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Subject: Andy Reid calls Anthony Sherman "a sausage with hands"

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Andy Reid has routinely amused us with colorful food metaphors during his time as Kansas City Chiefs head coach. Remember when he referred to an oft-repeated stat about Chiefs wide receiver touchdowns as a "moldy cheeseburger"? Or the time he said that the NFL preseason was "like a hot dog-eating contest"? Or when he told Terez Paylor that calling the right play at the right moment was like eating a good cheeseburger? Reid gave us another one on Sunday following his team's 38-28 win over the Los Angeles Chargers to open the regular season -- this one about fullback Anthony Sherman Youth Justin Houston Jersey , who had scored on a 36-yard touchdown pass from Patrick Mahomes in the third quarter of the game. Sherman, 30, is entering his eighth season in the NFL. It's almost quaint now to remember the furor that erupted among Chiefs fans when the Chiefs traded cornerback Javier Arenas to the Arizona Cardinals to obtain Sherman -- then a two-year veteran -- in 2013. Just days before, the Chiefs had expended a sixth-round choice to draft Braden Wilson out of Kansas State -- a pick that Arrowhead Pride readers had widely approved. What were they thinking? Trading for another fullback? But -- as it soon became clear -- the Chiefs wanted a fullback, and they just wanted to be sure they had a good one. And Sherman has been a good one. While his box scores have never been anything that could get anyone excited -- his touchdown catch on Sunday was his longest career reception -- he has proved his worth to the Chiefs over and over as a blocker and especially on special teams. Sherman doesn't get many opportunities to make an impact on offense, but as he showed on Sunday, he makes them count. Photo by Kevork Djanssezian/Getty Images Sunday demonstrated another reason the Chiefs find him valuable: he is versatile. The Chiefs came out of the final cutdown with two tight ends on the roster: Travis Kelce and Alex Ellis. Most roster prognostications -- including ours -- included a third tight end on the roster to replace Demetrius Harris during the suspension he served in Week 1. We all assumed -- since we know Reid likes to run formations with three tight ends -- that the Chiefs would keep Jace Amaro for a week, and then cut him to make room for Harris. But the Chiefs were smarter than we were. Why go through the additional aggravation of making transactions when Anthony Sherman can fill in at tight end when needed? "We saw what he did filling in as a running back in Denver," Reid explained after the game on Sunday. "You got to see today what he did filling in as a tight end, and that's why we didn't make a [roster] move, yes -- to answer your question -- yes. Then we get Demetrius [Harris] back, and now we are rolling at tight end with another person that is a good player." Over time, Sherman has become popular. Chiefs fans have come to appreciate not only Sherman's unseen contributions, but also his colorful nature; his annual arrival at training camp in an unusual outfit is awaited as breathlessly as that of a Hollywood starlet on the red carpet during Oscar night. And when players become popular, they get nicknames. The Shermanator and The Tank are often used by Chiefs fans. But among his teammates, Sherman is known as The Sausage. So when speaking to the media about the trust he has in Sherman -- in whatever way he is used on the field -- Reid knew he was getting ready to serve up a money quote that writers like myself would use as an excuse to write a feature story about the Chiefs fullback. "I was telling [Chiefs Radio Network executive producer] Dan [Israel], he's got crazy hands, man. You think of him as a sausage, so he goes out, and he's a sausage with hands." Never let it be said that I don't know how to do my job. This is part one of a three-part weekly film analysis on the performance of Patrick Mahomes. Well, this is weird. It's been a while since the Kansas City Chiefs lost a game, and it's the first time in Patrick Mahomes' career. Just as having a young, home-grown quarterback is unfamiliar territory for a generation of Chiefs fans, so is this feeling with the kid

under center. The responses have been appropriate to the moment. This wasn't a shellacking. This wasn't remotely embarrassing. Mahomes went toe to toe with the G.O.A.T. Tom Brady and brought his team roaring back to take a lead in the fourth quarter. Bill Belichick had three extra days to prepare to stop an offense that has been the talk of the league. He got the 23-year-old early in the game with a few plays we'll talk about in the next few days that led to mistakes and turnovers. The Chiefs trailed 24-9 at the half

