

49ers Clips – January 31, 2017

Local Media

8 Notable Quotes from New 49ers GM John Lynch

By Joe Fann, 49ers.com

<http://www.49ers.com/news/ninerfeed/article-2/8-Notable-Quotes-from-New-49ers-GM-John-Lynch/c39352cd-8582-437d-92e0-0d6f1b2e9008>

49ers GM Lynch says he'll attack new role like Elway

By Eric Branch, San Francisco Chronicle

<http://www.sfchronicle.com/49ers/article/49ers-GM-Lynch-says-he-ll-attack-new-role-like-10895477.php>

Long before taking 49ers' job, John Lynch played pro baseball

By John Shea, San Francisco Chronicle

<http://www.sfchronicle.com/49ers/article/Long-before-taking-49ers-job-John-Lynch-10895306.php>

49ers' omen? Kyle Shanahan briefly loses Super Bowl game plan

By Cam Inman, San Jose Mercury News

<http://www.mercurynews.com/2017/01/30/49ers-omen-kyle-shanahan-briefly-loses-super-bowl-game-plan/>

49ers GM John Lynch explains secrecy, excited to get started

By Cam Inman, San Jose Mercury News

<http://www.mercurynews.com/2017/01/30/49ers-gm-john-lynch-explains-secrecy-excited-to-get-started/>

Here's what Jon Gruden thinks of the 49ers' GM hire

By Jerry McDonald, San Jose Mercury News

<http://www.mercurynews.com/2017/01/30/jon-gruden-on-49ers-gm-john-lynch-i-think-its-a-great-hire/>

49ers' hiring of GM John Lynch developed quickly

By Matt Kawahara, Sacramento Bee

<http://www.sacbee.com/sports/nfl/san-francisco-49ers/article129666619.html>

49ERS GM FINALIST: LYNCH, SHANAHAN HAVE MATCHING DRIVES TO SUCCEED

By Matt Maiocco, CSNBayArea.com

<http://www.csnbayarea.com/49ers/49ers-gm-finalist-lynch-shanahan-have-matching-drives-succeed>

LYNCH LOOKS TO BUILD 'TRUE PARTNERSHIP' WITH SHANAHAN

By Matt Maiocco, CSNBayArea.com

<http://www.csnbayarea.com/49ers/lynch-looks-build-true-partnership-shanahan>

KYLE SHANAHAN DOES NOT ANTICIPATE HIS DAD JOINING HIM WITH 49ERS

By Matt Maiocco, CSNBayArea.com

<http://www.csnbayarea.com/49ers/kyle-shanahan-does-not-anticipate-his-dad-joining-him-49ers>

John Lynch says doubts on hire as 49ers' GM understandable

By Nick Wagoner, ESPN.com

http://www.espn.com/nfl/story/_/id/18588746/john-lynch-san-francisco-49ers-says-eager-earn-trust-skeptics

Conversation with Kyle Shanahan set stage for John Lynch hire

By Nick Wagoner, ESPN.com

http://www.espn.com/blog/san-francisco-49ers/post/_/id/23136/conversation-with-kyle-shanahan-set-stage-for-john-lynch-hire

Kyle Shanahan says he won't be hiring his dad

By Mike Florio, ProFootballTalk.com

<http://profootballtalk.nbcsports.com/2017/01/31/kyle-shanahan-says-he-wont-be-hiring-his-dad/>

Kyle Shanahan "excited" about having John Lynch as G.M. with 49ers

By Curtis Crabtree, ProFootballTalk.com

<http://profootballtalk.nbcsports.com/2017/01/31/kyle-shanahan-excited-about-having-john-lynch-as-g-m-with-49ers/>

John Lynch didn't see this coming either

By Darin Gantt, ProFootballTalk.com

<http://profootballtalk.nbcsports.com/2017/01/30/john-lynch-didnt-see-this-coming-either/>

