 12 yards to the Kansas City four.

Dave Osborn, who was held to 15 yards in seven attempts for the afternoon, maneuvered through the Chiefs and finally humped, bumped and dived backward over his right tackle for a touchdown. Fred Cox converted.

Other than that, the closest the Vikings got to the Chiefs' goal line was the Kansas City 38 in the first quarter, the first time Minnesota got the ball.

Against probably the biggest team in pro football the Vikings could not make a dent with their straight-ahead running and occasional long throws.

The Chiefs' defensive line of Jerry Mays, Curley Culp, Buchanan and Brown was much more effective against the Vikings offensive line than was the Fearsome Foursome of Los Angeles.

Right safety Johnny Robinson of Kansas City was not expected to play because of ligament tears in his rib cage, but he and middle linebacker Willie Lanier intercepted on Kapp and right cornerback Emmitt Thomas intercepted on Cuzzo.

The Chiefs kept nipping away at the Vikings with field goals of 48, 32 and 25 yards by soccer-style placekicker Jan Stenerud until they had a 9-0 lead on the Vikings in the second quarter. Then, Charlie West of Minnesota fumbled a kickoff by Stenerud and Remi Prudhomme recovered for the Chiefs on the Minnesota 19.

Dawson took a loss of eight yards by defensive end Jim Marshall, but responded with a quick-count, quick-opening play from the I formation that netted running back Wendell Hayes eight yards. He then rolled to his right and passed 10 yards to his flanker, Taylor, and then, after a messed-up handoff, sprang running back Mike Garrett into a big hole opened by right guard Mo Moorman for five yards and the KC TD.

The Chiefs ended any lingering suspense about the outcome after the Vikes pulled up to 16-7 in the third quarter. Kansas City immediately went 82 yards in six plays, mostly on a 13-yard pass by Dawson to flanker Taylor that he turned into a 46-yard touchdown by shaking off cornerback Earsell Mackbee at the Viking 41-yard line and leaving safety Karl Kassulke grounded at the 13.

Near the finish, defensive end Carl Eller of the Vikings threw Dawson for a four-yard loss and when Minnesota defensive tackle Alan Page followed up with a forearm directed at Dawson the Vikings were penalized for a personal foul and offensive tackle Dave Hill began throwing punches at the Vikings.

The Chiefs' bench emptied and the players crossed the field in case help was needed.

Linebacker Jim Lynch wanted to resume hostilities on the next play but when the countdown by the fans of the last 30 seconds began there was no fight or interest in the game left in the Vikings.

Several of the defensive linemen turned and walked away from the field while center E. J. Holub was still waiting to snap the ball to substitute quarterback Mike Livingston of the Chiefs. Long ago it had been decided that the Chiefs had earned the right to the winners' share of the loot, \$15,000 a man to \$7,500 for the Vikings.

A Kansas City delegation had its own comment on the Vikings on a sign paraded around the field: "The Purple Gang is now Black and Blue." Bravo KC!

### **1970 Hank Stram, Coach #1**

The 1970 Kansas City Chiefs football team competed in their eleventh season of Professional Football. They were led by Hank Stram in his eleventh season of fifteen as head coach. This Chiefs team finished with a great regular season record of 7-5-2 for 2nd place in the AFC West.

The 1970 Kansas City Chiefs season marked the franchise's debut season in the National Football League. The AFL, one of my favorite leagues ever, was gone and would never be back. It was the 8th season for the Kansas City Chiefs, and the 11th overall. It began with the Chiefs attempting to defend their Super Bowl IV championship title but ended with a 7-5-2 record and missed the playoffs for the first time since 1967.

Following their 1969 championship success, the Chiefs traded running back Mike Garrett, who was the club's all-time leading rusher at the time, to San Diego after a week 3 loss in Denver. They and replaced him in the lineup with Ed Podolak. Despite a 44-24 win against soon to be Super Bowl V Champion Baltimore on September 28 in just the second-ever telecast of Monday Night Football, the Chiefs had a 3-3-1 record at the season's midpoint.

One of the season's most important moments was during a 17-17 tie against Oakland on November 1. The Chiefs were ahead 17-14 when

Len Dawson apparently sealed the win, running for a first down which would have allowed Kansas City to run out the clock. While on the ground, Dawson was speared by Raiders defensive end Ben Davidson in an infamous incident that cost the Chiefs a victory and further inflamed the already heated Chiefs-Raiders rivalry.

Wide receiver Otis Taylor retaliated and a bench-clearing brawl ensued. Offsetting penalties were called, nullifying Dawson's first down. The Chiefs were forced to punt and Raiders kicker George Blanda eventually booted a game-tying field goal with eight seconds remaining. There was not sudden death and the game finished as a tie.

Following the tie with Oakland the Chiefs' defense would permit only 43 points over the next 5 weeks, which included 4 wins and a 6-6 tie with the St. Louis Cardinals at home. The Cards had come into that game with a streak of three straight shutout wins. The Chiefs' D held St. Louis to a late FG as the game ended 6-6.

After a 16-0 shutout of Denver the Chiefs had played to a 6-1-2 record over the past nine weeks to stand 7-3-2 with two weeks to play. They looked like a team ready to defend a championship.

Then came the big one at Oakland, the game that would decide who would be #1 in pro football's toughest division. The game on December 12 was a Saturday stand-alone NBC national telecast. The Chiefs led early 3-0, and the game was tied 6-6 at the half. But the Raiders, behind the angry running of Marv Hubbard, dominated the 2nd half in this 20-6 AFC West title clinching win for Oakland.

The Chiefs still had a slim hope for the AFC Wild Card spot. However, they needed a win by a poor Buffalo team in Miami and then a Chiefs' win in San Diego to make the playoffs. Miami jumped to a 28-0 first quarter lead and rolled to a 45-7 win. The Chiefs warming up to play the Chargers saw the Miami blowout and knew their reign as Champions was over. Eliminated, the Chiefs played an uninspired sleepy game, losing 31-13.

In the end it was that tie in November with Oakland that ultimately cost the Chiefs the opportunity to win the AFC West division title as



Kansas City finished the year with a 7–5–2 record, while the Raiders went 8–4–2.

The season opener was played on September 20 at Minnesota, where the Vikings beat the Chiefs L (10–27) before 47,900. On Sept 28 at Baltimore, the Colts got the best of the Chiefs W (44–24) before 53,911. At Denver on Oct 4, the Broncos beat KC, L (13–26) before 50,705. Then, on Oct 11, at home in Municipal Stadium, the Chiefs defeated the Boston Patriots W (23–10) before 50,698.

At Cincinnati, on Oct 18, the Chiefs beat the Bengals W (27–19) before 57,265. At home on Oct 25, the Dallas Cowboys beat the KC Chiefs L (16–27) before 51,158. Then, on Nov 1, at home, KC tied the Oakland Raiders T (17–17) before 51,334. At home on Nov 8, the Chiefs beat the Houston Oilers W (24–9) before 49,810

At Pittsburgh on at home, on Nov 15, the Chiefs beat the Steelers W (31–14) before 50,081. On Nov 22 at home, the St. Louis Cardinals tied the KC Chiefs T (6–6) before 50,711. Then, at home on Nov 29, the Chiefs beat the San Diego Chargers W (26–14) before 50,315. At home on Dec 6, the Chiefs shut out the Denver Broncos W (16–0) before 50,454

At Oakland, on Dec 12, the John-Madden coached Raiders beat the Hank Stram Chiefs L (6–20) before 54,596. On Dec 20 at San Diego, the Chargers beat the Chiefs to end the season L (13–31) before 41,379

### **1971 Hank Stram, Coach #1**

The 1971 Kansas City Chiefs football team competed in their twelfth season of Professional Football League. They were led by Hank Stram in his twelfth season of fifteen as head coach. This Chiefs team finished with a great regular season record of 10-3-1 for 1st place in the AFC West.

This season was the franchise's 2nd season in the National Football League after ten with the AFL, the 9th season as the Kansas City Chiefs, and the 12th overall. They improved from a 7–5–2 campaign

in 1970 to record a 10–3–1 mark and win the AFC West division championship, the Chiefs' first division title since 1966.

The Chiefs tied with the Miami Dolphins for the best record in the AFC and were tied for the third-best record overall in the NFL, trailing only the 11–3 marks of the Dallas Cowboys and Minnesota Vikings.

Most of the pieces of the team which won Super Bowl IV two years earlier were still in place. The team looked good. Left defensive end Jerry Mays retired after the 1970 season, with Marvin Upshaw taking his spot, but the other 10 defensive starters were the same as they were two years prior.

Middle linebacker Willie Lanier was a unanimous All-Pro selection following the season, and would likely have been named NFL Defensive Player of the Year had not Viking defensive tackle Alan Page become the second defensive player to win the league's Most Valuable Player award. Outside linebacker Bobby Bell, defensive tackles Buck Buchanan and Curley Culp, and cornerback Emmitt Thomas joined Lanier on the AFC Pro Bowl squad following the season. Bell, Buchanan, Culp, Lanier, and Thomas are all members of the Pro Football Hall of Fame.

On the offensive side of the squad, Robert Holmes was traded to the San Diego Chargers midway through the season, leaving Wendell Hayes to assume the fullback duties next to third-year pro Ed Podolak, who had become the starting halfback when Mike Garrett was traded to San Diego in 1970.

Morris Stroud, the tallest player in NFL history at 6-foot-10, and Willie Frazier, acquired from San Diego, alternated at tight end for the retired Fred Arbanas, but the rest of the offensive line, except for center Jack Rudnay, remained the same from the Super Bowl winning team. Rudnay assumed the starting center spot in 1970 over veteran E. J. Holub.

At wide receiver, rookie Elmo Wright, the Chiefs' first-round pick in the 1971 NFL Draft from the University of Houston, assumed the slot opposite all-pro Otis Taylor, as Frank Pitts had moved on to the Cleveland Browns. Taylor earned selection to the Pro Bowl, along

with guard Ed Budde, quarterback Len Dawson, and tackle Jim Tyrer. Hanks Stram had another great team.

Kansas City's special teams remained among the league's elite units, thanks to the combination of All Pro kicker Jan Stenerud and All Pro punter Jerrel Wilson, both of whom were named again to the Pro Bowl. Podolak and Warren McVea handled the bulk of the return duties.

The season was the last for the Chiefs in Municipal Stadium, where they has made their home since they first came to Kansas City. Owner Lamar Hunt and general manager Jack Steadman had been overseeing the construction of Arrowhead Stadium, located at the junction of Interstate 70 and Interstate 435 in Jackson County, Missouri, at the eastern edge of the Kansas City limits.

Arrowhead, along with Royals Stadium, being constructed for the Kansas City Royals of Major League Baseball, would form the Truman Sports Complex, bucking the trend of multi-purpose stadiums in vogue at the time.

Kansas City would not reach the playoffs again until 1986, did not host (or win) another playoff game until 1991, and did not win the AFC West division title again until 1993. Was Hank Stram that good? I sure think he was. He was Andy Reid before there was an Andy Reid.

## The Playoffs

The playoff season ended in heartbreak, as the Miami Dolphins won the longest game in National Football League history on Christmas Day, defeating the Chiefs 27–24 in double-overtime on a 37-yard field goal by Garo Yepremian in the last football game in Municipal Stadium. It was also the last game for safety Johnny Robinson, who was an original member of the Dallas Texans in 1960.

Coach Hank Stram often called the 1971 Chiefs the franchise's best-ever squad, and this loss haunted Stram for the rest of his life, even after his induction into the Pro Football Hall of Fame in 2003. Stram

died July 4, 2005 at age 82. Others who are in the Hall of Fame from this squad are owner Hunt (who died December 13, 2006, at age 74), quarterback Dawson, and kicker Stenerud.

The loss to Miami this year began a nosedive in the Chiefs' fortunes. Kansas City backslid to 8–6 and 7–5–2 in 1972 and 1973, before falling to 5–9 and a tie for last in the AFC West in 1974, leading to Hank Stram's firing the following the season.

The 1971 AFC Divisional Playoff Game between the Kansas City Chiefs and the Miami Dolphins, played on Christmas day, was a seesaw battle of touchdowns and field goals that didn't end until halfway through a second overtime period. The marathon game lasted eighty-two minutes and forty seconds and by all accounts was one of the most exciting games ever played.

The Chiefs offense was directed by Hall of Fame quarterback Len Dawson. They scored the first two times they had the ball and led 10-0, at the end of the first quarter. In Q2, the Dolphins-with their own Hall of Fame quarterback Bob Griese behind center added 10 points of their own to end the first half in a tie.



Both teams scored TDs in the third quarter. In the fourth, the Chiefs scored another to take the lead 24-17. However, with 1:25 remaining in regulation play the Dolphins scored to once again tie the game. On the next play Chiefs running back Ed Podolak returned the Dolphins kick 78 yards to the Miami 22 yard line. Three more plays advanced the ball to the 15. With just 35 seconds left and sensing a victory, Jan Stenerud missed a game-winning field goal. With the score tied 24-24, the game went into overtime.

Both teams missed scoring opportunities in the first overtime. Stenerud had a 42-yard field goal attempt blocked and the Dolphins' placekicker Garo Yepremian missed a 52-yarder. Finally halfway through the sixth quarter, Yepremian got another chance.

This time his 37-yard attempt was good and the Dolphins won 27-24.

Although a total of 13 future Hall of Fame players were suited up that day, the real star was Chiefs' running back Ed Podolak. In one of the greatest post-season performances ever, Podolak carried the ball 17 times for 85 yards, caught eight passes for 110 yards, returned three kickoffs for 153 yards, and ran back 2 punts for 2 yards. For the day, Podolak gained a combined total of 350 yards.

### **Hall of Famers Involved in NFL's Longest Game**

Nick Buoniconti (LB), Larry Csonka (RB), Bob Griese, (QB), Jim Langer (C), Larry Little (RG), Don Shula (coach), Paul Warfield (WR), Bobby Bell (LOLB), Buck Buchanan (RDT), Curley Culp (DT), Len Dawson (QB), Lamar Hunt (owner), Willie Lanier (MLB), Jan Stenerud (K), Hank Stram (coach), Emmitt Thomas (CB)

### **1972 Hank Stram, Coach #1**

The 1972 Kansas City Chiefs football team competed in their thirteenth season overall of Professional Football. It was their third season in the NFL, and their tenth season as the Kansas City Chiefs. Ten of the team's seasons were played in the American Football League—three as the Dallas Texans and seven as the KC Chiefs.

They were led by Hank Stram in his thirteenth season of fifteen as head coach. This Chiefs team finished with a regular season record of 8-6-0 for 2<sup>nd</sup> place in the AFC West.

The 1972 Kansas City Chiefs season was the franchise's 3rd season in the National Football League. It would begin with the Chiefs moving into the newly constructed Arrowhead Stadium and ended with an 8–6 record and a second-place finish in the AFC West.

The Chiefs and owner Lamar Hunt were very proud of their introduction to the general public of Kansas City of their newly completed Arrowhead Stadium to the general public. Hanks Stram had outlasted the final member of the first “Chiefs’ team from 1960.

The last original member of the 1960 Dallas Texans team departed on July 12 when safety Johnny Robinson announced his retirement at training camp. Meanwhile, starting quarterback Len Dawson ended speculation about his retirement by signing a two-year contract. Additionally, this year, franchise owner Lamar Hunt became the first AFL figure to be inducted into the Pro Football Hall of Fame on July 29.

After two different construction strikes and a myriad of other delays, Arrowhead Stadium was officially dedicated on August 12, 1972, when the Chiefs registered a 24–14 preseason victory against the St. Louis Cardinals. Running back Ed Podolak scored the first touchdown in the facility. Regular season ticket prices for the team's first season at Arrowhead were USD\$8 for box seats and \$7 for reserved seating.

On Sept 17, the Chiefs lost a 20–10 decision against Miami (the first win in Miami's perfect season) in the first official game at the new Arrowhead Stadium, in front of a crowd of 79,829. A standing-room-only crowd of 82,094 was in attendance for a 27–14 victory against Oakland on November 5, the largest “in-house” attendance total for an NFL contest in Arrowhead's history.

After a 5–3 start, a three-game losing streak effectively eliminated the club from playoff contention. The Chiefs 8–6 record was only good enough for a second-place finish in the AFC West behind Oakland. Linebacker Willie Lanier became the first Chiefs player to

receive the prestigious NFL Man of the Year Award in the offseason.

In season week six, the Chiefs dropped a tough one to swallow. It was at the time a shocking 21–20 decision at home to the lowly Philadelphia Eagles, who entered the game 0–5 and would win only once more (also a one-point victory over the Houston Oilers, who finished 1–13). It would be the only time the Chiefs and Eagles met until 1992, and Kansas City would never visit Philadelphia before 1998.

The Eagles had been in the doldrums for years. They were getting close to making Andy Reid an offer to be head coach but in 1998 Reid was not on their telescope. They eventually hired Reid on January 11, 1999. At the time, Andy was the second-youngest head coach in the league after Jon Gruden, and the first to get the job while quarterbacks coach without any O-coordinator experience. Kansas City would have to wait fourteen more years before Andy Reid was again available, and they grabbed him as head coach soon as they could.

### **1973 Hank Stram, Coach #1**

The 1973 Kansas City Chiefs football team competed in their fourteenth season overall of Professional Football. It was their fourth season in the NFL, and their eleventh season as the Kansas City Chiefs. Ten of the team's seasons were played in the American Football League—three as the Dallas Texans and seven as the KC Chiefs. They were led this year again by Hank Stram in his fourteenth season of fifteen as head coach. This Chiefs team finished with a regular season record of 8-6-0 for 2<sup>nd</sup> place in the AFC West.

This was the franchise's 4th season in the National Football League, the 11th as the Kansas City Chiefs, and the 14th overall. they finished with a 7–5–2 record and missed the playoffs for the 2nd straight year.

The defense took the lead again this year and they were so good that they kept the club in contention thanks to a nucleus that still

included the bulk of the squad's Super Bowl IV starters. New starting QB Mike Livingston played in a 23–13 opening day loss against the Los Angeles Rams on September 16, but the master, Len Dawson returned to rally the club for three consecutive wins. This got the club going with a 3–1 start for a third consecutive year.

The aging Len Dawson made his final start of the year in a 23–14 loss at Buffalo on October 29 and was replaced for the remainder of the year by Livingston, beginning a string of three straight seasons in which both players split time at the position.

Livingston led the club to another three straight wins, putting the team in first place in mid-November with a 6–3–1 record. All did not end well.

The club's 1–2–1 record over the season's final month ended the Chiefs post-season aspirations as the team finished the year in a second-place tie with Denver at 7–5–2. Len Dawson became the second Chiefs player in as many years to win the NFL Man of the Year Award. Following Super Bowl VIII, The AFC-NFC Pro Bowl was held at Arrowhead Stadium on January 20 with the AFC claiming a 15–13 win thanks to five field goals from Miami placekicker Garo Yepremian.

### **1974 Hank Stram, Coach #1**

The 1974 Kansas City Chiefs football team competed in their fifteenth season overall of Professional Football. It was their fifth season in the NFL, and their twelfth season as the Kansas City Chiefs. Ten of the team's seasons were played in the American Football League—three as the Dallas Texans and seven as the KC Chiefs. They were led this year again by Hank Stram in his fifteenth and last season.

It was only the Chiefs third losing season since their start in Pro Football in 1960 as the Texans. Stram's Chiefs team finished with a regular season record of 5-9-0 for 3rd place in the AFC West. The Chiefs management were unforgiving this time and they fired the great Hank Stram.



The season was the franchise's 5th season in the National Football League, the 12th as the Kansas City Chiefs, and the 15th overall, it ended with a 5–9 record and the Chiefs missed the playoffs for the 3rd straight year and they were lucky to grab a third-place finish in the AFC West. As noted, the legendary Hank Stram was fired after the season and was replaced by Paul Wiggin in 1975.

While the club's sparkling new facility at Arrowhead Stadium was drawing rave reviews, the Chiefs roster was beginning to show its age. Stram would pay the price for all of the Chief's failings. The result was the team's first losing season in 11 years as the club was unable to string together consecutive victories during the year, a first in franchise history.

The team needed some investment, not a new coach. Many of the club's key players were entering the twilight of their careers: Len Dawson was 39, Jim Tyrer was 35, Bobby Bell, Buck Buchanan, and Ed Budde were 34, Dave Hill was 33 and Otis Taylor was 32. There were no spring chickens ready to save the day.

One of the year's few bright spots in the 5–9 season was cornerback Emmitt Thomas, who led the league with a franchise-record 12 interceptions. The final game of the 1974 campaign marked the final time all seven of Kansas City's Pro Football Hall of Fame players from the club's AFL champion era took the field together with coach Hank Stram.

Including owner Lamar Hunt and seven future Minnesota Vikings Hall of Famers, an amazing total of 16 Hall of Fame inductees were involved in this 1974 season finale game. That 35–15 loss against Minnesota provided an anticlimactic conclusion to Hank Stram's illustrious coaching career in Kansas City.

Three days later, Stram, the only head coach in franchise history was relieved of his duties on December 27 after compiling a 124–76–10 regular season record with the club. What a record! Think of that for a while. What a shame! It took a long time for the Chiefs to claw and fight their way back to prominence. Since they could not fire Stram twice, they were hopelessly without a good solution to their woes for well over ten years.



# Chapter 5 Coaches Wiggin, Bettis, & Levy; 1975 to 1982

**Coach # 2 Paul Wiggin**

**Coach # 3 Tom Bettis**

**Coach # 4 Marv Levy**

<u>Year</u>	<u>Coach</u>	<u>Conf</u>	<u>Div</u>	<u>Pl</u>	<u>W-L-T</u>
1975	Paul Wiggin	NFLAFC	West	3rd	5-9-0
1976	Paul Wiggin	NFLAFC	West	4th	5-9-0
1977	Paul Wiggin (1-6)	NFLAFC	West	5 <sup>th</sup>	2-12-0

<u>Year</u>	<u>Coach</u>	<u>Conf</u>	<u>Div</u>	<u>Pl</u>	<u>W-L-T</u>
1977	Tom Bettis (1-6)	NFLAFC	West	5 <sup>th</sup>	2-12-0
1978	Marv Levy	NFLAFC	West	5th	4-12-0
1979	Marv Levy	NFLAFC	West	5 <sup>th</sup>	7-9-0
1980	Marv Levy	NFLAFC	West	3rd	8-8-0
1981	Marv Levy	NFLAFC	West	3rd	9-7-0
1982	Marv Levy	NFLAFC	West	11 <sup>th</sup>	3-6-0



Paul Wiggin was a long-time football coach in the National Football League (NFL) from 1968 to 1991, finishing his career as the defensive line coach of the Minnesota Vikings. Over his nineteen years of coaching his teams compiled a so-so cumulative win/loss record of 135-143-5. He was a very well-liked

head coach of our Kansas City Chiefs from 1975 until the 1977 season, during which time the Chiefs had a poor record and went 12-30-0. During his career he was a head coach for three seasons.

## 1975 Paul Wiggin, Coach #2

The 1975 Kansas City Chiefs football team competed in the franchise's sixteenth season of Professional Football. It was their

sixth season in the NFL, and their thirteenth season as the Kansas City Chiefs. They were led this year by Paul Wiggin in his first of almost three seasons with KC. This year, Wiggins team finished with a regular season record of 5-9-0 for 3rd place in the AFC West. The Chiefs management forgave Wiggin for the poor record after firing Hank Stram the prior year for the same record.

This season was the franchise's 6th season in the National Football League, the 13th as the Kansas City Chiefs, and the 16th overall. Nothing improved with the new coach. The season ended with a second consecutive 5–9 record and the Chiefs missed the playoffs for the 4th straight year.

San Francisco 49ers defensive coordinator Paul Wiggin had been named the second head coach in franchise history on January 23. A former Pro Bowl defensive end for the Cleveland Browns, Wiggin inherited the unenviable task of rebuilding a squad whose pool of talent had been largely depleted due to age and a number of ill-fated trades that had left the club devoid of first-round draft choices in 1973 and 1975.

After an 0–3 start to the season, Wiggin did his best to direct the Chiefs to three straight wins, beginning with a convincing 42–10 victory against the Raiders on October 12. The highlight of the season was a 34–31 upset win at Dallas on Monday Night Football.

The club was missing something for sure. It could not maintain its early success; Owing a 5–5 record heading into the homestretch of the season, injuries to a number of key players crippled the team. The Coach always takes the hit for team issues. KC dropped its final four contests of the year to finish at 5–9 for the second consecutive season. Wiggin kept his job. For some reason he had become a favorite at Kansas City.

The regular season finale at Oakland marked the final games in the Hall of Fame careers of Len Dawson and Buck Buchanan. Along with Hank Stram, these two greats could no longer be counted on to bail out any KC season with their fine play.

Remember that the year Stram was fired was the first year in nine that he would not deliver a winning season. Lamar Hunt & Co were

not willing to wait for Stram to reform a new unit as his soldiers were aging. Instead they opted to get rid of their talented field general and leave it up to a guy with no head coaching experience to turn the team's fortune around. It did not happen.

## **1976 Paul Wiggin, Coach #2**

The 1976 Kansas City Chiefs football team competed in the franchise's seventeenth season of Professional Football. It was their seventh season in the NFL, and their fourteenth season as the Kansas City Chiefs. They were led this year by Paul Wiggin in his second of almost three seasons with KC. This year, Wiggins team finished with a regular season record of 5-9-0 for 3rd place in the AFC West. The Chiefs management forgave Wiggin again for the poor record but would take action the following year.

As noted, this was the franchise's 7th season in the National Football League, the 14th as the Kansas City Chiefs, and the 17th overall it ended with their third consecutive 5-9 record and the Chiefs missed the playoffs for the 5th straight year. This was the third year of a twenty-year slide.

Buck Buchanan announced his retirement in February. Len Dawson turned in his equipment on May 1. Two of the Super Bowl greats were now gone.

Lamar Hunt promoted Jack Steadman to team president and Jim Schaaf was named general manager in August.

Management changes did not help on the field action. KC's fortunes did not improve in the second year of the Wiggin regime. The club dropped three straight home games, including an embarrassing 27-17 loss in week three to the New Orleans Saints.

The win was good for NO's new coach Hank Stram but not good for the Chiefs. It was the first win with the Saints for the former Kansas City coach, who stubbornly refused to shake hands with Wiggin following the game and rode off on the shoulders of his players as he did after the Chiefs' victory in Super Bowl IV) before the Chiefs had

suffered a 50–17 setback at Buffalo on October 3, opening the season at 0–4 for the first time in team history.

The team registered a 3–1 record during a successful midseason stretch, but like most of the previous seasons, could not maintain that momentum. It was as if Stram had caused them though nobody was saying that. No Stram at KC seemed to hurt the Chiefs for sure.

This year, the QB slot belonged to Mike Livingston. After having lingered in Len Dawson's shadow for eight seasons, Livingston was firmly entrenched as the team's starting QB. He became the first QB to start every regular season game since Dawson in 1968. The season was not his fault.

In fact, Livingston played well and rallied the squad for wins in two of the season's final three games. Nonetheless, the Chiefs still ended the year with their third consecutive 5–9 record. Running back MacArthur Lane was the club's top offensive threat, becoming the only player at the time in franchise history to lead the league in receptions (66).

### **1977 Paul Wiggin, fired ½ season (1-6) Coach #2**

### **1977 Tom Bettis Interim (1-6), Coach #3**

The 1977 Kansas City Chiefs football team competed in the franchise' eighteenth season of Professional Football. It was their eighth season in the NFL, and their fifteenth season as the Kansas City Chiefs. They were led for ½ the season this year by Paul Wiggin in his third and last season with KC. Wiggin was replaced with interim coach Tom Bettis after a poor showing at the half-way mark. The team finished with a regular season record of 2-12 for last place in the AFC West. Both Wiggin and Bettis shared the 2-12 record with an 1-6 individual record each. The Chiefs management did not forgive Wiggin for his poor record. Instead at the season mid-point, they fired him and hired Tom Bettis who was finished at the end of the season.



Tom Bettis Interim KC Coach

This was the franchise's 8th season in the National Football League, the 15th as the Kansas City Chiefs, and the 18th overall. The team missed Hank Stram more each year. This season was the worst in franchise history until the 2008 season, with the Chiefs winning only two of fourteen games. After an 0–5 start, Head coach Paul Wiggin was fired following a 44–7 loss to Cleveland in week seven. Tom Bettis took over as interim head coach for the rest of the season. The team endured a six-game losing streak to conclude the season at 2–12.

Bettis and the remainder of the coaching staff assembled by Wiggin were released on December 19, one day after a nail-biting 21–20 loss on Dec 18 at Oakland in the regular season finale. Marv Levy, the former head coach of the CFL's Montreal Alouettes, was named the fourth head coach in franchise history on December 20 for the 1978 season.

The heart and soul of the Chiefs once-vaunted defense exited stage left when roommates Willie Lanier and Jim Lynch, who both joined the club together as second-round draft picks in 1967, retired following the 1977 campaign. Baltimore later acquired Lanier's rights in a trade, but failed to lure him out of retirement. By managing to win only twice in the 1977 season, the team was given the second pick in the 1978 NFL Draft. But nothing could bring back the storied records of the Hank Stram years. The old song proved true again. “Don't it always seem to go that you don't know what you've got till it's gone.”

## Coach Wiggin Out At KC

In 1977, a football season and a year which pundits called the YEAR OF THE PINK SLIP for coaches, Paul Wiggin of KC, turned out to be the first of 10 NFL coaches to be out on the street. . In time, six of Wiggin's assistants were let go also. Early on, three found work but it took others a while to find the right job

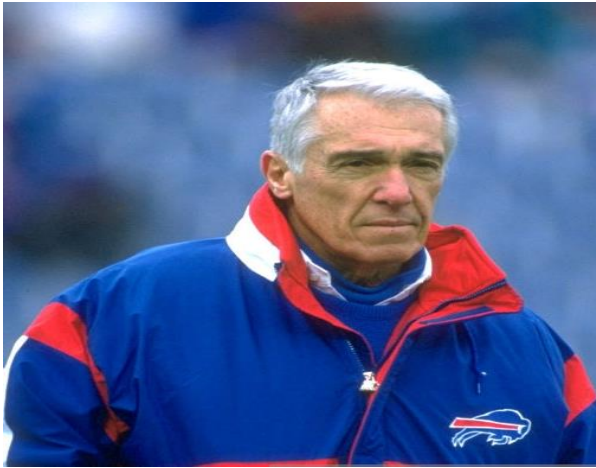
Last Oct. 31, Paul Wiggin, the coach of the Kansas City Chiefs, was fired. It was Halloween, when things go bump in the night, but for Wiggin horror struck in the morning. Summoned to a 10:30 a.m. meeting by K.C. President Jack Steadman, Wiggin unexpectedly was greeted by Lamar Hunt, the team's owner, who just 8½ hours earlier had decided to give Wiggin his walking papers. At the very moment Wiggin heard his fate, his wife Carolynn was playing tennis with Steadman's wife Martha, who knew—but hadn't told Carolynn—that the Chiefs were firing her husband that morning.

Steadman, whose association with the Chiefs began when he was an accountant for Hunt's Penrod Oil Co., had written down the things he planned to tell Wiggin on Hunt's behalf—step by step, like so many debits. Among them was: "Paul, it's getting rough out there and it's going to get vicious before it's over, and because of that we're going to make a coaching change." The news of Wiggin's dismissal triggered an outburst of emotion throughout the Chiefs' Arrowhead Stadium offices. Secretaries, PR men, assistant coaches and players were shocked. Many wept.

