

In his weekly Browns Outsider, Hiko provides us with a detailed quarter by quarter breakdown of the Browns 16-12 win over the Chiefs and found a lot to like in the performance. Hiko astutely notes that outside of two stupid plays by Frye, this game was dominated by the good guys, and the defense showed glimpses of potentially being really good this season.



A View From The Cheap Seats

Preseason - Week 1 - Cleveland vs. Kansas City

As I was away enjoying Wild, Wonderful, West Virginia this weekend, I was unable to watch this game live. The section of WV I was in is solid Steeler country, so I was forced to take in the lobotomizing adventure that is Pittsburgh preseason football. Upon my homecoming late Sunday, I opened a nourishing barley treat, and sat down to enjoy the return of Browns football. And then I wondered how long it would be before I bemoaned the return of *Browns football*, as in Cleveland Browns circa 2003-2006.

By the way, West Virginia, what's with your new slogan O

pen For Business

? I get images of the state as a toothless broken-down debutante in faux fur panties and hot pink lipstick. But I digress...

Expectations

I expect the offense to struggle. I expect the running game to be less effective than we hoped. I expect the QB's to have their moments, but mostly make us angry all over again at Brady Quinn for holding out and thus screwing himself out of any real chance at taking control of the job from Day One. I expect neither QB will distance himself from the other. I expect the defense to mostly dominate KC, with the exception of still surrendering too many yards in the running game, giving us pause to worry what might have happened had Larry Johnson been present and had he played more than one series. I expect Wimbley and Peek to significantly pressure the QB on passing downs. I expect the kick returning to be solid, but the punt returning to be less than amazing, and perhaps even give up a turnover.

First Quarter

The Browns received the kickoff, and, well, from the first offensive play, I found myself cringing a bit as Charlie Frye threw what should have been an INT. Following that was some of that Dink and Dunk crap that we love so much, including a swing pass for 1 yard on 3rd and 4. Already, I can see how this Offense will differ drastically from previous years... oh wait, that's the same.

Since our top 2 QB's are locked in this epic duel for the starting job, I've decided to grade them on each series. Frye gets a D on the first series. Using the *Hiko Extrapolation Theory*, a really bad first pass + 2 unsuccessful dump-offs = D.

Zastudil punted, and the Chiefs took over their own 23. They got a 1st down, and then Brody Croyle decided to test the Rook CB with a deep pass into single coverage, but Eric Wright was up to the task, knocking the ball spitefully away. The boys brought the heat after that, KC got backed up, and was forced to punt, despite

stealing 16 garbage yards via Michael Bennett on 3rd and 20.

Cribbs was the PR for the first offering, and it seems to me that he needs a head of steam to be really effective - he's one of the best Kick Returners in the league, but he lacks the shifty elusiveness to be a great Punt Returner.

On came Derek Anderson for the Browns second offensive possession, starting at their own 12, and after a run and a swing pass, the Browns called a run play for Jason Wright on 3rd and 4. Lenny Friedman got shoved back, his man got the tackle in the backfield, and I started counting down days until Eric Steinbach returns.

Anderson gets a C for his initial effort, even though I did almost as much as he did on that series. His check downs to running plays were as effective as OJ's efforts to find the real killers.

So the Chiefs got the ball back and managed to move the ball to the Browns 32. Then Wimbley made what can only be described as an All Pro move, lowering his shoulder, keeping his balance, and using his speed to sauté his man and shock the hell out of Brody Croyle, who was so scared that he thought Leigh Bodden was one of his receivers. INT Browns.

We are going to be paying Kameron SOOOOO much money in the near future.

The Browns had the ball at their own 41, and Charlie was back in. He started the drive off with yet another dump pass - although this one was successful for a 1^s
t

down. Yes, 4 of the first 5 Cleveland passes were dump offs or swing passes.

Do I see an apparition resembling Mo Carthon calling the plays on the sideline?

Cleveland drove down the field.

Jamal Lewis' feet look very quick. He had a couple good runs on this drive, coupled with a nice end around by Cribbs. On 2nd and 9 from the KC 18, the Chiefs blitzed, but Charlie made a tremendous read and hit Braylon Edwards on a slant, taking the ball to the 10 yard line and bringing up 3rd and less than 1.

And what should we do on 3rd and less than 1? Why, hand the ball to the Fullback, of course. Vickers got stacked up, 4th

down. The ghost of Mo C chortles.

Moowhahahahaha!

Phil kicked the FG, and the Browns took a commanding 3-0 lead.

Frye gets a B+ for this series, mainly because of his hot read on 2nd and 9. Other than that, he didn't have a chance to do

anything. There are those of you that will cry that I am being too lenient, that all he did was throw two passes the entire series, neither of which covered a span greater than 5 yards. There are those of you that will decry my downgrade, citing the fact that he made a tremendous play on his only real opportunity.

