

Chiefs riding a high but Titans no pushover

DAVE SKRETTA
The Associated Press

KANSAS CITY, Mo. Andy Reid rarely digs into his own past, preferring to stay in the moment or focus squarely on the future. It's an approach that has served him well during a coaching career that might someday land him in the Pro Football Hall of Fame.

Yet when his Kansas City Chiefs faced a seemingly insurmountable hole in the divisional round of the playoffs, Reid caught himself thinking back almost four decades to his final game as an offensive lineman at BYU. It was the Holiday Bowl and SMU had taken a 45-25 lead in the fourth quarter. Just about everybody in Jack Murphy Stadium that night thought it was over, only to watch, stunned, as the Cougars scored three late touchdowns to win the game.

"That kind of stuck in there. You had that hope," Reid said this week when asked what gave him confidence Kansas City could rally to a 51-31 win over the Texans for a spot in the AFC championship game. "You had that hope. Then it's the feel of your team. You're on the sideline, you've been down there long enough, you can sense what they're thinking, where their mind is at. These guys weren't flinching. Let's get it right."

The Chiefs (13-4) got everything right



AP PHOTO/JEFF ROBERSON

Kansas City Chiefs quarterback Patrick Mahomes (15) throws during the first half of an NFL divisional playoff game in Kansas City, Mo. Jan. 12, 2020.

the rest of the way. And the comeback from a 24-0 deficit propelled them into a matchup Sunday with Tennessee (11-7), which has merely knocked off the Patriots and top-seeded Ravens — on the road, no less — to reach the precipice of the Super Bowl.

It will be the first time coaching this deep in the playoffs for the Titans' Mike

Vrabel, but it's certainly familiar territory to his counterpart. Reid had the Chiefs in the same position a year ago, when they lost in overtime to New England — the Patriots won the coin toss and marched downfield for a touchdown — and he led the Eagles to five NFC championship games during his 14 years in Philadelphia.

"I have done a few of these," Reid said, "and you know, we try to keep it as normal as we possibly can as far as the schedule goes for the players, so they can get their work done. One thing that changes is how fast the game is. I can tell you from experience, the magnitude, every time you take a step up in the playoffs — it's single elimination."

Experience is great. Successful experience is better, and that is where Reid falls short. His only conference title came during the 2004 season, when the Eagles lost the Super Bowl to the Patriots. And who should be on the New England roster that night but a game-wrecking linebacker named Vrabel, who even caught a touchdown pass.

Vrabel may not have any experience in this position as a coach, but has plenty as a player. He lifted the Lombardi Trophy three times with New England before finishing his career — coincidentally — with two seasons in Kansas City.

Vrabel needs to pound away with running back Derrick Henry and getting just enough production from Ryan Tannehill, just as the Titans did during a back-and-forth Week 10 win over the Chiefs.

On defence, they need to slow down the aerial assault of quarterback Patrick Mahomes and his fleet of game-changing playmakers.

Niners, Packers both look to complete turnaround seasons

JOSH DUBOW
The Associated Press

SANTA CLARA, Calif.

The San Francisco 49ers are one win away from accomplishing a turnaround that's been done only once before in the Super Bowl era.

With a victory in the NFC championship game at home on Sunday against the Green Bay Packers, the Niners will become the second team in NFL history to make the Super Bowl a year after losing at least 12 games.

Only the St. Louis Rams have done it, going from 4-12 in 1998 to Super Bowl champs one year later thanks in part of an injury to Trent Green that cleared the way for Kurt Warner to take over at quarterback.

The 49ers (14-3) also can credit an injury to their quarterback for part of their turnaround; the team went only 4-12 last season after

Jimmy Garoppolo went down with a season-ending knee injury in Week 3.

The silver lining to that injury was the No. 2 overall pick in the draft, which led to the addition of defensive end Nick Bosa, who helped transform the defence into one of the league's best.

"Things have a way of working out," Garoppolo said. "I always told myself it was a blessing in disguise, the ACL and everything, and yeah, we got Bosa out of it. That's a pretty good trade-off, I guess. Things have a way of working out, I guess. This ride is crazy. You've just got to roll with the punches."

The Packers (14-3) have also had an impressive turnaround after slumping to a 6-9-1 record last season that led to the firing of long-time coach Mike McCarthy.

Matt LaFleur came in and tin-

tered with the offence, and general manager Brian Gutekunst brought in key additions such as pass-rushing duo Preston Smith and Za'Darius Smith, who combined for 25 1/2 sacks on the season.

"I think he's done a great job. I think he deserves a lot of credit, him and his staff," quarterback Aaron Rodgers said of Gutekunst. "There's been a lot of great pickups, but I think I said this at my locker a few weeks ago, the big-name ones have been fantastic, but it's kind of the other ones that have been the glue pieces, I feel like."

These teams played earlier this season in Week 12 in what turned out to be a lopsided 37-8 win for San Francisco. Rodgers had the worst day of his career, averaging 3.2 yards per attempt and getting sacked five times.

Female coaches want to see more high-level opportunities

LORI EWING
The Canadian Press

TORONTO

A computerized likeness of Jen Welter barks directions to players on the sidelines, then knocks one on the helmet before sending them back on the field.

Welter recently became the first female coach in Madden NFL 20, calling it one of her "coolest" recent accomplishments.

"(The video game) was based on a conversation that I had as a consultant with Madden," Welter said. "(I told them) 'Girls can't see themselves in your game.' Everything is about a sin of omission in football. You don't have to tell girls that they can't play, right? You show them because they can't see themselves playing anywhere."

