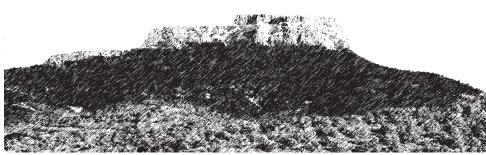
OVER THE PASS





"Growing my own food. Eating good healthy food that I know where it comes from. Being 58 and fit and trim and healthy. How you take care of your body, it shows up."



"In the mountains. I love the scenery here. I just moved here from Louisiana. I go hiking up in the mountains—Riley's Canyon, Long's Canyon, Monument, all around here. I like fishing and photography up there, too."

- Indio Murphy, boilermaker, Trinidad

TIM KELLER'S CONNECTIONS "When do you feel fabulous?"



"Never. I'm on my third major surgery and waiting for one more. I've spent three months in the hospital over all this. The last time I felt fabulous was when I got out of Viet Nam. I thought coming home was going to be great. It wasn't."

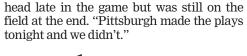
- Tom Haigh, disabled veteran, Allendale

- Cate Graber, writer, Trinidad

ROAD TO THE SUPER BOWL

Bell carries Steelers past New England DAVE SKRETTA

Ben Roethlisberger and Co. in the AFC title game. They went on to beat the Philadelphia Eagles in the Super Bowl two weeks later. "They're the team to beat," DeCastro said. "We're going to have to play a perfect game to win.' NO BEN LAST TIME: When the Patriots beats the Steelers 27-16 on Oct. 23, Roethlisberger was sidelined with a left knee injury. With Big Ben in sweats on the sideline in Pittsburgh, backup Landry Jones was 27 of 49 for 281 yards with a touchdown and an interception in his third career start. Since Roethlisberger joined the Steelers, they are 3-7 against New England overall, losing their only playoff matchup. They are also 1-4 at Foxborough, the win coming when Tom Brady was hurt in 2008.



Chris Conley, who took a wicked shot to the

1.

Photos by Tim Keller / The Chronicle-News



"When I wake up in the morning. When I have my first cup of coffee. When I look into his eyes. When we walk. That's one of the reasons I love this town: You can get everywhere by walking."

- Cessna Haney, job seeker, Trinidad

yards.

"We've built the team in such a way where we've got a lot of young guys who are cornerstone players for us," coach Jason Garrett said. "I think the mix of youth and guys who are in the prime of their careers and some veteran guys has really been beneficial to the chemistry of this football team." Things to consider after the Packers beat the Cowboys in the divisional round for the second time in three seasons:

AP Sports Writer

KANSAS CITY, Mo. (AP) — Le'Veon Bell deftly danced his way through the teeth of the Kansas City Chiefs on Sunday night.

Next, he'll carry Pittsburgh Steelers off to New England.

With his amusingly patient, maddeningly effective running style, Bell followed up a stellar wild-card effort against Miami with 170 yards rushing at Arrowhead Stadium. He kept churning for first downs when the game was hanging in the balance, helping the Steelers persevere for an 18-16 victory.

Next up is Tom Brady and the Patriots with a spot in the Super Bowl on the line.

"It's going to be fun. It's definitely a showdown game for us," Bell said. "It's going to be another hostile environment, going against Tom Brady, one of the best quarterbacks ever to do this."

Then again, Bell is becoming one of the best running backs to do this.

He had four consecutive 100-yard-plus efforts late in the season, including a 236-yard outing against Buffalo. He followed with 167 yards rushing against the Dolphins before causing all kinds of heartburn for the Chiefs, who always seemed to be where Bell was just a moment ago.

Just about the only thing missing from his line Sunday night was a touchdown.

The Chiefs kept stiffening in the red zone, and held the Steelers to a playoff-record six field goals by Chris Boswell. But that turned out to be enough on a night when Kansas City struggled to get into any kind of offensive rhythm, and the Steelers were able to ride Bell to victory.

"It's just football, man. You wish you could score more points," Steelers offensive lineman David DeCastro said, "but obviously it's nice if you can have Boswell put points on the board every time."

The Steelers and Patriots will be meeting in the playoffs for the first time since January 2004, when New England rolled through Roethlisberger is 3-1 in AFC championship games, though, and 2-1 in Super Bowls.

KELCE SOUNDS OFF: The Chiefs appeared to have made a 2-point conversion to tie the game in the closing minutes, but left tackle Eric Fisher was called for holding. The Chiefs had to attempt the conversion again and Alex Smith's pass fell harmlessly to the turf.

Tight end Travis Kelce spent his entire postgame media session — all 90 seconds that the Chiefs' media staff allowed — ripping the penalty, referee Carl Cheffers and the rest of his crew.