When the news got out, Mona Campbell, the switchboard operator, was besieged by calls from irate fans; Wiggin, they said, was a martyr. Letters received by the Chiefs and the Kansas City Star almost unanimously lauded the immensely popular Wiggin and ripped management, even though the Chiefs were 1-6 at the time and Wiggin was leaving with an 11-24 record for his 2½ seasons.



## 1978 Marv Levy, Coach #4



The 1978 Kansas City Chiefs football team competed in the franchise' nineteenth season of Professional Football. It was their ninth season in the NFL, and their sixteenth season as the Kansas City Chiefs. They were led this year by Head Coach Marv Levy in his first

of five seasons with KC. The team finished with a regular season record of 4-12 for fifth place in the AFC West.

This was the franchise's 9th season in the National Football League, the 16th as the Kansas City Chiefs, and the 19th overall. It began when the chiefs hired new head coach Marv Levy, formerly of the Canadian Football League's Montreal Alouettes. With the NFL expanding its schedule to 16 games for 1978, the Chiefs finished with a 4-12 record and fifth place in the AFC West.

Coach Levy's systematic restocking of a relatively barren defensive roster began with a 1978 draft class that included a pair of future Chiefs franchise hall of famers in defensive end Art Still and linebacker Gary Spani. Unfortunately, running back Ed Podolak, who was the club's all-time leading rusher at the time, retired in the offseason on June 15.

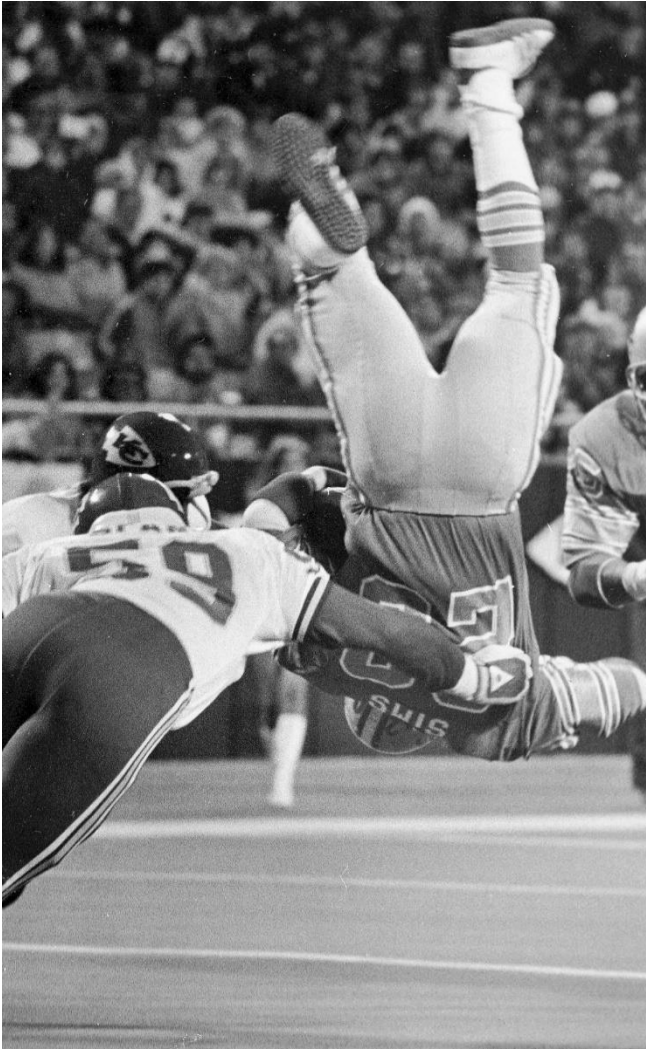
The pundits suggest that Marv Levy's most unconventional tactic in rebuilding the Chiefs was his use of the Wing-T offense. "It was a situation where we took over a team that had the worst defensive record in the history of the National Football League," Levy explained.

"We wanted to keep that defense off the field, so we ran the ball 60 times a game." The 1978 Chiefs team ran and ran often, posting franchise records with 663 rushing attempts and 2,986 ground yards.

Levy's Chiefs ran the ball a staggering 69 times in a 24–23 Opening Day win at Cincinnati on September 3. It was the most rushing attempts in an NFL contest since 1948. The Chiefs ran so often that their record showed that five different players had 100-yard rushing games during the year. Running back Tony Reed topped the team statistics with 1,053 yards to become the team's first 1,000-yard back since 1967.

Despite the Great Opening Day success, the club lost 10 of its next 11 games, including a pair of overtime decisions. However, the team showed signs of improvement with the defense recording a 23–0 shutout against San Diego on November 26 as the Chiefs finished up its first 16-game schedule with a 4–12 mark.

## Top Chiefs Players Gary Spani, LB, 1978-1986



(AP Photo/Mark Mayer)

A tackling machine from Manhattan, Kansas, Spani was everything you want from a linebacker. He was drafted in the third round of the 1978 NFL Draft out of Kansas State and outperformed expectations. He ranks second in Chiefs history with 999 total tackles and led the team in tackles four consecutive seasons from 1978 through 1981. His 144 tackles in 1978 remain a Chiefs rookie record. In 1986, Spani helped the

Chiefs make their first playoff appearance in 15 years.

### 1979 Marv Levy, Coach #4

The 1979 Kansas City Chiefs football team competed in the franchise' twentieth season of Professional Football. It was their tenth season in the NFL, and their seventeenth season as the Kansas City Chiefs. They were led this year by Head Coach Marv Levy in

his second of five seasons with KC. The team finished with a regular season record of 4-12 for fifth place in the AFC West.

This season was the franchise's 10th season in the National Football League, the 17th as the Kansas City Chiefs, and the 20th overall. They improved on their 4-12 record from 1978 to a 7-9 record, but still earned a last-place finish in the AFC West. The Chiefs missed the playoffs for the eighth straight year due to the four other teams ahead of them in their division all finishing with winning records. The Chiefs were still missing those great Hank Stram years.

Kansas City used its two first round picks of the 1979 Draft to improve both the defense and the offense. They selected defensive end Mike Bell and quarterback Steve Fuller. By the season's third game, Fuller had taken over for Mike Livingston, who never had brought in a winning season, to become the club's starting QB.

With Fuller at the helm, the Chiefs achieved a 4-2 record after six games. Unfortunately, they suffered a five-game midseason losing streak which ended their chances for the playoffs. Despite finishing fifth in the AFC West for a second straight season, the club's 7-9 record was a notable accomplishment considering the fact that the division's other four clubs all posted winning records for a second consecutive season.

## Top Chiefs Player: Mike Bell, DE, 1979-1991



(AP Photo/Al Behrman)

Bell, the second overall pick in the 1979 NFL Draft out of Colorado State, played his entire 13-year career with the Chiefs. During that time he only appeared in a single playoff game for the team, but he started in 100 games.

He was a dominant fixture on the defensive line, accounting for 51 sacks during his career — which ranks sixth in franchise history. He led the team in sacks twice, with 10 in 1983 and 6.5 in 1987. His nephew Blake Bell currently plays tight end for the Chiefs.

### 1980 Marv Levy, Coach #4

The 1980 Kansas City Chiefs football team competed in the franchise' twenty-first season of Professional Football. It was their eleventh season in the NFL, and their seventeenth season as the Kansas City Chiefs. They were led this year by Head Coach Marv Levy in his third of five seasons with KC. The team finished with a regular season record of 8-8 for a lousy placement of fourth place in the AFC West.

This season was the franchise's 11th season in the National Football League and 21st overall. They improved from 1979 from a 7–9 to an 8–8 record, the most wins for the franchise since an 8–6 season in 1972, but it came with missing the playoffs for the ninth consecutive season.

The Chiefs selected guard Brad Budde, the son of Chiefs Hall of Fame guard Ed Budde, as the team's first-round draft choice, making the Buddes the first father-son combination to become first-round draftees of the same team in NFL history. In a then-controversial move on August 26, the Chiefs released placekicker Jan Stenerud, who at the time was club's all-time leading scorer. He was replaced by journeyman Nick Lowery, who had been cut 11 times by eight different teams himself.

After suffering an 0–4 start, the team rebounded to post a four-game winning streak. After Steve Fuller was sidelined with a knee injury late in the season, former Miami 12th-round draft choice Bill Kenney became the team's starting quarterback.

He was so anonymous that when he appeared in that contest, the name on the back of his jersey was inadvertently misspelled "Kenny." Kenney went on to lead the club to a 31–14 victory against Denver on December 7 in his initial NFL start. The defense continued to evolve as defensive end Art Still and safety Gary Barbaro became the first Chiefs defensive players to be elected to the Pro Bowl in five seasons.

## **Top Chiefs Players Nick Lowery, K, 1980-1993**

Nick Lowery joined the Chiefs as a free agent in 1980. He recorded seven seasons with the Chiefs with a field-goal success rate above 80 percent, including three seasons in which he led the NFL in that category.



Photo of Nick Lowery-- Stephen Dunn / Getty Images

Lowery holds Chiefs franchise records for most field goals (329), most field goals of 50-plus yards (20) and most extra points (479). He's also the franchise leader in points scored with 1,466.

#### **1981 Marv Levy, Coach #4**

The 1981 Kansas City Chiefs football team competed in the franchise' twenty-second season of Professional Football. It was their twelfth season in the NFL, and their nineteenth season as the Kansas City Chiefs. They were led this year by Head Coach Marv Levy in his fourth of five seasons with KC. The team finished with a regular season record of 9-7 for third place in the AFC West.

This was the franchise's 12th season in the National Football League and 22nd overall. They improved from 1980's 8-8 record to a 9-7 record but missed the playoffs for the tenth consecutive season.

The 1981 season began with Bill Kenney as the club's starting quarterback. He directed the Chiefs to a 6-2 start, including a 37-33 win over the Pittsburgh Steelers at Three Rivers Stadium on Opening Day.

The Chiefs second-round draft choice, running back Joe Delaney electrified the club's offense by rushing for 1,121 yards, a team single-season record at the time. He became the AFC's Rookie of the Year and was the first running back to represent the franchise in the Pro Bowl.

Delaney contributed a 193-yard performance in a 23–10 victory against the Oilers on November 15. It was the best single-game total ever amassed by a Kansas City rookie.

With four games left, the Chiefs had an 8-4 record. The club was positioned to make the playoffs for the first time in 10 years before hitting a three-game losing slide. Bill Kenney missed the club's final three contests due to injury as Steve Fuller temporarily reclaimed the starting quarterback position and guided the club to a 10–6 win at Minnesota, in the final contest played at Metropolitan Stadium.

With the Chiefs winning the game, Vikings fans began dismembering the stadium as early as the second half—taking seats, pieces of the scoreboard and even chunks of sod as souvenirs. The victory assured the Chiefs of a 9–7 record. It was KC's first winning mark since 1973.

Coach Marv Levy increased the club's victory total for a third consecutive year. Inspired by the Washington Redskins' "Hail to the Redskins," Levy penned a fight song for the Chiefs ("Give a Cheer for Kansas City"), but the pundits offered their opinion that the song was much like the team's wing T offense, the concept never really caught on.



## Top Chief Players Joe Delaney, RB, 1981-1982

Where do you rank a player who died at age 24 in an act of heroism? Delaney is the No. 47 player in our rankings, even though he only played two seasons with the Chiefs before his tragic death. Selected in the second round of the 1981 NFL Draft out of Northwestern State, Delaney rushed for 1,121 yards as a rookie, earning a Pro Bowl nod in the process.



Joe Delaney's Photo by Dick Raphael-USA TODAY Sports

Delaney's 193-yard rushing performance against the Houston Oilers that season prompted future Hall of Fame defensive end Elvin Bethea to say this about Delaney:

"I've played against the best — O.J. Simpson, Gale Sayers, Walter Payton — and (Delaney) ranks right up there with them. He is great with a capital G."

In June 1983, Delaney attempted to rescue three children drowning in a pond in Monroe, Louisiana. He couldn't swim himself but selflessly jumped into the pond in an effort to save the children. He

was able to save one child but drowned in the process. Every year, on June 29 we celebrate Joe Delaney Day and share his story in order to keep his memory, sacrifice and heroism alive in Chiefs Kingdom.

## Top Chiefs Players Deron Cherry, S, 1981-1991



Photo of Deron Cherry by George Rose/Getty Images

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One of the greatest free safeties to ever play the game, Cherry joined the Chiefs as an undrafted free agent out of Rutgers in 1981. In 1983, he became a full-time starter, registered seven interceptions and earned the first of six consecutive Pro Bowl nods. In the 1991 playoffs, Cherry recorded three interceptions in two games. He ranks third on the franchise's all-time interceptions list with 50, behind only Emmitt Thomas and Johnny Robinson. He is also one of three Chiefs to record four interceptions in a single game, which he did against Seattle in 1985.

### **1982 Marv Levy, Coach #4**

The 1982 Kansas City Chiefs football team competed in the franchise' twenty-third season of Professional Football. It was their

thirteenth season in the NFL, and their twentieth season as the Kansas City Chiefs. They were led this year by Head Coach Marv Levy in his fifth and last of five seasons with KC. The season was shortened to nine games. The team finished with a regular season record of 3-6 for eleventh place in the AFC.

This was the franchise's strike-shortened 13th season in the National Football League and their 23rd overall.

In May 1982, running back Joe Delaney underwent surgery to repair a detached retina in his eye. It was a radical procedure at the time. The club was loaded with optimism thanks to the promising 9-7 record from 1981. Unfortunately, the growing labor unrest from NFL players spelled doom for both the Chiefs and Levy in 1982.

The Chiefs split their first two games of the year. Then, the season collapsed after a 57-day strike by the NFL Players Association began at midnight on September 20. The strike concluded on November 17 after seven games were canceled and one was rescheduled. The

Chiefs would never recover, losing four straight games after their return to the field. Center Jack Rudnay, who had been one of the franchise's most durable and decorated offensive performers over the past decade, announced on December 20 that he would retire after the season. Despite wins in two of the season's final three games, the Levy era concluded as the club finished the strike-shortened campaign at 3-6.

Marv Levy was fired at the end of the season. He is recognized as a great coach despite the bum shake that he got from KC. He came right back to be one of the best coaches in the NFL but he was not good enough for KC. In his twelve years at Buffalo (1986-1997) Marv Levy was great. He coached the Bills to four consecutive American Football Conference Championships. He was elected to the Pro Football Hall of Fame in 2001. Not too shabby. Hank Stram spoiled the Chiefs IMHO into thinking that coaching wins was easy. They let another great coach get away.



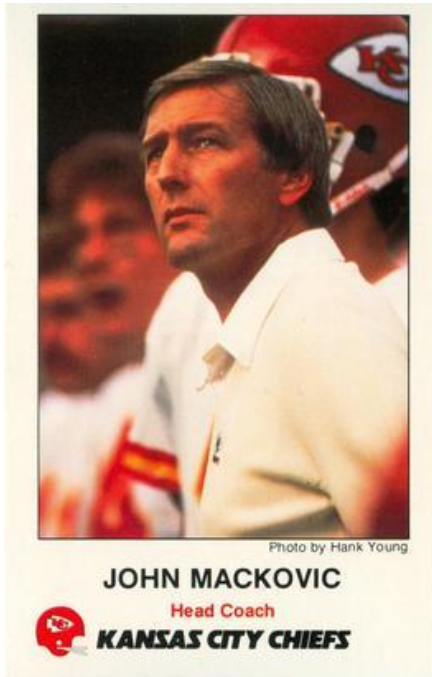
# Chapter 6 Coaches John Mackovic & Frank Gansz 1983 to 1988

**Coach # 5 John Mackovic**

**Coach # 6 Frank Gansz**

<u>Year</u>	<u>Coach</u>	<u>Conf</u>	<u>Div</u>	<u>Pl</u>	<u>W-L-T</u>
1983	John Mackovic	NFLAFC	West	5 <sup>th</sup>	6-10-0
1984	John Mackovic	NFLAFC	West	4 <sup>th</sup>	8-8-0
	• Bill Maas (DROY)				
1985	John Mackovic	NFLAFC	West	5 <sup>th</sup>	6-10-0
1986	John Mackovic	NFLAFC	West	2 <sup>nd</sup>	10-6-0
	• Lost Wild Card Playoffs (at Jets) 35–15				
<u>Year</u>	<u>Coach</u>	<u>Conf</u>	<u>Div</u>	<u>Pl</u>	<u>W-L-T</u>
1987	Frank Gansz	NFLAFC	West	5 <sup>th</sup>	4-11-0
1988	Frank Gansz	NFLAFC	West	5 <sup>th</sup>	4-11-1

## John Mackovic new Chiefs Coach



Like many Chiefs fans over the early years, I blame the top management of the Chiefs. They liked football but never played it . It helps to remember that KC fans were getting sick of few wins, little and no contention of the team for the grand prize. Perhaps there was also some disgust at pro football in general – a powerful league that could not avoid a strike shortened season in 1982. KC fans appeared quite disgusted when interviewed and why not? The final game of the 1982 Chiefs season drew only 11,902 fans. That says it all.

John Mackovic was hired as the fifth coach in too short a while. He was in the end, another notch in some's argument that "change" for KC was more a marketing slogan than a genuine plan. Did management really care about the team like the fans did? The

change everyone wanted to see was more wins. Musical coaching chairs was not viewed as the secret to success.

Hank Stram was fired after one poor season out of his last ten. He had twenty years of good coaching left. The Chiefs had gone through three head coaches since Hank Stram's dismissal in 1974. After "run the ball" Marv Levy was fired, the running became the issue. KC Management said that it now wanted a coach who "knew the passing game," and that's what Mackovic proposed to do, pass the ball.

He brought to mind the age-old observation that it is one thing to be the smartest man in the room, but then again it is quite another to behave as if you know it.

Young and vibrant though he was, would he have any better luck than his predecessors? To be sure, the public remained skeptical or, as long-time *Kansas City Star* sports editor Joe McGuff described its interest, "from one of intense emotional involvement to indifference."

In 1981, Tom Landry hired Mackovic as assistant head coach and quarterback coach with the Dallas Cowboys, with whom he spent two seasons before accepting this head coaching job with the Kansas City Chiefs in 1983.

Mackovic would later name himself his offensive coordinator, a position he held all four seasons with the Chiefs. Mackovic's first three Chiefs teams missed the playoffs. In his final season, the Chiefs made the playoffs as a wild card, their first playoff appearance in 15 years and only their second since the AFL–NFL merger.

However, owner Lamar Hunt had no forward patience. He fired Mackovic only days after the Chiefs were eliminated in the first round due to a lack of chemistry (ahem!). The catalyst behind Mackovic's dismissal was a meeting between Hunt and eight of the most prominent Chiefs. Mackovic's record with the Chiefs was 30–34. Just like Stram's record would have improved, KC made sure a coach could make it before they gave him the axe. Let's look at his tenure with the Chiefs to see if we can figure it out.

## 1983 John Mackovic, Coach #5

The 1983 Kansas City Chiefs football team competed in the franchise' twenty-fourth season of Professional Football. It was their fourteenth season in the NFL, and their twenty-first season as the Kansas City Chiefs. They were led this year by Head Coach John Mackovic in his first of four seasons with KC. The team finished with a regular season record of 6-10 for a last place finish in the AFC West.

On January 4, the Chiefs fired head coach Marv Levy after compiling a 31–42 record. Dallas Cowboys quarterbacks coach John Mackovic was named the fifth head coach in team history on February 2. Wikipedia says that Mackovic became the youngest individual ever to hold that post for the club. But that is not true for the franchise as a whole. Hank Stram became head coach of the Dallas Texans when he was 36 years old. The Texans became the Chiefs three years later.

The Chiefs got the seventh overall pick in the 1983 NFL Draft and selected PSU quarterback Todd Blackledge. The Chiefs would not draft another quarterback in the first round until the 2017 NFL Draft when they drafted Patrick Mahomes.

Tragedy struck the Chiefs on June 29 when star running back Joe Delaney drowned while attempting to save the lives of three children in Monroe, Louisiana. Delaney was posthumously awarded the Presidential Citizen's Medal by Ronald Reagan on July 13.

Linebacker Bobby Bell became the first Chiefs player to be inducted into the Pro Football Hall of Fame on July 30. This provided some solace for the mourning Chiefs fan base following Joe Delaney's death.

With Bill Kenney and Todd Blackledge both on the roster, Steve Fuller was traded to the Los Angeles Rams on August 19. Kenney earned a Pro Bowl berth after racking up a franchise-record 4,348 passing yards, while wide receiver Carlos Carson hauled in 80 passes for 1,351 yards.



The Chiefs had a terrific passing game, which was Mackovic's forte. Despite this, coach John Mackovic had trouble finding a suitable replacement for Joe Delaney and the running back position. The highest scoring contest in franchise history took place as the Chiefs and Seattle Seahawks combined for 99 points in a wild, 51–48 overtime loss at the Kingdome. A meager crowd of 11,377 braved near-zero degree temperatures to attend the club's season-ending 48–17 win against Denver on December 18, the smallest attendance figure ever for a Chiefs game at Arrowhead as the club finished the year at a poor 6–10.

## Top Chief Players Albert Lewis, CB, 1983-1993



(Photo of Albert Lewis in action by Rick Stewart/Getty Images)

Coming to the Chiefs via the third round of the 1983 NFL Draft out of Grambling, he would register 38 interceptions with Kansas City to rank fifth on the team's career list. He was selected to four consecutive Pro Bowls from 1987 through 1990 and holds the franchise record with 10 career blocked punts. Lewis, who played in 150 games and started 128 for the Chiefs, teamed with Kevin Ross to form one of the best cornerback tandems in franchise history.



## 1984 John Mackovic, Coach #5

The 1984 Kansas City Chiefs football team competed in the franchise' twenty-fifth season of Professional Football. It was their fifteenth season in the NFL, and their twenty-second season as the Kansas City Chiefs. They were led this year by Head Coach John Mackovic in his second of four seasons with KC. The team finished with a regular season record of 8-8 for a fourth place finish in the AFC West.

This year, Pro Bowl safety Gary Barbaro became the most notable Chiefs player to defect to the rival United States Football League (USFL), signing with the New Jersey Generals on February 2 after sitting out the entire 1983 campaign due to a contract dispute.

This did not help the team's performance nor did the trade of cornerback Gary Green. It seemed to create a youth movement that may very well have helped; however, it is said to have produced the most vaunted secondary in team history. Cornerbacks Kevin Ross and Albert Lewis, and safeties Deron Cherry and Lloyd Burruss accounted for a combined 13 Pro Bowl appearances for the Chiefs in the years to come. Good news for a long time had been hard to come by for the Chiefs.

All-America defensive tackle Bill Maas and offensive tackle John Alt were both selected in the first round of the 1984 NFL Draft. Maas was named NFL Defensive Rookie of the Year, while Alt eventually became the cornerstone of the club's offensive line later in the decade. Kansas City's defense registered a team-record 11.0 sacks in a 10-6 win against Cleveland on September 30, coming one sack shy of the NFL single-game record. Along with the good comes some bad news.

Quarterback Bill Kenney suffered a broken thumb during the preseason and it took a long time for him to get back to playing shape. He was sidelined until the season's seventh week. Second-year backup Quarterback Todd Blackledge started the first six contests of the season and had the club at 3-3. Kenney returned to the starting lineup against the New York Jets on October 21, but was not consistent the rest of the season.

The Chiefs lost four of its first five contests after his return. However, the team rattled off three consecutive wins to conclude the year on the upswing at 8–8.

The Chiefs were also involved in some negative history during the November 4th game against the Seattle Seahawks. The Chiefs quarterbacks could not complete passes and they threw six interceptions, four of which were returned for touchdowns in a 45-0 loss. Sometimes when it goes bad it stays bad for a while.

## Top Chief's Players John Alt, OT, 1984-1996



John Alt's photo by Stephen Wade / Allsport

A towering offensive tackle born in Stuttgart, Germany, Alt joined the Chiefs as one their two first-round picks in the 1984 NFL Draft. He locked down the left tackle position in Kansas City for more than a decade, starting 149 games. He was known as a stalwart in pass protection, but he became a skilled run blocker later in his career.

Look at that look of determination he sported. He helped Christian Okoye to two 1,000-yard rushing seasons and Barry Word to

another. His consistency earned him two Pro Bowl appearances and a spot in the Chiefs Hall of Fame.

### **1985 John Mackovic, Coach #5**

The 1985 Kansas City Chiefs football team competed in the franchise' twenty-sixth season of Professional Football. It was their sixteenth season in the NFL, and their twenty-third season as the Kansas City Chiefs. They were led this year by Head Coach John Mackovic in his third of four seasons with KC. The team finished with a regular season record of 6-10 for a last place finish for the second time in two years in the AFC West.

The Chiefs looked like a new all-capable team when they got off to a great start in 1985 with a 47-27 win at New Orleans. In another contest, safety Deron Cherry tied an NFL record by registering four interceptions in a 28-7 win against Seattle on September 29 as the club boasted a 3-1 record after four games of the new season.

### **1986 John Mackovic, Coach #5**

The 1986 Kansas City Chiefs football team competed in the franchise' twenty-seventh season of Professional Football. It was their seventeenth season in the NFL, and their twenty-fourth season as the Kansas City Chiefs. They were led this year by Head Coach John Mackovic in his fourth and last of four seasons with KC. The team finished with a regular season record of 10-6 for a last place finish for the second time in two years in the AFC West.

They made the playoffs for the first time in who knows when but then lost the Wildcard game, 15-35 to the Jets. Lamar Hunt forgot that this had been the best season since Hank Stram's 1971 season, and because it was not good enough, he fired coach Mackovic to the surprise of many.

There was a lot of good news this year. Former linebacker Willie Lanier was enshrined in the Pro Football Hall of Fame on August 2. On the field, the pieces started coming together for head coach John Mackovic. His offense displayed plenty of scoring punch, while the club's defense and special teams became increasingly effective.

With the team at 3–3, early on, Bill Kenney replaced Todd Blackledge for the second half of the season in a game against San Diego, guiding the club to a 42–41 victory. That win was the first of four consecutive triumphs with Kenney at the helm, the club's longest winning streak since 1980. Poised with a 7–3 record after 10 games, three straight losses in November put the Chiefs playoff chances in jeopardy. Two December wins gave Kansas City a 9–6 mark, putting the Chiefs on the verge of their first postseason berth in 15 years. They got it.

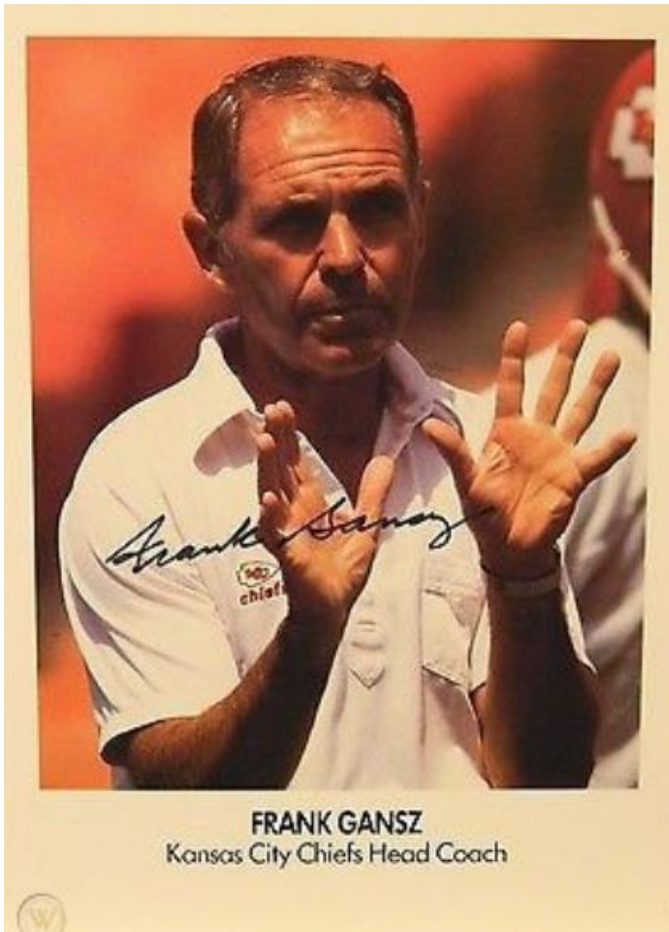
The tipping point moment of the season came in the regular season finale at Pittsburgh on December 21. Despite being outgained in total yardage by a 515-to-171-yard margin, the Chiefs were able to score a 24–19 victory as all of the team's points came via special teams on a blocked punt return, a field goal, a kickoff return and a blocked field goal return.

With a 10–6 record the Chiefs earned an AFC Wild Card berth, winning a tiebreaker with Seattle. Bill Kenney was injured in the fourth quarter of the Steelers contest, meaning Todd Blackledge would draw the starting assignment for the club's first playoff contest since 1971, a 35–15 loss at New York.

As noted, Mackovic was unexpectedly fired by Chiefs owner Lamar Hunt after the season.

In the meantime, former quarterback Len Dawson became the third Chiefs player inducted into the Pro Football Hall of Fame on August 8, while at the same time, injuries forced the retirement of the club's all-time leading tackler Gary Spani. Head coach Chiefs new Coach Gansz would get his chance shortly.

## 1987 Frank Gansz, Coach #6



The 1987 Kansas City Chiefs football team competed in the franchise' twenty-eighth season of Professional Football. It was their eighteenth season in the NFL, and their twenty-fifth season as the Kansas City Chiefs. They were led this year by Head Coach Frank Gansz in his first year of two seasons with KC. The team finished with a regular season record of 4-11

for a last place finish.

All NFL games that were scheduled for the third week of the season were cancelled due to another players' strike. This reduced the normal 16-game season to 15, but not exactly. The games scheduled for Weeks 4, 5 and 6 were played with replacement players, while the regular players did not play. After this, the union voted to end the strike. for the second time in two years in the AFC West. Fans were not happy with the players because of the disruption caused by the players for the second time in such a short period.

Under new head coach Frank Gansz, The Chiefs split their first two games and never recovered. They Chiefs had an unlucky draw on replacement players who went 0-3. After the regulars returned, the Chiefs continued like as if the regulars were replacements. They lost their next four games bringing their record to 1-8. The team would go on to finish with a disappointing 4-11 record, a year after making the playoffs in 1986.

## Top Chiefs Players Christian Okoye, RB, 1987-1992



Christian Okoye Photo Jonathan Daniel / Getty Images

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Okoye came to the United States as a discus thrower but wound up falling in love with the game of football at Azusa Pacific University. Okoye used to lap the field before games in order to intimidate opposing teams with his 6-foot-1, 253-pound physique. He wore massive shoulder pads, also as a means of intimidation.

The Nigerian Nightmare was one of the most difficult players to tackle in football, and if the Chiefs got to the final minutes of the game with a lead and the ball, there was little you could do to stop Okoye from running out the clock. With 4,897 career rushing yards, Okoye ranks fourth in franchise history.

## 1988 Frank Gansz, Coach #6

The 1988 Kansas City Chiefs football team competed in the franchise' twenty-ninth season of Professional Football. It was their nineteenth season in the NFL, and their twenty-sixth season as the Kansas City Chiefs. They were led this year by Head Coach Frank Gansz in his second and last year of two seasons with KC. The team finished with a regular season record of 4-11 for a last place finish.