Welter was part of a four-woman panel that spoke Thursday night about the need for more female coaches in sports at all levels. She was joined by Toronto Raptors assistant coach Brittney Donaldson, WNBA and national team player Kayla Alexander, and sports activist Shireen Ahmed in conversation with She's4Sports founder Ainka Jess.

When Welter was hired by the Arizona Cardinals in 2015, making her the first woman to coach in the NFL, the narrative was: "publicity stunt." Forget the fact she'd played football for much of her life, winning two world women's championships with the U.S. She was also a running back for the Texas Revolution of the Champions Indoor Football League, becoming only the second woman to play a position other than kicker or holder on a men's pro football team.

Welter, who has a PhD in psychology and masters degree in sports psychology, spoke about the importance of normalizing women in sport.

"We have to look at all angles of culture," said the 42-year-old Florida native, who most recently served as an assistant coach with the Atlanta Legends of the short-lived Alliance of American Football.

"So if want to see change in sport that includes sport video games, it includes sport research, it includes sport media, it includes things as powerful and prolific as hip-hop culture, right?"

"Are we dropping female names to the same extent that we are male names? Or where are our warm-up songs coming from? Or do our videos not only show like guys out there balling but women as well?"

At 26, Donaldson is the youngest assistant coach in the NBA, and one of 11 female coaches in the league — five of whom were hired this past off-season.

While the NBA has made inroads, the face of professional sports remains predominantly male.



AP, MICHAEL CHOW/THE ARIZONA REPUBLIC Arizona Cardinals training camp coach Jen Welter runs off the field during NFL training camp Aug. 26, 2015, in Glendale, Ariz.

PUBLIC NOTICES

8AM - 4PM SPECIAL SERVICES

Electric Outages	403.529.8260
Gas Emergency.....	403.529.8191
Water & Sewer Emergency.....	403.502.8042
After Hours Special Services.....	403.526.2828



DEVELOPMENT PERMITS APPROVED JANUARY 9 TO JANUARY 15, 2020 PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT SERVICES

COMMERCIAL

695 SOUTH RAILWAY STREET SE (Lot 1, Block L, Plan 59191) DP15249. Eight Specialized Signs And Two Led Signs Including Size And Quantity Variates



HOME OCCUPATION

731 7 STREET SE (Lot 7, Block T, Plan 1837F) DP15288. Customers to Attend Site. Photography And Equipment.

50 SOMERSIDE GATE SE (Lot 18, Block 9, Plan 0912931) DP15295. Office Use Only. General Contractor/ Project Manager.

28-B CAMP DRIVE SW (Lot 22, Block 11, Plan 5554JK) DP15297. Office Use Only. Sheet Metal.

121 4 STREET SW (Lot 15, Block 15, Plan 833M) DP15301. Office Use Only. Consultant (Freelance Graphic Design).

A person claiming to be affected by a decision of the Development Officer or the Municipal Planning Commission may appeal to the Medicine Hat Subdivision and Development Appeal Board by completing and submitting to the City Clerk Department, the required Notice of Appeal form within twenty-one (21) days of this publication. Notice of Appeal forms are available from the City Clerk Department, Third Floor, City Hall or on the City's website at www.medicinehat.ca

All Development Permits listed are subject to conditions. Further information on any Development Permit may be obtained from the Planning & Development Services Department, Second Floor, City Hall during normal business hours (Telephone 403.529.8374).

CHRISTMAS TREE RECYCLING

Recycle your real Christmas Tree anytime between **December 27, 2019 – January 31, 2020** by dropping it off at one of the following convenient drop off locations:

- 240 Kipling Street SE - Kipling Street Recycling Depot
- 172 Altawana Drive NE - Shamrock Recycling Depot
- 3292 Dunmore Rd SE - Southwest corner of the Medicine Hat Mall parking lot

Please remove all plastic bags, stands, tinsel and decorations.

Download the Recycle Coach App, refer to www.medicinehat.ca/eu, or contact Environmental Utilities at 403.529.8176 for more information.

PROTECT WATER LINES FROM FREEZING

The following actions should be considered to protect your water lines:

- Repair broken windows and ensure windows/vents are closed during the winter.
- Insulate water pipes in unheated areas, including crawl spaces.
- For sinks located against a non-insulated outside wall:
 - Open the vanity door to allow warm air to reach the water pipes.
 - A light bulb placed near the water pipe may generate enough heat to keep the water flowing.
 - Heat tape wrapped around the pipe may keep the pipe from freezing.
- Residents of mobile homes should check the condition of the heat tape on their water service and water meter.
- Protect unheated indoor water meter with an insulated box and water pipes should be wrapped in insulation using heat tape.
- Outside water taps and underground sprinkler systems should have the water supply shut off inside the house at the isolation valve for the tap.
- Sprinkler lines and taps should be drained/blown out.
- A thin stream of water (as thick as a pen) running continuously from at least one tap will help prevent a frozen water service.
- If you plan to be away from home over the winter period, close the main water isolation valve located next to the water meter in your home. You should leave the heat on in your home and have someone check inside your home daily while you're away.

A frozen water service, or a burst water pipe, is an inconvenience and expense that most people would like to avoid. Please take all possible precautions to prevent this happening in your home or business.

For more information, refer to www.medicinehat.ca/eu or contact Environmental Utilities at 403.529.8176.