<http://www.thechiefsfootballauthentic.com/dee-ford-jersey-authentic> , and things look bleak. Lesser 23-year-old quarterbacks have been chewed up and spit out in Foxborough, and for a half, it looked like that might be the case. Not your guy, Kansas City. The Chiefs lost, but your young quarterback hung 31 in the second half. He earned the respect of yet another locker room. He's learning every opportunity he gets and he's not duplicating many mistakes. There were rough moments on Sunday, but you still got the spectacular you've come to expect. He makes you forget that he's not a veteran every week. The Patriots threw a lot at Mahomes this week, and it worked enough early to force the Chiefs to play from behind. No moment has looked too big for him for an entire game, though. He's still having to manage the juice early, but he continues to figure it out as the game goes on and with enough time to give his team a chance to win. Every week, he's inching closer and closer to it not mattering what the defense tries to do, and you can count on one hand the guys that are like that. Something good They scored too quick! This is, of course, the last time the offense would touch the ball. The Patriots are playing Cover 3 and the Chiefs dial play-action with Tyreek Hill working into the boundary on a deep crosser. The Chiefs ask Hill to eat up a ton of ground in order to get over. He threatens the safety vertically as he works across the field, and safety Duron Harmon opens his hips to Hill as he gets depth. As Hill crosses the safety's face, it forces him to flip his hips, giving Mahomes additional space to throw. With the boundary corner occupied by Kelce, there's no one in the way of this throw. The ball was a little behind Hill, but it didn't matter. The velocity let Hill make up for a little lost time to accelerate away from Harmon. The route by Hill gave the duo some margin for error, but the 40-plus-air yard throw with rare velocity helped maintain enough of it for Hill to score. The Chiefs have run similar looks to this with Alex Smith in the past, just with shorter routes. They're stretching the limits with Mahomes and Hill further now. Even though everything wasn't perfect, the Chiefs are still keeping defensive coordinators up at night with plays like these. We're spoiled getting to watch this perfect pairing. Something bad How about we add some positives to this week's something bad before delving into a big mistake? There's 51 seconds remaining in the half and the Chiefs trail by 15. At their own 30, the Chiefs face a third-and-15, needing to extend the drive to keep the ball out of Brady's hands and give themselves a chance to shrink the lead. Things that are becoming norms should not be becoming norms. Quarterbacks aren't supposed to make third-and-long plays look this easy, but every week <http://www.thechiefsfootballauthentic.com/eric-fisher-jersey-authentic> , it feels like Mahomes pulls one of these off. The Chiefs are lined up in a Y-Iso look with Travis Kelce lined up to the left in the boundary. The Patriots are showing a two-high shell but roll into a Cover 3. They're running a flood concept into the boundary with Kelce clearing space underneath on a vertical. With a late blitzing Kyle Van Noy coming to Mahomes' front side, he rolls to his left with the direction of the pass concept. With space between the underneath defender, the cornerback on the vertical with Kelce and the middle field safety, Mahomes finds Hill with a throw of 38 air yards rolling to his non-dominant side, on a rope to convert for a gain of 27 yards. His ability to rotate his body to be able to deliver the velocity he did is absurd. You can hear a quiet but audible "Wow," from Chris Collinsworth on the game broadcast. Unfortunately, that amazing play was wasted. With 17 seconds remaining and one timeout left at the New England 15-yard line, Mahomes makes a critical mistake. Mahomes does a nice job stepping up against front-side pressure and then exiting to his right. With a chasing Donta' Hightower hanging onto him, he

elects to take a chance and throws the ball into congested space to Kelce on the scramble working laterally with him after running a middle curl. The ball is undercut by Harmon, then bounces off of Devin McCourty and back into the hands of Harmon for a drive-ending interception. This play was a first-and-10. Had he thrown the ball away, Mahomes could've had a few more chances to get into the end zone before having to kick a field goal. The Chiefs still had a timeout remaining, so the playbook was still pretty open. This is the kind of mistake Mahomes has mostly avoided in the last few games. I don't expect it to happen too often, but in this situation, the young quarterback tried to do too much. Quarterback anecdote Every week, I add a quick note about something I've picked up about the quarterback position through my time learning and playing the game. "Kill, Kill!" If you've ever heard that picked up a quarterback saying that on a broadcast microphone, you might have wondered what that meant. The quarterback gives two plays in the huddle and based on what the defense is doing. The play call might sound something like: "Wide Right Jet Right 544 F-Whip...Kill...3 Zone" The pass play is called in the huddle, but if they like the look to run they can kill into a zone-run play. If the quarterback elects to run the original call, he goes through his normal cadence. If he likes his numbers in the box, he would yell "Kill, Kill" into the run play.

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