Reporters' Notebook: Kyle Shanahan praises 49ers GM Lynch

By Gregg Rosenthal, NFL.com

<http://www.nfl.com/news/story/0ap3000000780920/article/reporters-notebook-kyle-shanahan-praises-49ers-gm-lynch>

Lance Zierlein mock draft 1.0: Browns get Garrett, Fournette

By Lance Zierlein, NFL.com

<http://www.nfl.com/news/story/0ap3000000780638/article/lance-zierlein-mock-draft-10-browns-get-garrett-fournette>

Lynch takes unusual path from field to booth to 49ers GM

By Josh Dubow, Associated Press

<http://pro32.ap.org/article/lynch-takes-unusual-path-field-booth-49ers-gm>

National Media

Offensive line or defensive back? NFL mock drafts debate Seahawks' first-round pick

By Bob Condotta, The Seattle Times

<http://www.seattletimes.com/sports/seahawks/post-senior-bowl-mock-drafts-seahawks/>

Texans hire Wes Welker as an assistant coach

By John McClain, Houston Chronicle

<http://www.chron.com/sports/texans/article/Texans-hire-Wes-Welker-as-an-assistant-coach-10895197.php>

Sheldon Adelson no longer part of Raiders' Las Vegas stadium plan

By Vic Tafur, San Francisco Chronicle

<http://www.sfgate.com/raiders/article/Adelson-no-longer-part-of-Las-Vegas-stadium-plan-10895847.php>

Tom Brady dodges pointed questions, calls his father his hero

By Kevin McNamara, Providence Journal

<http://www.providencejournal.com/sports/20170130/tom-brady-dodges-pointed-questions-calls-his-father-his-hero>

Matt Ryan seeks advice from Peyton and Eli Manning before Super Bowl week

By Vaughn McClure, ESPN.com

http://www.espn.com/nfl/story/_/id/18589609/matt-ryan-seeks-advice-peyton-eli-manning-super-bowl-week

Local Clips – Full Version

8 Notable Quotes from New 49ers GM John Lynch

By Joe Fann, 49ers.com

John Lynch held court for about 25 minutes with Bay Area reporters on Monday. The San Francisco 49ers new general manager was made available on a conference call from Houston as he still has some obligations to fulfill for FOX Sports at Super Bowl LI.

The former All-Pro safety took the time to answer questions, express his excitement to get started with the 49ers and explain what makes him qualified for the job.

Here are Lynch's top eight quotes from the call.

1. His opening remarks:

"I can't tell you how humbled and excited I am for this unbelievable opportunity. I can tell you that two weeks ago, I never thought I'd be doing this. Things change sometimes. Fortunately I have a wonderful family that has supported me incredibly in my pursuit of this situation."

2. On those who question his lack of experience in an NFL front office:

"I'm eager to earn their trust. I think the feelings that some might have there are natural. ... I understand that, and I'm fully aware that myself and the team I put around me – we're going to have to earn that respect. The only way to do that is through your actions. For us, that's showing it on the field."

3. On his first task as GM:

"The most important thing that I can do is articulate the vision that I have for this team with everyone in the building."

4. On his eagerness to get started:

"I can't get the film in front of me quick enough. I can't wait to evaluate this roster. I know it because I follow football in a broad sense, but it just takes time and there's no substitute for time. I think you have to take inventory of what you have in order to see what we need."

5. On the division of power between himself and the next head coach:

"I can tell you that from the outset, what's been communicated to me, we really want this to be a true partnership. ... That's my wish."

6. On his vision for the team:

"The one promise I can make of any team I'm going to be associated with, is you're going to have competitive players that want to compete, that live and breathe football and that are going to play hard. If they don't play hard, then we're going to find players who will play hard. We're going to strive to do things right."

7. On his admiration for head coach candidate Kyle Shanahan:

"I've been very public in my broadcasts. I thought he was the catch of this head coaching cycle. It's one of the best year's I've seen a coordinator have. When I talk to Matt Ryan and the leaders on that (Atlanta Falcons) team, they spoke of the leadership that Kyle had. ... He has impressed me for a long time, and this year he put it all together."