Tough. It's my ball; I get to make the rules.

The Browns kicked off, and once again Joshua Cribbs is involved. Cribbs has got to be one of the few 5th WR's in the league that has a guaranteed place on any roster due to his Special Teams bad-ass-ness.

The Chiefs got an immediate 1st down, but then Antwan Peek made a delectable play by dropping Kolby Smith for a 2 yard loss. On 3rd and 12,

the Browns got good pressure again, causing Croyle to go for the Browns-esque dump down, and Eric Wright made a solid tackle, showing he's not just a pretty face.

*End of 1st. □ Browns 3,
Chiefs 0.*

Second Quarter

KC punted to start the 2nd Session, and Derek Anderson was back in, and...

Wow, does this series suck.

Start it off with two craptastic running plays, plays where if we were

some kind of dominant
running team,
maybe
we'd be able to make
something of it, but, sadly,
we aren't. It brings back
horrors of the Butch Davis
years.

Run, Run, Throw Ball
Short of First Down, Punt.
Urg.

Anderson gets a B- on his 2nd series, since he only threw one ball, and it was right to the receiver. But he gets penalized for such an ugly abortion of offensive execution.

The Browns punted,
Damon Huard came in

for the Chiefs, and immediately imitated Rex Grossman, throwing a bad INT right to Daven Holly.

This brought Anderson back in, and his throws were questionable, he had to take a time out,

and his throws were questionable. But then, on 3rd and 10 from the Browns 49, he had what might be described as a *beer-goggles beautiful* scramble. He followed that with a nice screen play. And then he threw an INT on a play that was mercifully blown dead for a False Start.

This dude is
Inconsistent

. And what a friggin'
Horrible (capitalize the
H) throw on 3
rd

and 12 to kill the drive.
It looked like me playing
darts left handed whilst
wearing a blindfold and
playing Yahtzee with my
feet. Anderson gets a D

on this series, and, if not for the scramble and the one screen, he would've had an F-.

But we got a FG out of it, and the Browns roar to a 6-0 advantage.

KC took the kickoff and promptly did nothing with it. 3 and out again, and the Browns got the ball back at their own 20. They smoothly marched down the field due to some nice Jerome Harrison runs and a helluva throw by Frye to Ryan Krause for

26 yards.

No offense to Jason Wright, but I think that Jerome Harrison is a far more interesting option as backup RB. Except it seems that, at times, Harrison forgets

he's in the NFL, and
that it's some schmoe
from Montana State
he's trying to juke on
the outside.

And then came the play
that is the winner of this
week's *Nichole Richie*

Award TM - i.e.
the most hideous, the
most pungent, the most
foul of all plays: the
missed screen to
Harrison that was, in
fact, a lateral, and was,
in fact, picked up by an
alert KC defender and
returned for a garbage
TD. KC 7, Browns 6.

I don't know who to blame for that play - probably both of 'em - but Charlie was still looking a lot sharper than Anderson, and, well, I'm a merciful demigod. Frye gets a B-.

After the ensuing KC kickoff - Charlie was headed for the A. He converted 3rd and 15. He tossed quick outs. The offense was so much crisper under his tutelage. OK - well, he threw a crapulous screen on 1st and 20. But then he came

back with a very nice
toss on 2
nd

and 25, then
converted the 3
rd

down whilst still
managing the clock.

Ah yes... the clock...

On a 2nd and 5,
Charlie tossed a nice
pass to Travis
"Steely
McHands"
Wilson, who slapped

it down like his hands were Jim Everett and the ball was Jim Rome. However, Steely made up for his faux pas by making a nice catch on 3rd down, driving the ball to the 5 yard line with 12

seconds left on the
clock.

*Did someone say
'clock'?...*

Charlie took a time out - the FINAL time out - and the Browns had 1st and Goal at the 5. Aye, there's the rub, for after a team takes its FINAL time out, it cannot take any more time outs, because, oddly

enough, they no longer exist. And, if said team had only 12 seconds left in the half, it would be wise for that team to run a play that either ensured a Touchdown, or stopped the clock to

enable a Field Goal attempt.

And then we saw the reason why Charlie Frye has not been a successful NFL QB to date. It's

not his arm - that is fine. It's not his size - that is adequate. It's not his mobility - that is highly commendable. It's his Decision Making. Or, in other words, his

propensity to see
that his first read
isn't open, not find
his second read,
and then just
**FREAK THE HELL
OUT**, running
around as fast as he
can, avoiding logic

as much as he is
avoiding defenders,
and making what
can only be termed
a Horrendous
(capitalize the H)
decision.

Such a decision was to try to run the ball in despite three well-positioned defenders and the clock ticking down under 10 seconds and NO time outs.

