

Chiefs comeback to avenge Super Bowl I

In Super Bowl I, the Green Bay Packers dominated the AFL Champion Kansas City Chiefs, 35-14, to prove that the NFL was a superior league. Thirty-one years later, the Chiefs avenged that loss with a 31-24 come-from-behind victory over the Packers in Super Bowl XXXII at Qualcomm Stadium in San Diego.

In every Super Bowl, there is a defining moment in a game that shifts momentum from one team to another. In this one, it was when Marty Schottenheimer replaced QB Elvis Grbac with his backup Rich Gannon. The Packers were dominating the game and led 17-0 when Grbac threw a pick-six to Packer safety Mike Prior. Schottenheimer had enough. When the game resumed, Gannon was in and Grbac was out. The result...TE Tony Gonzalez fumbled; however, the Chiefs' defense picked off Brett Favre on the next play. Gannon took advantage.

Gannon used the interception to move the ball into Packer territory. On a third down play, Gannon rifled a pass to WR Andre Rison for a 20-yard touchdown and moved the Chiefs closer at 17-7.

Favre and the Packers responded with a huge drive of their own. Favre hit Robert Brooks for a big 33-yard gain putting the Packers in Chiefs' territory. The drive ended when Dorsey Levens plunged in from a yard out to give the Packers a 24-7 lead.

Little things add up to big things. The Chiefs didn't limp into halftime. Instead, Schottenheimer got aggressive. Gannon hit Rison on a big 4th down play to put the Chiefs in apparent field goal range. As the clock winded down in the first half, Pete Stoyanovich booted a 54-yard field goal to close the gap to 24-10 at halftime. That was huge!

The Chiefs got the first possession of the second half and just like Desmond Howard did a year ago to lift the Packers to a championship...Tamarick Vanover did the same! He took the second half kickoff 1-yard deep in the end zone and then returned it 101 yards for a touchdown to cut the lead to 24-17.

Then the Chiefs picked off Brett Favre again! A few plays later, Gannon hit Rison again for 5 yards to tie the score at 24!

From there, both defenses decided to show up. The Chiefs picked off Favre again on the next possession and then began to put a ton of heat on him. They sacked him four times in the second half.

The second half was bad luck for the Packers. Midway through the fourth quarter, safety Mike Prior picked off Gannon. He was racing for the end zone but was caught from behind and fumbled! Chiefs' WR Lake Dawson recovered setting up the Chiefs at their seven-yard line!

A few plays later, the Chiefs had a 3rd and 12 from their five-yard line. Gannon evaded a Packer rush and bombed the ball down the sideline. Rison caught it and got away from CB Tyrone Williams and raced 95 yards for the go-ahead touchdown...31-24! Rison helped the Packers win a World Title a year ago and now he is taking one away from them this year.

After a Packer missed field and another Gannon INT, the Packers had one more shot to tie the game. The Packers had a 4th and 5 from their 36-yard line. Favre rifled a pass towards WR Derrick Mayes, but the pass fell incomplete giving the Chiefs the victory and the Super Bowl Championship!

Rison was the game's MVP. He caught seven passes for 147 yards and three touchdowns including the 95-yard game-winning touchdown. Gannon finished 12 of 21 for 186 yards with three touchdowns and three interceptions.

Safety Jerome Woods picked off Favre twice and James Hasty got the other one. DE Dan Williams, who replaced Neil Smith along the front this year, had two big sacks. LB Derrick Thomas had a sack.

As for the Packers, the Chiefs stuffed their running game. They held Dorsey Levens to just 23 yards on 17 carries. The Packers rushed for 52 yards. Favre had a bad day. He was 22 of 40 for 304 yards with a touchdown and three costly interceptions.

(The dice know. The final score was the exact final score of Super Bowl XXXII, but it was the Broncos prevailing. Also, the final Packers' play was a fourth down incompleting of Favre just like it was in the real game. It was surreal.)