

# Chiefs making do with poor defense

By Doug Tucker

*The Associated Press*  
KANSAS CITY, Mo. (AP) — You have to wonder why anybody who plays offense for Kansas City would still be speaking to the defense.

Through their first six games, the Chiefs' offense has been elite, scoring points at a team-record clip.

But there have been 31 300-yard passing games so far this season, and five were thrown against the Chiefs' beleaguered defense.

It started in the season opener when Cleveland backup Kelly Holcomb hit 27-of-39 for 326 yards. Since then, it's been Jacksonville's Mark Brunell for 320, Miami's Jay Fiedler for 310, New England's Tom Brady for 410, and, last week, San Diego's Drew Brees for 319.

Only Chad Pennington of the New York Jets was held under 300. Pennington managed a meager 245 yards against a defense that's ranked 32nd among the 32 NFL teams since virtually the first quarter of the first game.

But while they're dead last in pass defense and total defense, Dick Vermeil's team is No. 3 overall in total offense and No. 1 in rushing.

In scoring, the Chiefs are No. 2 in the league, pouring across 34.2 points per game.

But that's just two points ahead of the alarming rate the defense keeps giving them up.

It's no wonder this team is 3-3. Is Vermeil worried about a clubhouse schism? Could this unusual offensive-defensive dichotomy eventually wear down that fragile, hard-to-construct thing called team chemistry?

Might the offensive players begin to resent an ineffective defense that is negating, week after week, what would normally be game-winning production?

"Not at all," Vermeil said Tuesday. But he does have plenty of concerns about the morale of individuals.

"I worry about guys getting down on

themselves and blaming themselves, and those kinds of things," he said, "and losing their own individual confidence in their contribution to the scheme."

"But I don't worry about the team as a whole. Not this group. We have very good leadership, a number of good leaders. The character level of the squad is very good."

The defense was further weakened this week when rookie defensive tackle Ryan Sims was placed on injured reserve with a broken elbow, putting him out for the rest of the year.

That will not help the defensive line to get pressure up the middle on the pass rush to make things easier for young cornerbacks Eric Warfield and William Bartee.

Imbedded within every one of those 300-yard passing days are plays where Warfield and Bartee, a first-year starter, got toasted for long gains.

In charge of the defense is coordinator Greg Robinson, who held a similar position at Denver when John Elway was leading the Broncos to two Super Bowl championships. But Vermeil said it's much too late to change Robinson's defensive scheme, which some critics have said is too complicated.

"It's very difficult to change schemes in the middle of the battle," Vermeil said. "I've never been successful doing it. But you keep adjusting to see where people are attacking you and where they're breaking you down."

Without changing the scheme, plans to tweak and revise it may keep coaches up into the wee hours.

"Every defensive package has a huge repertoire of what they can call," Vermeil said.

"There are packages you use and there are things we have in our packages that we haven't used in ballgames that you may see come up to counter some strengths of other offensive teams."

"What we have to do within the package is just keep playing better."

# New starting safety has no complaints

LAWRENCE, (AP) — Although it's not the way Zach Dyer's college career was supposed to unfold, the new starting safety for Kansas will have no complaints.

Dyer was a talented freshman quarterback from Olathe South High School and was selected as a U.S. Achievement Academy All-American Scholar when he signed with the Jayhawks.

Dyer has not had such luck in college after starting four games as a sophomore last season for former head coach Terry Allen, and playing only one half of one game this year for new the new Jayhawks' coach, Mark Mangino.

So Dyer surprised everyone but himself last week when he suddenly trotted onto the field as the safety and had brought down 11 Colorado players with tackles.

"He's a really good athlete," said Mangino. "It was his first game lined up at safety and he played against one of the best running backs in the country."