I will continue my reputation as a merciful demigod and give him another B- for this series. 50 years ago, he would've been publicly flogged for such a

brain cramp. My lawyers tell me that isn't so kosher these days. Damn Hippies.

Halftime: Chiefs 7, Browns 6.

Third Quarter

I could mention that the Chiefs got the ball first in this half, but why bother?

The Browns
Defense was just

devouring poor KC
in this game. I
really felt like the
Browns toughest
opponent Saturday
night was
themselves.

Well, after KC's inevitable punt, Anderson was back in again, and had a fantastic play on 2nd down, sidestepping the blitz and delivering a nice pass which was,

typically, dropped.

Then he made a
terrible toss on 3
rd

down, but got bailed
out by an Illegal
Contact flag. A few
plays later, on 3
rd

and 12, he tossed a high but catchable ball to Steely McHands, who *did*

catch the ball, albeit on the second try, and out of bounds. In all fairness to

Steely, it would've
been a great catch.
Foolish of me to
expect that of you.

So, a C- for
Anderson that time.

You'll notice I haven't been checking my thesaurus for superlatives to describe his effort.

I've actually stopped discussing the defense, since they were beating down the Chief's O on such a regular basis that I began taking it for granted that it would be a 3

and out. It *is* the
Preseason, and the
defense has the
advantage over the
offense because
the powers that be
don't want to
exhibit their
'offensive genius'.

Still, I'd have to
think that the KC
Offensive
Coordinator is
drinking gallons of
Pepto tonight.

Another punt,
Anderson got yet
another shot, and
bootlegged on 1st
down and made a
good throw. Then
he bootlegged the
other way, and
made a high throw.

As I watch Derek, I
am reminded of
[Nuke LaLoosh](#)

▪
*I wouldn't dig in
there if I were you.
I don't know
where the next
one is going. □ I'm*

serious.

3rd down - a nice pass. Then, on the following play, he bootlegged and threw a crapmatic

pass short of his target that really should have been picked. Then, he dropped back and throws a dart to Steely, who also takes the every-other-attemp

t approach to
success and
caught it that time.

The running game
was really flowing
at this point.

True, this was probably KC's 3rd string D, but any consistency in the running game is good consistency.

Anderson ended this drive by skidding a slant at his receiver's feet on 3rd and 5 at the KC 15.

Phil came in and drilled a 32 yard

FG. Browns 9,
Chiefs 7. It IS a
scoring drive - so
I must extend my
mercy without
bias, and send
him a B-. No,
check that. You

throw that many
bad passes, you
get a C. That
drive was the
very definition of
C.

Phil kicked off,
and sent a dying
emu flailing out
of bounds. Can't
we spare a
single roster spot
on a guy that can
specialize on

kickoffs? Phil is decent with Field Goals, but his Kickoffs have been Heinous (capitalize the H) in this here game.

Another putrid
KC Offensive
demonstration,
and another
punt. Syndric
Steptoe, who
fielded a lion's
share of the

punts Saturday,
failed to fair
catch the ball
(you gotta field
that, SS), and
the immortal Ken
Dorsey was
forced to start his

first drive from
his own 7.

The Browns
went 3 and out.
I'm not grading

Ken Dorsey.
There's no use. I
understand that
he's an intelligent
person and good
for mentoring
players. I like
the guy. So toss

him a coach's
sweater and
open up the
roster spot.

End of 3rd. □

Browns 9, Chiefs
7.

Fourth Quarter

Holy crap! The Chiefs got a 1st down! I forgot they were still attempting offensive snaps.

Of course, they
turned right
around and got
mauled again.
Badly. I'm
giving the
Browns

Defense an A s
o far

tonight. Don't
make me a liar,
gentlemen.

KC punted the
ball to the
Cleveland 1.
Remember
what I said
about Dorsey
being

intelligent?

That usually
means that the
person would
understand that
he/she cannot
take the snap

from their own 1
yard line, fake
the handoff,
drop back, look
around, pump
fake, and still
have plenty of

time. No,
generally it
results in a
Safety, and it
did here as well.
You get a Z for
that play, Ken.

After the free
kick, KC
returned the ball
to the Browns
33. But David
McMillan was
having a great

game, and the Browns defense continued treating the Chief's O like it just keyed their Porsche.

KC punted.
The Browns
drove a little -
nothing but safe
passes and
runs. Dorsey
looked good on

this drive,
making the
throws he can
make, taking
the throws they
are giving him.
Buck Ortega

was pretending
he was Kellen
Winslow,
making catches
left and right.
The drive
stalled,

however, at the
KC 26, and on
trotted the
Nameless
Backup Kicker,
known in most
realms as *The*

*Most Useless
Player In
Training Camp*

. And he kicked
the ball right
into the
lumberyard.