Bill Kenney opened the team's initial two games at QB, but was replaced by DeBerg in the second half against Seattle. DeBerg started the next game and guided the team to a 20-13 win against Denver in his initial start as a member of the Chiefs. However, six losses and a tie followed as Kenney and DeBerg played lots with Gansz for the QB job. Who would do worse?

As the season drew to a close, it became apparent the winds of change were blowing across the organization. President Jack Steadman resigned on December 8, while general manager Jim Schaaf was relieved of his duties the same day. Lamar Hunt was safe from the axe because he was the owner.

Steadman well thought of in the organization and later was named chairman of the board. On the field, the Chiefs finished equal to the prior years with a tie making their record 4-11-1. Like all quick coaching decisions made by the Chiefs, questions swirled regarding head coach Frank Gansz's future and who would fill the club's leadership void.

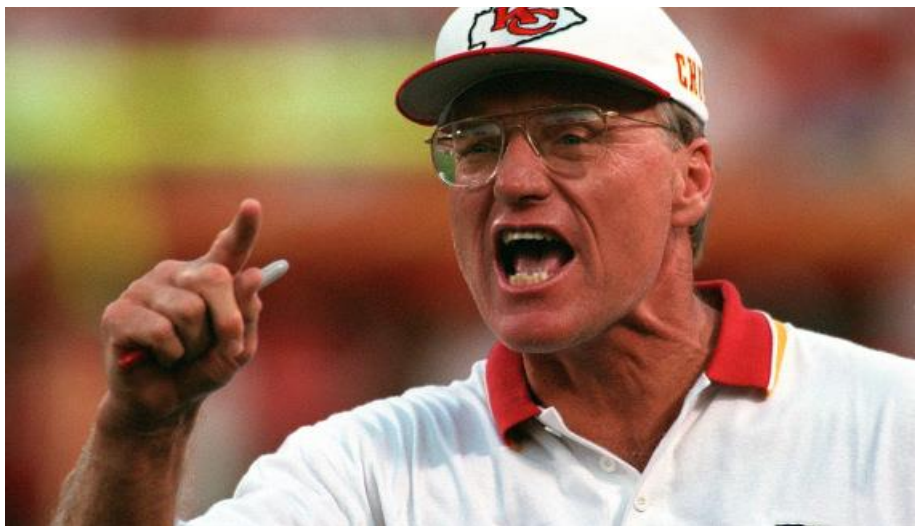
It did not take long to answer as just one day after the season's conclusion, former Philadelphia Eagles and United States Football League executive Carl Peterson was named the club's president/general manager and chief operating officer on December 19. Soon they would announce a new head coach to replace Gansz.





# Chapter 7 Coaches Schottenheimer and Cunningham 1989 to 2000

**Coach #7 Marty Schottenheimer**  
**Coach #8 Gunther Cunningham**



Coach Marty Schottenheimer offering instructions

<u>Year</u>	<u>Coach</u>	<u>Conf</u>	<u>Div</u>	<u>Place</u>	<u>Record</u>
1989	Marty Schottenheimer	NFLAFC	West	2nd	8-7-1
	• Derrick Thomas (DROY)				
	• Christian Okoye (OPOY)				
1990	Marty Schottenheimer..	NFLAFC	West	2nd#	11-5-0
	• Lost Wild Card Playoffs (at Dolphins) 17-16				
	• Barry Word (CPOY)				
1991	Marty Schottenheimer..	NFLAFC	West	2nd#	10-6-0
	• Won Wild Card Playoffs (Raiders) 10-6				
	• Lost Divisional Playoffs (at Bills) 37-14				
1992	Marty Schottenheimer..	NFLAFC	West	2nd	10-6-0
	• Lost Wild Card Playoffs (at Chargers) 17-0				
	• Dale Carter (DROY)				
1993	Marty Schottenheimer..	NFLAFC	West	1st	11-5-0
	• Won Wild Card Playoffs (Steelers) 27-24 (OT)				
	• Won Divisional Playoffs (at Oilers) 28-20				
	• Lost AFC Championship (at Bills) 30-13				
	• Marcus Allen (CPOY)				
	• Derrick Thomas (MOY)				
1994	Marty Schottenheimer..	NFLAFC	West	2nd	9-7-0
	• Lost Wild Card Playoffs (at Dolphins) 27-17				
1995	Marty Schottenheimer..	NFLAFC	West	1st	13-3-0
	• Lost Divisional Playoffs (Colts) 10-7				
	• Marty Schottenheimer (UPI COY)				
1996	Marty Schottenheimer..	NFLAFC	West	2nd	9-7-0
1997	Marty Schottenheimer..	NFLAFC	West	1st	13-3-0
	• Lost Divisional Playoffs (Broncos) 14-10				
1998	Marty Schottenheimer..	NFLAFC	West	4th	7-9-0

<u>Year</u>	<u>Coach</u>	<u>Conf</u>	<u>Div</u>	<u>Place</u>	<u>Record</u>
1999	Gunther Cunningham	NFLAFC	West	2nd	9-7-0
2000	Gunther Cunningham..	NFLAFC	West	3rd	7-9-0

## 1989 Mary Schottenheimer, Coach #7

The 1989 Kansas City Chiefs football team competed in the franchise' thirtieth season of Professional Football. It was their twentieth season in the NFL, and their twenty-seventh season as the Kansas City Chiefs. They were led this year by Head Coach Marty Schottenheimer in his first year of ten seasons with KC. They improved significantly on their 4-11-1 record from 1988.

The team finished with a regular season record of 8-7-1 for a 2<sup>nd</sup> place finish. Marty S. had winning records in all his years at Kansas City except his last, after which he resigned under pressure. The Chiefs did not qualify for the playoffs this year for the third straight year but did send four players to the Pro Bowl. Schottenheimer was doing a lot of things right.

## Top Chiefs Players #1. Derrick Thomas, LB, 1989-1999



Photo of Derrick Thomas by Mike Powell / Getty Images

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No other player in franchise history is dearer to Chiefs fans than Thomas. It's been about 20 years since Thomas lost his life in the

aftermath of a car accident, yet hordes of fans still don his jersey in Arrowhead Stadium.

Thomas is the franchise leader with 126.5 career sacks, 41 forced fumbles and three safeties. One of the greatest pass-rushers in NFL history, Thomas was selected No. 4 overall in the 1989 NFL Draft out of Alabama.

He was selected as the NFL's Defensive Rookie of the Year that season and earned Pro Bowl invitations in each of his first nine seasons. Thomas holds the NFL record for most sacks in a single game with seven, set in 1990 against the Seahawks. He led the NFL with 20 sacks and six forced fumbles that year and again led the league in forced fumbles with eight in 1992. He was posthumously inducted into the Pro Football Hall of Fame in 2009.

The Chiefs have retired Thomas' No. 58 and named the team MVP award after him. His greatness lives on through his legend. Many have tried to play like Thomas, but few have come close.

### **1990 Mary Schottenheimer, Coach #7**

The 1990 Kansas City Chiefs football team competed in the franchise' thirty-first season of Professional Football. It was their twenty-first season in the NFL, and their twenty-eighth season as the Kansas City Chiefs. They were led this year by Head Coach Marty Schottenheimer in his 2<sup>nd</sup> year of ten seasons with KC. They improved significantly on their 8-7-1 record from 1989. The team finished with a regular season record of 11-5 for a 2<sup>nd</sup> place finish. The Chiefs qualified for the playoffs and were nosed out of a win by the Dolphins in the Wild Card I (16-17) .

Starting with the home opener, the Chiefs began an NFL-record eighteen consecutive seasons with every home game sold out. The KC fans felt that things had changed big-time and they were right. They supported their team at Arrowhead by selling out the place every week. Several years after Lamar Hunt's passing to the Lord, the streak was finally broken in the final home game of the 2009 Kansas City Chiefs season versus Cleveland.

## The 1990 Playoffs

### Dolphins 17 Chiefs 16

In the Wildcard game played on January 5, 1991, it was almost a replay of the Miami /KC game played in 1971. That game was known as the Longest game 2 (OTs) ever at the time as Miami knocked the Chiefs out of the playoffs. This game was not in OT but it was nail-biter close as the Dolphins again knocked the Chiefs out of the playoffs L (16-17) at Joe Robbie Stadium in Florida. Just like in 1971, Miami came back unexpectedly, scoring two TDs in the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter for the triumph.

All you need to know is that with 3:28 left in the game, the Dolphins capped an 85-yard drive with quarterback Dan Marino's winning 12-yard touchdown pass to wide receiver Mark Clayton.

But, what the heck it was a good game so let's go through it for you all. On the Dolphins opening drive they reached midfield, but Marino was sacked on third down and Reggie Roby's punt was blocked by Charles Washington. The Chiefs got the ball at the Miami 37-yard line. After nine plays and a 28-yard gain, the Chiefs scored on a 27-yard field goal from Nick Lowery.

Miami came back with a 40-yard drive of their own, with Marino completing a 12-yard pass to Mark Duper on third down and four yards needed to keep it moving. The drive ended on the Chiefs 40-yard line, where Miami's Pete Stoyanovich made an NFL playoff record 58-yard field goal to tie the game.

The Chiefs came right back with a drive to the Dolphins 30-yard line, featuring a 33-yard reception by receiver Stephone Paige, but they scored no points as safety Jarvis Williams intercepted a pass from Steve DeBerg. After a punt exchange, Miami got to the Chiefs 39-yard line. Stoyanovich was feeling confident and tried to bang in another long field goal—this one was 57 yards. This time he missed and the Chiefs got rolling with a 16-yard run from Christian Okoye.

DeBerg then got the Chiefs into the end zone with two completions to Paige, the first for 16 yards and the second a 26-yard touchdown to make the score 10–3. Miami later threatened to score with a drive

in the Chiefs territory, but Neil Smith forced a fumble from Marino and J. C. Pearson recovered it, keeping the score 10–3 at halftime.

The Chiefs punted on their first drive in the third quarter. However, Bryan Barker's 44-yard kick pinned the Dolphins back at their own 6-yard line. Miami got an expected three and out, but Roby's 64-yard punt sent the Chiefs all the way back to their own 30. DeBerg started off the possession with a 26-yard completion to Emile Harry. Following a sack and an incompleting, the Chiefs faced third and 15. On the next play, running back Todd McNair picked up 13 yards on a screen pass, and on fourth down and 2 from the Dolphins 36, Okoye rushed five yards for a first down.

DeBerg's next two completions put the ball on the 1-yard line, but an intentional grounding penalty moved it back 10 yards and the Chiefs scored on a 25-yard field goal from Lowery. Then on the first play of the Dolphins next drive, Duper lost a fumble while being tackled by Deron Cherry, and Dino Hackett recovered for the Chiefs on the Miami 29-yard line. Three runs by Okoye gained eight yards, and then Lowery kicked his third field goal to give his team a 16–3 lead.

Miami did not call it quits. Marino engineered a 66-yard, 10-play touchdown drive. Then, on the last play of the third quarter, Sammie Smith converted a fourth down with a 2-yard run. Then Marino connected with Mark Clayton for a 23-yard gain, setting up his 1-yard touchdown pass to Tony Paige that cut the deficit to six points with 12 minutes left.

DeBerg responded with a 33-yard completion to Harry on the first play of the Chiefs ensuing drive, but it stalled on the Dolphins 41-yard line and Barker had to punt it away, giving the Dolphins the ball at their own 15 where Marino led his team 85 yards for the game winning score.

The All Pro started it all with a 37-yard completion to tight end Ferrell Edmunds. After 10 plays and three third down conversions, Marino finished the drive with a 12-yard touchdown pass to Clayton, giving Miami a slim one point 17–16 lead with 3:28 left in the game. It is all Miami needed to win the game.

The Chiefs were ready to come back. They got the down to with a field goal, driving into Dolphins territory where Okoye's 26-yard burst moved the ball to the 26-yard line. But on the next play, a holding call wiped out his 12-yard run and pushed the team back 10 yards. As the final seconds of the game approached, the Chiefs could only make it back to the 34. Lowery, who had made his last 22 field goals, attempted a game winner from 52 yards out, but it fell just short. Marty Schottenheimer's Chiefs were stunned and out of contention for the year.

### **1991 Marty Schottenheimer, Coach #7**

The 1991 Kansas City Chiefs football team competed in the franchise' thirty-second season of Professional Football. It was their twenty-second season in the NFL, and their twenty-ninth season as the Kansas City Chiefs. They were led this year by Head Coach Marty Schottenheimer in his 3<sup>rd</sup> of ten seasons with KC. They almost matched their 11-5 record from 1990 but lost one more game. The team finished with a regular season record of 10-6 for a 2<sup>nd</sup> place finish in the AFC West.

The Chiefs qualified for the playoffs and won their Wildcard bout v the LA Raiders 10-6 but lost in the Divisional Playoffs to Marv Levy's Bills (14-37)

The Chiefs passing game did not have the same luster as in their 1990 campaign as Steve DeBerg's consistency dropped. The running game made up for lost time as Christian Okoye ran for 1,031 yards for the season, and Barry Word was highly productive, and rookie Harvey Williams was outstanding but got limited playing time.

## Top Chiefs Players Tracy Simien, LB, 1991-1997



Tracy Smith Photo by Jed Jacobsohn / Getty Images

Tracy Simien was cut by the Pittsburgh Steelers and also played in the World League of American Football before becoming a regular with the Chiefs.

A fiery competitor, Simien was known for sniffing out run plays and making tackles in the backfield. He led the team in tackles four times — with 106 in 1995, 99 in 1994, 105 in 1995 and 97 in 1992. Simien missed just two games in seven seasons as a Chief.

### Playoffs

**Wild Card Game Dec 28, 1991**

**AFC: Kansas City Chiefs 10, Los Angeles Raiders 6**

This game was played at Arrowhead Stadium, Kansas City, Missouri

In this low-scoring Wildcard contest at Arrowhead Chiefs QB Steve DeBerg completed a play-action 11-yard touchdown pass to wide receiver Fred Jones in the second quarter. This was the difference in K.C.'s nail-biter 10–6 victory win over long-time rival Los Angeles.

K.C. running back Barry Word was the Chiefs' star player for the game with 133 yards rushing. KC had not had a postseason game since Super Bowl IV in the 1969 season. The Raiders started rookie quarterback Todd Marinovich over veteran Jay Schroeder.

Marinovich, who performed well in a loss to Kansas City the week before, instead threw four interceptions in the wild card rematch, including one to Kansas City defensive back Deron Cherry that set up DeBerg's touchdown. Kansas City's defense managed to hold Los Angeles to six points despite losing star linebacker Derrick Thomas, who was diagnosed with a rapid heartbeat and rushed to the hospital near the end of the first half.

The Chiefs controlled first quarter, with Word rushing for 36 yards on 13 carries. But, they missed the chance to score when their normally reliable kicker Nick Lowery missed a 33-yard field goal. Marinovich was not up to the task and he gave the Chiefs another chance with an interception to Cherry, who returned the ball 17 yards.

The Chiefs next drive ended with another missed field goal from Lowery, a 47-yard attempt early in the second quarter. On the Raiders next drive, Cherry intercepted Marinovich again, this time returning the ball 29 yards to the LA 11-yard line. DeBerg then put Kansas City up 7-0 with an 11-yard touchdown pass to Jones.

However, Marinovich finally managed to calm down, putting together a 10-play, 65-yard drive that culminated with Jeff Jaeger's 33-yard field goal. The score was then 7-3 with 26 seconds left in the half.

Rattled for most of the first half, Marinovich got some rhythm in the second half, leading the team 62 yards in 11 plays on their first drive. RB Nick Bell, gained 46 yards on eight carries, which was a big chunk of his game total 107 yds. Meanwhile Jaeger finished the possession with a 26-yard field goal that made the score 7-6.



Later in the quarter, LA appeared to be headed for a go-ahead score. But linebacker Lonnie Marts managed to force a fumble from Marcus Allen and defensive tackle Dan Saleaumua recovered the ball. KC then drove 61 yards to the Raiders 1-yard line where Lowery poked in an 8-yard field goal in the fourth quarter giving the Chiefs a small cushion 10–6.

LA came back with a drive to the Kansas City 25, but then LB Chris Martin sacked Marinovich for an 8-yard loss, and Eric Everett intercepted the ball and returned it 23 yards. Still, the Raiders were not giving much, forcing a punt that gave their offense one last chance to drive for a game winning score.

Marinovich's began the drive with a 28-yard completion to tight end Ethan Horton and an 8-yarder to running back Steve Smith. The ball was then on the Chiefs 24-yard line. However, the Raiders all of a sudden got hit with a barrage of penalties.

Right tackle Steve Wright was flagged for a face mask and a false start on consecutive snaps, and then an offensive pass interference penalty on Tim Brown left the team facing first and 30 from their own 41. On the next play, Marinovich's pass bounced off the hands of Horton and was intercepted by Marts with 2:15 left in regulation, enabling Kansas City to run out the rest of the clock to secure the big V

## **Divisional Games January 5, 1992**

AFC: Buffalo Bills 37, Kansas City Chiefs 14

The game was played at Rich Stadium, Orchard Park, New York

The Bills had been taken down by Kansas City in the regular season in Monday Night game. This was a great opportunity for Buffalo to avenge their 33–6 Monday night loss to Kansas City during the regular season. They eliminating KC from the playoffs with a powerful 37–14 win, outgaining the Chiefs in total yards 448–213.

The Bills got some help from the return of defensive linemen Bruce Smith and Jeff Wright. They had missed almost the entire regular season with injuries, including their prior meeting with the Chiefs. The Bills O was bolstered by the return of prior injured receiver Don Beebe, who caught six passes for 78 yards in this game, and James Lofton, who had missed the last two regular season games with an ankle injury

From the very start of the game, the Bills looked good and finally crushed the Chiefs by jumping to a 24–0 lead in the third quarter. Buffalo quarterback Jim Kelly threw for 278 yards and three touchdowns. Bills kicker Scott Norwood, who had missed five of his last six field goal attempts at the end of the regular season, made all three field goal attempts, while Andre Reed finished with four receptions for 100 yards and two touchdowns.

Running back Thurman Thomas recorded 100 rushing yards, while Kenneth Davis rushed for 75 yards and a score.

The Chiefs did better in the regular season on the ground with 239 rushing yards against Buffalo, with running backs Harvey Williams and Christian Okoye rushing for over 100 yards each. In this contest, they could only gain 77 yards on the ground (with 3.2 yards per carry average) in this playoff rematch, with their leading rusher (Barry Word) gaining just 50.

After each team punted twice to start things off, Buffalo grabbed a 7-0 lead by travelling 80 yards down the field in 8 plays to score on Jim Kelly's 25-yard touchdown pass to Reed with 52 seconds left in the first quarter. After forcing a punt, the Bills were on the march again driving to the Chiefs 40-yard line, but lost the ball when a deflected pass went into the arms of Chiefs defensive back Eric Everett.

Despite this setback, the Bills forced yet another KC punt, which Clifford Hicks returned 16 yards to the Bills 31-yard line. From there, the Bills drove 69 yards in just four plays, taking their advantage to 14-0 with Kelly's 53-yard touchdown completion to Reed.

Meanwhile, thing got worse for KC. On their next drive, quarterback Steve DeBerg was knocked out of the game with a thumb injury and replaced by Mark Vlasic. Following another punt, Chiefs DB Deron Cherry intercepted a pass from Kelly near the Bills 10-yard line. Then, a sack from safety Leonard Smith forced KC to punt from inside their own goal line,. This gave the Bills good field position on their own 45.

There was a great opportunity for KC to score a few plays later. Him Kelly was picked on a ball thrown right into the arms of defensive back Kevin Ross near the sidelines. Ross was ready to take off for the end zone with an open field in front of him. But, he dropped the pass as he started to run and the play was ruled incomplete. Buffalo used the opportunity to drive to a 33-yard field goal by Norwood that gave them a 17-0 lead going into halftime.

It was more Buffalo in Q3. On the second play of the new quarter, DB Kirby Jackson intercepted a Vlasic pass and brought it to the Chiefs 36-yard line. Buffalo scored bringing their domination to 24-0 with a 6-play drive that ended on Kelly's 10-yard touchdown pass to Lofton.

A short time later, Jackson picked up his second interception. But on the Bills ensuing drive, Chiefs linebacker Lonnie Marts intercepted a pass from Kelly and returned it 12 yards to the Bills 44-yard line

Vlasic's following completions to Tim Barnett and Jonathan Hayes for gains of 20 and 21 yards and moved the ball to the 3. Word eventually ran the ball into the end zone to make the score 24-7.

But Buffalo took over the game leaving the Chiefs in the dust from that point on. They drove back and ate clock by moving the ball 68 yards in 14 plays, including a 19-yard run by Thomas. Norwood finished the drive with a 20-yard field goal. The Bills were now up 27-7 with 10:54 left in the game.

After this, Leonard Smith intercepted a Vlasic pass and gave Buffalo a first down on the Chiefs 31-yard line. This set up a Norwood 47-yard field goal to increase the lead to 30-7.

Vlasic's was intercepted again, by Hicks this time, on the Chiefs 34-yard line. This put Buffalo up 37-7 on Davis' 5-yard rushing touchdown.

KC City responded too little too late with an 80-yard drive. They scored a 20-yard touchdown pass from Vlasic to Fred Jones, but by then only 2:07 was left on the clock and the fans were well on their way out of the stadium.

Thomas gained 100 + yards for the fourth straight postseason game. This was the second longest streak in NFL history (behind John Riggins' 6 times).

### **1992 Mary Schottenheimer, Coach #7**

The 1992 Kansas City Chiefs football team competed in the franchise' thirty-third season of Professional Football. It was their twenty-third season in the NFL, and their thirtieth as the Kansas City Chiefs. They were led this year by Head Coach Marty Schottenheimer in his 4th of ten seasons with KC. They matched their 10-6 record from 1989 but lost one more game. The team finished with a regular season record of 10-6 for a 2<sup>nd</sup> place finish in the AFC West. The Chiefs qualified for the playoffs and but were shut out in the Wild Card Round by the San Diego Chargers L (0-17).

Quarterback Dave Krieg, formerly of the Seattle Seahawks played exceptionally well for the Chiefs this year, passing for 3,115 yards. Defense was the key for the Chiefs 3rd straight playoff berth as Derrick Thomas and Neil Smith recorded 14.5 sacks each.

### **Wild Card playoffs January 2, 1993**

**AFC: San Diego Chargers 17, Kansas City Chiefs 0**

*at Jack Murphy Stadium, San Diego, California*

For the third year in a row, Marty Schottenheimer got his team into the playoffs. San Diego had begun the season 0-4 and became the first NFL team ever to make the playoffs after starting the season so

poorly. They came back, got in the playoffs, made this Wildcard game and shut out the Chiefs 17-0.

The Chargers outgaining the Chiefs in total yards 342-251 and rushing yards 192-61. The Chiefs never got the ball past the Chargers 34-yard line. San Diego enjoyed its first playoff win since the 1982 season.

Neither team scored until 5:53 remained in the third quarter. The Chargers faced second and 2. Then, RB Marion Butts took a pitch, ran through a large hole in the right side of the line, evaded a tackle attempt from safety Charles Mincy, and out-legged the entire defense for a 54-yard rushing touchdown.

Chargers DL Leslie O'Neal intercepted a pass from Dave Krieg at the Chiefs 26-yard line on Kansas City's next drive to set up kicker John Carney's 34-yard field goal. In the final quarter the Chargers tucked the game away with a 90-yard drive. The drive featured a 44-yard completion from Stan Humphries to Anthony Miller that almost did not make it.

Miller fumbled at the end, but it was recovered by running back Ronnie Harmon. Harmon added on an additional 11 yards). Linebacker Steve Hendrickson, who lined up as a running back, finished the drive with a 5-yard touchdown run.

In addition to the interception, O'Neal scored two sacks. Chargers defensive ends Shawn Lee and Burt Grossman also had 4.5 sacks between them. Butts finished the game with 119 rushing yards and a touchdown on just 15 carries, along with two receptions for 17 yards. Humphries threw for 199 yards without any interceptions. Kansas City went home hoping next year would be better.

### **1993 Marty Schottenheimer, Coach #7**

The 1993 Kansas City Chiefs football team competed in the franchise' thirty-fourth season of Professional Football. It was their twenty-fourth season in the NFL, and their thirty-first as the Kansas City Chiefs. They were led this year by Head Coach Marty Schottenheimer in his 5th of ten seasons with KC. They matched their 10-6 record from 1989 but lost one more game.

The team finished with a regular season record of 11-5 for a 1st place finish in the AFC West. The Chiefs qualified for the playoffs but got knocked off by Buffalo one game from the Super Bowl.

The Chiefs beat the Steelers to win the AFC Wild Card Playoffs W (27-24). They then won the AFC Divisional Playoffs against the Oilers W (28-20). In the end, they Chiefs lost the AFC Championship against the Marv Levy-coached Buffalo Bills. L (30-13). Marv was doing well against his old team but his Bills got drubbed in the Super Bowl by Dallas L (17-53).

It was a great job for Kansas City to advance all the way to the AFC Championship before losing to the Buffalo Bills L (13-30). This began the Chiefs' NFL record 8 game playoff losing streak. It would be 22 years before the Chiefs would win another playoff game.

This season marked the first for new quarterback Joe Montana, who was acquired through a trade with the San Francisco 49ers and running back Marcus Allen from the Los Angeles Raiders, both winners of five Super Bowl championships combined. This would be the last time until 2018 that the Chiefs would appear in the AFC Championship game or win a home a playoff game at home.

## Top Chiefs Players Joe Montana, QB, 1993-1994



(Joe Montana Photo by George Rose/Getty Images)

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Montana only played two seasons for the Chiefs, but they were memorable ones. In those two seasons, he recorded 5,427 passing yards and 29 touchdown passes.

He guided Kansas City to the playoffs twice, including an AFC Championship Game appearance, and threw six touchdown passes in four postseason games with Kansas City. Montana famously outdueled John Elway in a Monday Night Football shootout on Oct. 17, 1994, throwing for 393 yards and three touchdowns in a 31-28 win at Denver.

It's hard to imagine that it has been 25 years since Joe Montana last wore an NFL uniform. Recently, Montana was honored as one of the greatest quarterbacks to ever play the game in the 100-year history of the NFL.

Dec. 31 marks the 25-year anniversary of Montana's final NFL game, which was with the Kansas City Chiefs during the 1994 playoffs. Montana had led the Chiefs to playoffs in back-to-back seasons, but the 1993 season ended in disappointment in the AFC championship game against the Bills. The following season, the Chiefs had to go on the road during the wild-card round of the playoffs to face Dan Marino on his home turf.

It was a duel for the ages between the future Hall of Famers. Montana completed 26-of-37 passes for 314 yards and two touchdowns. Marino completed 22-of-29 for 257 yards along with one touchdown. However, it would be a late-game interception tossed by Montana that was the difference.

Following the game, the Chiefs and Montana had a decision to make about their future. He'd only been playing for the Chiefs for two seasons and had just one year remaining on his contract. It quickly became clear that Montana was done playing and content with calling it a career after 15 seasons in the NFL.

Montana brought something special to the Chiefs, something that hadn't been recaptured in Kansas City until the emergence of star QB Patrick Mahomes last year.

As the Chiefs embark on another quest for a Super Bowl victory, it's important to look back and recall the missed opportunities in 1993 and 1994. Kansas City has seemingly learned from its 2018 season, but will they capitalize on their latest opportunity in 2019?

We found the answer thirteen days from this article date when Andy Reid's Chiefs took on the Forty-Niners and became World Champions in the Super Bowl. Go Chiefs!

## Top Chiefs Players Marcus Allen, RB, 1993-1997



Marcus Allen's Photo by Jed Jacobsohn /Allsport

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One of the greatest cutback runners of all time, the legendary Marcus Allen came to the Chiefs as a free agent after playing 11 seasons for the Raiders. He was already a California sensation in College and with the Raiders. What a find.

In 1993, with the Chiefs, he was not finished. He rushed for 764 yards and led the league with 12 rushing touchdowns. Allen helped the Chiefs advance to the AFC Championship Game and earned a Pro Bowl nomination that season.

Allen ranks seventh in Chiefs history with 3,698 rushing yards and third with 44 rushing touchdowns. Both of those marks came on



fewer than 1,000 carries with the Chiefs. He was a great asset to the Chiefs offensive game.

## Top Chiefs Players Will Shields, RG, 1993-2006



Photo of Will Shields in action

The Chiefs picked Shields in the third round of the 1993 draft out of Nebraska, and he became a bedrock of consistency on a dominant offensive line. There were concerns that Shields, coming from Nebraska's option offense, would struggle as a pass protector in the NFL. Shields, who never missed a game during his 14-year career, is the Chiefs' franchise leader with 224 games and 223 starts. Shields earned 12 straight Pro Bowl honors from 1995 through 2006, also a franchise record. Shields was named the NFL's Walter Payton Man of the Year in 2003 for his off-the-field charitable efforts and inducted into the Pro Football Hall of Fame in 2015.

## 1993-1994 Playoffs

In the Wild Card game, the Chiefs beat the Pittsburgh Steelers W 27–24 at Arrowhead Stadium before 74,515. In the Divisional Playoff, the Chiefs beat the Houston Oilers W (28–20) in the Astrodome before 64,011. Then, in the AFC Championship, the Buffalo Bills beat the Chiefs L (30–13) in Rich Stadium before

76,642 on January 30, 1994. The Chiefs missed the big dance by one game.

## Wild Card playoffs January 8, 1994

### AFC: Kansas City Chiefs 27, Pittsburgh Steelers 24 (OT)

*At Arrowhead Stadium, Kansas City, Missouri*

*Editor's note: I got tired of writing plain old game summaries. Please excuse my attempt at humor in this nail-biter game won by the Chiefs in OT. There are parts of the story that are simply untrue but to the discerning sports fan, those parts should be obvious. It ought to wake you up though*

This game was decided by a kick. However, only the Chiefs—not the Steelers—got a “kick” out of it. The Chiefs won the game on a strike by kicker Nick Lowery. He made the winning 32-yard field goal after 11:03 of overtime. The Chiefs earned themselves a win over the Steelers in a game in which both teams combined for 770 yards, no fumbles lost, and no interceptions. Yes, that is amazing.

The Chiefs were on a scoring diet when the game began. The Steelers put on a big smorgasbord of scoring by driving 66 yards, featuring lots of action. Their *mélange* consisted of a pass by a Pitt QB and a 32-yard reception by running back Merrill Hoge, and of course the scoring of Neil O'Donnell's 10-yard touchdown pass to tight end Adrian Cooper. It was a delicious treat.

Later in Q1, KC got hungry and drove the electric food truck 75 yards in seven plays and tied the Steelers racing after the truck to its parking spot by the end zone. Well, OK, what really happened was that backup quarterback Dave Krieg, who temporarily replaced injured starter Joe Montana, who was no longer playing for the 49ers, threw a 23-yard touchdown to wide receiver J. J. Birden.

The Steelers, who were destined to lose because of a KC Star prediction came back and executed a very long 15-play time consuming drive to retake the lead on Gary Anderson's 30-yard field goal, making the score 10–7. After KC punted because could not move the ball well, Pittsburgh drove the food truck with the ball in it and parked it on the Chiefs 35-yard line and then swiped it with some disappearing juice. They had a problem with counting after

their stop in the food truck and so the Steelers willingly turned the ball over on downs.