"He went in and he missed a couple of tackles, but a few times he went in there and made some tough, hard-nosed plays that you would expect a

## bowling results

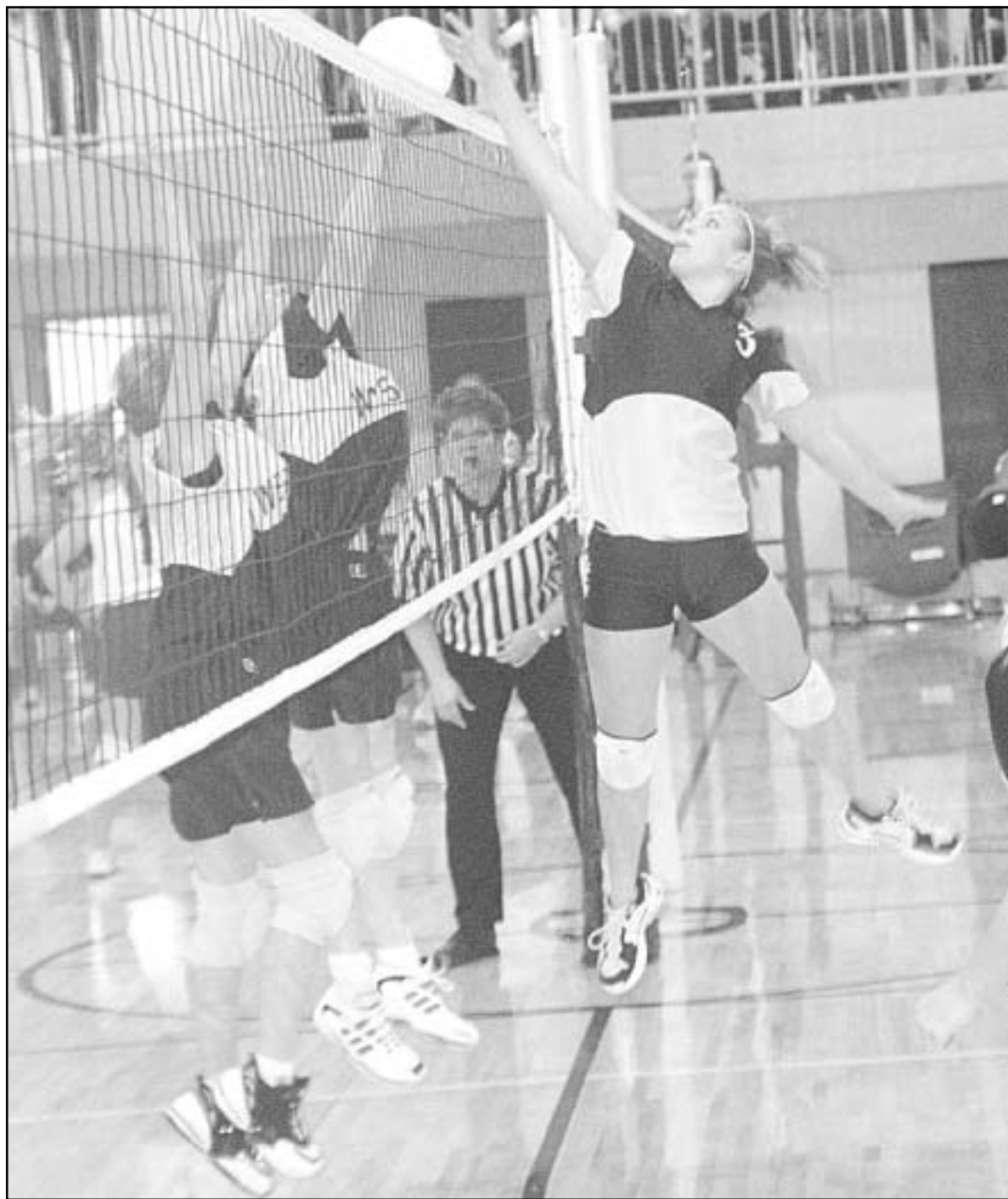
**Wednesday Night Mixed League**  
Oct. 9  
D&G Clan over The Pits 3-1  
Phillips Brothers split JIBG 2-2  
Palace Barber Shop split Guzzlin' Socializers 2-2  
Shear Dimensions over Blind No. Ten 4-1  
Fun Lovers over The Gamblers 3-1  
**High women's game:** Carol Lenington-221  
**High women's series:** JoAnn Matthews-590  
**High men's game:** Jim Fritz-259  
**High men's series:** Jim Fritz-653  
**High team game:** Phillips Brothers-823  
**High team series:** Guzzlin' Socializers-2,306

