

COLUMN

50 years in making, Chiefs are Super Bowl-bound



RJay McCoy
Staff reporter

The National Football League regular season has come to an end, and with this leaves two teams for the final and most-anticipated game of the year - the Super Bowl, the day we all crowd around the television to watch the game.

From year to year, it doesn't matter who is playing in the Super Bowl, because most individuals watch for just the fun of it. Others just enjoy the day for the food, festivities and commercials.

Who knows how to do Super Bowl parties better than dads? Nobody - because the simple fact is, dads pride themselves on the grill and always throw the biggest parties.

This year's match-up consists of the San Francisco 49ers and the Kansas City Chiefs. This bout has been one of the more

intriguing match-ups over the past few years, based off of the way the two teams play.

These teams have made changes throughout the last few years, as both have gone 2-14 in a season in the past 10 years. The 49ers did it in 2016 with Chip Kelly at the helm and the Chiefs did the same in 2012 with Romeo Crennel as the interim head coach through half the season.

The 49ers come into the game as NFC champions. They earned the one seed prior to the playoffs.

This is the first Super Bowl appearance for the 49ers since 2013, when the lights went out at the Mercedes-Benz Superdome in New Orleans. That game ended in a Baltimore Ravens win, courtesy of MVP Joe Flacco leading the Ravens over Colin Kaepernick and the

49ers 34-31.

Up until this point, the 49ers have dominated every team in the playoffs, beating the Minnesota Vikings and the Green Bay Packers by 17 points both games.

The rushing attack has been crucial for the 49ers as they ranked second in the NFL for rushing yards. A second-ranked rushing attack has been put on display, mainly by Raheem Mostert in the backfield for the 49ers.

Mostert has been key in the success of the 49ers, as last week, the Packers just couldn't solve the run and ended up having to put something together to come back late.

Another point of emphasis for the 49ers has been tight-end George Kittle, who has been kept quiet in the playoffs but racked up 1,053 yards. Kittle, who is Gorropolo's favorite target, has had an average of 12.4 yards per catch along with five touchdowns in the season.

But don't forget about the 49ers defensive line. They have been one of the best in the NFL for sacks and pressures on the quarterback.

I have watched many Super Bowls in my short lifetime and find this one very meaningful.

Growing up in this region and my father being from Kansas City, I have seen my fair share of let-downs from the Chiefs.

The Kansas City Chiefs, with all the firepower and leadership of reigning MVP Patrick Mahomes, are playing for much more than a ring on their finger.

They are playing for a whole region.

Jan. 11, 1970 was the last time the Chiefs were in the Super Bowl.

50 years of coming up short. 50 years of not quite having the pieces on both sides of the ball.

For years, the Chiefs have always had a pretty solid defense. They just didn't have it on the other side of the ball.

The past two years have been a whirlwind as a Chiefs fan, almost reaching the pinnacle last year, losing in the AFC Championship game to the Patriots 37-31.

2020 is the year of something new and different.

While Andy Reid, head coach for the Chiefs, has been to the Super Bowl once, he has never

won. This time around, he has a team that has a very good chance of changing the narrative. This team could change the narrative of the Chiefs and the narrative of football in the region.

Mahomes is surrounded by Travis Kelce, "The Cheetah," Tyreek Hill, "The Jet," M- cole Hardman and many other pieces on the offensive side of the ball.

On the other side of the ball, the Chiefs did extensive offseason work to acquire Frank Clark, Terrell Suggs, who won the Super Bowl in 2013 against the 49ers, and Tyrann Mathieu over the top and in the slot.

The defensive line for the Chiefs has tied the season-best 52 sacks this year, courtesy of the trio Clark, Chris Jones and Suggs, who was acquired off waiver late in the season.

It will be very interesting to see scripts from both sides to start out the game.

The game is history, 50 years in the making.

RJay McCoy is a junior majoring in communication. You may email him at rjay.mccoy@sckans.edu.

TELEVISION REVIEW

Eye-opening television show premieres on Netflix

By Lathe Cobb
Staff reporter

"Killer Inside: The Mind of Aaron Hernandez," featured on Netflix at the start of the year, is a great, eye-opening story. The three-part documentary goes inside the story of Aaron Hernandez, a former NFL-player-turned-convicted-murderer.

In April 2015, Hernandez was convicted of first-degree murder in the killing of Odin Lloyd. He was sentenced to life in prison without parole. Two years later, he was acquitted for double homicide charges. He committed suicide in his jail cell five days later.

"Killer Inside" offers a deep look into Hernandez's football career, the murders, and his death. It also puts a spotlight on the NFL's problem with chronic traumatic encephalopathy, CTE, a brain disease caused by repeated head injuries.

The documentary explains why Hernandez's was such a monumental case, showing that he was a star football player for the New England Patriots. It characterizes him as an extremely talented, hard-working athlete and family man.

From a mansion to small jail cell, Hernandez adjusted like



it was no problem. The story depicts Hernandez as some type of psychopath, adding conflict into the viewers' minds.

One of the strongest points in the series was when his father passed away before his college career. His father stood as a role model.

The relationship between him and his father was very strong,

and at that point, you see a shift in Hernandez's life. You can feel a type of eerie, sad feeling, and you can see that throughout the rest of the series.

A very shocking moment is when viewers find out that Hernandez hid a homosexual lifestyle, having relationships with former teammates through his football career. Not even his closest family and friends know about the life he hides.

Hernandez committed suicide when he was acquitted for the double homicide charges. This is a very dramatic moment in the story.

At the point in which he commits suicide, the show offers

up a few speculations to why he killed himself. They detail a way in which he and his family cheated the court system for money. A greater reason was, that with all the pressure, with his statues and spending life in prison, he eventually broke and took his life.

"Killer Inside: The mind of Aaron Hernandez" offers a deep look inside of the Aaron Hernandez case. With a dramatic storyline, great story telling and eye-opening truths, it is one to put on your watch list for 2020.

Lathe Cobb is a freshman majoring in communication. You may email him at lathe.cobb@sckans.edu.