8. On what makes him qualified for the job:

"I can't tell you that I've had 20 years in front offices, working my way up. But what I do know is football. I'd put my football acumen up with most in this league. I know people and I know how to lead. ... That's what I strive to do in this role. I can't tell you how much I'm looking forward to start putting this together."

49ers GM Lynch says he'll attack new role like Elway

Not surprisingly, the question came early: What would John Lynch say to his many skeptics?

After all, the 49ers' just-hired general manager has spent the past 23 years in the NFL flourishing as a player and broadcaster, but he hasn't worked in management.

"I would say that I'm eager to earn their trust," Lynch said. "I think the feelings that some might have there are natural."

During the course of a 25-minute introductory conference call Monday, the neophyte executive might have swayed some of his skeptics as he detailed his history of overcoming odds and his relationship with one of his closest friends, Denver general manager John Elway.

Lynch is hoping to follow Elway's successful path. The Broncos have a 67-29 record and a Super Bowl title since Elway took the job in 2011 despite having no NFL front-office experience. Lynch spent much of the 2013 offseason with Elway, a fellow Stanford grad who invited him to the prospect combine and into the Broncos' draft room.

The experience gave Lynch the belief he also could succeed, although their paths aren't completely parallel: Elway did prepare by spending six seasons as the GM of an Arena Football League team.

"I got to see a snapshot of what the role was like," Lynch said. "... I'm not into making comparisons, but I can tell you I strive to attack this job in the same way (Elway) has. He's been excellent at it. He's given me the confidence. ..."

"I can't tell you that I've had 20 years in front offices working my way up, but I know football. I'll put my football acumen up with most in this league. I know people. And I know how to lead. And as I've watched John, those are things he's done extremely well. And what I strive to do in this role."

Say this: It appears Lynch has made a believer of Atlanta offensive coordinator Kyle Shanahan, the 49ers' next head coach.

Lynch admitted he "never thought he'd be doing this" two weeks ago, but a conversation with Shanahan prompted his job switch.

At some point after Lynch covered the Falcons' divisional-playoff win over the Seahawks as a Fox analyst Jan. 14, he spoke on the phone with Shanahan. During the conversation, Lynch mentioned his interest in becoming a general manager and said Shanahan "seemed to get excited at that point."

Indeed, Shanahan contacted CEO Jed York, who apparently was told Lynch was the coach's preferred GM choice. The 49ers met with Lynch and two other candidates, Minnesota assistant general manager George Paton and Arizona vice president of player personnel Terry McDonough, in Atlanta last weekend before hiring Lynch.

"Kyle must have been real fired up to have called Jed and put Jed in touch with me," Lynch said. "But I thought it was really important that I was vetted just like any other general-manager candidate was. I

didn't want to be, just because someone liked me, that I was all of a sudden at the front of the line. I wanted to be vetted, and I wanted to be interviewed."

As for the specifics of his working relationship with Shanahan, Lynch declined to provide details. It's expected that Shanahan will have control of the 53-man roster, but Lynch stressed that they're seeking a "true partnership" as they work to rebuild a franchise that has lost 29 of its past 37 games.

Lynch expressed his appreciation for the scouts and executives who have been preparing for the draft and free agency since head coach Chip Kelly and general manager Trent Baalke were fired Jan. 1. Lynch said he'd be a fool not to learn from executive Tom Gamble, the 49ers' assistant GM in 2016, while also making it clear he would be adding to the personnel department.

The 49ers reportedly will interview Denver director of college scouting Adam Peters, a Cupertino native, for a top personnel position.

"I can just tell you that we are going to be really aggressive," Lynch said. "The response I can tell you has been magnificent from people who really want to be here."

Lynch spoke from Houston, the site of Super Bowl LI, where he is fulfilling obligations to Fox, his employer for the past eight years. He said he's eager to commit full-time to the 49ers and start studying video of their players to get a better handle on the roster and offseason needs.