**Standings:** Palace Barber Shop, Guzzlin' Socializers, Shear Dimensions and Fun Lovers.

**Thursday Night Mixed League**  
Oct. 10  
SunAmerica over The Loop 4-0  
Lucky Horseshoes over The Blind Team 3-1  
HoJos over Weis Oil 4-0  
Pirate Electric over Three Men & a Little Lady 3-1  
The Grannies & the Gramps over Not Again 3-1  
**High women's game:** Diana Nichols-226  
**High women's series:** Tina Perry-530  
**High mens' game:** Larry Cearley-208  
**High mens' series:** Larry Cearley-535  
**High team game:** SunAmerica-835  
**High team series:** HoJos-2,416

**Standings:** SunAmerica 18, 6; The Grannies & the Gramps 16 1/2, 7 1/2; HoJos 15, 9.

## Scoring one for the team



Cowgirl Kelsey Herl tipped the ball over the net for a point in a junior varsity win over Weskan Tuesday at Max Jones Fieldhouse. Grinnell and Oakley also competed at Goodland's last home meet of the season. Story to come.

Photo by Doug Stephens/The Goodland Daily News

# Cowgirls tie for sixth at regionals

The Goodland Cowgirls concluded the tennis season with a tie for sixth among nine teams at the Regional Tennis Tournament Monday in Pratt.

The doubles team of Megan McCall and Jennifer Mentzer finished fifth. They won their first round match with Bacon/Eggy of Ulysses 6-1, 6-1.

In their second round match, Coach Wallace Hansen said, they lost to a really good team from Pratt, Briggeman, Roberts 6-2, 6-1. McCall/Mentzer are juniors, the coach said, and have their sights set on qualifying for state.

The Cowgirls' other doubles team, Leslie Knitig and Trista Lalicker, lost in the first round to Thimesch/Vaccarelli from Kingman by scores of 6-2 and 7-5.

In singles, Shannon Showalter lost to Tricia Cox of Pratt 6-1, 6-2, and Michelle Kibel lost to Katie Lang of Colby 6-1, 6-1, who won the regional.

In just the third year of girls tennis at Goodland High School, Hansen said, progress was made. Nine girls earned medals at various varsity and junior varsity meets, he said.

The team finished second at two meets, the coach said, and will have seven lettermen return next year.

The only seniors, Kibel and Knitig, served as captains this year, the coach said, and did a good job of leading the team. They will be missed, he said.

Parents, athletes and family are invited to a pot-luck supper for the team at 5:30 p.m. next Wednesday in the high school cafeteria.

# Frank Thomas sees pay slashed

CHICAGO (AP) — The Chicago White Sox invoked a contract clause that drastically reduces Frank Thomas' salary, clearing the way for the two-time MVP to become a free agent.

The White Sox sent Thomas a letter on Oct. 6 telling him they were invoking a "diminished skills" clause in his contract. That clause would reduce his base pay to \$250,000, and defer most of his nearly \$10 million salary.

# Grant runners improved during year

The Grant Junior High Mustang cross country teams showed improvement in their times throughout the season, which ended with meets in Gothenburg and Lakin.

The Gothenburg meet was Thursday, Oct. 3, and Whitney Dautel was the top girl finisher with a time of 7:17 for fifth place.

Jillian Parker was 11th, 8:57; Heidi Yonkey 12th, 9:20; Tiffany Wing 13th, 9:50; Jessica Lu 14th, 10:00; and Taylor Raile 15th, 10:44.

The top boys finisher was Christopher Irvin who was 24th with a time of 8:05. Doug Eddelman was 27th, 8:34; Cody Engel 28th, 9:37; Andrew Philbrick 29th, 10:00; and Michael Smith 30th, 10:20.

At the Lakin meet Saturday most of the Mustang cross country runners showed improvement by cutting their times.

The top boys finisher was Christopher Irvin who was 22nd with a time

of 7:47. Doug Eddelman was 23rd, 8:02; Michael Smith 26th, 9:20; and Andrew Philbrick 27th, 9:24.

The top Mustang girl cross country finisher was Whitney Dautel who was

4th with a time of 7:11. Tiffany Wing 20th, 8:48; Jillian Parker 21st, 8:52; Heidi Yonkey 22nd, 9:01; Mindi Keith 23rd, 9:07; Jessica Lu 24th, 9:40; and Taylor Raile 25th, 10:28.

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