The Kansas City Chiefs were starving and on the line the team smelled the hot dog sauce on the steaming dogs from the truck. There was also a lot of steam being exhaled by Pittsburgh. So, to get on to better smells, they put in a different line (the O), took over and drove to the Steelers 42. However, on 4<sup>th</sup> and 1, defensive end Gerald Williams, who was late for the hot dog porridge and got none (so he was rabid with desire to do something.) sacked Montana for a 7-yard loss, giving his team the ball on their own 49 with under a minute left.

The Steelers thought none of that mattered but played on anyway and made the most of their opportunity. Their QB, O'Donnell tossed a hamburger-smelling pigskin 26 yards for a TD completion to Ernie Mills that put the Pittsburgh Truck Stealers ahead 17-7 at the end of the half. The Chiefs thought the Steelers were kidding but they were not sure so they decided to play like it counted in the 2<sup>nd</sup> half.

Most of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Q was a defensive struggle until the Chiefs remembered it was a serious football game. Their engineers designed a 49-yard drive to score on Lowery's 23-yard field goal. Then in the fourth quarter, ~~Blanda~~ Montana connected with Willie Davis for 22 yards and Birden for 19 on the way to Marcus Allen's 2-yard touchdown run that tied the game at 17. O'Donnell led the Steelers right back though, completing a 26-yard pass to Dwight Stone before hooking up with Eric Green for a 22-yard touchdown throw to retake the lead, 24-17.

In the final minutes of regulation, the food truck disappearing fluid wore off and the truck appeared again on the field of play. It had to be driven off by a Pittsburgh player who hustled back to a void a 10-man on the field penalty. Then tight end Keith Cash blocked a Pittsburgh punt and Fred Jones returned it 31 yards to the Steelers 9-yard line.

On fourth down, Montana threw a 7-yard touchdown pass to wide receiver Tim Barnett, tying the game at 24 with 1:43 left. After forcing Pittsburgh to punt, the Chiefs followed the food truck tracks 47 yards to set up Lowery's 43-yard field-goal attempt in the closing

seconds. Una Fortuna, the kick was wide right and thus the game went into overtime. The linemen were still starving—on both sides of the ball.

The food truck was declared ineligible to play once spotted trying to sneak itself back onto the field. It was driven out of bounds, up the tunnel and into the parking lot by a Pittsburgh fan who had no problem with KC winning the game or the OT coin toss. Kansas City won the coin toss to receive the overtime kickoff, but could not handle the success. They went three and out. Pittsburgh then drove to midfield before they also had to punt.

At this point, Montana, who made it known that he was not attending his first rodeo, completed several passes because he enjoyed the look on the receivers' faces. One of his passes was an 18-yarder to Cash to move the Chiefs into position for Lowery's game winning score. Lowery cinched the game for the Chiefs.

As the game ended and the goal posts were being destroyed by crazed KC fans, Montana and a few linemen from both teams chased the food truck 'til it stopped. They saw it pull into the KC Cheesesteak Co as they missed out on the locker room champagne.

Montana never read his final stats but I got 'em. He finished the game 23/42 for 276 passing yards and a touchdown, with no interceptions. O'Donnell completed 23/42 passes for 286 yards and three scores.

When Montana and the linemen were filled to their gills, and Schottenheimer and the non-linemen Chiefs had enough Champagne, Marty made a call to the KC Cheesesteak Co and asked for Joe. Montana then asked the coach what he wanted to order and Marty said "the usual." Since Marty had yet to attend his first rodeo, he gave Joe more instructions after Joe said, Hah?"

When Marty said, *two to go*, Clarence the grill man heard it clearly and he put them on with onions and peppers and soon he wrapped them in foil. The team bus dropped Joe off and Marty picked them up outside the stadium. He gave Joe a ride to front door of the hotel. Friends have to be friends.

This was the Chiefs last playoff win at home until the 2018 season. Amazing writing don't you think? Not a bad game, either!

## **Divisional Game January 16, 1994**

**AFC: Kansas City Chiefs 28, Houston Oilers 20**  
***at Astrodome, Houston, Texas***

The Chiefs woke up Monday with heartburn but they were ready for practice. The Oilers were not into cheesesteaks so the team knew they would have to play ball. Chiefs quarterback Joe Montana still had onions on his breath but a few mints before the game did the trick

The former 49er Super Bowl QB threw three touchdown passes in the second half of this game to give Kansas City a 28–20 win and it put an end to Houston's 11-game winning streak. During the game, the fastest runner on the field seemed to be Houston QB Warren Moon.

You see, whenever Houston got the ball, Kansas City's defense terrorized Houston quarterback Warren Moon, forcing three turnovers and sacking him a playoff record nine times. It was not fun action for Mr. Moon. The Chiefs D were ready for more cheese steaks but this was not a home game. Four different Chiefs defensive players (Albert Lewis, Joe Phillips, Bennie Thompson, and Derrick Thomas) finished the game with multiple hungry sacks. Three of this crew (all except Thomas) didn't have two sacks during the entire season. They were inspired.

The Oilers “D” looked good from the beginning. On the opening drive of the game, a heavy pass rush by Oilers defensive tackle Glenn Montgomery caused Montana to throw a rushed pass that was intercepted by Steve Jackson, who returned it 14 yards to the Chiefs 23-yard line.

The Oilers thankfully did not take the opportunity seriously and instead went three-and-out, including Lewis' 9-yard sack of Moon on third down. But they did score with Al Del Greco kicking a 49-yard field goal to put them on the score board.

Then after forcing a punt, Moon stopped paying attention to the shadows and he was able to lead the Oilers 80 yards in 11 plays for a real TD. The drive consumed just 6:37. It began with a 16-yard completion to Gary Wellman and later a 30-yard pass completion to Wellman deep in Chiefs territory. Once inside the red zone, Moon threw an incompletion on third down, but Thomas was penalized for being offsides.

Then, Warren Moon reached back and threw a first down completion to Haywood Jeffries at the 2-yard line. No more passes were necessary. On the next play, running back Gary Brown took the ball into the end zone from there, increasing Houston's lead to 10-0. At this point, the Chiefs may have been thinking the worst. But, they kept playing.

In the second quarter, Chiefs receiver and punt returner Danan Hughes gave KC a big opportunity by taking a punt 35 yards to the Oilers 42-yard line. Unfortunately, the Chiefs would up empty handed at the end of the drive. They had perfectly squandered multiple chances to get into scoring range. Here's what that looked like:

First, Montana threw a pass to the end zone that was barely deflected away from receiver Willie Davis by the outstretched arm of defensive back Cris Dishman. On the next play, Joe M. completed a pass to J. J. Birden that moved the ball to the 5-yard line. This advantage was soon wiped out by a false start penalty on tackle John Alt.

With hope dimming, a screen pass gained nothing. Then, Montana threw another pass to the end zone on third down, this one bouncing off the fingertips of a wide open Davis and forcing Kansas City to punt. Things were close but there were no cigars.

Houston then drove to the Chiefs 10-yard line on a drive that included Warren Moon's 16-yard scramble in which an unnecessary roughness penalty turning it into a much bigger 31-yard gain. After a penalty pushed them back to the 25, they failed to score when Lewis knocked the ball out of Moon's hand as he pulled it back to throw. Rookie linebacker Jaime Fields recovered the fumble.

Joe Montana was ready to win. He completed a 22-yard pass to Davis on the first play after the turnover, and eventually the Chiefs reached the Houston 36-yard line. But Montana threw an incomplete pass on fourth and 1, and the score remained 10–0 at the end of the half. But, there was a whole other half to go.

In Q3, after forcing the Oilers to punt on the opening drive of the second half, the veteran QB completed a 37-yard pass to Davis and a 14-yarder to Tim Barnett before finishing the drive with a 7-yard touchdown pass to tight end Keith Cash. Still not ahead, after the score, the Chiefs were ready to play even harder.

Later in the quarter, Houston had not stopped playing so they drove to the 48-yard line. But shortly before the end of the quarter, defensive back Charles Mincy made a clutch interception for KC and returned the ball 12 yards to the Kansas City 14.

4Q brought little in the way of surprises. In the fourth quarter, Houston defensive back Terry Hoage intercepted a pass from Montana at the Chiefs 25-yard line. This set up Del Greco's 43-yard field goal, making the score 13–7.

This ruffled the KC feathers and coach Marty Schottenheimer sent in a few messages to inspire the troops. So, Kansas City quickly stormed back to take their first lead of the game, scoring in just three plays: a 22-yard completion from Montana to Cash, a 38-yard pass interference penalty against Houston, and Montana's 11-yard touchdown pass to Birden. What could Marty have told them that they did not already know?

The game went on like as if the advantage had not changed—but it had. When Houston got the ball next, they immediately encountered a big issue. Thomas forced a fumble from Moon that defensive lineman Dan Saleaumua recovered on the Oilers 13-yard line. This play set up Montana's 18-yard touchdown pass to Davis. The Chiefs were heading for victory while Warren Moon was not giving up.

Moon then put on a great display of talent for eight plays. He led the Oilers 80 yards with eight consecutive completions, including a 23-yard catch by Jeffires. A perfect Moon pass to wide receiver Ernest

Givins became a 7-yard touchdown reception, making the score 21–20 with 3:35 left. The Chiefs had a lot of fight left.

The KC Chiefs came back with a critical 41-yard completion from Montana to Cash on third and 1, setting up Southern Cal great Marcus Allen's game clinching 21-yard touchdown run. With Marty Schottenheimer coaching Kansas City was not laying down for anybody but the same could not be said for Houston.

Looking into the future, Houston would not host another playoff game until 2011 and the franchise would not even appear in the playoffs until 1999, their first season as the Tennessee Titans. To be more explicit, the Houston Oilers, the next time they did anything significant, they were known as The Tennessee Titans.

This particular game would be the Chiefs' last postseason victory until January 9, 2016, when they defeated the Houston Texans. The Chiefs would be there a few more times but would never win.

This was Joe Montana's 10th consecutive postseason game with a touchdown pass, tying the NFL record set by Kenny “the Snake” Stabler. Montana threw for 299 yards and three touchdowns, with two interceptions. Moon completed 32 of 43 passes for 302 yards and a touchdown, with one interception. Davis was the top receiver of the day with five receptions for 96 yards, while Jeffires caught nine passes for 88.

The final score Chiefs 28, Houston Oilers 20 was the final epitaph for this game. However, the Chiefs got to go on looking for Marty Schottenheimer's Super Bowl victory. It did not come this year for Marty and the Chiefs under his tutelage never got into another Conference Championship game.

Please pay attention to the scoring in this game as it was Coach Marty Schottenheimer's last hurrah!. He was a fine coach. At this point Marty had five years left but all-in-all they would not be his best years. Lamar Hunt was a tough owner to lose for.

## **Conference Championship January 23, 1994**

*at Rich Stadium, Orchard Park, New York*



There is a hero in every game. This time, unfortunately, the hero played for the Buffalo Bills. Running back Thurman Thomas led the Bills to the 30–13 victory by recording 186 rushing yards, three receptions for 22 yards, and three touchdowns. Buffalo racked up a total of 229 rushing yards against a Chiefs defense that allowed only 39 rushing yards from Houston in the divisional round.

Buffalo scored first blood. The drive began on the KC 47-yard line after Russell Copeland's 13-yard punt return. Then, Andre Reed's 29-yard reception on third and 5 put the ball on the 13-yard line. From there, you guessed it, the game hero, Thurman Thomas picked up a 12-yard TD giving Buffalo a 7–0 lead.

John Stephens ran back a kickoff return 31 yards by John Stephens and Marcus Allen gained 24-yards on a run. Kansas City came back with a 31-yard field goal by Nick Lowery. Then, the Chiefs got a break when Copeland fumbled the next kickoff after a big hit by Bennie Thompson. Fred Jones recovered for the Chiefs on the Bills 24-yard line. Lowery was perfect for his second field goal, bringing the score to 7–6. During this time, it was still a game

The Bills started to move the score to the W column with 13 unanswered points. A first and an 80-yd drive in nine plays. Then a third down sack by Jeff Wright forced a Kansas City punt from deep in their own territory, which Copeland returned 17 yards to the Chiefs 46-yard line. Buffalo subsequently drove to the 5-yard line where Steve Christie made a 23-yard field goal.

After KC punted, Thomas got in the act again with two double digit runs to set up a second Christie field goal, bringing the score to 20–6 with just over two minutes left in the half. The Chiefs then drove to the Buffalo 5-yard line, but with 21 seconds left before halftime, Montana's pass went through the hands of Kimble Anders and the ball was intercepted by Bills defensive back Henry Jones.

Montana had to leave the game early in the third quarter after suffering a concussion. He was replaced by Dave Krieg whose first two passes were incomplete. On the punt to Copeland he ran 26 yards into KC territory.

The Chiefs stopped that drive and forced a punt. Krieg then led his team on a 90-yard drive, starting out with a 26-yard completion to J. J. Birden and later completing a 19-yarder to tight end Keith Cash on fourth down and 2, to score on a 1-yard touchdown run by Allen.

However, Buffalo scored another 10 unanswered points in the final quarter to preserve the victory.

### **1994 Mary Schottenheimer, Coach #7**

The 1994 Kansas City Chiefs football team competed in the franchise' thirty-fifth season of Professional Football. It was their twenty-fifth season in the NFL, and their thirty-second as the Kansas City Chiefs. They were led this year by Head Coach Marty Schottenheimer in his 6th of ten seasons with KC. The team finished with a regular season record of 9-7-5 for a 2nd place finish in the AFC West. The Chiefs qualified for the playoffs but got knocked off by the Miami Dolphins L (17-27) in the Wild Card round.

KC failed to improve their 11-5 record from 1993 and finishing with a 9-7 record and Wild Card spot in the 1994-95 playoffs. It was the NFL's 75th anniversary season. Additionally, Hall of Fame quarterback Joe Montana retired following the season. Nice Job, Joe.

## **Wild Card Game Dec 31**

**AFC: Miami Dolphins 27, Kansas City Chiefs 17**

*at Joe Robbie Stadium, Miami, Florida*

The game was a slug-fest even though the score did not reflect the action. Both teams scobbed a lot of yardage in this game (381 for Miami, 414 for KC). The Chiefs gave up the ball twice and these turnovers were the key difference in who got the W.

Both teams scored on all three of their possessions in the first half. Kansas City had an 11-play, 80-yard drive in which quarterback Joe Montana, playing in his last NFL game before retirement, completed all six of his passes, the last a 1-yard touchdown toss to tight end Derrick Walker.

Miami came back with a 10-play, 72-yard drive which had a nice 18-yard reception by Irving Fryar. Fryar was almost caught but he lateraled the ball to James Saxon for an additional 9-yard gain to the Kansas City 1. Bernie Parmalee ran the ball across the goal line from there, tying the game with 2:20 left in the first quarter.

KC took the lead again with a four play drive, 14–7, with Montana's 57-yard touchdown pass to running back Kimble Anders.

Miami's Pete Stoyanovich hit a 40-yd field goal on the next series, cutting the score to 14–10 with 12:15 left in the half. KC increased its lead back up to seven points with a 66-yard drive that ended with a 20-yard field goal by Lin Elliott. With time becoming a problem, Miami struck back with a 13-play, 80-yard drive. Dan Marino converted two third downs and one fourth down, completed a 17-yard strike to O. J. McDuffie, and then finished it off with a 1-yard perfect pass to tight end Ronnie Williams. The score was then tied at 7 going into halftime.

In the first half alone, Montana was hot with 12/15 passes for 178 yards and two touchdowns. Marino was just as hot with a 14/16 showing for 172 yards and one score.

The Dolphins took the 3Q kickoff 64 yards in six plays to score on Fryar's 7-yard touchdown reception. Stoyanovich then kicked a 40-yard field goal to give Miami a 27–17 lead.

Early in 4Q, the Chiefs were ready to come back. They drove from their own 44 to the Miami 5-yard line. But the Dolphins stole the ball on a J. B. Brown interception on a pass from Montana at the goal line. He ran the ball back 24 yards. Then with 7:31 left in the game, Dolphins defensive back Michael Stewart wrestled the ball away from Chiefs running back Marcus Allen at the Miami 34-yard line to stop a second Kansas City scoring threat. Bad luck!

Montana finished his final postseason game with 314 passing yards and two touchdowns, with one interception. His top target was Anders, who caught six passes for 103 yards and a touchdown, while also rushing for 17 yards. Marino completed 22/29 passes for 257 yards and two touchdowns. Miami emerged as the victor and went on to the Divisional Playoffs.

## **1995 Mary Schottenheimer, Coach #7**

The 1995 Kansas City Chiefs football team competed in the franchise' thirty-sixth season of Professional Football. It was their twenty-sixth season in the NFL, and their thirty-third as the Kansas City Chiefs. They were led this year by Head Coach Marty Schottenheimer in his 7th of ten seasons with KC.

The team finished with a regular season record of 13-3 for a 1st place finish and they gained the Championship in the AFC West. The Chiefs qualified for the playoffs and got a bye for the Wildcard round. They were knocked off by the Indianapolis Colts in the divisional round of the 1995-1996 playoffs when placekicker Lin Elliott missed three crucial field goals giving the Colts an upset win 10-7 over the Chiefs

## **Top Chiefs Players Tony Richardson, FB, 1995-2005**

In his first season with the Chiefs, Richardson started only one game but gained notice by laying a key block on Marcus Allen's 100th career touchdown. He led the team with 697 rushing yards in 2000 and eventually became the starting fullback, contributing to dominant rushing seasons from Priest Holmes and Larry Johnson.

He earned two Pro Bowl appearances as a Chief and was named to the NFL's All-Decade team for the 2000s. He was also a standout on special teams, racking up 96 tackles during his Chiefs tenure. Richardson was inducted into the Chiefs Hall of Fame in 2016.



Tony Richardson in action (AP Photo/Jeff Chiu)

## Divisional Playoffs January 7

### **AFC: Indianapolis Colts 10, Kansas City Chiefs 7**

*At Arrowhead Stadium, Kansas City, Missouri*

The Chiefs had the NFL's best record during the regular season (13–3). The Schottenheimer gang were heavily favored to pound the 9–7 Colts, particularly since their star back, Marshall Faulk was inactive due to injury, along with defensive lineman Tony Siragusa due to illness. But by the end of the game, Kansas City had not played well, lost four turnovers, and then the game killer was when kicker Lin Elliot missed three field goals en route to a 10–7 Colts upset.

Both teams punting units were active for their first four possessions. KC was not clicking. Kansas City then moved the scoreboard on QB Steve Bono's 20-yard TD pass to wide receiver Lake Dawson with

29 seconds left in the first quarter. Indianapolis countered with a time killing effective 18-play drive in which they converted five third downs and one fourth down on the way to Jim Harbaugh's 5-yard touchdown pass to receiver Floyd Turner to tie the game.

Harbaugh was the key player on the drive, converting a 3rd and 11 with an 18-yard scramble and three plays and then finding receiver Aaron Bailey for a 13-yard completion on 3rd and 10. RB Lamont Warren also made a big play by converting a 4th and 1 situation with a 4-yard gain.

Later on, Colts kicker Cary Blanchard botched a 47-yard field goal attempt with 57 seconds left in the half. Kansas City then drove to the Colts 17-yard line for a sure three-pointer, only to have Elliot hit the uprights from 35 yards out.

When play resumed in the second half after a short while, Colts defensive back Ashley Ambrose intercepted a pass from Bono at midfield, setting up a 30-yd Blanchard field goal which gave the Colts the lead. Early in the fourth quarter, the Chiefs saw the goal line just 22-yards away. All they could muster was another missed field goal, this one from 39 yards with 10:36 left to play.

Indianapolis went 3 and out on their next two drives, while Bono threw consecutive interceptions, one to linebacker Quentin Coryatt and another to cornerback Eugene Daniel. After the Coryatt interception, the Colts had a chance to add to their score , but Blanchard missed a field goal attempt from 49 yards out.

After four picks, Schottenheimer lost confidence that Bono was the guy to lead the Chiefs to victory. 'With 4:12 left in the game, Rich Gannon replaced Bono and led the Chiefs from their own 18 to the Colts 25-yard line. But with 42 seconds left, and the game within reach, Elliot missed his third field goal of the day, a 42-yard attempt, and Indianapolis stole the win. The Chiefs were out of the playoffs. That's what happens with poor play. What a shame.

### **1996 Mary Schottenheimer, Coach #7**

The 1996 Kansas City Chiefs football team competed in the franchise' thirty-seventh season of Professional Football. It was their

twenty-seventh season in the NFL, and their thirty-fourth as the Kansas City Chiefs. They were led this year by Head Coach Marty Schottenheimer in his 8th of ten seasons with KC. The team finished with a regular season record of 9-7 for a 2<sup>nd</sup> place finish in the AFC West.

Following the Chiefs' devastating loss to the Colts in the playoffs the year before, the Chiefs failed to improve their 13-3 record from 1995 and finishing 9-7 record with a second-place finish in the AFC West. Despite having the team being predicted as one of the eventual winners of Super Bowl XXXI by Sports Illustrated, the team missed the playoffs for the first time since Marty Schottenheimer's first season in 1989.

### **1997 Marty Schottenheimer, Coach #7**

The 1997 Kansas City Chiefs football team competed in the franchise' thirty-eighth season of Professional Football. It was their twenty-eighth season in the NFL, and their thirty-fifth as the Kansas City Chiefs. They were led this year by Head Coach Marty Schottenheimer in his 9<sup>th</sup> of ten seasons with KC.

The team finished with a regular season record of 13-3 for a 1st place finish and they gained the Championship in the AFC West. The Chiefs qualified for the playoffs and their record got them a bye for the Wildcard round.

The pundits suggest that the season is best remembered for the Rich Gannon–Elvis Grbac quarterback controversy, which should never have been, Nonetheless, it was. It brewed throughout the entire season and arguably cost this great Chiefs team of Marty Schottenheimer's a victory in the playoffs.

The Chiefs were beaten by division rival and eventual Super Bowl champions, Denver Broncos, in the 1998 playoffs. Marty Schottenheimer took the glory and he had to take the blame for his almost great work as the best next thing to Hank Stram.

It could have been lots better but it was much better than for what Lamar Hunt had fired coaches in the past. Unfortunately, 1997 was the final season that the Chiefs would appear in the playoffs during

the 1990s and for the next several seasons, they fell out of contention. Along the way, Marty Schottenheimer disappeared,

The Chiefs would return to the playoffs in 2003. This season was the last season that Marty Schottenheimer would coach the team into the playoffs. The loss to Denver in the Divisional round 14-10 capped off many years of disappointing playoff losses. Marty got them there but did not bring in the bacon. This was Andy Reid's rap at Philadelphia until the 2020 Super Bowl. This year was also the final season for future Hall of Fame running back Marcus Allen. The Chiefs were a fine team, and ole Marty S. had built them that way.

## Top Chiefs Players Tony Gonzalez, TE, 1997-2008

Gonzalez joined the Chiefs as the No. 13 overall pick in the 1997 NFL Draft out of Cal. From 1999-2008, Gonzalez made 10 consecutive Pro Bowl appearances and was named first-team All-Pro five times.

He was the ultimate mismatch against linebackers and safeties, and the Chiefs were great at isolating him in coverage in order to get a favorable matchup. Gonzalez revolutionized how the position is played and was enshrined into the Pro Football Hall of Fame in 2019.





(AP Photo of Tony Gonzalez/Ed Zurga)

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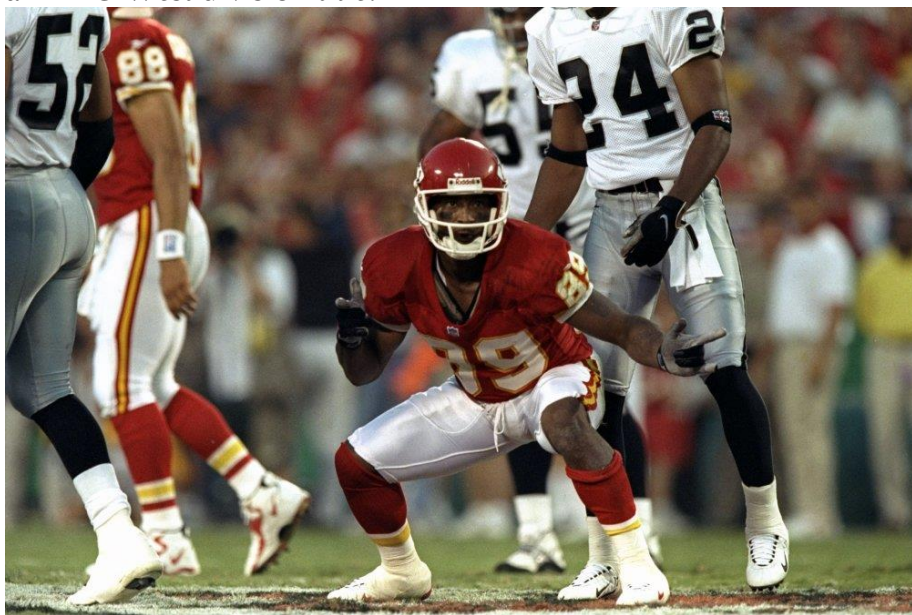
Gonzalez still holds myriad Chiefs franchise records, including most career receiving yards (10,940), career receptions (916) and career touchdown catches (76). Gonzalez has the sixth-most receiving yards in NFL history and ranks behind only Jerry Rice and Larry Fitzgerald in career pass receptions (1,325, including 409 with the Falcons).

## Top Chiefs Player Andre Rison, WR, 1997-1999

Photo by Brian Bahr / Allsport

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Rison joined the Chiefs as a veteran in 1997 and his performance was absolutely electric. He was the top target for Elvis Grbac and Rich Gannon, catching 72 passes for 1,092 yards and seven touchdowns that season. He helped the Chiefs to a 13-3 record and an AFC West division title.



Kansas City was unable to get over the hump in the playoffs, despite Rison's eight-reception, 110-yard performance in a divisional round loss to Denver. He totaled 61 catches for 760 yards and five

touchdowns over the following two seasons as he approached the end of his 12-year NFL career.

## Divisional Championship January 4, 1998

This was the third consecutive year that the AFC's # 1 seed lost the divisional playoffs game. It happened like this. Just a week after avenging the previous year's playoff loss against Jacksonville, the Denver Broncos avenged their 24–22 regular season loss in Kansas City by pounding the Chiefs out of the playoffs.

Broncos running back Terrell Davis ran for 101 yards and two TDs while leading the Broncos to victory. Chiefs QB tossed the ball well but his mates scored just 10 points. Receiver Andre Rison caught eight passes for 110 yards.

As the game appeared to open up in Q2, Chiefs kicker Pete Stoyanovich targeted a perfect 34-yard field goal. A holding penalty nullified the kick and the second attempt hit the crossbar from 44 yards. Denver scored on an 8-play, 65-yard drive, which was capped with a 1-yard touchdown run by Davis.

This play was the first play after the two-minute warning, including John Elway's 27-yard completion to tight end Dwayne Carswell and a critical third and 7 completion to Rod Smith for 17 yards on the Chiefs 4-yard line to keep the drive going. It was the first rushing touchdown given up by the Chiefs at home since the 1996 season. Looking at this per game, it represented a string of 42 quarters.

KC began to move the ball in the second half. The Chiefs began by driving 67 yards to the Broncos 3-yard line. It began with Elvis Grbac's 34-yard pass to Rison on the first play. But things happen. On third and goal, rookie tight end Tony Gonzalez was unable to keep both feet in bounds while making a catch, so the Chiefs settled for a Stoyanovich 20-yard field goal, making the score 7–3. Denver then had a big opportunity to respond on their next drive. Davis picked up 41-yards taking the ball to the Chiefs 11-yard line. But things happen. This time Derek Loville ended up losing a fumble that safety Reggie Tongue recovered.

Following an exchange of punts, Grbac's fired off a 50-yard completion to receiver Joe Horn. This took the ball to the Broncos 15-yard line where Gonzalez eventually caught a 12-yard touchdown pass to give Kansas City their first lead of the game, 10–7, going into the fourth quarter. It was anybody's game at this point.

Early in the last quarter, John Elway completed a 43-yard pass to Ed McCaffrey that set up Davis' second 1-yard touchdown run, giving the lead right back to Denver, 14–10. KC came back with a drive to the Denver 32-yard line. On fourth and six, the Chiefs attempted to fool the Broncos with a fake field goal attempt, but the holder Louie Aguiar was tackled by Darrien Gordon after a gain of just three yards. Good idea but it did not work.

The Chiefs had just one last opportunity to go ahead near the end of the game. All Chiefs playoff losses it seems have been close under Schottenheimer. They moved the ball to the Broncos 20-yard line on with a 29-yard pass interference penalty against Denver and Grbac's 12-yard completion to Lake Dawson on fourth down and 9.

Grbac later brought pay-dirt close with a completed 23-yard pass to Rison at the Broncos 28. However, the next three plays did not attain a first down. Eight yards was not enough. But the Chiefs decided to go for it. Gordon deflected Grbac's fourth down pass in the end zone with 12 seconds left. That's all she wrote for KC this year despite being #1 in the league at the end of the season.

Chiefs had outgained Denver in total yards (303 to 272), first downs (18 to 16) and time of possession (31:06 to 28:54). Elway completed 10 of 19 passes for 170 yards. Denver linemen Alfred Williams and Neil Smith (a former Chief) each had two sacks. The Chiefs did not have enough.

This was the last game that Hall of Famer Marcus Allen would play and it was also the final post-season meeting between John Elway and Kansas City Chiefs head coach Marty Schottenheimer. Some people have called this a rivalry—that if John Elway had never been born, Marty Schottenheimer's record would have been much more solid. For that matter. So would the Chief's record.

## **1998 Marty Schottenheimer, Coach #7**

The 1998 Kansas City Chiefs football team competed in the franchise' thirty-ninth season of Professional Football. It was their twenty-ninth season in the NFL, and their thirty-sixth as the Kansas City Chiefs. They were led this year by Head Coach Marty Schottenheimer in his 10<sup>th</sup> and last of ten seasons with KC.

The 1998 season began with lots of hope. For example, the Chiefs were still stinging from the loss in the 1998 playoffs to the eventual Super Bowl champion Denver Broncos. Unfortunately, the chiefs did not get to exact any vengeance for their defeat—instead the team failed completely and did not come close to succeeding in their own highly competitive AFC West.

This was the first time that a Schottenheimer team had a losing record. His team finished with a 7–9 record and thus got no higher than 4th place in the AFC West. Tis fact had to incense Lamar Hunt who had no mercy for a losing season with Hank Stram after a great run.

The pressure was so intense that head coach Marty Schottenheimer announced his resignation following the season after ten great seasons with the team. Historians may suggest it was a quit or get fired scenario for Marty so he quit. His defensive coordinator Gunther Cunningham got his job the following year and he assumed coaching duties for 1999.

### **Schottenheimer Resigns as KC Coach**

Since Hank Stram, nobody had directed the KC Chiefs as well as Marty Schottenheimer. After the 1998 season when the Chiefs finished 7-9 Schottenheimer came under fire for his "Marty Ball" coaching style and lack of playoff success. With the fans starting to turn on him, Marty resigned as head coach of the Kansas City Chiefs.