It will mark the beginning of a steep learning curve for Lynch in a job in which he has no experience, but his background has imbued him with belief.

In 1993, he was a third-round pick of the Buccaneers, and he didn't become a full-time starter at safety until his fourth season in the NFL. However, he finished his 15-year career with nine Pro Bowl berths and is a Pro Football Hall of Fame finalist who will learn Saturday whether he'll enter the shrine in Canton, Ohio.

"There are a lot of things in my life that haven't been conventional," Lynch said. "I think I appreciate that Jed was willing to think outside the box."

John Lynch

Age: 45

College: Stanford

NFL career: Earned nine Pro Bowl berths in 15 seasons spent with the Buccaneers (1993-2003) and Broncos (2004-07); won Super Bowl in 2002 season; one of 15 modern-era Pro Football Hall of Fame finalists.

Broadcasting career: Has been a Fox analyst since late in the 2008 season; teamed with play-by-play man Kevin Burkhardt since 2013.

Family: Wife, Linda, and four children.

Long before taking 49ers' job, John Lynch played pro baseball

By John Shea, San Francisco Chronicle

John Lynch, the 49ers' new general manager, threw the first pitch in the history of the Florida Marlins.

“Really good arm,” said Gary Hughes, who was the Marlins’ scouting director when they selected Lynch, a pitcher from Stanford, in the second round of the 1992 draft.

The Marlins entered the majors in 1993 as an expansion team, and Lynch started the first game in franchise history a year earlier, for the Erie Sailors of the New York-Penn League, a Class A affiliate.

The first pitch was high for a ball, called by future big-league umpire Dan Iassogna.

Twenty-five years later, Lynch has joined the 49ers, replacing Trent Baalke.

“Great guy, quality person, a heck of a football player,” Hughes said.

Asked if he could have envisioned Lynch as a GM of an NFL team, Hughes said, “I thought he’d be in the starting rotation for the Florida Marlins.”

That didn’t work out. Lynch, who was scouted and signed by Hughes’ son, Matt King, pitched parts of just two minor-league seasons, going 1-3 with a 2.35 ERA in nine starts. He struck out 19 and walked 29 in 381/3 innings.

“He said he wasn’t going to go back to Stanford and play football,” Hughes said, “but when Bill Walsh returned to coach, he told me he always wanted to play for Bill Walsh.

“I said, ‘Well, we certainly can’t stop you. See you when football season’s over.’

“It’s the last time we saw him.”

Walsh helped transform Lynch, a former backup quarterback, into an elite safety, and now Lynch could be headed to the Pro Football Hall of Fame as part of the next class to be announced Saturday.

Lynch wouldn’t be the first Stanford baseball player lured by Hughes to be enshrined in Canton. As a Yankees scout, Hughes signed outfielder John Elway.

“Elway probably made the right decision,” Hughes said.

A fan of multiple-sport athletes, Hughes drafted Delino DeShields (who turned down a basketball scholarship at Villanova to sign with the Montreal Expos), Erick Strickland (Marlins minor-leaguer who played in the NBA) and Randy Winn (drafted by the Marlins from Santa Clara, where he also played basketball).

Hughes was a teammate of Jim Fregosi at Serra High, the alma mater of New England quarterback Tom Brady. Hughes’ Super Bowl choice is clear:

“Go Padres,” he said, citing Serra’s nickname.

49ers’ omen? Kyle Shanahan briefly loses Super Bowl game plan

By Cam Inman, San Jose Mercury News

If misplacing the game plan is a rite of passage for great 49ers coaches, then the franchise could be on the verge of its next dynasty with Kyle Shanahan.

Shanahan lost track Monday night of his backpack containing the Atlanta Falcons’ game plan for Sunday’s Super Bowl, which presumably will mark his finale as their offensive coordinator before becoming the 49ers coach.

It turned out that long-time Bay Area sportswriter Art Spander accidentally picked up Shanahan's backpack before returning it 30 minutes later.