"The momentum is getting on our side and just get our jugulars ripped out because the ref felt bad for James Harrison falling on the ground, it's ignorance," Kelce said. "The ref shouldn't be able to wear a zebra jersey ever again. He shouldn't be able to wear it at Foot Locker."

THE OTHER KILLER B: Antonio Brown was relatively quiet most of the night, except for a 52-yard reception early in the game, when the Steelers' star wide receiver somehow got matched up 1-on-1 with linebacker Justin Houston. But he still finished with six catches for 108 yards.

None of them was bigger than the final one, a 7-yard catch on third-and-3 at the Pittsburgh 2 with 1:53 left. The first down allowed the Steelers to run out the clock.

SAME OLD STORY: The Chiefs fought to the end of the season to win the AFC West, earn the No. 2 seed in the playoffs and receive a first-round bye. But maybe next time they'd be better off tanking: They've earned a bye and home playoff game four times, losing all of them.

"It's the nature of the game. Either you make plays to stay in and stay alive or you get knocked out," said Chiefs wide receiver

Rodgers again: Packers top Cowboys

SCHUYLER DIXON AP Sports Writer

ARLINGTON, Texas (AP) — After another improbable throw from Aaron Rodgers that propelled the Green Bay Packers to a playoff win, coach Mike McCarthy was asked if it was the best one yet from his star quarterback.

"It's the best one today, that's for sure," McCarthy said after a wild 34-31 divisional playoff win Sunday over the Dallas Cowboys that was the Packers' eighth straight and sent them to the NFC championship game.

"He's an incredible player, incredible talent. And to do it when it's all on the line like that, that's what great players do."

Rodgers threw a 36-yard pass to a toedragging Jared Cook on the sideline, and Mason Crosby kicked a 51-yard field goal on the next play as time expired, sending the two-time MVP into a showdown next Sunday with the possible winner this year, Atlanta's Matt Ryan.

"We're going to enjoy this one, and then we'll get on to Atlanta tomorrow," said Rodgers, who threw for 356 yards and two touchdowns. "But this one's special, more special than we've had around here in a while."

The throw on the run from Rodgers to Cook came on third-and-20 with 12 seconds left, and after the Cowboys (13-4) tied the score twice in the final 4:08 after trailing by 18 in the first half and by 15 to start the fourth quarter in their fifth straight divisional-round loss.

Dallas' rally was led by rookie sensations Dak Prescott and Ezekiel Elliott in their playoff debuts, and the first two career postseason touchdown catches for star receiver Dez Bryant along with the first for 14th-year tight end Jason Witten.

Prescott threw for 302 yards and was the first rookie QB in the Super Bowl era with three touchdown passes in a playoff game. Elliott, the NFL rushing champion, had 125 HALF MARY? Rodgers, who threw his first interception during the eight-game streak, didn't have another Hail Mary after three in 13 months, the latest before halftime in last week's wild-card win over the New York Giants. But the throw to Cook had the same effect, allowing the Packers to get in scoring range after the Cowboys tied it for the second time in the last 4:08 with 35 seconds remaining.

"We've got a good repertoire of plays toward the end of the game, whether it's obviously the well-publicized Hail Marys or other plays we've made over the years to kind of draw from," said Rodgers, who celebrated in his first appearance on the Cowboys' field since he was the Super Bowl MVP while winning his only title six years ago.

PROMISING FUTURE, NO SOLACE: Cowboys owner Jerry Jones thought there was a good chance of ending that two-decade Super Bowl drought, and was convinced by the late comeback that they were more than capable of doing that this season. "It's no solace," Jones said. "But we have a team and we have players that are made of the kind of thing that can win these big games."

That includes Prescott and Elliott, only the NFL's third QB-running back rookie duo to make it to the playoffs.

Still, Jones was "terribly disappointed" that the Cowboys failed to make it past the divisional game for the ninth consecutive playoff appearance since three Super Bowl titles in a four-season span (2002, 2003 and 2005).

SPREADING IT AROUND: If Rodgers is without Jordy Nelson again at Atlanta after his No. 1 receiver injured his ribs against the Giants, the options seem plentiful. Rodgers found six different receivers, including a 34-yard touchdown to Richard Rodgers that was his longest since catching one of those Hail Marys from Aaron Rodgers to stun Detroit late in the 2015 season.

DAZZLING DEZ: This was Bryant at his best. Healthy for most of this season after his injury-filled 2015 when the Cowboys won only four games, Bryant had nine catches for 132 yards and his first two career postseason touchdowns. Things are looking up two seasons into his \$70 million, five-year contract.