With an enviable regular-season record of 200-126-1 with Cleveland, Kansas City, Washington and San Diego, Schottenheimer is the most successful coach never to have reached the Super Bowl.

### **1999 Gunther Cunningham, Coach #8**

The 1999 Kansas City Chiefs football team competed in the franchise' fortieth season of Professional Football. It was their thirtieth season in the NFL, and their thirty-seventh as the Kansas City Chiefs. They were led this year by Head Coach Gunther Cunningham in his 1<sup>st</sup> of two seasons with KC.

The team finished with a regular season record of 9-7 for a 2nd place finish. The Chiefs did not qualify for the playoffs.

The season began with the promotion of Defensive coordinator Gunther Cunningham to Head coach following the resignation of Marty Schottenheimer after the 7-9 Chiefs' 1998 season losing record.

The team finished with a 9-7 winning record and 2nd place in the AFC West.

In the final game of the season against the Oakland Raiders, the Chiefs were denied a trip to the playoffs and an AFC West division title when Raiders kicker Joe Nedney kicked a field-goal in overtime. This game also was the final game future hall of fame linebacker Derrick Thomas played in before his death on February 8, 2000.

### **2000 Gunther Cunningham, Coach #8**

The 2000 Kansas City Chiefs football team competed in the franchise' forty-first season of Professional Football. It was their thirty-first season in the NFL, and their thirty-eighth as the Kansas City Chiefs. They were led this year by Head Coach Gunther Cunningham in his 2<sup>nd</sup> and last of two seasons with KC.

The team finished with a regular season record of 7-9 for a 3rd place finish. The Chiefs did not qualify for the third yr. in a row for the playoffs.

The team played the season without 9 time Pro Bowl Linebacker and team captain Derrick Thomas because of his death on February 8 of the same year.

After the Chiefs regressed to 7-9 a year later, Cunningham was fired and replaced by Dick Vermeil. He showed up again in the 2008 season, where he coached the Chiefs' linebackers as well as serving as the defensive coordinator.

## **Top Chiefs Players: Dante Hall, WR/KR/PR, 2000-2006**

Hall joined the Chiefs as a fifth-round draft pick in 2000. He's remembered as one of the greatest return specialists to ever play the game. He was nicknamed the Human Joystick for his ability to stop on a dime and make opponents miss.

In 2002, he became the second NFL player to return both a kick and punt for a touchdown in a single game. Hall owns myriad different kick and punt return records for the Chiefs, including career kick returns, yardage and kickoffs and punts returned for touchdowns. He ranks No. 5 in NFL history in total kick return yardage with 10,136 yards.



(Photo of Dante Hall by Dilip Vishwanat/Getty Images)

## Top Chiefs Players Brian Waters, OG, 2000-2010

Waters was originally signed by the Dallas Cowboys as an undrafted free agent out of North Texas to play tight end and fullback. When he joined the Chiefs during the 2000 season, Waters was moved to offensive guard and flourished. He played in 163 games for the Chiefs and earned five Pro Bowl invitations during his 11 seasons with the team. In 2009, Waters became the Chiefs' fifth member of the franchise to win the Walter Payton NFL Man of the Year award.



Photo by Julie Scheidegger-USA TODAY Sports

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## Chapter 8 Coaches Dick Vermeil & Herman Edwards 2001 to 2008

### Coach #9 Dick Vermeil

### Coach #10 Herman Edwards

<u>Year</u>	<u>Coach</u>	<u>Conf</u>	<u>Div</u>	<u>Pl</u>	<u>W-L-T</u>
2001	Dick Vermeil	NFLAFC	West	4 <sup>th</sup>	6-10-0
2002	Dick Vermeil	NFLAFC	West	4 <sup>th</sup>	8-8-0
	• Priest Holmes (OPOY)				
2003	Dick Vermeil	NFLAFC	West	1 <sup>st</sup>	13-3-0
	• Lost Divisional Playoffs (Colts) 38–31				
	• Will Shields (MOY)				
	• Dick Vermeil (MFC COY)				
2004	Dick Vermeil	NFLAFC	West	3 <sup>rd</sup>	7-9-0
2005	Dick Vermeil	NFLAFC	West	2 <sup>nd</sup>	10-6-0

<u>Year</u>	<u>Coach</u>	<u>Conf</u>	<u>Div</u>	<u>Pl</u>	<u>W-L-T</u>
2006	Herm Edwards	NFLAFC	West	2 <sup>nd</sup>	9-7-0
	• Lost Wild Card Playoffs (at Colts) 23–8				
2007	Herm Edwards	NFLAFC	West	3 <sup>rd</sup>	4-12-0
2008	Herm Edwards	NFLAFC	West	4 <sup>th</sup>	2-14-0



### Dick Vermeil back on sidelines with the Chiefs

Report from ESPN. Our thanks to ESPN.

Dick Vermeil is planning to return to the NFL but his former team, the St. Louis Rams, say they first need compensation.

Vermeil has agreed to take the Kansas City Chiefs coaching job, replacing Gunther Cunningham. The Rams, however, remain in a squabble over whether the Chiefs have

the right to hire him. The matter could wind up being decided by NFL commissioner Paul Tagliabue. A league spokesman confirmed

Thursday that both parties have taken the dispute over whether the Chiefs can hire Vermeil to the NFL.

"It is a matter of interpretation of a contract, and if the parties can't agree, then it could go to the commissioner. We have had conversations with both teams," NFL spokesman Greg Aiello said. "If they cannot reach an agreement, then the commissioner could play a role."

He said the situation was similar to ones in recent years involving the Patriots and the Jets, and their hiring of coaches Bill Parcells and Bill Belichick. Both of those cases involved players changing teams in compensation deals.

Rams president John Shaw spoke with Chiefs president Carl Peterson on Thursday morning. During that conversation, Shaw said he was told by Peterson that it was Chiefs owner Lamar Hunt's contention that his team did not need to get permission from the Rams to hire Vermeil.

"In view of the sudden development of the Chiefs' request, coupled with rumored reports over the past week, and coach Vermeil's continued assurances to Rams ownership that he would not coach in the NFL, we feel that further investigation is necessary before permission is granted," Shaw said in a statement.

Shaw said he was shocked to learn Vermeil wanted to get back into coaching less than a year after making a tearful farewell.

"The way he left, he said he was definitely done coaching and that he wanted to spend time with his family," Shaw said. "I'm totally stunned."

The retirement agreement between the Rams and Vermeil never stipulated that Vermeil could not return to coaching.

"I didn't think that was necessary," Shaw said.

Both teams contacted the NFL, and the Rams even faxed a copy of Vermeil's resignation letter from when he retired from the team after last season to league offices.

Vermeil agreed to become coach and second in command to Peterson. Both Vermeil and Peterson will share the decision-making responsibilities on player personnel.

Vermeil would replace Cunningham as head coach. Cunningham, who all this week was an early arrival for work, did not appear at Arrowhead Stadium on Thursday morning, the Kansas City Star reported.

Later in the day, Cunningham's wife, Rene, came to the door of their home -- adorned with a Chiefs logo on the garage -- and said the coach had "nothing to say" right now.

Sources told ESPN's Chris Mortensen that Vermeil will seek to hire Rams receivers' coach Al Saunders as his assistant head coach and groom him as his likely successor in Kansas City.

"I'm not in a position to say yes or no," Vermeil told USA Today on Wednesday night when asked if he planned to return to coaching with the Chiefs. "It's not ethically right for me to say."

Cunningham's status as coach is tenuous after going 16-16 in two seasons since taking over for Marty Schottenheimer.

Vermeil cited burnout for retiring after the 1982 season and spent the next 14 seasons as a television analyst. He returned to coaching with the Rams in 1997 and, after two sub-.500 seasons, took them last season to the Super Bowl, where they beat Tennessee.

Meanwhile, Schottenheimer surprised many Wednesday by announcing he was returning to the sidelines as the Washington Redskins' head coach.

ESPN's Chris Mortensen contributed to this report.

## **2001 Dick Vermeil, Coach #9**

The 2001 Kansas City Chiefs football team competed in the franchise' forty-second season of Professional Football. It was their thirty-second season in the NFL, and their thirty-ninth as the Kansas

City Chiefs. They were led this year by Head Coach Dick Vermeil in his 1<sup>st</sup> and of five seasons with KC.

The team finished with a regular season record of 6-10 for a 4th place finish. The Chiefs did not qualify for the playoffs.

The squad failed to qualify for the playoffs or to improve upon their 7-9 record from 2000, with a 6-10 record, which, as noted brought them a fourth place finish in the AFC West.

Along with new coaches joining the team, new additions appeared on the Chiefs' roster, including running back Priest Holmes and quarterback Trent Green. Coach Dick Vermeil began to install a powerful offense similar to the one he installed in St. Louis to win Super Bowl XXXIV.

## Top Chiefs Players Priest Holmes, RB, 2001-2007



(Priest Holmes Photo by Jeff Gross/Getty Images)

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After four seasons with the Baltimore Ravens, Holmes joined the Chiefs as a free agent, signing a minimum contract. He would go on

to become one of the most explosive running backs in franchise history. His first three seasons in Kansas City compose a three-year stretch that is one of the most dominant spans by a running back in NFL history.

He became the first undrafted free agent to lead the league in rushing, racking up 1,555 yards in 2001. In the next two seasons, he would rush for over a combined 3,000 yards and lead the NFL in rushing touchdowns each season. Holmes is the No. 2 rusher in franchise history (6,070 yards) and holds records for career and single-season rushing touchdowns (76 and 27), as well as total touchdowns (83). His 2,287 yards from scrimmage in 2002 are the most by a Chiefs player in a single season.

### **2002 Dick Vermeil, Coach #9**

The 2002 Kansas City Chiefs football team competed in the franchise' forty-third season of Professional Football. It was their thirty-third season in the NFL, and their fortieth as the Kansas City Chiefs. They were led this year by Head Coach Dick Vermeil in his 2nd of five seasons with KC.

The team finished with a regular season record of 8-8 for a 4th place finish. The Chiefs did not qualify for the playoffs.

The Chiefs' powerful offense was led by quarterback Trent Green and 2002 NFL Offensive Player of the Year Priest Holmes, in the second of Holmes's three consecutive all-pro seasons. Green was a great QB this year with a 2-to-1 touchdown-to-interception ratio (26 to 13). Meanwhile Priest Holmes led the league in touchdowns (24) and overall scoring (144 points). With stars such as these, the Chiefs could have had an even better than a break-even year.

Kansas City scored 467 points (29.2 per game), but gave up a lot of points on D—399 points (24.9 per game). It was the second most in the AFC and fifth-most in the NFL. Football Outsiders stated that the 2002 Chiefs had the second-largest Offense-Defense imbalance from 1992–2010 (the largest discrepancy coming from the 1992 Seattle Seahawks).

Football Outsiders also calculated that the Chiefs had the second most efficient running game in the same period (second only to the 2000 St. Louis Rams). If things were done well on both sides of the ball, Vermeil would have had them in the Super Bowl.

The Chiefs' offense set two new NFL records this year with the fewest fumbles in a season (7, broken in 2010) and the fewest fumbles lost in a season (2), the latter of which still stands. A little bit of D goes a long way. Vermeil is a great coach and he knew that and he made the D lots better in 2003.

### **2003 Dick Vermeil, Coach #9**

The 2003 Kansas City Chiefs football team competed in the franchise' forty-fourth season of Professional Football. It was their thirty-fourth season in the NFL, and their forty-first as the Kansas City Chiefs. They were led this year by Head Coach Dick Vermeil in his third of five seasons with KC.

The team finished with a regular season record of 13-3 for a 1st place finish. The Chiefs won a bye in the playoffs and did not have to play a Wild Card game. Their first playoff game was at the divisional level and they lost by seven points to the Colts in a tough match L (31-38).

The team's 13-3 winning record began with a nine-game winning streak. Dick Vermeil led the Chiefs to the franchise's best start in their 40-year history. The team won the AFC West and clinched the second seed in the playoffs. Kansas City unfortunately lost in an offensive shootout at home in the AFC Divisional Playoffs to the Indianapolis Colts 38-31, a game noted for involving no punts from either team's kicking squad. Vermeil was ready for another Super Bowl as were the Chiefs but it did not happen.

The Chiefs this year had a great, record-breaking offense. On December 28, running back Priest Holmes broke Marshall Faulk's single-season rushing touchdown record by scoring his 27th rushing touchdown against the Chicago Bears. Quarterback Trent Green threw for 4,000 yards and kick returner Dante Hall returned four kicks for touchdowns.

Nine Chiefs players received Pro Bowl recognition, the third-highest total in team history, while the club's six offensive Pro Bowlers marked the most in club history.

## Top Chief Players Larry Johnson, RB, 2003-2009



Jamie Squire/Getty Images

A first-round draft pick by the Chiefs out of Penn State in 2003, Johnson was one of the most dominant rushers in the NFL during the mid-2000s. Running behind a line composed of Will Shields, Willie Roaf, Brian Waters and Casey Wiegmann, Johnson rushed for over 1,700 yards in back-to-back seasons in 2005 and 2006.

He holds the NFL record for most rushing attempts in a single season with 416 (set in 2006). He also holds the Chiefs career record for most rushing attempts (1,375) and most rushing yards in a single season (1,789).

In the 2003/2004 Divisional Playoffs. The Chiefs defense faltered at home in Arrowhead Stadium as the Indianapolis Colts beat the KC Chiefs L (31–38) before a packed house at Arrowhead Stadium before 79,159.

## The Playoffs January 11, 2004

### **AFC: Indianapolis Colts 38, Kansas City Chiefs 31**

*at Arrowhead Stadium, Kansas City, Missouri*

Two teams in a battle and each score over thirty points. It was like in this shootout, the defenses could not get their laundry cleaned. The Offenses for both the Colts and the Chiefs were ready to take the field and make their respective fans smile.

The offenses were at a shooting gallery in which they had to get a target down or give up their guns. This shootout became the first “punt-less game” in NFL playoff history. The Colts, with P. Manning directing the action from the ground, were on their O game for the second game in a row.

It is reported that they could have given Colts’ punter Hunter Smith a few vacation days since Colts QB Peyton Manning would not give up control of the football. Manning completed 22 of 30 passes for 304 yards and three touchdowns (to Reggie Wayne, Brandon Stokley and Tom Lopienski respectively), while Edgerrin James ran for a career postseason high 125 yards and two scores. Both teams seemed to think they were going to win.

The Kansas City “O” was not laying down while waiting on the sidelines to get in the game. When the O game resumed, Dante Hall caught a touchdown and returned seven kickoffs for 207 yards and another score. Meanwhile Priest Holmes, who set the regular-season rushing touchdown record in 2003, chalked up 176 yards and caught five passes for 32 yards, and he topped that off by scoring twice.

Kansas City's 33-year-old quarterback Trent Green had the good arm for 212 yards and a touchdown while he legged down the sidelines a few times rushing for 18 yards in his first career postseason game. Both teams were well engaged. Coach Dick Vermeil who had guided the Chiefs to a great record this year was looking for something to stop Peyton Manning while he was almost pleased with his own Offensive effort. It just was not enough.

In Q3, a TD pass was nullified by a penalty. Additionally, Holmes' third-quarter fumble, which set up a Colts' field goal, turned out to



be too much for the Chiefs to overcome. Kansas City defensive coordinator Greg Robinson felt he had stunk the place out and so he resigned the following week in disgrace. "He is the master," defensive end Eric Hicks said of Manning.

"That was an amazing performance. I never would have thought a quarterback would play two games in a row like that. They took us behind the woodshed and just beat us. It was embarrassing." Ironically, the score was close but the Chiefs felt they had been beaten up.

It was Manning's day. He began the day leading the Colts 70 yards and he finished the opening drive with a 29-yard perfect pass to Stokley. Kansas City was ready on O and the team responded with a 73-yard drive. Holmes gained 44 yards on five carries before being stopped. Then, Morten Andersen kicked a 22-yard field goal to cut the edge to 7-3. The Colts saw no stop signs in their way. They stormed right back.

Driving 76 yards in six plays, Manning completed a 38-yard pass to Marvin Harrison on the drive, and James finished it off with an 11-yard TD run. There was a lot of time left so KC was not defeated yet. They came right back. They drove 77 yards in a great 12 play-drive that required converting three third downs. They wrapped up this fine drive with a 9-yard touchdown pass from Green to Hall while the game was still in the second quarter.

Nobody told Manning to take it easy on the Chiefs. So, after that, Manning led the Colts 71 yards and scored with a 2-yard touchdown pass to Tom Lopienski, giving them a 21-10 lead. The Chiefs seemed to expect Manning to get into the end-zone in this puntless game, and they did.

Once again, on the comeback trail, the Chiefs drove deep into Colts territory, but they forgot to score. First, they did score but All-Pro Tony Gonzalez's 27-yard touchdown catch did not count. It was called back by a pass interference penalty, and then Andersen missed a 31-yard field goal attempt. Tough breaks!

The end of the first half put halt on the scoring but it was only until the players were rested in their respective locker rooms. So during half-time, the barrage of both team's scoring was interrupted. But, it quickly resumed in the second period. Like the second play of the second half, it came back in full force.

Holmes' 48-yard run moved the ball, owned at the time by the Chiefs to the Colts 22-yard line. But on the next play, Indianapolis defensive back David Macklin showed no respect for Holmes and he simply stripped the ball from Holmes and to make it worse, he recovered it.

After that, the Colts O propelled themselves to the Chiefs 22-yard line before KC's first major defensive play of the game. The fans were thinking KC's D had taken a holiday. But, in this instance, defensive tackle Shawn Barber tackled James for a 5-yard loss on third down. This forced the Colts to settle for a Mike Vanderjagt field goal, increasing their lead to 24–10.

But the Chiefs were undaunted feeling the scent of a loss in the air for the first time. They chose not to go down. So, Hall returned the kickoff 26 yards to his own 44-yard line. Then Holmes made up for his earlier mistake by carrying the ball on six of the eight plays of Kansas City's possession, gaining 44 yards and finishing the drive with a 1-yard touchdown run. KC had established itself as ready to come back. But, Peyton Manning refused to get the message. From Dick Vermeil.

So, not to be out-performed, Peyton fired back with five consecutive completions for 57 yards, including a 19-yard touchdown pass to Wayne, putting the Colts back up by 14 points. But this margin turned out to be short lived; Hall returned the ensuing kickoff 92 yards for a touchdown. So big but so short. The impact was felt but then again the Colts' "D" would have to go out and make it right again—But, only if the Colts messed up.

As every other Colts drive this game, once again, the Chiefs defense had no ability to stop the Colts. Manning led the Colts to a 10-play, 81-yard drive that ended with James' 1-yard touchdown run with 10:38 left in the game. It was not over but the scent of victory was on the Colts' side of the field.

The Chiefs were ready on offense and they responded with a touchdown of their own, but it took too much time off the clock. By the time Holmes finished the 17-play, 76-yard drive with a 1-yard touchdown run, there was only 4:16 left in the game. The Colts decided to keep playing and refused to give KC the ball back.

Instead, they put the game away by running the clock down to eight seconds on their last drive. This game is known among Chiefs fans in the pantheon of great Chief playoff losses as "The No Punt Game." I suspect that Dick Vermeil began looking for defensive players during the off-season. Maybe not, after such a great regular season, Dick Vermeil was obviously disgusted. He lasted just two more years with KC, and never got them engaged in a great game again.

### **2004 Dick Vermeil, Coach #9**

The 2004 Kansas City Chiefs football team competed in the franchise' forty-fifth season of Professional Football. It was their thirty-fifth season in the NFL, and their forty-second as the Kansas City Chiefs. They were led this year by Head Coach Dick Vermeil in his fourth of five seasons with KC.

The team faltered this year after their 13-3 record from 2003. They finished with a regular season record of 7-9 for a 3rd place finish. The Chiefs did not make the playoffs.

As noted, the 2004 season proved not to be as successful as the team's previous season. Though the Chiefs finished the regular season with the most yards and the second highest number of points, they also had a losing record of 7-9 and no playoff appearance. In fact, the Chiefs' 483 points-scored was the highest total in NFL history for a team that finished the season with a losing record.

All the games were close. If the Chiefs could have gotten more out of its defense, the season would have been much different.

## 2005 Dick Vermeil, Coach #9

The 2005 Kansas City Chiefs football team competed in the franchise' forty-sixth season of Professional Football. It was their thirty-sixth season in the NFL, and their forty-third as the Kansas City Chiefs. They were led this year by Head Coach Dick Vermeil in his fifth and last of five seasons with KC.

The team regained its winning ways this year after a disappointing 7-9 record from 2004. They finished with a regular season record of 10-6 for a 2nd place finish. Nonetheless, despite a fine season. Vermeil's Chiefs did not find themselves in the playoffs..

## Top Chiefs Players D. Colquitt, P, 2005- present

Ray Guy is the only punter in the Pro Football Hall of Fame. Colquitt already has more career punts and punting yards than Guy, and his career average of 44.8 yards per punt is notably ahead of Guy's 42.4. In 2019, Colquitt passed Hall of Fame right guard Will Shields for the most games in franchise history. He sits at 238 career appearances at the end of the 2019 season, 14 ahead of Shields.



Photo of Justin Colquitt  
By John Rieger-USA TODAY Sports

## 2006 Herman Edwards, Coach #10

The 2006 Kansas City Chiefs football team competed in the franchise' forty-seventh season of Professional Football. It was their thirty-seventh season in the NFL, and their forty-fourth as the Kansas City Chiefs. They were led this year by Head Coach Herm Edwards in his first of three seasons with KC.

Edward's first season did not produce as good a year as the 10-6 from Dick Vermeil in 2005. They finished with a regular season record of 9-7 for a 2nd place finish. Nonetheless, despite a season not as good as 10-6. They did make the playoffs but lost in the Wild Card game to the Colts L (8-23).

The season began with the team looking to improve on their 10-6 record from 2005 under new head coach Herman Edwards.

There were many obstacles during the 2006 season, including the loss of starting quarterback Trent Green in the first game, the readjustment of a record-breaking offense, and the death of owner and founder Lamar Hunt.

Despite the many obstacles, the team gained momentum after rebounding from an 0-2 start, clinching the sixth seed in the 2006-07 playoffs with a 9-7 record. The team finished second in the AFC West with a 4-2 divisional record.

The Chiefs entered week 17 of the season a long shot to make the playoffs, needing a win and a loss from the Denver Broncos, Cincinnati Bengals, and Tennessee Titans. In an unlikely clinching scenario, the Chiefs defeated the Jaguars 35-30, the Bengals, Titans, and the Broncos lost, allowing the Chiefs to clinch their first playoff berth since the 2003 season.

The Chiefs lost in the Wild Card round of the playoffs 8-23 to their playoff rival and eventual Super Bowl champions, the Indianapolis Colts.

## Top Chiefs Players Tamba Hali, LB, 2006-2017

Hali, who came to the U.S. from Liberia as a child, was drafted by the Chiefs in the first round out of Penn State. He quickly made an impact, setting a franchise record for most forced fumbles by a rookie with six and recording eight sacks in 2006.



(Photo by Dilip Vishwanat/Getty Images)

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Hali would go on to play in 177 games, starting 157, for the Chiefs and earn five consecutive Pro Bowl selections from 2011 through 2015. Hali ranks No. 2 in franchise history in sacks (89.5) and forced fumbles (33) behind only Derrick Thomas.

## Wild Card playoffs Saturday, January 6, 2007

**AFC: Indianapolis Colts 23, Kansas City Chiefs 8**

*at RCA Dome, Indianapolis*

Herman Edwards got the Chiefs into the playoffs after the 2006 season. The Chiefs QBs were hardly mentioned in post-game highlights giving fans an idea of their contribution to the game. Disappointing.

It was a bad day for QB's even future Hall of Fame QB Peyton Manning threw three interceptions. Nonetheless, the Indianapolis Colts out-fired the Kansas City Chiefs in all aspects of the game such as total yards, 435–126, and first downs, 23–8.

The Colts “D” more than got Manning's three Interceptions back during the action by forcing three turnovers, four sacks, and prevented KC from gaining a single first down until late in the third quarter. The Colts victory was never in question despite Manning's turnovers as the Colts dominated Kansas City from start to finish to earn a trip to Baltimore for the Division Playoffs.

Indianapolis opened the scoring on their first drive with an Adam Vinatieri 48-yard field goal. There was very little KC action in between Indy's possessions. Then, they drove 68 yards to the Kansas City 2-yard line, settled for another Vinatieri field goal bringing their lead to 6–0 lead. After another KC City punt, Chiefs cornerback Ty Law intercepted a pass from Manning and returned it 43 yards to the Colts 9-yard line. Even with this opportunity, the Chiefs could not get the ball into the end zone with three rushing attempts. Even Lawrence Tynes' “sure-thing” 23-yard field goal attempt hit the left upright and fell short.

After Manning threw another INT and another Kansas City punt, the Colts increased their lead to 9–0 with a 33 yard drive and they scored again on Vinatieri's 50-yard field goal on the last play of the first half. The Chiefs amassed a total of 16 yards and no first downs in the half. This was the first time in the modern era (post AFL–NFL merger) and the first time since 1960 that an NFL team had been held without an offensive first down in the first half of a playoff game. This was a bad KC game from the opening kickoff.

When the Colts' got the ball for the first-time in the second half, Manning threw his third interception of the game (and his second to Law). Still, the Chiefs could not use this opportunity and were forced to punt. Indianapolis took off on an 89 yard drive in 12 plays and scored with Joseph Addai's 6-yard touchdown run, giving them an unbeatable 16–0 lead.

KC got its (first) first down of the game on their next possession when they drove 60 yards in eight plays. QB Trent Green finished the drive with a 6-yard touchdown pass to tight end Tony Gonzalez, and then completed a pass to tight end Kris Wilson for a successful two-point conversion.

Despite being outplayed the whole game, the Chiefs were still within one touchdown, 16–8. However, the Colts increased their lead almost immediately to 23–8 on a 71-yard, 9-play drive ending with Reggie Wayne's 5-yard TD reception. Indianapolis's defense stopped the Chiefs from any hope by forcing three turnovers on Kansas City's last three drives. This clinched the victory for the Colts. The next Chief's playoff game would come in the Todd Haley era.

### **2007 Herman Edwards, Coach #10**

The 2007 Kansas City Chiefs football team competed in the franchise' forty-eighth season of Professional Football. It was their thirty-eighth season in the NFL, and their forty-fifth as the Kansas City Chiefs. They were led this year by Head Coach Herm Edwards in his second of three seasons with KC.

Edward's second season was nothing short of terrible but it was not as bad as the next year. It did not produce a winning season as his first year's 9-7 record. This year's 4-12 record was very bad. The Chiefs finished with a regular season record of 4-12 for a 3rd place finish. They did not make the playoffs this year/

The season ended with a nine-game losing streak, the team's first since 1987 and a 4–12 record. It was the Chiefs' first season with twelve losses since 1978.

### **2008 Herman Edwards, Coach #10**

The 2008 Kansas City Chiefs football team competed in the franchise' forty-ninth season of Professional Football. It was their thirty-ninth season in the NFL, and their forty-sixth as the Kansas City Chiefs. They were led this year by Head Coach Herm Edwards in his third and last of three seasons with KC.



Edward's third season was more terrible than his second. He would be gone at the end of the year. The team won just two games for a very poor 2-14 record for a 4<sup>th</sup> place finish. They did not make the playoffs this year/

The Chiefs this year had the youngest team in the NFL as part of their "youth movement". The season turned out to be the worst in the franchise's history at the time, by scoring 13 losses for the first time ever. The Chiefs' record tied with the St. Louis Rams where they stood 2-14.

## **Top Chiefs Players Jamaal Charles, RB, 2008-2016**

A speedy third-round pick out of Texas, Charles would become of the most electrifying players in Chiefs history. He rushed for 1,000-plus yards in a season five times as a Chief and ranks as the franchise's career rushing leader with 7,260 yards.

He also holds franchise records for most rushing yards in a single game (259), most touchdowns in a game (five); most receiving touchdowns in a game (four); most points in a game (30 in 2013); most yards per carry in a season (6.4 in 2010); and most yards per carry in a career (5.45 with a minimum 400 attempts).

After winding his career down with the Broncos and Jaguars, Charles returned to the Chiefs in 2019 to sign a one-day contract and retire as a member of the franchise.



Photo of Jamaal Charles by Chris Humphreys-USA TODAY Sports

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## Games of the 2008 Season

# Chapter 9 Coaches Todd Haley & Romeo Crennel 2009 - 2012

**Coach #11 Todd Haley**

**Coach #12 Romeo Crennel**

<u>Year</u>	<u>Coach</u>	<u>Conf</u>	<u>Div</u>	<u>Pl</u>	<u>W-L-T</u>
2009	Todd Haley	NFLAFC	West	4th	4-12-0
	• Brian Waters (MOY)				
2010	Todd Haley	NFLAFC	West	1st	10-6-0
	• Lost Wild Card Playoffs (Ravens)	30-7			
2011	Todd Haley (5-8)	NFLAFC	West	4 <sup>th</sup>	7-9-0

<u>Year</u>	<u>Coach</u>	<u>Conf</u>	<u>Div</u>	<u>Pl</u>	<u>W-L-T</u>	
2011	Romeo Crennel (2-1)	NFLAFC	West			interim
2012	Romeo Crennel	NFLAFC	West	4th	2-14-0	

## 2009 Todd Haley, Coach #11



The 2009 Kansas City Chiefs football team competed in the franchise' fiftieth season of Professional Football. It was their fortieth season in the NFL, and their forty-seventh as the Kansas

City Chiefs. They were led this year by Head Coach Todd Haley in his first of three seasons with KC.

In Haley's first season, he achieved the same record as Herm Edwards in 2007 (4-12). It was a bad year. Next year, he would do much better. The team won just four games for a 4-12 record for a 4th place finish. They did not make the playoffs this year.

This was also the first season with Scott Pioli as the team's general manager. The Chiefs attempted to improve on their 2-14 record from 2008 with the third overall selection in the 2009 NFL Draft. In 2009, the Chiefs also honored the induction of Derrick Thomas, the team's former linebacker from 1989 to 1999, into the Pro Football Hall of Fame. Thomas' jersey number 58 was officially retired by the franchise after having been unissued since Thomas' death in 2000.

The fate of head coach Herman Edwards and his staff remained uncertain after the end of the 2008 season in which the Chiefs finished with a franchise-worst 2-14 record. The team was 6-26 in the past two years under Edwards, who had one year left on a four-year, \$12 million contract and was lobbying to be allowed another year to get his rebuilding movement off the ground. Team owner Clark Hunt voiced his support of Edwards, but he had also said the new general manager Scott Pioli would have "significant input" into the decision on whether to retain him. On January 23, the Chiefs fired Edwards, and on February 5, Todd Haley was hired as the 11th head coach in Chiefs franchise history and signed a four-year contract.

For the 2009 season under the Pioli/Haley regime, the Chiefs switched from a 4-3 defense to a 3-4 defensive strategy. Although finishing the regular season last in the AFC West with a record of 4-12, the Chiefs doubled their win record from the previous season. The Chiefs did not have a single player named to the Pro Bowl for the first time since 1978 and only the 3rd time in franchise history.

## 2010 Todd Haley, Coach #11

The 2010 Kansas City Chiefs football team competed in the franchise' fifty-first season of Professional Football. It was their forty-first season in the NFL, and their forty-eighth as the Kansas City Chiefs. They were led this year by Head Coach Todd Haley in his second of three seasons with KC.

