

Chiefs' defense needs work

By Doug Tucker

The Associated Press
KANSAS CITY, Mo. — A lot of defensive players for the Kansas City Chiefs are getting downright defensive.

Being 32nd in a 32-team league is not the sort of recognition they craved. Nevertheless, after giving up 452 yards a game in their first three outings, that's where the Chiefs find themselves.

"We've just got to hang in there," linebacker Glenn Cadrez said Wednesday. "Fortunately, it's September. Hopefully, we'll get all these little kinks out of the way and be around in December to make a bid for the playoffs."

Big plays have been especially hard on the Chiefs.

But Cadrez, who played for current defensive coordinator Greg Robinson during Denver's Super Bowl years, insists the problem is not a lack of gifted players.

"I don't think there's a talent issue at all," he said. "I think this team is just as talented as the Super Bowl teams we had. The only thing with the Super Bowl teams we had was everyone who was out on the field knew exactly what they were doing, how to do it. They knew what the other team was doing more. They just believed in the scheme and themselves."

The Chiefs' secondary, shredded for a league-worst 357 yards passing per game, may be in even more trouble this week because of injuries to cornerbacks Eric Warfield and Ray Crockett. Coach Dick Vermeil said Wednesday he was still not sure if either would be available on Sunday against Miami.

But Vermeil said he's not going to use his team's low defensive ranking as a motivating ploy.

"I don't talk about being last in anything. I find a way to turn some of that stuff around."

Heading for the target



Jenna McCall, an eighth grader at Grant High School, practiced her archery in Mary Kratky's gym class Thursday at the school.
Photo by Doug Stephens/The Goodland Daily News

Jayhawk coach defends actions

LAWRENCE (AP) — Kansas football coach Mark Mangino said he did nothing wrong when questioned Wednesday about a post-game incident at his son's high school football game in which he reportedly yelled at game officials.

"I am not going to react to those kind of things," Mangino said after the Jayhawks' Wednesday afternoon practice. "I made a statement and I will stand by that. In my eyes, it wasn't a big deal. I reacted how a responsible father should react in that situation."

The Lawrence Journal-World reported Wednesday that Mangino was seen yelling at officials after his son's football game Friday night. Mangino's son Tommy, the starting quarterback for Lawrence High School, was removed after being hit hard in the Lions' 26-7 home win against Olathe East, the Journal-World reported.

"The most important role I play in

my life is that of a father and I will do what is right for my children," Mangino said in a statement Tuesday.

Gary Musselman, executive director of the Kansas State High School Activities Association, said no incident report has been filed, so any disciplinary action would be handled by the high school.

Lawrence High School principal Dick Patterson told the Journal-World that any incidents are handled confidentially. He told the newspaper that there was an incident and that it was handled appropriately but he declined to give details or name any parties involved.

A message left at the school for Patterson after classes Wednesday was not returned.

Messages left at home phone numbers listed for Patterson and Lawrence High School football coach Dirk Wedd also were not returned.

Tiger had four hits against Kansas City

KANSAS CITY, Mo. (AP) — Randall Simon got right back into the swing of the things for the Detroit Tigers.

Simon, who played just two of the previous 13 games while the Tigers looked at prospects, had four hits Wednesday night in Detroit's 7-6 victory over Kansas City in 12 innings.

"I know I have the ability to hit," Simon said. "I'm a player who wants to be out there every day. But these young guys need to play so they can prove what they can do."

Simon's .500 career average against Royals starter Paul Byrd convinced manager Luis Pujols to put Simon into the lineup.

The loss was the 97th of the year for Kansas City, tying the club record set in 1970 and matched the last two seasons.

Simon drove in two runs in a four-run first. After Byrd hit Robert Fick with two outs, Carlos Pena followed with a double and Simon brought both of them home with a single to center. Shane Halter followed with a two-run homer.

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