

NFL | Kansas City Chiefs

QB Smith Asked To Carry Load On His Right Shoulder

ST. JOSEPH, Mo. (AP) — Alex Smith did everything the Kansas City Chiefs asked of him last season.

Now, he must do more.

The veteran quarterback with a reputation for being a game manager is being called upon to build on a solid if unremarkable season.

After signing a four-year, \$68 million extension before training camp, Smith proceeded to throw for more than 3,000 yards and 18 touchdowns with only six interceptions, despite having his season cut a game short by injury.

But if the Chiefs hope to return to the playoffs — and win their first postseason game since 1993 — it will almost certainly be because their passing game flourishes this season.

"I feel really good," said Smith, who is entering his 10th season in the league. "It's a point of emphasis for us all offseason. We worked hard on it, QBs and wideouts

included. We worked really hard on it and I do feel good with where we're at."

Much of his career, Smith has been hampered by spotty options at wide receiver. Dwayne Bowe and Donnie Avery hardly fit Chiefs coach Andy Reid's offense, but other than a host of also-rans, they were just about all Smith had at his disposal.

That is hardly the case this season.

The Chiefs signed Jeremy MacLin, who grew up in Reid's offense in Philadelphia — although the high-profile free agent missed Monday's practice with an injury.

They also drafted Chris Conley in the third round, and the speedy, rangy pass-catcher out of Georgia returned to the practice field Monday for the first time since July 29 after dealing with a knee injury.

Throw in the emergence of tight end Travis Kelce as a bona fide star last season, and running back

Jamaal Charles's ability to catch passes out of the backfield, and Smith has more weapons in the huddle than any other time in his first two years in Kansas City.

He also has more down-the-field options.

One of the big criticisms of Smith has been his reluctance to throw deep, which might help loosen up opposing defenses and give Charles room to run. Smith completed just 40 passes of at least 20 yards last season, ranking in the bottom half of NFL starters, and three of at least 40 yards — tied for 35th among all quarterbacks that attempted a pass.

"Your percentages obviously go down when you shoot deep as opposed to short and intermediate passes, that only makes sense," Reid said. "But he's connected on some nice ones (in practice)."

Even offensive coordinator



DAVID EULITT/KANSAS CITY STAR/TNSO
Kansas City Chiefs quarterback Alex Smith (11) shouts out play calls during the team's training camp practice Monday morning at Missouri Western State University in St. Joseph, Mo.

CHIEFS | PAGE 9

Champions Of The Softball Diamond



Whimps won the Just For Fun League regular season and tournament championship. Team members include: Dana Hannahs, Cody Merigan, Addi Ludwig, Becca Kruse, Shawn Kruse, Tyler Zimmerman, Dustin Hinker, Jess Goeken, Paige Olson, Josh Timmerman, Katie McPherson, Eric McPherson, Harry Hawley and Shane Rol.



Rounding 3rd won the Just For Fun League sportsmanship award. Team members include: Joby Wuestawald, Michael English, Arianne Milk, Andrew Roberson, Alyssa Heles, Alex Powell, Lee Milk, Justin Brandt, Karissa Wuestawald and Amanda Pratt.



Houska Dental won the Recreational League regular season championships. Team members include: Tory McCreary, Jennifer Bye, Kyle Lichty, Elizabeth Szymonski, Bailey Carlson, Josh Holstein, Brandon Webb, Ryan Tramp, Mike Zins, Gary Zins and Lizzy Bye.



Hunhoff Hillbillies won the Recreation League tournament title. Team members include: Nick Hunhoff, Matt Hunhoff, Corey Hunhoff, John Wharton, Tom Viereck, Shannon Viereck, Samie Buckley, Lisa Kalt, Heidi Walter and Kelsey Thomas. Not Pictured are Beverly Wharton, Jean Hunhoff and Abbey Hunhoff.



Bank of Hartington Ligers captured the Competitive League regular season and tournament titles. Team members include: Brett Mainquist, Renae Mainquist, Melissa Mainquist, Brandon Mainquist, Chris Gubbels, Kayla Gubbels, Mark Gubbels, Cassie Harm, Megan Lammers, Austin Roeber, Amanda Lammers, Brooklyn Lammers, Devon Lammers, Kyle Lammers and Taylor Lammers.



Hay Bye won the Competitive League sportsmanship award. Team members include: Jerome Wuestewald, Katie Kokes, Valerie Wueben, Shelley Bye, Melissa Vollmer, Ryan Weverstad, Nick Dawson and JJ Peterson.