Start scanning
the Want Ads,
Senor
Ainsworth.

Lo and Behold!

KC got the ball
back, and
manages to eke
out a 1st down!
That's 5 now!
Watch out,
Don Coryell

. Hark! A pass
managed
another one!
That's 6! And
then a
Defensive
Holding call

wiped out a 3
rd

and long and

KC got their

THIRD 1

ST

DOWN IN A

ROW!!!!

Word has it
that the Arena
League has

hired scouts to
try and find out
the Chiefs'
secret for
offensive
explosiveness.

Somehow,
inexplicably,
the Browns
shut down the
KC juggernaut,
and forced
them to kick a

42 yard FG.

And then I sat
there, having
watched the

game, having
watched the
Browns
effectively
smash the KC
team, and yet -
and yet - they

were still down
12-9. There is
no justice in
this world. I
can't believe
this crap, game
after game,

year after
year...

HOT DAMN!
Barclay took

the kickoff and
shot right up
the gut,
covering 88
yards in about
2.3 seconds.
Would-be

tacklers would
have to have
had internal
Tivo in order to
see him whiz
on by.

Just like that,
due to some
kind of crazy
cosmic karma,
the Browns
were up 16-12
with 1:36 to

play.

KC returned
the kickoff to
the 38 yard

line, and then
the Browns
hunkered down
into everyone's
favorite D - the
prevent.
Invariably, this

allowed KC to
actually move
the ball a little,
Casey Printers
showed that he
has some
mobility for a

mostly Horrific
(capitalize the
H) QB, and
Justin Sandy
decided to
make the most
of his *2 Weeks*

In Berea

by spearing the
KC QB after he
slid down,
giving the
Chiefs an extra
15 yards on

the Personal
Foul.

So, in typical
Cleveland

fashion, the
Browns
allowed the evil
opponent to
march down to
their 4 yard line
with 41

seconds left in
the game. But
- Lo! - what is
this? Two
plays later,
Casey Printers
sneezes on his

hands just
before the
snap, the ball
slid through his
slickery
fingers, and
Clifton Smith

fell on the
loose pigskin,
effectively
ending the
game.

In came
Dorsey for the
Victory
Formation...

*Final: Browns
16, Chiefs 12*

Conclusion

First - don't
ignore the
Browns D in
your fantasy
league this
year. They
may give up

some rushing
yards, they
may give up
some points,
but I'd be
shocked if they
aren't above

the NFL
average in
both sacks and
turnovers.

The Browns
should have at
least two Pro
Bowl players
this year, and
their initials are
both KW.

I thought
Bernie Kosar
did a great job
as an analyst
for Channel 3.
A lot of fun to
listen to. The

way he can
see exactly
what's going to
happen, and
what should
happen...
somebody sign

this guy up as
an Offensive
Coordinator.

The Chiefs just

lost ground in
their contract
battle versus
Larry Johnson.

LJ was
probably sitting
at home,

laughing his
ass off. Take
away Michael
Bennett's 16
yard garbage
gain on 3rd and
20 in the First

Quarter, and
Casey Printer's
end-of-game
Prevent
Defense
scrambles, and
the Chiefs had

17 rushes for
47 yards, a
whopping 2.76
per pop.

Here are the
final QB
grades:

Charlie Frye,

12 of 15, 122
yds, 0 TD, 0
INT

4 series, D,

B+, B-, B-.

Average: C+

Derek

Anderson, 7 of

16, 76 yds, 0
TD, 0 INT

5 series, C, B-,
D, C-, C.

Average: C-

It didn't feel
that close.

Really, other

than two
dunderheaded
plays by Mr.
Frye, this was
a no contest. I
really didn't
expect to see

one QB come
out and
dominate the
other
performance-w
ise, but I must
say that I felt a

lot more
confident
when Charlie
dropped back
than when
Derek did.

Round One
solidly belongs
to Chaz Frye,
although, I'm
not eagerly
tallying up the
scores. This

QB battle
between Frye
and Anderson
might be the
least
captivating QB
battle since

the invention
of the forward
pass.

To that effect...

wouldn't it be
nice if Brady
Quinn matured
at an
exponential
rate and made
the Browns

QB position of
viable NFL
quality?

One less

weakness...

Still, gauging
fan and media
reaction, there

was entirely
too much hand
wringing and
hair pulling
after this
game.
Certainly, the

play from the
QB position
was
uninspiring,
but it is still
just one
position, and

the team itself
played a damn
solid game.

It's the

Preseason,
and none of
this matters.
This is all
pretend.

That being
said, it's still
nice to see a
Browns
victory. We'll
take them
where we can

get them, even
if they don't
really count.
Wins have
been hard to
come by these
last several

years.

Practicing
winning can't
be a bad thing.