In Haley's second season, he overachieved over the last several years finishing with a 10-6 record and first place in the AFC West. . achieved the same record ad Herm Edwards in 2007 (4-12). The team won six games more than in 2009. They made the playoffs but had to play in the Wildcard game where they lost to the Ravens L (7-30), which ended their fine season.

To repeat, the Chiefs improved on their 4-12 record from 2009, and they won their first AFC West division title since 2003. In 2010, the Chiefs moved training camp to Missouri Western State University in St. Joseph, Missouri after spending the previous 19 summers in River Falls, Wisconsin.

The Chiefs added former Notre Dame head coach Charlie Weiss as their offensive coordinator. Weiss had had the job in New England working for Bill Belichick before ND. So he came with great credentials, though not from ND. They also added former Cleveland Browns head coach Romeo Crennel as their defensive coordinator.

## Playoffs Wild Card Game Jan. 9, 2011

### **AFC: Baltimore Ravens 30, Kansas City Chiefs 7**

*@ Arrowhead Stadium, Kansas City, Missouri*

If KC had a nemesis in the past ten years, it was whoever they played in the Wildcard game, First Miami, then the Colts, and now the Ravens. KC would fall apart right when they needed to play their best.

In this game, the Ravens dominated the Chiefs on both sides of the ball. In some ways KC did not even show up to play. They were

massively outgained in total yards (390 to 161), first downs (26 to 8), and time of possession (44:44 to 18:16). It's tough to win a game without an offense.

All year long, the team only lost 14 turnovers for the season, turned the ball over five times and they went home with their seventh consecutive playoff loss since the 1993 season. What a shame. Their losing streak has covered 17 years, four different coaches, and two different owners. We know that in nine years, Andy Reid would take them to a Super Bowl victory but nobody knew it during the 17-year drought.

Baltimore took off like they meant business right from the opening kickoff to the end of the game. They drove 64 yards to the Chiefs 1-yard line, with Joe Flacco completing a 27-yard pass to Anquan Boldin and three passes to tight end Todd Heap for 32 yards.

But they were stuffed twice for no gain and then Flacco's incomplete pass forced them to settle for a field goal from Billy Cundiff. The Ravens quickly forced a punt, but several plays into their next drive Chiefs linebacker Tamba Hali sacked Flacco and forced a fumble, which he recovered on the Baltimore 46. Following a 5-yard scramble by Matt Cassel, Jamaal Charles' 41-yard touchdown romp gave the Chiefs a glimmer of hope. It was the longest touchdown run ever allowed by the Ravens in the postseason. At this point though not playing their best, the Chiefs were still in the game.

Later in the Q2, the Ravens regained the lead with an 80-yard scoring march. Ray Rice did the honors with a 9-yard touchdown catch to give the Ravens a 10–7 lead with 19 seconds left before halftime.

KC really did not show for the second half, I regret to say. So, Baltimore completely took over the game, adding 20 more unanswered points and holding Charles, who rushed for over 80 yards in the first half, to negative yardage in the last two quarters. Kansas City gained just 25 total yards in the entire second half.

On the fourth play of the third quarter drive, Cassel threw an interception to safety Haruki Nakamura. Kansas City managed to get the ball back again. Charles forced and recovered a fumble from

Nakamura during this return. However, their second attempt at a drive fared no better, ending with a turnover on downs at the Ravens 38-yard line.

The Ravens drove to the KC 11. From there, Cundiff made his second field goal of the game. Then Ravens linebacker Ray Lewis forced a fumble while tackling Dexter McCluster. Teammate Cornerback Chris Carr recovered the pigskin on the Chiefs 17-yard line. From here Cundiff nailed his third field goal taking the score to 16-7.

KC gave the ball up almost immediately. Just two plays into their next drive, they lost another turnover when Cassel threw an interception to Dawan Landry. This led to Flacco's 4-yard touchdown pass to Boldin. Then after a three and out, the Ravens put the game away by mounting a 10-minute clock eating methodical scoring drive that ended with Willis McGahee's 25-yard touchdown burst with 4:26 left in the game. This brought the final score to 30-7.

Flacco was on this game completing 25 of 34 passes for 265 yards and two touchdowns. He became the first Raven ever to throw multiple touchdown passes in a playoff game. Heap had a career-high 10 receptions for 106 yards, setting the franchise record for receptions in a postseason game.

Linebacker Terrell Suggs led the Ravens defense with four tackles and two sacks. Cassel completed just nine of 18 passes for 70 yards with three interceptions, and Dwayne Bowe, the team's top receiver with 1,162 yards and an NFL-leading 15 touchdown catches during the season, did not have any receptions in the game. Think about that. The playoffs would be out of the question until Andy Reid took over in 2013 and began leading the Chiefs to many victories.

### **2011 Todd Haley, Coach #11**

### **2011 Romeo Crennell, Coach # 12**

The 2011 Kansas City Chiefs football team competed in the franchise' fifty-second season of Professional Football. It was their forty-second season in the NFL, and their forty-ninth as the Kansas

City Chiefs. They were led this year by Head Coach Todd Haley in his third and last of three seasons with KC. The combined team record of Haley & Crennel was 7-9, good enough for fourth place in the AFC West.

Near the end of the season, management was unhappy with Todd and they replaced him with Romeo Crennel for the last three games. The Chiefs failed to improve on their 10–6 record in 2010.

The NFL avoided another strike this year. On July 25, the NFLPA and the NFL owners agreed on a new collective bargaining agreement. The Chiefs training camp began on July 29 in St. Joseph, MO. The Chiefs played their first preseason game on August 12 against the Tampa Bay Buccaneers.

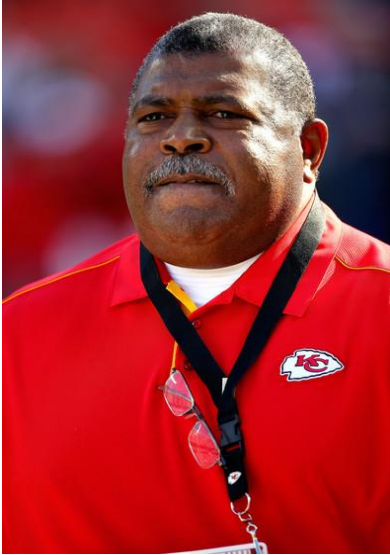
Despite entering the season with high expectations, even with their tough schedule, they did not earn their first win until Week 4 against the Minnesota Vikings and finished the first quarter of the season with a disappointing 1–3 record. The news did not get much better as soon the team was 5-8. After this point, Chiefs top brass had enough of Todd Haley despite his 10-6 record the prior year. They fired him after a 37–10 loss to the New York Jets and replaced by defensive coordinator Romeo Crennel on an interim basis for the remainder of the season.

Looking for the sunny side of things, there was one shiny bright spot—the first game after Crennel took over as interim head coach. It was an upset win against the then 13–0 Green Bay Packers to ruin their perfect season hopes (though the Packers still finished with a 15–1 record). When there is nothing much else, bragging rights sometimes is all that's left.

## **2012 Romeo Crennel, Coach # 12**

The 2012 Kansas City Chiefs football team competed in the franchise' fifty-third season of Professional Football. It was their forty-third season in the NFL, and their fiftieth as the Kansas City Chiefs. They were led this year by Head Coach Romeo Crennel in his first and final season with KC. Crennel had a terrible record of 2-14 lucky to gain fourth place in the AFC West





As noted, head coach Romeo Crennel had served as the interim head coach for the final three games of the 2011 season following Todd Haley's termination. The Chiefs failed to rebound from their 7–9 record in 2011, and were eliminated from playoff contention in Week 12. Although sharing the same 2–14 record as the Jacksonville Jaguars for the worst record of the season, the Chiefs were statistically the worst team overall, and thereby "earned" the right to the first pick in the 2013 NFL Draft.

Perhaps the only bright moment for the Chiefs this season was rallying from a big 24–6 deficit against the New Orleans Saints during their season. The Chiefs went 0–12 against AFC opponents in 2012 and their only wins of the season were against NFC teams--t Carolina and New Orleans. In 2017, ESPN.com retroactively named the 2012 season the Chiefs worst season in franchise history. Musical coaches sometimes is the worst of all choices for a team.



# Chapter 10 Coach Andy Reid 2013—

## Coach #13 Andy Reid



Andy Reid clutching the Chief's Super Bowl Victory Symbol

<u>Year</u>	<u>Coach</u>	<u>Conf</u>	<u>Div</u>	<u>Pl</u>	<u>W-L-T</u>
2013	Andy Reid	NFLAFC	West	2 <sup>nd</sup>	11-5-0
	•	Lost Wild Card Playoffs (at Colts) 45–44			
2014	Andy Reid	NFLAFC	West	2 <sup>nd</sup>	9-7-0
2015	Andy Reid	NFLAFC	West	2 <sup>nd</sup>	11-5-0
	•	Won Wild Card Playoffs (at Texans) 30–0			
	•	Lost Divisional Playoffs (at Patriots) 27–20			
	•	Marcus Peters (DROY)			
	•	Eric Berry (CPOY)			
2016	Andy Reid	NFLAFC	West	1 <sup>st</sup>	12-4-0
	•	Lost Divisional Playoffs (Steelers) 18–16			
2017	Andy Reid	NFLAFC	West	1 <sup>st</sup>	10-6- 0
	•	Lost Wild Card Playoffs (Titans) 22–21			
2018	Andy Reid	NFLAFC	West	1 <sup>st</sup>	12-4-0
	•	Won Divisional Playoffs (Colts) 31–13			
	•	Lost AFC Championship (Patriots) 37–31 (OT)			
	•	Patrick Mahomes (MVP, OPOY)			
2019	Andy Reid	NFLAFC	West	1 <sup>st</sup>	12-4-0
	•	Won Divisional Playoffs (Texans) 51–31			
	•	Won AFC Championship (Titans) 35–24			
	•	Won Super Bowl LIV (3) (vs. 49ers) 31–20			
	•	Patrick Mahomes (Super Bowl LIV MVP)			

## Andy Reid—Big Difference maker—KC Chiefs

**Q: Who is Andy Reid?**

**A: One heck of a great football coach**

Coaching football is what Andy Reid is all about.

Andy Reid got his interview somehow with the Philadelphia Eagles despite being unknown by his future fan base. But, he was well known as a master tactician in the league. When team officials got a look at his 6-inch binder containing notes on how to build a winning team, he clinched the job. Andy was known in Philadelphia as always able to win but he had his disappointments. It took him 21 years and two teams to win it all. Kansas City is so glad that Andy came their way.

Reid is a young 60-year old whose history includes leading the Eagles to five NFC championship games and a Super Bowl appearance in 2004. Big Red was born in Los Angeles in 1958 and attended John Marshall High. At 13 he appeared live on Monday Night Football during the Punt, Pass and Kick competition. After playing offensive line at Glendale Community College, he starred at BYU from 1978 to 1980. He converted to the LDS faith while in college and met his wife Tammy in a P.E. class at BYU.

He played offensive lineman for BYU and he blocked for All-American QB Jim McMahon. He still carries the nickname of Big Red. Before coaching at Philadelphia and Kansas City, he had a few other coaching jobs such as a graduate assistant at BYU and for nine years and he was an offensive line coach at four different colleges.

When he was discovered by Philadelphia, he had been an assistant to Mike Holmgren for seven years at Green Bay. His jobs varied but included teaching the tight ends, the quarterbacks, and the offensive line how to do their jobs for the Packers. He was known across the league for his skill and football acumen. Philadelphia was not his only offer.

As a lifelong Pennsylvanian, I remember when Andy Reid came to Philadelphia. After following the Eagles' Rich Kotite and the one-time promising Ray Rhodes as head coach of the Eagles, many

Eagles fans were looking for some Mike Holmgren magic. That would have been great.

After all, as head coach of the Packers, Holmgren posted a 75–37–0 (67.0%) regular-season record, a 9–5 (64.3%) postseason mark, and two Super Bowl appearances, including a 35–21 victory over the New England Patriots in Super Bowl XXXI. Other than the Super Bowl win, Andy Reid was every bit as good for the Eagles as Mike Holmgren was for the Packers. Reid delivered but after 14 years with no Super Bowl rings, the Eagles decided to let Andy go.

Originally, the Eagles considered hiring Mike Holmgren, Reid's boss in Green Bay, as head coach to replace Ray Rhodes, who was fired after leading the Eagles to a league-worst 3–13 season. Holmgren instead opted to join the Seattle Seahawks instead, but advised Eagles owner Jeff Lurie to hire Reid.

Here is a snapshot of Andy Reid's 14-year history in Philadelphia. Look at all the great seasons.

#### KC Coach #13 Andy Reid Season Summaries

<u>Year</u>	<u>Coach</u>	<u>Conf</u>	<u>Div</u>	<u>Pl</u>	<u>W-L-T</u>
1999	Andy Reid	NFC	East	<b>5th</b>	5-11-0
2000	Andy Reid	NFC	East	<b>2nd</b>	11- 5- 0,
	•	Won Wild Card Playoffs(Buccaneers)			21–3
	•	Lost Divisional Playoffs (at Giants)			10–20
2001	Andy Reid	NFC	East,	<b>1st</b>	11-5-0
	•	Won Wild Card Playoffs(Buccaneers)			31–9
	•	Won Divisional Playoffs (at Bears)			33–19
	•	Lost NFC Championship (at Rams)			24–29
2002	Andy Reid	NFC	East	<b>1st</b>	12-4-0,
	•	Won Divisional Playoffs(Falcons)			20–6
	•	Lost NFC Championship(Buccaneers)			10–27
	•	Andy Reid, Coach of year			
2003	Andy Reid	NFC	East	<b>1st</b>	12-4-0
	•	Won Divisional Playoffs(Packers)			20–17 (OT)
	•	Lost NFC Championship(Panthers)			3–14
2004	Andy Reid	NFC	East	<b>1st</b>	13-3-0
	•	Won Divisional Playoffs(Vikings)			27–14
	•	Won NFC Championship(Falcons)			27–10
	•	Lost Super Bowl XXXIX (vs. Patriots)			21–24
2005	Andy Reid	NFC	East	<b>4th</b>	6-10-0
2006	Andy Reid	NFC	East	<b>1st</b>	10-6-0
	•	Won Wild Card Playoffs(Giants)			23–20
	•	Loat Divisional Playoffs (at Saints)			24–27
2007	Andy Reid	NFC	East	<b>4th</b>	8-8-0
2008	Andy Reid	NFC	East	<b>2nd</b>	9-6-1
	•	Won Wild Card Playoffs (at Vikings)			26–14
	•	Won Divisional Playoffs (at Giants)			23–11

						• Lost NFC Championship (at Cardinals) 25–32
2009	Andy Reid	NFC	East	<b>2nd</b>	11-5-0	
						• Lost Wild Card Playoffs (at Cowboys) 14–34
2010	Andy Reid	NFC	East	<b>1st</b>	10- 6-0	
						• Lost Wild Card Playoffs(Packers) 16–21
2011	Andy Reid	NFC	East	<b>2nd</b>	8-8-0,	
2012	Andy Reid	NFC	East	<b>4th</b>	4- 12-0	
<b><u>1999-2012 Andy Reid final record (140-102-1)</u></b>						

## Great Coach--Andy Reid

When Andy Reid was hired from Green Bay, Packers coach Mike Holmgren was viewed as a master and Reid, one of his protégé's was quite welcome in Philadelphia. As a way of an introduction, the below piece was in the Philadelphia Inquirer announcing the great happening for Philadelphia readers. Thank you to Phil Sheridan and the Inquirer:

In the six seasons before he was fired from Philadelphia and he became coach of the Chiefs, the Chiefs were playing poorly. They were terrible. They won only 29 total games in six years, and made just one playoff appearance. The pre-Reid Chiefs had four seasons in which they won just four games or fewer. Anybody who could coach well in the pros, should have been able to rescue them but their last two coaches could not. Who actually got the turnaround done? It was Andy Reid! And he turned the KC team around immediately. There was no delay.

The Chiefs were 2-14 in 2012, while Andy Reid was putting in his last year at Philadelphia. Poof! Just one year later, with Andy Reid on the sidelines, without a customary two or three years wait for his system to be installed, the Chiefs were 11-5. We both know that all the magic of that great season was because of one man—Andy Reid. He is a great coach. The Chiefs gained 2nd place in the AFC West and they made the playoffs. Then, again in the Wild Card match against the Colts, they found defeat again in a 45-44 loss. Still no Super Bowl but a great year nonetheless.

Under Reid, the Chiefs have been above .500 all seven seasons with the Eagles ex-coach. They made the playoffs five times and won consecutive AFC West titles for the first time in franchise history. Before the Super Bowl year, however, there was a little grumbling but not like in Philadelphia. Some newly inspired Chief's fans began to think they might be able to do better than flounder in oblivion at

playoff time. Some noticed that the Chiefs have not found much playoff success, winning just once before recently in the postseason. The Eagles fans had this same suspicion for quite a while.

The pundits say Andy Reid had a long history of inexplicable and bewildering time-management gaffes—and his penchant for early postseason exits was well understood by the Eagles and Eagles fans. His records were so good, however, good ole Andy was always deserving of another chance until at Philadelphia he had two bad seasons in a row and the last was one of the Eagles worst seasons ever.

Reid's reputation had become one of head-scratching postseason coaching decisions and it seemed well-earned. The first example what comes to mind is the lazy, meandering 13-play touchdown drive for Reid's Eagles late in Super Bowl XXXIX. Sure, it cut the Patriots' lead down to three points with under two minutes left, but it took up nearly four minutes of precious fourth-quarter time and it left the team with little room to accomplish the desired result of a comeback attempt and ultimately, a win.

Reid had similar issues with the Chiefs, yet he coached mostly well just like with the Eagles. There is a well-documented January 2016 Chief's finish that you may recall. This comeback attempt took 16-plays to drive 80-yards and it gave the Patriots a divisional round victory over the Chiefs. This huge drive once again pulled Reid's team to within one score late in the game while simultaneously giving the Chiefs no time to actually win the contest.

There are plenty of other examples to throw in, but his teams' perennial lack of urgency and inability to finish in big games—not his ability to design and deploy fun, creative offensive schemes and winning strategies—hade become Reid's calling card. Say it ain't so Joe. Andy is so likeable. But as a team fan I suffered myself wondering what was going on. That was until Patrick Mahomes and Andy Reid brought home the big one in 2020.

Give credit where due, however, would the Chiefs have ever made the playoffs without Andy Reid? I can think of few coaches who could have masterminded a winning team structure and could inject

creativity into the play calling. Andy Reid always got his teams so close to the big dance that they could smell the pizza inside. But...

In January 2018, the recognized maladies surfaced once again in the playoff game against the Tennessee Titans as the Chief's offense, which started strong and dominated the first half with 264 yards of offense and 16 first downs should not have been overtaken by anybody's comeback but...

For Reid, the odds of shedding his playoff-choker reputation may have been insurmountable but he overcame them and got his big win. He is no longer the poster child of "close but no cigar." We knew that the great Andy Reid's mind could win and he did.

Andy's great seasons with the Chiefs follow:

### **2013 Andy Reid, Coach # 13**

The 2013 Kansas City Chiefs football team competed in the franchise' fifty-fourth season of Professional Football. It was their forty-fourth season in the NFL, and their fifty-first as the Kansas City Chiefs. They were led this year by Head Coach Andy Reid in his first of many seasons with KC. Andy Reid cleaned up Crennel's 2-14 mess from last year with a playoff season and an 11-5 record—not too shabby. The Chiefs took 2<sup>nd</sup> place in the AFC West but made the playoffs and lost in the WC Game to Indianapolis.

After their 26–16 defeat of the Philadelphia Eagles in week 3, the Chiefs beat their 2-game win total from 2012. After defeating the New York Giants 31–7 in week 4, the Chiefs became the first team in NFL history to win 2 or fewer games in the previous season, and win the first 4 games the next.

On October 13, 2013 against the Oakland Raiders, Chiefs fans broke the Guinness World Record for loudest crowd roar at an outdoor stadium with 137.6 decibels. Seattle Seahawks fans later reclaimed the record on December 2, 2013, with a roar of 137.6 decibels. After the Indianapolis Colts defeated the Denver Broncos in week 7, the Chiefs were the final undefeated team in the NFL. They were the first team in NFL history to earn the number one draft pick and be the last undefeated team in consecutive years.



The Chiefs clinched a playoff berth, but lost to the Indianapolis Colts in the Wild Card round of the playoffs by a score of 45–44, after blowing a 38–10 second half lead, extending an 8-game playoff losing streak dating back to the 1993 season, which was the worst in NFL history.

## Top Chiefs Players Alex Smith, QB, 2013-2017



Photo of Alex Smith by Jay Biggerstaff-USA TODAY Sports

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Alex Smith, arrived in KC from a trade with the 49ers in 2013. He saved the Chiefs from the quarterback purgatory that had plagued the franchise since the mid-2000s. He was a known QB entity and one of the best. He's one of only three Chiefs quarterbacks ever to record a perfect passer rating in a game. Smith also holds the highest completion rate in a single season by a Chiefs QB with 67.5 percent in 2017.

Smith led the Chiefs to their first postseason win since the 1993 season with a 30-0 blowout of the Houston Texans on Jan. 9, 2016. Smith's tutelage of Patrick Mahomes helped the 2018 NFL MVP

learn how to operate as a professional. That alone is worthy of a spot on this list.

## Top Chiefs Players Travis Kelce, TE, 2013-present



Photo of Travis Kelce by Ed Mulholland-USA TODAY Sports

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Travis Kelce was a third-round draft pick out of the University of Cincinnati in 2013. He didn't play any during his rookie season after undergoing microfracture surgery on his knee, but in 2014 he emerged as one of the best tight ends in the NFL.

In six seasons as a starter, Kelce has vaulted himself into third place in franchise history with 507 receptions and sixth with 6,465 receiving yards. He broke the team record for the most receptions in a season with 103 in 2018, topping the previous mark set by Tony Gonzalez in 2004 by one catch. Kelce has been named to the Pro Bowl in each season since 2015.

### Games of the 2013 Season

In the season opener at Jacksonville on September 8, 2013, the Chiefs beat the Jaguars W (28–2) at EverBank Field. Then, on Sept 15, the Chiefs defeated the Dallas Cowboys W (17–16) at home in Arrowhead Stadium. On Sept 19 at Philadelphia, the Chiefs

defeated the Eagles W (26–16) at Lincoln Financial Field. Then, on Sept 29 at NY, the Chiefs overpowered the Giants W (31–7) at home in Arrowhead Stadium.

At Tennessee on Oct 6, the Chiefs won their fifth game in a row v the Titans W (26–17) at LP Field. Then, on Oct 13, the Chiefs pounded the Oakland Raiders W (24–7) at home in Arrowhead Stadium. On Oct 20 at home, the Chiefs won a one-point decision against the Houston Texans W (17–16) in Arrowhead Stadium. On Oct 27. The Chiefs defeated the Cleveland Browns W (23–17) at home in Arrowhead Stadium. At Buffalo on Nov 3, the Chiefs beat the Bills W (23–13) for the ninth win of the year for the Chiefs against no losses. The game was played in Ralph Wilson Stadium. In week 10, the Chiefs drew a bye.

All good things must come to an end. Andy Reid delivered nine wins in a row to begin his first season with Kansas City, including a win v his old squad, the Eagles. But, on Nov 17 at Denver, the Broncos broke the streak, defeating the Chiefs L (17–27) at Sports Authority Field at Mile High Recap. On November 24 the San Diego Chargers edged out the Chiefs L (38–41) at home in Arrowhead Stadium. Then, on December 1, the Denver Broncos made it three losses in a row at home L (28-35) in Arrowhead Stadium. The Chiefs got their moxie back on Dec 8 at Washington by pounding the Redskins W (45–10) at FedExField.

At Oakland, on Dec 15, the Chiefs shellacked the Raiders W (56–31) at O.co Coliseum. Then, on Dec 22, the Indianapolis Colts beat the Chiefs L (7–23) at Arrowhead Stadium. At San Diego in OT. On Dec 29, the Chargers edged out the Chiefs in the season finale L (24–27) at Qualcomm Stadium, finishing the year with a fine 11-5 record.

## Wild Card Playoffs January 4, 2014

In the AFC WC game, on January 4, 2014, the Chiefs lost by one point against the Indianapolis Colts L (44-45) in Lucas Oil Stadium.

**AFC: Indianapolis Colts 45, Kansas City Chiefs 44**

At Lucas Oil Stadium, Indianapolis, Indiana

The Andy Reid KC Chiefs had a fine season with an 11-5 record which put them in the thick of the Wildcard playoffs. The playoff curse emerged to defeat Andy Reid in his first shot at a playoff victory. This was truly a game in which the Chiefs managed to secure defeat from the jaws of a sure victory or so it seemed. KC was awaiting the playoff jinx to end. Not this year!

The colts were way behind 38–10 after a poor first half. They made up for the first half in a barrage of scoring that began just a few minutes into the third quarter. The Colts scored 35 second half points to overcome a 28-point deficit to win, 45–44. This was a shocker for KC and its fans and coaching staffs. There had been light victory celebrations before the victory. It was the second biggest comeback victory in NFL postseason history, just behind the Buffalo Bills' 32-point deficit when they came back 41–38 in a Wild Card game win against the Houston Oilers in 1992.

For Kansas City, the loss extended their playoff win drought to 20 years.

It was tough going from the start for the Chiefs. Starting running back Jamaal Charles was knocked out of the game on their opening drive. Before this, he had rushed three times for 18 yards as the team drove 84 yards in 14 plays. Chiefs QB Quarterback Alex Smith added a 16-yard run, and converted the drive's only third down with a 7-yard touchdown pass to Dwayne Bowe.

Indianapolis QB Andrew Luck quickly led his team back with seven consecutive completions for 74 yards. Four of these went to T. Y. Hilton, including a 24-yarder and a 10-yard touchdown catch to tie the game at 7.

After the kickoff, Smith completed a 68-yard pass to Bowe at the Colts 2-yard line. But the team could not get into the end zone with their next three attempts and had to settle for Ryan Succop's 19-yard field goal to take a 10–7 lead. After the Colts pulled a three-and-out, Smith launched a 79-yard touchdown bomb to Donnie Avery, increasing the Chiefs lead to 17–7 just 21 seconds into the second quarter.

The situation continued kept improving for KC and deteriorating for Indianapolis. During their next possession, Trent Richardson lost a fumble that linebacker Justin Houston recovered and returned seven yards to the Colts 17-yard line. Two plays later, Smith hit on a 5-yard TD pass to fullback Anthony Sherman. It was a shovel pass that made the score 24–7.

The Colts began a brief comeback with a 61-yard scoring drive in which Luck completed a 16-yard pass to Griff Whalen and rushed for a 21-yard gain. He had faked a handoff up the middle on a fourth and 1 conversion. The Chiefs stopped their drive for a TD and Adam Vinatieri finished it with a 37-yard field goal, cutting the score to 24–10.

Next time out, Smith passed and ran the ball four times for 24 yards then completing five passes for 33. This KC 81-yard drive ended finished with Knile Davis' 4-yard touchdown run, putting the Chiefs up 31–10. They looked invincible/ The Colts managed to reach midfield on their next possession, but defensive back Brandon Flowers intercepted a pass from Luck to keep them from scoring before halftime.

The 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter began with the Chiefs looking like victors. They were not done scoring. On the first play of the second half, defensive back Husain Abdullah intercepted Luck and returned the ball four yards to the Colts' 18-yard line. This set up Smith's 10-yard scoring toss to Davis that put Kansas City up by 28, 38–10. They appeared to be in complete control of the game, but Indianapolis suddenly found something in the air and on the ground. They stormed back with 14 unanswered points.

Luck began with a 46-yard completion to reserve receiver Da'Rick Rogers moving the pigskin to the Chiefs' 10-yard line. Don Brown then ran the ball into the end zone on the next play. On the D side, Colts' Linebacker Robert Mathis forced a fumble while sacking Smith, and fellow linebacker Kelvin Sheppard recovered for the Colts on the Chiefs' 41-yard line just before it went out of bounds. Football is a game of inches. The offense with Luck completing four out of five passes, finished the TD with a 3-yard scoring toss to

Brown that cut the score to 38–24. The Colts could not keep up such great play...but they did.

The Chiefs went three and out giving the ball back quickly to the inspired Colts. Following the Chiefs punt, Abdullah intercepted another pass from Luck. Kansas City had stopped a big hurt it seemed. The Chiefs took over on the Indianapolis 28-yard line, and scored on a 42-yard Succop field goal to give them a 17-point lead, 41–24, with just over five minutes left in the third quarter.

Luck would not stand for the setback. He quickly led the Colts back, completing a 25-yard pass to Brown on the first play of the next possession, and later hooking up with LaVon Brazill for a 35-yard gain. He finished the drive with a 12-yard TD pass to tight end Coby Fleener. Then after a three-and-out, Kansas City punter Dustin Colquitt's 31-yard boot pinned Indianapolis back at their own 10-yard line. But it did not stop the Colts.

Luck then completed five out of six passes for 61 yards and rushed for 12 on a 90-yard scoring drive. On the last play, Brown fumbled the ball while trying to run it into the end zone, but it bounced right back into the hands of Andrew Luck, who took it across the goal line himself for a touchdown. With this score, the lead was cut to 41–38 with 10:38 left in the game. The Colts had plenty of time to win.

The Chiefs got a 27-yard A. J. Jenkins' 27-yard reception, and managed to run the clock down to 5:36 with their next drive. Succop finished it off with a 43-yard field goal to put the team up by six points. It looked like it could go either way.

Then, just three plays after the Chief's kickoff, Luck fired a deep pass to Hilton over the middle, who caught it without breaking stride and took off for a 64-yard touchdown. This gave the Colts their first lead of the game at 45–44. KC still had plenty of time to mount a comeback. With 4:21 left to play, the Chiefs were in desperation mode. Their objective was to get in range for a go-ahead field goal.

Smith started the drive with a pair of completions to Bowe for 38 yards. But after a 3-yard running play moved the ball to the Colts 39-yard line, Smith was flagged for a 10-yard intentional grounding

penalty. The next play netted the team six yards, bringing up fourth down and 11. On the next play, Smith threw a deep pass to Bowe along the right sideline. Bowe made a leaping catch with enough yardage for a first down, but when he landed, he had just one foot in bounds. This gave the Colts back the ball after, the turnover on downs.

Indianapolis had little trouble running out the rest of the clock. For Kansas City in this game, Smith finished with 30-for-46 for 378 yards and four touchdowns, while also rushing for 57 yards. His top receiver Bowe, caught eight passes for 150 yards and a touchdown. Davis rushed for 67 yards, caught seven passes for 33 yards, and scored two touchdowns. Abdullah had six tackles and two interceptions. KC had played well enough to win.

For Indianapolis, Luck finished 29-for-45 for 443 yards and four touchdowns, with three interceptions. He also rushed for 45 yards and scored a fumble recovery touchdown. Hilton caught 13 passes for 224 yards – the third highest total in postseason history – and two touchdowns. Luck made sure his team won the game. Both teams combined for 1,049 total yards (513 for Kansas City, 536 for Indianapolis), an NFL postseason record. This was the first wildcard playoff game ever to feature two former number one draft picks at quarterback; Smith in 2005 and Luck in 2012. This was the eighth consecutive playoff loss for Kansas City, an NFL record. With Andy Reid at the helm, KC fans were looking forward to the future again after the playoffs again were a big disappointment.