Marquardt Transportation won the Power League regular season championship. Team members include: (back, L-R) Doug Marquardt, Brian Fejfar, Josh Lynde, Lance Gemar, Tim Lynde, Jimmy Hahn, (front, L-R) Lori Goad, Erin Brown, Megan Schmidt, Stacy Zeigler and Jade Kusel. Not Pictured are Haley Ridgway, Kylie Gross, Tory Gross, Rick Castillo, Clint Schearing and Elsie Marquardt.



James & Larson & KPI won the Power League sportsmanship award. Team members include: (back, L-R) Matt Hoeffs, Kyle Ususerry, Matt Kranz, Megan Tjeerdsma, Danielle Dracy, Travis Devine, Cole Larson, (front, L-R) Dana Larson and Tessa Hansen.

Ferdig's Transmissions won the Recreational League sportsmanship award. Team members include: Chris Ferdig, Brian Huber, Jason Pearson, Brian Wenisch, Dylan Tramp, Steve Metteer, Alex Slagle, Carin Huber, Becky Koupal, Steph Ulmer, Brittany Cihak, Bev Karstens, Morgan Junge, Nicole Doerr and Libby Ferdig.



Home Federal Bank won the Power League tournament championship. Team members include: (back, L-R) Jeff Steppat, Michelle Boese, Corey Enfield, Greg Mueller, Jason Kral, (front, L-R) Ramon Romero, Scott Enfield, Miranda Leusink, Cassie Johnson, Rae Slowey, Brooke Loecker and Abby Dickes.

Alexandria, Akron Move On At State Amateurs

MITCHELL — A dropped fly ball in the bottom of the 11th inning helped the Alexandria Angels edge the Dell Rapids Mudcats 2-1 on Monday night in the second round of the South Dakota State Amateur Baseball Tournament in Mitchell.

Trever Vermeulen pitched all 11 innings to get the win for Alexandria, as he surrendered seven hits and struck out seven batters. John Greicar and Cory Marek both had two hits in the win.

The pitcher's duel saw Mudcats' starter Jared Donahue strike out 11 batters in 7 2/3 innings, and he was relieved by Marcus Heemstra. Jimmy Bauer and Grant Olson each had two hits in the loss.

Alexandria advances to face the Platte-Wessington Springs winner on Thursday at 8 p.m.

Akron 3, Garretson 2

MITCHELL — Noah Bohlman's two-run single in the bottom of the ninth lifted the Akron Rebels past Garretson 3-2 in the second round of the South Dakota State Amateur Baseball Tournament on Sunday at Mitchell's Cadwell Park.

Akron advances to face Canova-Howard on Thursday at 6 p.m.

Garretson took a 2-0 lead into the ninth, but Bluejays pitcher Dustin Steckler hit consecutive batters, forcing in a run. Garretson went to the bullpen for Patrick Whetham, who gave up the game-winning hit to Bohlman on his third pitch.

No player had more than one hit for Akron. Steckler had two hits and Nick Bonte doubled for Garretson.

U Of Minnesota Responds To 3rd Harassment Report Over A.D.

MINNEAPOLIS (AP) — The University of Minnesota responded Monday to a third woman's claims that she was sexually harassed by former athletic director Norwood Teague by asking that anyone else with similar allegations come forward.

President Eric Kaler said in a statement the university takes such allegations seriously and wants to know if there are further complaints.

Teague resigned Friday after the university released transcripts of sexual harassment complaints against him by two female employees. Kaler said at the time that the reports were the only ones the university had received and that no further investigation was planned.

However, Star Tribune basketball reporter Amelia Rayno wrote a first-hand account published Monday that alleged Teague sexually harassed her over a period of several months.

Rayno wrote that Teague groped her at a bar and followed her into a cab before sending suggestive text messages to her in 2013. Rayno said she met with human resources at the Star Tribune but ultimately decided not to bring the issue to university officials for fear of compromising her job as the Gophers men's basketball reporter.

When Teague announced his resignation Friday, he acknowledged what he called "inappropriate" behavior and said he would seek treatment for his issues with alcohol. He didn't respond to requests for comment Monday from The Associated Press about the Star Tribune report.

In the university reports, Teague was accused of sexually harassing two non-student employees on an unspecified night this year, drunkenly groping them both at a gathering of school officials and employees, and sending sexually explicit text messages to one of the women.

Kaler characterized the behavior as that of one man and not indicative of the entire athletic department. He also said Friday that the reports were the first indication that Teague had mistreated women.