### **2014 Andy Reid, Coach # 13**

The 2014 Kansas City Chiefs football team competed in the franchise' fifty-fifth season of Professional Football. It was their forty-fifth season in the NFL, and their fifty-second as the Kansas City Chiefs. They were led this year by Head Coach Andy Reid in his second of many seasons with KC. Andy Reid had cleaned up Crennel's 2-14 mess from the prior year in 2013 but did not do as well on 2014 sliding to a 9-7 record and 2<sup>nd</sup> place in the AFC West.

The Chiefs were a new team with the great Andy Reid as coach. Nothing was impossible. In fact, the Chiefs broke the crowd noise record on Monday Night Football against the New England Patriots on September 29, 2014 with a crowd roar of 142.2 decibels.

Outstanding cheering

The Chiefs did not match their 11–5 record from 2013, and missed the playoffs this year . However, they were not easy to beat.

### **2015 Andy Reid, Coach # 13**

The 2015 Kansas City Chiefs football team competed in the franchise' fifty-sixth season of Professional Football. It was their forty-sixth season in the NFL, and their fifty-third as the Kansas City Chiefs. They were led this year by Head Coach Andy Reid in his third of many seasons with KC. Andy Reid's squad achieved an 11-5 record and another 2<sup>nd</sup> place in the AFC West. No firsts yet, for Andy Reid but another great record.

The Chiefs went through a poor start in their first 6 games as they were 1–5, and lost their star running back, Jamaal Charles due to a torn ACL in his right knee during an 18–17 Week 5 loss at home against the Chicago Bears.

They did come back strong. In fact, in week 16, after their 9th consecutive victory and the Baltimore Ravens defeating the Pittsburgh Steelers, the Chiefs clinched a playoff berth, their 2nd in 3 years.

## **Wild Card Playoffs, January 9, 2016**

On January 9, 2016 at Houston , the Chiefs defeated the Texans W (30–01) at NRG StadiumRecap

### **AFC: Kansas City Chiefs 30, Houston Texans 0**

At NRG Stadium in Houston, Texas

After 20 years of close calls in playoff games, Kanas City finally got its big win, 30-0. The Chiefs had a rocky start to the season 1–5,



before they won their next 10 games. In this game, they forced five turnovers and held the Texans to 226 total yards as they earned their first postseason win since the 1993 season (a game also played at Houston, against the Oilers). It was the first shutout victory in an NFL playoff game in 10 years. It is the first (and to date only) time the Texans have been shut out at home. Kansas City knew it needed two more wins to get to the Super Bowl but it celebrated its victory anyway.

Starting strong, KC running back Knile Davis gave his team a 7–0 lead just 11 seconds into the game by returning the opening kickoff 106 yards for a touchdown, making him the first player to score a touchdown on the first kickoff of an NFL postseason. After 20 years of other records, the Chiefs loved setting a positive record such as the 106 yd scamper by Davis.

A punt exchange. And tan interception exchanges, saw quarterback Brian Hoyer being picked off by Eric Berry and Alex Smith returned the favor with a pass that bounced out of the hands of Jeremy Maclin and was intercepted by linebacker Brian Cushing.

The Chiefs found Houston knocking on their goal line as the Texans had driven to the 30-yard line. However, that was that. On 3rd-and-7, Hoyer lost a fumble while being sacked by Allen Bailey, and defensive tackle Dontari Poe recovered it on the Chiefs' 42-yard line. Kansas City subsequently drove 27 yards, including an 18-yard catch by tight end Travis Kelce, to go up 10–0 on a 49-yard Cairo Santos field goal.

When the Chiefs got the ball back. Kelce caught a 25-yard pass on a 40-yard drive that ended on another 49-yard field goal by Santos, making the score 13–0. Houston took the ball back and drove to the Kansas City 3-yard line, but linebacker Josh Mauga's intercepted the ball which kept the Texans off the scoreboard going into the second half.

Houston was fired up and began a drive to the Chiefs' 40-yard line, but ended up punting. Shane Lechler's 34-yd punt put KC on their own 6-yard line with a 34-yard punt. Even after two holding penalties against the Chiefs, one of which nullified a 64-yard

scramble by Smith, they drove the distance—94 yards in 11 plays for their first touchdown. Maclin was a key part of the drive, catching two passes for 23 yards, though on the second one he suffered a game-ending injury; Smith also completed a 16-yard pass to Kelce and finished the drive with a 9-yard touchdown pass to rookie receiver Chris Conley, give the Chiefs a 20–0 lead.

The Texans were forced to punt after a three and out. KC then drove 71 yards in eight plays, featuring a 48-yard reception by Kelce, to score on 5-yard touchdown run by Spencer Ware. Houston took the ball to the Chiefs' 24-yard line, only to lose it when Bailey again forced a fumble in the process of delivering a sack to Hoyer on fourth down.

The Texans' defense forced a punt, but Dustin Colquitt's 56-yard kick pinned them back on their 8-yard line. On the next play, Hoyer was intercepted by Sean Smith on the 20-yard line, leading to Santos' third field goal to make the final score a delicious 30–0 for Kansas City..

Alex Smith completed 17 of 22 passes for 190 yards with a touchdown and an interception. His top target was Kelce, who caught eight passes for 128 yards, while Ware was the top rusher for the Chiefs with 67 yards and a touchdown. Bailey had four tackles, two sacks, and two forced fumbles.

Hoyer completed just 15 of 34 passes for 134 yards and was intercepted four times. Alfred Blue was the game's leading rusher with 99 yards on 17 carries. Cushing had 13 tackles and an interception, while linebacker Whitney Mercilus had five tackles and three sacks. The smiles on the faces of Andy Reid and his Chiefs lasted so long they looked like they had been painted on by a professional.

## **Divisional Playoffs January 16, 2016**

**Kansas City 20; New England 27**

*@ Gillette Stadium*

On January 16, 2016 at the New England Patriots, the Chiefs lost to the Brady Bunch L (20–27) in a close match at Gillette Stadium.

Andy Reid's career was filled with years of having a hard time delivering in the playoffs. This was just another one of those years. But, he had won the first playoff game for KC just the week before against the Texans. Additionally, KC fans knew that he was the best coach to come along in a long time. Nice Job Andy!

In the game as played in Gillette Stadium in FOXBOROUGH, Mass, the scene was all too familiar. Tom Brady took off for the end zone and dived for the pylon, taking a helmet in the back as his body sailed over the goal line. The Chiefs lost again.

The ball stayed out, but it didn't matter. The reigning Super Bowl MVP carried it in for a score on the next play, reaching over the line to convert in a way Kansas City could not do on this particular Saturday. Brady beat the Chiefs as he did many other teams in a period over fifteen years.

In the big game, Tom Brady threw for two touchdowns to Rob Gronkowski and sneaked in for one more. The defending Super Bowl champions NE Patriots gained their fifth straight AFC title game with this 27-20 victory over the Chiefs.

KC wishes there was more to their story but Andy Reid at least got them there. New England was moving on and the Chiefs were staying home. The 13-4 Pats were ready to meet the winner of Sunday's game between the Pittsburgh Steelers and the Denver Broncos for a spot in Super Bowl 50. The Patriots picked up all the marbles in winning the Super Bowl again.

Alex Smith completed 29 of 50 passes for 246 yards and one touchdown for Kansas City (12-6). The Chiefs had won 11 consecutive games, including a 30-0 victory over Houston in the wild-card round last week for their first playoff victory since 1993. Andy Reid was auditioning for a big game that would occur after the 2019 season in 2020.

## 2016 Andy Reid, Coach # 13

The 2016 Kansas City Chiefs football team competed in the franchise's fifty-seventh season of Professional Football. It was their forty-seventh season in the NFL, and their fifty-fourth as the Kansas City Chiefs. They were led this year by Head Coach Andy Reid in his fourth of many seasons with KC. Andy Reid's squad achieved a fine 12-4 record and 1st place in the AFC West this year. This was Andy's first 1st place with the Chiefs.

This year, the Chiefs went through a poor start in their first 6 games as they were 1–5, and they lost their star running back, Jamaal Charles due to a torn AC. He injured his knee during a week 5 loss in which he tore his right knee during an 18–17 loss at home against the Chicago Bears.

## 2016 Divisional Playoffs

KC did not have to play a Wild Card game. They got a bye.

In the Divisional Playoffs v Pittsburgh, they lost, L (16-18). In a close match. The elements were against playing the game as it was supposed to have started at 1:05 PM, EST, but was pushed back to 8:00 PM due to inclement weather. This was the ever divisional round playoff game in NFL history to premiere on Sunday Night Football.

Pittsburgh had a good day compared to KC even though they could not get into the end zone. The Steelers had a guy named Chris Boswell who broke the postseason record by dunking six field goals which was just enough for Pittsburgh to become the first team to win a playoff game without scoring a touchdown since the 2006 Indianapolis Colts on their run to a victory in Super Bowl XLI.

The Steelers scored 3 points on the game's opening drive, moving the ball 65 yards in 11 plays on the way to Boswell's 22-yard field goal. KC quickly struck back after Demetrius Harris returned Boswell's short kickoff 25 yards to their 45-yard line. The Chiefs then drove 55 yards in six plays, including a 21-yard catch by Travis

Kelce, to score on Alex Smith's 5-yard touchdown pass to Albert Wilson, giving them a 7–3 lead.

The Steelers came right back, as Big Ben's 52-yard completion to Antonio Brown led to another Boswell field goal that made the score 7–6. They immediately went 53 yards in 14 plays, scoring on Boswell's third field goal, to grab a 9–7 lead with just over 9 minutes left in the half. The Steelers soon got another chance to score when linebacker Ryan Shazier intercepted a Smith pass on the Chiefs' 44-yard line.

Three plays later, Roethlisberger was intercepted in the end zone. Kansas City punted after three plays (3 & out) and Brown returned it 6 yards to the Chiefs' 45-yard line. Le'Veon Bell took the ball 5 times for 32 yards on a drive that ended with Boswell again plunking the ball between the uprights—his 4th field goal, this one from 45 yards. Now the score was 12–7. But, right before halftime, the Steelers almost scored again.

In the second half, Pittsburgh's Bell carried the ball five times for 49 yards, including a 38-yard rush on the first play. The team set up a 43-yard Boswell FG that put them up 15–7—five field goals wow! KC was down by 8 points. Both teams exchanged punts and Jordan Berry's short kick gave Kansas City the ball with good field position on the Steelers' 46-yard line.

Smith took over and connected on a 20-yard pass to Jeremy Maclin that set up Cairo Santos' 48-yard field goal. The deficit was then 15–10 with 10 seconds left in the third quarter. Roethlisberger got accurate with completions to Eli Rogers and Jesse James for gains for 14 and 23 yards respectively on their next drive moved the team into position for Boswell to kick another FG. This was his record-setting sixth field goal of the game. He plopped it in from 43 yards to give the team an 18–10 lead.

Chiefs QB Smith then hit Kelce for a 24-yard gain on their first play and Spencer Ware got 11 on the ground. A penalty pushed KC into a 2nd-and-25, and Smith got 17 back to Kelce and then 12 more on a completion to Chris Conley on 4th-and-8. So KC got to keep the ball. But, several plays later, with a 4th-and-2 on the Steelers' 4-yard

line, they clicked again with Smith's 3-yard pass to fullback Anthony Sherman.

Ware then scored on a 1-yard touchdown run on the next play that cut their deficit to 18–16. Smith completed a pass to Harris on the two-point conversion play, but it was EXed out on the scorecard by a holding penalty. The second attempt failed with 2:43 left and one timeout remaining.

KC still had a chance. They had to get the ball back first. When Justin Gilbert was tackled on the 5-yard line during the kick return, things briefly looked good for KC. But, Big Ben Roethlisberger made completions to Rogers and Brown for gains of 5 and 7 yards, and Pittsburgh kept the ball from KC. This gave Pitt a first down allowing the Steelers to run out the clock. Kansas City was so close the fans could taste it.

But, they failed in the end. Great season but not ability to close in the playoffs. A familiar echo. This was the 5th consecutive home playoff loss for Kansas City, setting a new NFL record. Meanwhile everybody in LC loved Andy Reid and the team but all were looking for a little more.

### **2017 Andy Reid, Coach # 13**

The 2017 Kansas City Chiefs football team competed in the franchise's fifty-eighth season of Professional Football. It was their forty-eighth season in the NFL, and their fifty-fifth as the Kansas City Chiefs. They were led this year by Head Coach Andy Reid in his fifth of many seasons with KC. Andy Reid's squad achieved a fine 10-6 record and 1st place in the AFC West this year. This was Andy's first 1st place with the Chiefs.

They made some organizational changes before the season began. For example, on June 22, they fired GM John Dorsey . On July 10, they promoted co-director of player personnel Brett Veach to GM. In another personnel change for the Chiefs, offensive coordinator Brad Childress was promoted to assistant head coach, leaving Matt Nagy as the only offensive coordinator. The Chiefs most notable transaction for fans in the off-season happened when they released all-time leading rusher Jamaal Charles after 9 seasons. After being

released, Charles signed with the Chiefs division rival, the Denver Broncos.

This year, the Chiefs went through a great start, winning their first 5 games as they were 5-0. During this period, it was following the Atlanta Falcons 23–17 loss to the Buffalo Bills in Week 4, that the Chiefs became the last undefeated team left in the NFL for the fourth time in team history, and the second time under Andy Reid, with the previous times being in 2003, 2010, and 2013.

After their superb 5–0 start, the Chiefs seem to have lost their mettle for the next 7 games. Their lone win in this stretch came against the Broncos. The Chiefs offense struggled, leading to head coach Andy Reid giving play calling duties during games to offensive coordinator Matt Nagy. Andy always loved calling the plays so this was an extreme measure.

After four straight losses, the Chiefs came back to win three straight games to win the AFC West for the second consecutive season. It was the first time in franchise history that the Chiefs have won back-to-back division titles. It also marked the Chiefs qualifying for the playoffs three consecutive seasons, which they had not done since they made six consecutive playoff appearances from 1990 to 1995.

They finished the season with a 10–6 record, earning the AFC's fourth seed in the playoffs. In the Wild Card round, the playoff jinx hit Andy Reid's team again as they would lose to the Tennessee Titans 22–21. In the game, the Chiefs was well ahead with a 21–3 lead at halftime, but they failed to score a single point in the second half.

This extended their NFL record to six straight home playoff losses. It was the second time under Andy Reid they lost a playoff game after being up by more than 10 points at halftime. The Chiefs have lost three consecutive playoff games, and have lost 11 of their last 12. The Chiefs first two wins of this season came against teams that eventually meet in Super Bowl LII to end the season. the New England Patriots and Philadelphia Eagles.

Additionally by beating the Patriots in Week 1, the Chiefs extended their winning streak against the defending Super Bowl champs to six (including both times they beat the Broncos the season after they won the Super Bowl). Andy Reid was looking for a lot of years for a consistent finish in the playoffs by winning. So far, he has been denied. But, we all know about 2019 and this book is going to take us there soon.

## **Top Chiefs Players Patrick Mahomes, QB, 2017-present**

Mahomes may have played only two seasons as the Chiefs' starting quarterback, but he's already accomplished some incredible feats, including leading the franchise to its first Super Bowl appearance in 50 years.

In 2018, he became one of only three quarterbacks to ever throw for 5,000 yards and 50 touchdowns in a season, joining Peyton Manning and Tom Brady.



Patrick Mahomes Photo by Cary Edmondson-USA TODAY Sports

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He holds franchise records for passing yards in a season (5,097), completions in a season (383), 300-yard passing games in a season



(10) and numerous other records. Despite missing two games to injury, Mahomes threw for 4,091 yards during the 2019 regular season.

## Wildcard Playoffs January 6, 2018

In the Wild Card game on January 6, 2018, the Chiefs lost by one point against the Tennessee Titans L (21–22) in Arrowhead Stadium.

### **AFC Wild Card Playoffs: Tennessee Titans 22 Kansas City 21** *@ Arrowhead Stadium, Kansas City*

In the first round of the playoffs, the Chiefs played the Tennessee Titans at home in Arrowhead Stadium. The Chiefs were looking to win their first home playoff game since 1994, after suffering 5 straight home playoff losses.

In the game, the Chiefs had a strong first half, building a 21–3 halftime lead and sending the KC home crowd into a frenzy. However, the Titans were able to catch up and go ahead by a point before the match were over. They batted down touchdown pass from Marcus Mariota to himself, to make the score 21–10. The Chiefs were not able to recover after this touchdown.

After this mistake, the Titans went on a rampage and outscored Kansas City 19–0 in the second half to win the game 22–21. The Chiefs seemed to have regained the lead but when the turnover was reviewed, the call was overturned and Tennessee kept the ball. Henry was then able to run for a first down on third down to seal the game. With the loss, the Chiefs ended their season at 10–7 and lost 6 straight home playoff games, the worst in NFL history. It was seasons like this that kept KC guessing about whether Andy Reid could deliver a Super Bowl.

### **2018 Andy Reid, Coach # 13**

The 2018 Kansas City Chiefs football team competed in the franchise's fifty-ninth season of Professional Football. It was their

forty-ninth season in the NFL, and their fifty-sixth as the Kansas City Chiefs. They were led this year by Head Coach Andy Reid in his sixth of many seasons with KC. Andy Reid's squad achieved a fine 12-4 record and 1st place in the AFC West this year. This was Andy Reid's third 1<sup>st</sup> place title with the Chiefs and the team's fourth playoff appearance. Andy Reid had proven to be a fine coach for the Chiefs..

Unfortunately, the Chiefs lost to the eventual Super Bowl Champion New England Patriots in the AFC Championship. Quarterback Patrick Mahomes won the AP NFL MVP award becoming the first Chiefs player to ever be named MVP. The chiefs literally were on deck for winning the Super Bowl but nobody was sure.

The Chiefs were preparing to be future super bowl champions and they had a good opportunity in 2018. In the offseason, they made several major changes, including trading 2-time Pro Bowler Marcus Peters, as well as Alex Smith. The team also voided the final year of the contract of their longest tenured player Derrick Johnson and they released long time linebacker Tamba Hali. They had a purpose for their strategic moves.

Under first year starting quarterback Patrick Mahomes, the Chiefs were virtually unbeatable. They began 2018 5-0 for the second consecutive year before losing to the New England Patriots. The Chiefs then won their next four games before losing again to the Los Angeles Rams.

They were not giving up and maintained their poise the whole season. For example, in week 14, they won a game against the Baltimore Ravens which assured the Chiefs' their fourth consecutive playoff appearance. In the season finale, they pounded their rival, the Oakland Raiders 35-3 in Week 17. This clinched their third consecutive division title and it gave them home-field advantage throughout the playoffs for the first time since 1997.

In the playoffs, the Chiefs advanced to the AFC Championship Game for the first time since 1993. They beat their playoff nemesis, the Indianapolis Colts, W (31-13) in the Divisional round. This win finally put an end to the Chiefs' 6-game home playoff losing streak

dating back to 1993. It was only the Chiefs' second win in their last 13 playoff games.

In the AFC Championship Game, the Chiefs almost pulled it off but lost to the eventual Super Bowl champion New England Patriots, 37–31 in overtime. Two days after the loss, defensive coordinator Bob Sutton was fired following multiple NFL analysts criticizing his lack of adjustments in the AFC Championship Game, as his decisions in some other games throughout the season.

## **AFC Divisional Championship January 12, 2019** **Kansas City Chiefs 31; Indianapolis Colts 13**

*@ Arrowhead Stadium*

In the Divisional Championship on January 12, 2019, the Chiefs defeated the Indianapolis Colts W (31–13). The game was played at the Chiefs home field of Arrowhead Stadium

Andy Reid's Kansas City Chiefs absolutely dominated the game the whole way through. They gained 433 yards and 29 first downs, while keeping the Colts to just 263 yards, 15 first downs and they got zero third down conversions with nine tries. From here, Kansas City would go to the AFC Championship Game for the first time since 1993 and the second time in franchise history.

The Chiefs gained 185 yards and nine first downs in the first quarter alone, while holding the Colts to 12 yards and no first downs. This was not the old Chiefs from the last twenty years.

After a Colts punt on the opening drive, new Kansas City quarterback Patrick Mahomes took charge of the team and marched them 75 yards in five plays, including his 44-yard completion to Sammy Watkins, to score on Damien Williams' 10-yard touchdown run.

The Colts then had to punt again and the Chiefs took the ball and stormed back for another touchdown. This time, they picked up 65

yards in eight plays to take a 14–0 lead with receiver Tyreek Hill's 36-yard touchdown run on an end around play.

The Colts third three and out gave KC the opportunity to take off for another scoring drive as the first quarter ended. Mahomes completed 5-of-10 passes for 47 yards as the team advanced 48 yards in 15 plays to go up 17–0 on Harrison Butker's 39-yard field goal.

With six minutes left in Q2, Indianapolis finally managed to strike back when Colts linebacker Najee Goode blocked Dustin Colquitt's punt and Zach Pascal recovered it in the end zone for a defensive touchdown to make the score 17–7. But the Colts' defense still could not stop the Chiefs as Mahomes completed a 30-yard pass to tight end Travis Kelce on the first play of their ensuing drive. One play later, Mahomes hooked up with Hill for a 14-yard completion on the Colts' 26-yard line. Kansas City did not stop until Mahomes finished the possession with a 4-yard touchdown run. The Chiefs then had a 24–7 lead.

With 1:40 left in the half, the Colts got the ball back. Andrew Luck completed a 21-yard pass to Eric Ebron, giving the Colts their (first) first-down of the game. He then hit a 12-yard pass to Dontrelle Inman. The Colts got to the Chiefs' 5-yard line, but with only three seconds left in the half, 46-year old kicker Adam Vinatieri hit the left upright on his 23-yard field goal attempt—his shortest missed field goal in 23 NFL seasons.

Kansas City failed to score at the start of the second half with a drive that got to the Colts' 33-yard line. The Colts had not stopped playing and Denico Autry sacked Mahomes on a 5-yard loss while Patrick was trying to convert on 4th-and-5.

Following some punts, Indianapolis got another opportunity when Darius Leonard forced and recovered a fumble from Watkins on the Chiefs' 20-yard line. The Colts had a short distance to paydirt but on the way, Chiefs lineman Dee Ford forced a fumble by sacking Luck. Linebacker Justin Houston recovered it with 50 seconds left in the third quarter.

The game went into idle as nothing of consequence happened again until 5:30 remained in the game. Luck engineered an 87-yard drive

and scored with a 29-yard touchdown pass to T. Y. Hilton, cutting the score to 24–13. Vinatieri missed the extra point. This was his first point missed ever in the postseason.

Any chance of a Colts' victory ended on the Chiefs' following drive, starting with Tremon Smith's 23-yard kickoff return to the Chiefs' 39-yard line. From there, the Chief's Damien Williams rushed seven times for 50 yards as the team drove 56 yards in nine plays to score on Darrel Williams' 6-yard rushing touchdown, making the score 31–13 and putting the game out of reach.

Mahomes played very well in his first playoff game 27-for-41 for 278 yards while also rushing for 8 yards and a touchdown. Kelce was his leading receiver with seven receptions for 108 yards, while Hill caught eight passes for 72 yards, rushed for 36 yards and a touchdown, and gained 6 yards returning punts.

Damien Williams, who had been thrust into the starting lineup late in the season to replace the departed Kareem Hunt and the injured Spencer Ware, finished his first playoff game with 25 carries for 129 yards and a touchdown, along with five receptions for 25 yards.

Houston had two tackles for a loss, two sacks and a fumble recovery. Luck completed 19-of-36 passes for 203 yards and a touchdown, while also rushing for 17 yards. Leonard had 14 tackles (10 solo), a forced fumble and a fumble recovery.

This would be Luck's last game in the NFL, as he retired before the beginning of the 2019 NFL season. Kansas City was now two games away from the Super Bowl and their next game was the following week on January 20, 2019

## **AFC Championship January 20, 2019**

In the AFC Championship, played on Jan 20, 2019 the New England Patriots tied the Chiefs and then won the game in OT L (31–37) at Arrowhead Stadium.

## **Kansas City Chiefs 31; New England Patriots 37**

*@Arrowhead Stadium in Kansas City*

The KC Chiefs learned a valuable lesson after their 37-31 overtime drubbing by the New England Patriots this year in the AFC Championship Game. Though they brought home-field advantage and a record-setting offense along with a generational talent at quarterback, to the field of play, they still lost. What is even better is they gained an understanding of how little things often lead to major success at this stage of the season. The Chiefs' season ended because the Patriots still knew best how to win games when they mattered the most. Ask Bill Belichick.

The 2019/2020 season would be a different kind of year. You'll see.

This game could have easily gone in the Chiefs' favor. It didn't because KC could not make stops at critical moments; could not produce enough key plays when the opportunities presented themselves; and they could not find an answer for Patriots quarterback Tom Brady.

Along with other factors, it was astonishing that New England limited the ability of the Chiefs' two best pass catchers -- Pro Bowl tight end Travis Kelce and Pro Bowl wide receiver Tyreek Hill -- to a total of four receptions for 65 yards. I am sure Andy Reid, a great coach in his won't right, picked up a few pointers watching the Patriots accomplish that.

The Chiefs trailed 14-0 at halftime. Why? They could not get it going. They scored 31 points in the final two quarters of regulation but not quite enough to win. Why? It was already too late. They could not stop Brady. Why? Because he played just like everybody expected Tom Brady to play. Heck, the Chiefs even lost the OT coin toss.

After winning the coin toss in overtime, the Pats' 14-time Pro Bowl quarterback calmly drove his team 75 yards on 13 plays, with running back Rex Burkhead scoring the game-winning touchdown on a 2-yard run. Brady faced third-and-10 three times in that possession and converted each one with a huge completion. Where was the D?

All-Pro quarterback Patrick Mahomes struggled to connect with his receivers in the first half (he finished with 16 completions in 31 attempts for 295 yards and three touchdowns). He faced more pressure than he'd been accustomed to seeing all season (the Patriots finished with four sacks). In other words, there was plenty of blame to go around in this one.

As Chiefs inside linebacker Reggie Ragland said: "When you get chances to beat the G.O.A.T. (Brady is often referred to as the 'Greatest of All Time'), you have to beat him."

"You have to take in the hurt," Mahomes added. "You have to accept that it hurts and it's supposed to hurt. You put in all this work and do everything you can to get to the Super Bowl and win it. To fall short, it's going to hurt and (Chiefs head coach Andy Reid) told us to accept that."

Mahomes knew why the Patriots succeeded in frustrating him in the first half. New England played man coverage extensively throughout the game and often assigned two defenders to shadow Kelce and Hill. KC had no real answer. Bill Belichick knew how to get his team to the big dance.

The Chiefs found some rhythm in the second half. They took a 21-17 lead after Mahomes hit Williams with a 23-yard touchdown pass in the fourth quarter. Mahomes also drove his team to a game-tying, 39-yard field goal by Harrison Butker after the Chiefs took over possession with just 39 seconds left in regulation.

Everything Mahomes displayed in those moments -- that impressive combination of calmness, determination and fearlessness -- is why Kansas City fans are so thrilled about next year and the years after that. And, of course Andy Reid knows how to get the most out of teams and individual players. Watch Andy's record in 2019.

### **2019 Andy Reid, Coach # 13**

The 2019 Kansas City Super Bowl Champion Chiefs football team competed in the franchise's sixtieth season of Professional Football.

It was their fiftieth season in the NFL, and their fifty-eighth as the Kansas City Chiefs. They were led this year by Head Coach Andy Reid in his eighth of hopefully many more seasons with KC.

This year, Andy Reid's squad achieved another fine 12-4 record and a fourth 1st place in the AFC West. It was also the team's fifth playoff appearance. Andy Reid had proven to be a fine coach for the Chiefs. Taking this team to the Super Bowl this year became a major milestone. Andy had never reached this in all his years of coaching in the NFL. Nobody can say that any more. Andy Reid found a way in 2019/2020. Great coaches find a way.

It was another active offseason for the Chiefs as they kept fine tuning the team to be the best in the world. They made some tough decisions such as releasing two of their longest-tenured players: Justin Houston and Eric Berry.

The team began the season with a 1-3 record at home. It was their worst record after four home games since 2012. However, they countered the home record with a perfect 4-0 record on the road. This was their best road record after four road games since 2013. Something was in the air.

It has always been a tough game when the Chiefs line up for a home or away game against the Patriots. The two teams have met each other 38 times (including 2 postseason games), with the New England Patriots winning 16 games and the Kansas City Chiefs winning 19 games. They have also tied 3 times. 2020 was a year of and for the Chiefs.

With a Week 14 Oakland Raiders loss and a win over the New England Patriots, the Chiefs clinched the AFC West, extending their team record division title streak to four consecutives. They also clinched the franchise's fifth consecutive playoff appearance. This was one short of the franchise record of six consecutive from 1990-1995. Andy Reid was always great at winning games and winning playoff games but he never got his team that big box of cigars. Well not yet!

The Chiefs were blazing hot all year and they finished undefeated in the AFC West for the second time under mentor Andy Reid. They



extended their record within the AFC West since 2015 to 27–3—not too shabby. The Chiefs also clinched their second straight bye to the Divisional round of the AFC playoffs due to a Week 17 win against the Los Angeles Chargers combined with a Patriots loss to the Miami Dolphins. They got a rest during Wildcard week.

The Chiefs were ready to win the Super Bowl that is unquestionable. In the Divisional round, the team defeated the Houston Texans 51–31. Yes, things did not look so good earlier in the game but despite falling behind 24–0 in the second quarter, they caught up and beat the Texans, giving the Chiefs playoff wins in back-to-back seasons for the first time in franchise history. The 51 points they scored was a franchise record for a postseason game.

That win, along with the Baltimore Ravens' loss the previous night, allowed the Chiefs to host the AFC Championship for the second time in franchise history. Arrowhead fans were screaming with deep loud KC cheers. The Chiefs defeated the Tennessee Titans 35–24 in the AFC Championship putting them right into Super Bowl LIV.

From there, they knocked off a strong San Francisco 49ers squad 31–20 to win their first championship since Super Bowl IV in 1970. Smiles were easy to come by in this great Andy Reid and Kansas City Chiefs season. Bravo Chiefs!

## **The Playoffs**

### **Divisional**

The Chiefs were in first place and did not have to play in a Wildcard game. The Divisional game was held on January 12, 2020 at home in Arrowhead Stadium v the Houston Texans. The Chiefs dominated this game W (51–31) and moved on to the AFC Championship game.

## **AFC Championship**

The Chiefs beat the 6<sup>th</sup> seed Tennessee Titans W (35–24) On January 19, 2020 at home in Arrowhead Stadium. The KC Chiefs then moved on for the Super Bowl game two weeks hence.

## **Super Bowl LIV**

On February 2, 2020, it was the Kansas City Chiefs vs. the San Francisco 49ers for all to see at Hard Rock Stadium. In a tough battle, the Chiefs came back to beat the 49ers W (31–2).

Details of these three games follow:

## **Divisional Playoffs January 12, 2020**

Kansas City Chiefs 51; Houston Texans 31

@ Arrowhead Stadium in Kansas City

The first half of the AFC Divisional Round game between the Houston Texans and the Kansas City Chiefs was a lot different than the second half. Though Houston was a significant underdog in this ballgame, the Texans got out of the chute early and literally shocked KC into playing football. After being down 24-0. The first quarter at Arrowhead Stadium was all about the Texans.

Despite the need for a wake-up call, the Chiefs would go out and dominate the second quarter. They got four passing touchdowns out of Patrick Mahomes to take a 28-24 lead into halftime.

Houston had received the opening kickoff and then proceed to take it 75 yards to the house on six plays. With a 7-0 lead, wide receiver Kenny Stills got the 7 by scampering to pay dirt on a busted coverage by the Chiefs defense. Then, QB Deshaun Watson hit Stills in stride on a play in which he could not have been more open.

When the Chiefs got the ball the first time, they went three-and-out. Dustin Colquitt's punt attempt would then be blocked by defensive end Barkevious Mingo and defensive back Lonnie Johnson recovered the ball head into the end zone for six. It was 14-0 Texans very early in the first quarter.

Kansas City would punt successfully on its next possession. Houston temporarily lost its magic and punted itself. However, KC return specialist Tyreek muffed Bryan Anger's punt. Houston got the ball at the Kansas City 6-yard line. Two plays later, Watson would find the end zone with a strike to his tight end Darren Fells at the goal line for another Texans' touchdown. Houston then held a commanding 21-0 lead in the first.

Kansas City again went three-and-out. Though Colquitt's punt wasn't blocked, things were looking especially bleak for the Chiefs. Houston then put together a nine-play drive that set up a Ka'imi Fairbairn 31-yard field goal to make it 24-0 in favor of the Texans. Houston head coach Bill O'Brien opted to kick a field goal, despite it being fourth-and-1 for the Texans.

The game then began to change almost immediately. The Chiefs Mecole Hardman got a great return on the ensuing kickoff. This set up a two-play drive where Mahomes would find running back Damien Williams for a 17-yard touchdown strike. The Chiefs were coming back now at 24-7 Texans after this touchdown.

The Texans went for a first on fourth-and-4 from their own 31-yard line. It was a decent play design, but Chiefs safety Daniel Sorensen read it like a book, bringing Texans safety Justin Reid to the turf two yards shy of making the first down.

With a shortened field, Mahomes found tight end Travis Kelce for a five-yard touchdown to cut the deficit to 24-14 Texans. The fans could feel the momentum shift entirely in Kansas City's favor after the special teams' gaffe by the Texans that set up Kelce's first catch of the afternoon.

Then, the Texans would fumble the return off the toe of Butker. Chiefs running back Darwin Thompson would return it to the Houston six-yard line to set up great field position.

Three plays later, Mahomes would find Kelce for his second touchdown catch of the afternoon. It was a six-yard reception that made it 24-21. Now the difference was just three points.

Seemingly moping with all momentum lost, Houston punted on their next drive after six plays. Mahomes had under three minutes to create some magic. He did. He capped off the drive with another five-yard touchdown pass to Kelce. This one made it 28-24 Chiefs with just 50 seconds left in the half.

Houston did its best to cut into its newfound deficit before halftime. Watson would complete a tremendous deep ball to his favorite target in wide receiver DeAndre Hopkins. A Watson scramble would set up a tough 51-yard field goal attempt for Fairbairn. He kicked it too hard and it sliced away from the uprights. Kansas City led going into the lockers 28-24.

So, there were 52 first-half points, which was the largest point total amount of any postseason game ever. And the teams still had two quarters left to be played. But from that moment, it was all KC.

With a four-point lead to start the third quarter, the Chiefs scored the first 13 points of the second half for a total of 41 unanswered points en-route to their second straight AFC Championship Game appearance. With their 51-31 victory, the Chiefs would then begin preparations to host the Titans the following Sunday with the Super Bowl LIV game on the line.

## **AFC Championship, January 19, 2020**

**Kansas City Chiefs 35; Tennessee Titans 24**

*@Arrowhead Stadium in Kansas City Missouri*

The Chiefs beat the 6<sup>th</sup> seed Tennessee Titans W (35–24) On January 19, 2020 at home in Arrowhead Stadium. The KC Chiefs then moved on for the Super Bowl game two weeks hence.

An AFC Championship game without Tom Brady was an uncommon happening. This was the first championship game since 2002 to not feature Tom Brady, Peyton Manning, or Ben Roethlisberger as a starting quarterback. KC's Patrick Mahomes had control of the helm for Kansas City.

KC just won the prior week to get into this game. So this was their second week in a row. KC came back from a deficit to defeat a team

that had beaten them in the regular season, this time recovering from an early 10–0 hole to earn their first Super Bowl appearance in 50 years.

The Chiefs won the total yards stats over Tennessee by 404–295, while holding the Titans running back Derrick Henry to just 61 yards from scrimmage, with negative yardage in the second half.

Tennessee started well, after they ran back the opening kickoff, they converted Ryan Tannehill's 37-yard completion to A. J. Brown into a 30-yard field goal by Greg Joseph. KC then went three-and-out on their first drive, and Kalif Raymond returned the punt 9 yards to the Titans 42-yard line.

Then Tennessee took nine plays to drive 58 yards, including a 3-yard catch by Adam Humphries on fourth-and-2. On the next play, Tannehill completed a 22-yard pass to Jonnu Smith on the Chiefs 4-yard line. Then Henry took a snap from the wildcat formation and ran into the end zone for a 4-yard score, giving Tennessee a 10–0 lead.

This time the Chiefs were able to come right back with a drive of 69 yards in 10 plays. The longest play was a 26-yard completion from Patrick Mahomes to Tyreek Hill. This 8-yard touchdown catch on the last play made the score 10–7 with 51 seconds left in the first quarter. Hill got the job done.

The Titans came right back however with a sustained 15-play, 74-yard drive, taking 9:07 off the clock. Tannehill finished the drive with a 1-yard touchdown pass to offensive tackle Dennis Kelly on a tackle-eligible play. This put the Titans back up by 10 points.

Mecole Hardman took the next kickoff 35 yards to his own 35-yard line. From there, Kansas City drove 65 yards in 5 plays, the longest was a 24-yard completion from Mahomes to Demarcus Robinson. On the last play, Mahomes threw a 20-yard touchdown pass to Hill, cutting their deficit to 17–14.

Then, after a Titans' punt, Mahomes completed 4 passes for 41 yards and rushed for 7 before taking off for a 27-yard touchdown run

in which he evaded five Titans players on the way to the end zone. This gave the Chiefs a 21–17 lead with 23 seconds left in the half.

Starting the second half after an exchange of punts, KC drove 73 yards in 13 plays to put the score at 28–17. It was all from a Damien Williams' 3-yard touchdown run. On their next drive, the Chiefs stole the game and put it out of reach when Mahomes tossed a 60-yard TD pass to Sammy Watkins. This gave the Chiefs a 35–17 lead with 7:44 left on the clock.

Not defeated yet, the Titans got strong and came back with an 80-yard drive in 8 plays, which included a fake punt. In this play, punter Brett Kern threw a 28-yard pass to Amani Hooker. Tannehill finished the drive with a 22-yard touchdown pass to Anthony Firkser, making the final score 35–24 in favor of the Chiefs.

Mahomes had a banner day with 23/35 passes for 294 yards and three touchdowns, while he also led Kansas City in rushing with eight carries for 53 yards and a score. Watkins caught seven passes for 114 yards and a touchdown.

Tannehill completed 21/31 passes for 209 yards and two touchdowns, while also rushing for 11 yards.

In two weeks, the Chiefs would be in their first Super Bowl in 50 years. They played in Super Bowl I and they won Super Bowl IV, fifty years ago with Hank Stram as coach. What would happen on the fiftieth anniversary of their first Super Bowl Win? We'll know soon.

## Super Bowl LIV

This Super Bowl of American football was played to determine the champion of the National Football League (NFL) for the 2019 regular season. The American Football Conference (AFC) champion Kansas City Chiefs, coached by the inimitable Andy Reid played and defeated the National Football Conference (NFC) champion San Francisco 49ers 31–20. The 49ers were coached by Kyle Shanahan, whose Dad, Mike Shanahan was a great NFL coach for many years. It was a great game.

This was the Chiefs first Super Bowl victory since Super Bowl IV and the Chiefs' first NFL championship since joining the league during the AFL–NFL merger. The Chiefs talented quarterback Patrick Mahomes was announced as the Super Bowl Most Valuable Player and he received the award as such.

In the game, Mahomes completed 26 of 42 pass attempts for 286 yards (two touchdowns, two interceptions) and he rushed for 29 yards (one touchdown).

This game was played two weeks after the NFC and AFC championships on February 2, 2020. It was played in Miami Gardens, Florida at the Hard Rock Stadium. Most of my siblings were with me in Florida to enjoy the game. We did from 300 miles away.

This game was the 11th Super Bowl hosted by the South Florida region and the sixth Super Bowl hosted in Miami Gardens, which had hosted Super Bowl XLIV ten years earlier.

The first half of the game was close with the scoring going back and forth between both teams. The game was tied at 10-all heading into halftime. In the third quarter, the 49ers looked like they were pulling away with a Robbie Gould field goal and a rushing touchdown by Raheem Mostert. Their 20–10 lead heading into the fourth quarter looked like it might be enough. My pizza washed down by red wine looked for a while like it would be the only good thing from a bad game. But thankfully, I was wrong. Something great hit the Chiefs.

Over the last 6:13 of the game, the Chiefs offense completed two touchdown drives with Mahomes throwing TD passes to Travis Kelce and Damien Williams. Andy Reid's Chiefs took the lead just before the two-minute warning. Then, the Chiefs on defense, stopped the 49ers from scoring. A late rushing touchdown by Damien Williams, as well as a Kendall Fuller interception, sealed the victory and ended the Chiefs' 50-year championship drought. Nobody rooting for the Chiefs had to say, “the game was like dry grass.”

The game's broadcast in the United States by Fox, along with the halftime show headlined by Jennifer Lopez and Shakira, was seen by an estimated 102 million viewers—a slight increase over Super Bowl LIII in 2019 (which had seen the smallest audience for the game in 10 years).

Here is a great take on the game from Charlotte Wilder, *Sports Illustrated*: Our thanks to SI for being able to include this piece in this book

## Super Bowl LIV--One Huge Adrenaline Rush

*Super Bowl LIV was a true spectacle. From the pregame ceremonies and the halftime show, to the game itself, everything about the night was electric.*

By CHARLOTTE WILDER FEB 3, 2020

MIAMI GARDENS, Fla. — DJ Khaled was DJing, as he does, during warmups before Super Bowl LIV. Taking a break between songs, he asked the crowd to scream for the 49ers, and a sizable roar went up from the seats. But when he made the same request of Chiefs fans, it became clear that they had showed up in larger numbers. The cheers had an almost frantic energy, an infectious desperation that accompanied Kansas City's first chance to win the Lombardi Trophy in 50 years. Even an hour away from kickoff, adrenaline coursed through the stadium as though it were the fourth quarter.

“You can always feel it after the national anthem, toward the end of it, how many Chiefs fans are really there,” tight end Travis Kelce said in the locker room after the game. “In the beginning, I knew we had the crowd on our side for sure. The atmosphere and electricity of the Super Bowl itself gives you enough energy to play, but when you make a play and you hear the crowd go crazy, that gives you a little more juice, too.”

This game had juice, all right. Every single aspect of Super Bowl LIV was on fire. The league pulled out all the stops on its 100th anniversary for hype videos and pregame festivities. It brought out football legends like Jim Brown, Mike Ditka, Brett Favre, Tom Brady, Jerry Rice and Bill Belichick (who, if my ears didn't deceive me, definitely got booed) along with the rest of the NFL 100 All-Time Team, before the game.



The NFL also followed up last year's popular TV spot that featured at least one million famous players and coaches with another, this time starring 12-year-old football prodigy Maxwell "Bunchie" Young. The crowd ate it all up.

The only pregame experience I've ever witnessed that came close to being this charged was the introduction for the Vegas Golden Knights' first Stanley Cup Final game (which was designed by Cirque de Soleil, a company that exists solely to captivate a crowd). By the time the Rock appeared on the jumbotron to introduce the teams and said it was "time to unleash hell," I felt like I could run through a brick wall.

Somehow, the hype videos weren't even the high point before kickoff. Yolanda Adams crushed her performance of "America the Beautiful"; if a vocal performance could be measured by how much caffeine it made you feel like you'd consumed, Adams was at least 10 cups of coffee. After her, Demi Lovato absolutely nailed the national anthem, giving the song more depth than the Chiefs' secondary.

When there's that much energy before kickoff, it often feels like there's a good chance the actual game won't be as exciting, but this one didn't disappoint. Last year's Super Bowl—the Patriots' 13-3 win over the Rams—was the football equivalent of trying to run through a cranberry bog. This was like putting on a freshly sharpened pair of ice skates.

The first half was low-scoring, tied 10-10, but it was riveting. Chiefs head coach Andy Reid and offensive coordinator Eric Bieniemy even tossed in a play that had two receivers, a running back and quarterback Patrick Mahomes twirl around before the snap like members of a boy band. Turns out they borrowed it from the 1948 Rose Bowl.

With 31 seconds left in the second quarter, the stadium blasted out the Beastie Boys song, "(You Gotta) Fight for Your Right (to Party!)," a favorite of Kelce's. Chiefs fans screamed along with it. Even the opening chords of Guns N' Roses "Welcome

to the Jungle” and the White Stripes’ “Seven Nation Army,” staples in stadiums across America, hit differently on Sunday night. Paired with the cocktail of a good game and a raucous crowd, the music carried the strength of a thousand suns.



Simon Bruty, Rob Tringali, Simon Bruty/Sports Illustrated

SI PRESENTS: Celebrate the Chiefs' Super Bowl victory with a special commemorative issue of Sports Illustrated

And then there was the halftime show. I'm not sure there's any way to do it justice with words. If you watched, you know that Jennifer Lopez and Shakira left everything they had on that stage. You know that Shakira's hips didn't lie, that J.Lo is still Jenny from the Block, that both of them put together a performance that was sexy, perfectly timed and flawlessly executed. You know that the two Latina women who are over 40—J.Lo is 50 and Shakira is 43—blessed Miami with something special.

And if you didn't watch it, you won't truly understand until you do. My soul has yet to return to my body. The hype videos might've made me feel like I could Kool-Aid man through a brick wall, but the halftime show made me feel like I was about to blast off into space.

Even though it seemed hard to believe that football even existed anymore after Shakira and J.Lo graced the field with their presence, the game somehow got even better in the second half.

The crowd spent most of the night at the top of a roller coaster in the moment right before the car plummets down the track. Hard Rock Stadium sounded like a NASCAR race; at one point, I wondered whether I should've worn ear plugs.

By the end of the fourth quarter, as the Chiefs fought their way back from a 10-point deficit and 49ers coach Kyle Shanahan watched his lead shrink like someone at NASA watching an asteroid make its way toward earth, it became clear that things weren't going to calm down. This game lived for the rush. This game bought kegs, set up beer pong tables and rewired an old car speaker system when it was in high school and its parents were out of town.

This game put gunpowder in its cereal. This game rode a unicycle while it juggled fiery batons. This game ripped a cigarette while it filled up its Harley with gas and sped off without a helmet. This game texted its exes on the day of their weddings. This game ... you know what this game does.

The Chiefs scored 21 straight points in the fourth quarter to finish off the season with a 31-20 win, prompting a Gatorade bath for Reid and a trophy celebration for his team.

In the Chiefs locker room after the win, players danced to Meek Mill's "Dreams and Nightmares" blasting out of a boom box decorated with Super Bowl champions decals. The crescendo had finally occurred, and fans—some deliriously happy, others crushed—came back down to earth as they filtered out of the stadium.

"Yeah, I mean, we felt the love obviously," said safety Tyrann Mathieu, of the crowd. "Anytime you win the game, it feels like everybody came to see you."

Everybody came for all of it this year. It's rare that the game and the spectacle surrounding it complement each other so well. Keeping the crowd noise up at decibels usually reserved for aircraft carriers for three and a half hours isn't normally easy, but on Sunday, it was. Super Bowl LIV went about as well as a championship ever could (unless you're a Niners fan; sorry for your loss).

For the pieces to fit together so well was a small miracle, especially because there was so much the league and event managers couldn't control. There's no way to predict how a game will play out, as hard as we try, and there's no way to truly be sure there won't be technical failures or know exactly how a crowd will respond to a hype video. But on Sunday, football fired on all cylinders. All we had to do was buckle up and enjoy the ride.

See ya next year again Andy! Thank you for your talent a patience. You won the big one. Yeah!

## Chapter 11 Top 100 Players in Dallas Texans / KC Chiefs History

Charles Goldman is an author affiliated with chiefswire.com. <https://chiefswire.usatoday.com/author/charles-goldman/>. He is credited with writing this piece on August 25, 2019. Its original title is NFL 100: Best players in Kansas City Chiefs franchise history. Then, to commemorate the Chiefs' run to Super Bowl LIV, Chiefs Wire updated this list in January 2020.

Two anniversaries at the same time. The NFL celebrated its 100th season in 2019, at the same time the Kansas City Chiefs celebrated the franchise's 60th season. Convenient. And, of course in the 2019 season, it had been 50 years since the Chiefs won their last Super Bowl.

To mark these milestones, Chiefs Wire compiled a list of the top 100 players in Chiefs franchise history. They analyzed franchise records, individual accolades and statistics, and even revisited tales of greatness with unofficial team historians. This is their original work and it is nicely done.

They tried to include special teams' players and linemen, and not simply overload on the skill positions. I think you'll find a generous mix of new and old players on the list, recapping 60 years of the greatest players in franchise history.

Before this book, I had written about twelve Great Moments in XXXXX Football books . My first eight were about great college teams and my last four were about professional teams. With the Chiefs winning the Super Bowl and my own personal admiration of Andy Reid, it was time for a book titled: *Great Moments in Kansas City Chiefs Football*.

In each book, I find twenty to fifty top players that played over the years for the team. In each "Great Moments" book, I include a Top Player insert for each of the selected greats in one of the years in which he played. In this book, therefore, you'll find top players

intermingled among the sixty seasons and thirteen coaches of the Chiefs football history.

When I began research for the top players, I found the referenced article by Charles Goldman (link on prior page). He and his editors and photographers working for Chiefs Wire did a superb job in identifying and writing about their take on the top 100 players in KC Chiefs football history. I accept their great work as the gospel rather than trying to reinvent the wheel.

Details of a number of the top 100 players are sprinkled throughout this book under the caption "Top Player." You will read about these in the course of reading the book which is sequenced from season 1 through season 60. All 100 of Chiefs Wire's selection are not in this particular book but I have included the list below for your edification. Each entry is one of the top players, their positions, and the years in which they played. This is the list as determined by Chiefs Wire. They are listed in reverse sequence from # 100 to #1. Enjoy:

<u>#</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Pos.</u>	<u>Dates</u>
100.	Eric Hicks,	DE,	1998-2007
99.	Harrison Butker,	K,	2017-present
98.	Dontari Poe,	DT,	2012-2016
97.	Jerome Woods,	S,	1996-2005
96.	Joe Phillips,	DT,	1992-1997
95.	Steve DeBerg,	QB,	1988-1991
94.	Jerry Blanton,	LB,	1979-1985
93.	J.J. Birden,	WR,	1990-1994
92.	Jim Kearney,	S,	1967-1975
91.	Bobby Hunt,	DB,	1962-1967
90.	Brandon Flowers,	CB,	2008-2013
89.	Andre Rison,	WR,	1997-1999
88.	Dino Hackett,	LB,	1986-1991

87. Mike Livingston, QB, 1968-1979
86. Kimble Anders, FB/RB, 1991-2000
85. Matt Herkenhoff OT, 1976-1985
84. James Hasty, CB, 1995-2000
83. Dave Lutz, OT, 1983-1992
82. Mitchell Schwartz, OT, 2016-present
81. Tracy Simien, LB, 1991-1997
80. Casey Wiegmann, C, 2001-07, 10-11
79. Bill Kenney, QB, 1980-1988
78. Dave Szott, LG, 1990-2000
77. Tamarick Vanover, WR/KR, 1995-1999
76. Tim Grunhard, C, 1990-2000
75. Mike Bell, DE, 1979-1991
74. Larry Johnson, RB, 2003-2009
73. Tom Condon, OG, 1974-1984
72. Dustin Colquitt, P, 2005-present
71. Brad Budde, OG, 1980-1986
70. Eddie Kennison, WR, 2001-2007
69. Dan Saleaumua, DT, 1989-1996
68. Walter White, TE, 1975-1979
67. Mel Branch, DT, 1960-1965
66. Jared Allen, DE, 2004-2007
65. Stephone Paige, WR, 1983-1991
64. Carlos Carson, WR, 1980-1989
63. Greg Wesley, S, 2000-2007
62. Trent Green, QB, 2001-2006

61. Dale Carter, CB, 1992-1998  
 60. Kevin Ross, CB, 1984-1993, 1997  
 59. Gary Barbaro, DB, 1976-1982  
 58. Dwayne Bowe, WR, 2007-2014  
 57. Lloyd Burruss, S, 1981-1991  
 56. Tyreek Hill, WR, 2016-present  
 55. Jack Rudnay, C, 1969-1982  
 54. Donnie Edwards, LB, 1996-01, 07-08  
 53. Gary Green, CB, 1977-1983  
 52. Dave Hill, OT, 1963-1974  
 51. Dante Hall, WR/KR/PR, 2000-2006  
 50. Joe Montana, QB, 1993-1994  
 49. Brian Waters, OG, 2000-2010  
 48. Eric Berry, S, 2010-2018  
 47. Gary Spani, LB, 1978-1986  
 46. Alex Smith, QB, 2013-2017  
 45. Joe Delaney, RB, 1981-1982  
 44. Nick Lowery, K, 1980-1993  
 43. Sherrill Headrick, LB, 1960-1967  
 42. Justin Houston, LB, 2011-2018  
 41. Mack Lee Hill, RB, 1964-1965  
 40. Tony Richardson, FB, 1995-2005  
 39. John Alt, OT, 1984-1996  
 38. Jerrel Wilson, P, 1963-1977  
 37. Marcus Allen, RB, 1993-1997  
 36. Chris Burford, WR, 1960-1967  
 35. Ed Podolak, RB, 1969-1977



34. Henry Marshall, WR, 1976-1987
33. Curtis McClinton, RB/FB, 1962-1969
32. Abner Haynes, RB, 1960-1964
31. Jim Lynch, LB, 1967-1977
30. Art Still, DE, 1978-1987
29. Derrick Johnson, LB, 2005-2017
28. Travis Kelce, TE, 2013-present
27. Tamba Hali, LB, 2006-2017
26. Mike Garrett, RB, 1966-1970
25. Ed Budde, OG, 1963-1976
24. Christian Okoye, RB, 1987-1992
23. Fred Arbanas, TE, 1962-1970
22. Bill Maas, DT, 1984-1992
21. Jerry Mays, DE, 1961-1970
20. Albert Lewis, CB, 1983-1993
19. Deron Cherry, S, 1981-1991
18. Neil Smith, DE, 1988-1996
17. E.J. Holub, C/LB, 1961-1970
16. Priest Holmes, RB, 2001-2007
15. Jamaal Charles, RB, 2008-2016
14. Jan Stenerud, K, 1967-1979
13. Otis Taylor, WR, 1965-1975
12. Johnny Robinson, S, 1960-1971
11. Curley Culp, DT, 1968-1974
10. Willie Roaf, OT, 2002-2005
9. Patrick Mahomes, QB, 2017-present

<b>8. Emmitt Thomas,</b>	<b>CB,</b>	<b>1966-1978</b>
<b>7. Willie Lanier,</b>	<b>LB,</b>	<b>1967-1977</b>
<b>6. Bobby Bell,</b>	<b>LB,</b>	<b>1963-1974</b>
<b>5. Buck Buchanan,</b>	<b>DT,</b>	<b>1963-1975</b>
<b>4. Will Shields,</b>	<b>RG,</b>	<b>1993-2006</b>
<b>3. Tony Gonzalez,</b>	<b>TE,</b>	<b>1997-2008</b>
<b>2. Len Dawson,</b>	<b>QB,</b>	<b>1962-1975</b>
<b>1. Derrick Thomas,</b>	<b>LB,</b>	<b>1989-1999</b>

While the Kansas City Chiefs may not be the franchise with the most Super Bowl victories or the most wins in history, it is not because of a lack of talent over the years right from day one.

The Chiefs have had 11 players that have been enshrined in the Hall of Fame cross through their clubhouse. Some of the best players in league history have been in Kansas City and have endeared themselves to Chiefs fans.

While it is not easy to narrow these players down to just the 25 , or 50 best or even 100 best, Chiefs Wire has attempted and succeeded at doing just that by ranking their top 100 picks. You can argue their placement or the lack of other players on the list, but no one can argue the accomplishments these players made during their time in those brilliant red jerseys.

## Other Books by Brian Kelly: (amazon.com, and Kindle)

**How the Philadelphia Eagles Lost Its Karma.** This is the one place that tells the story  
**Cancel All Student Debt Now!** Good for America, Good for the Economy.  
**Social Security Screw Job!!!** Scandal: Seniors Intentionally Screwed by US Government  
**Trump Hate** They hate Trump Supporters; Trump; & God—in that order  
**Christmas Wings for Brian** A heartwarming story of a boy whose shoulders kept growing  
**Merry Christmas to Wilkes-Barre** 50 Ways” for Mayor George Brown to Create a Better City.  
**Air Force Football Championship Seasons From AF Championship to Coach Calhoun’s latest team**  
**Syracuse Football Championship Seasons** beginning of SU championships; goes to Dino Babers Era  
**Navy Football Championship Seasons** 1<sup>st</sup> Navy Championships to the Ken Niumatalolo Era  
**Army Football Championship Seasons** Beginning of Football championships to Jeff Monken Era  
**Florida Gators Championship Seasons** Beginning of Football through championships to Dan Mullen era  
**Alabama’s Championship Seasons** Beginning of Football past the 2017/2018 National Championship  
**Clemson Tigers Championship Seasons** Beginning of Football to the Clemson National Championships  
**Penn State’s Championship Seasons** PSU’s first championship to the James Franklin era  
**Notre Dame’s Championship Seasons** Before Knute Rockne and past Lou Holtz’s 1988 undisputed title  
**Super Bowls & Championship Seasons: The New York Giants** Many championships of the Giants.  
**Super Bowls & Championship Seasons: New England Patriots** Many championships of the Patriots.  
**Super Bowls & Championship Seasons: The Pittsburgh Steelers** Many championship of the Steelers  
**Super Bowls & Championship Seasons: The Philadelphia Eagles** Many championships of the Eagles.  
**The Big Toxic School** Wilkes-Barre Area’s Tale of Corruption, Deception, Taxation & Tyranny  
**Great Players in New York Giants Football** Begins with great players of 1925 to the Saquon Barkley era.  
**Great Coaches in New York Giants Football** Begins with Bob Folwell 1925 and to Pat Shurmur in 2019.  
**Great Moments in New York Giants Football** Beginning of Football to the Pat Shurmur era.  
**Hasta La Vista California** Give California its independence.  
**IT’s ALL OVER!** Mueller: “NO COLLUSION!”—Top Dems going to jail for the hoax!  
**Democrat Secret for Power & Winning Elections** Open borders adds millions of new Democrat Voters  
**Hope for Wilkes-Barre—John Q. Doe—Next Mayor of Wilkes-Barre**  
*The John Doe Plan & WB Plan will help create a better city!*  
**Great Moments in New England Patriots Football Second Edition**  
 This book begins at the beginning of Football and goes to the Bill Belichick era.  
**The Cowardly Congress** Corrupt US Congress is against America and Americans.  
**Great Players in Air Force Football** From the beginning to the current season  
**Great Coaches in Air Force Football** From the beginning to Coach Troy Calhoun  
**Help for Mayor George and Next Mayor of Wilkes-Barre** How to vote for the next Mayor Council  
**Ghost of Wilkes-Barre Future:** Spirit’s advice for residents how to pick the next Mayor and Council  
**Great Players in Air Force Football:** Air Force’s best players of all time  
**Great Coaches in Air Force Football:** From Coach 1 to Coach Troy Calhoun  
**Great Moments in Air Force Football:** From day 1 to today  
**Great Players in Navy Football:** Navy’s best including Bellino & Staubach  
**Great Coaches in Navy Football:** From Coach 1 to Coach #39 Ken Niumatalolo  
**Great Moments in Navy Football:** From day 1 to coach Ken Niumatalolo 1  
**No Tree! No Toys! No Toot!** Heartwarming story. Christmas gone while 19 month old napped  
**How to End DACA, Sanctuary Cities, & Resident Illegal Aliens** . best solution remove shadowsAmerica.  
**Government Must Stop Ripping Off Seniors’ Social Security!:** Hey buddy, seniors can’t spare a dime?  
**Special Report: Solving America’s Student Debt Crisis!:** The only real solution to the \$1.52 Trillion debt  
**The Winning Political Platform for America** Unique winning approach to solve big problems in America.  
**Lou Barletta v Bob Casey for US Senate** Barletta’s unique approach to solve big problems in America.  
**John Chrin v Matt Cartwright for Congress** Chrin has a unique approach to solve big problems in America.  
**The Cure for Hate !!!** Can the cure be any worse than this disease that is crippling America?  
**Andrew Cuomo’s Time to Go?** “He Was Never that Great!”: Cuomo says America never that great  
**White People Are Bad! Bad! Bad!** Whoever thought a popular slogan in 2018 *It’s OK to be White!*  
**The Fake News Media Is Also Corrupt !!!:** Fake press / media today is not worthy to be 4<sup>th</sup> Estate.  
**God Gave US Donald Trump?** Trump was sent from God as the people’s answer  
**Millennials Say America Was “Never That Great”:** Too many pleased days of political chumps not over!  
**It’s Time for The John Q. Doe Party...** Don’t you think? By Elephants.  
**Great Players in Florida Gators Football... Tim Tebow and a ton of other great players**  
**Great Coaches in Florida Gators Football...** The best coaches in Gator history.  
**The Constitution by Hamilton, Jefferson, Madison, et al.** The Real Constitution  
**The Constitution Companion.** Will help you learn and understand the Constitution  
**Great Coaches in Clemson Football** The best Clemson Coaches right to Dabo Swinney  
**Great Players in Clemson Football** The best Clemson players in history

**Winning Back America.** America's been stolen and can be won back completely

**The Founding of America...** Great book to pick up a lot of great facts

**Defeating America's Career Politicians.** The scoundrels need to go.

**Midnight Mass by Jack Lammers...** You remember what it was like Great story

The Bike by Jack Lammers... Great heartwarming Story by Jack

Wipe Out All Student Loan Debt--Now! Watch the economy go boom!

**No Free Lunch Pay Back Welfare!** Why not pay it back?

**Deport All Millennials Now!!!** Why they deserve to be deported and/or saved

**DELETE the EPA, Please!** The worst decisions to hurt America

**Taxation Without Representation** 4<sup>th</sup> Edition Should we throw the TEA overboard again?

**Four Great Political Essays** by Thomas Dawson

**Top Ten Political Books for 2018...** Cliffnotes Version of 10 Political Books

**Top Six Patriotic Books for 2018...** Cliffnotes version of 6 Patriotic Book

**Why Trump Got Elected!..** It's great to hear about a great milestone in America!

**The Day the Free Press Died.** Corrupt Press Lives on!

**Solved (Immigration)** The best solutions for 2018

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