Art Spander @artspander

As if I could figure it out. I was panicked because he had mine and my computer

"That would have been bad," Shanahan told USA Today regarding potentially losing the game plan during the Super Bowl Opening Night festivities.

Twenty years ago, Bill Walsh endured a similar crisis, on a much lesser scale.

While working as a 49ers consultant and signing an autograph in Green Bay for a Packers fan, Walsh accidentally handed her papers containing play diagrams and the first 16 scripted plays for their Oct. 14 game against the Packers. The fan took copies of those papers to Packers HQ, and although she never heard back, the Packers did shut out the 49ers in the first quarter and went on to win 23-20 in overtime.

"Well, in all seriousness I have to publicly accuse Mike Holmgren of planting a Mata Hari among the autograph seekers," Walsh quipped back then. "It's the slickest thing I've seen in a long time."

Coach George Seifert, according to the New York Times, added: "Something like this is blown out of proportion. I don't think they had it first off, that the Green Bay Packers had that. It's kind of a comical thing really, and we should have a little fun."

As for Shanahan, he is slated to become the 49ers' fourth coach in four years, looking to win their first Super Bowl since the five they won under Walsh and Seifert from 1981-94.

Shanahan said he was "extremely excited" about the 49ers' hiring of John Lynch as general manager Sunday.

"I really believe in people, and if anyone knows John Lynch, that's a guy you should believe in," Shanahan said, according to USA Today.

"He's been successful in everything he's done," Shanahan added. "When you take a talented person who's extremely smart, who's got as high of a character as anyone you could be around and who truly is passionate about football and working – if you give someone time like that, they're going to figure it out and you're going to be successful."

49ers GM John Lynch explains secrecy, excited to get started

By Cam Inman, San Jose Mercury News

John Lynch said Monday his secret ascension to the 49ers general manager role came out of necessity, partly so he could learn more about the 49ers' chaotic state "without the world breathing down my throat."

Of course, he also wanted to be respectful of his family's privacy and his role as a Fox Sports broadcaster.

"I'm incredibly appreciative and fortunate in this world that things stayed quiet," Lynch said on a media conference call. "It allowed me to truly assess this situation, to ask the tough questions, to just get with the people I'm going to be working with, and (as for) any elephant in the room, just get rid of it and ask questions.

"I didn't need the job so it gave me a great position to be very forward. I asked those questions and I'm proud of the way that happened and the way they responded."

Lynch had reason to be skeptical after arguably the worst season in 49ers history, which included a 13-game losing streak en route to a 2-14 record that led to the firings of general manager Trent Baalke and coach Chip Kelly.

Lynch spoke from Houston while honoring commitments to Fox Sports ahead of Sunday's Super Bowl. He's been constantly on the phone as he considers reassembling the 49ers front office, and he announced no changes Monday.

Lynch said he will report directly to Jed York, but he did not confirm an ESPN report that the 53-man roster will fall under the control of presumptive coach Kyle Shanahan. Lynch will otherwise oversee the 90-man, offseason and camp roster as well as the draft and free agency.

"The most important thing I can do is I articulate the vision I have for this team to everyone in this building," Lynch said. "It's important to articulate who we want to be and the type of people we're looking for. ... I can't get the film in front of me quick enough to evaluate the roster."

The league's tampering rules prevent Lynch from commenting too far on his plans with Shanahan. But he did explain why he approached the Atlanta Falcons offensive coordinator two weeks ago about partnering as his GM.

"Two weeks ago I never thought I'd be doing this. Things change sometimes," Lynch said. "Fortunately I have a wonderful family that's supported me incredibly in pursuit of this situation that arose. I'm also very thankful to Jed York and everyone else with the 49ers that found it fit and had enough confidence in me to take on this role."

Lynch considered joining the Denver Broncos front office a few years ago, and he said a couple other organizations recently approached him about his services.

He became enticed by the prospect of working with Shanahan after calling the Falcons' playoff-opening win over the Seahawks in the divisional round. They talked in the days after the game, and Lynch met with 49ers CEO Jed York last Thursday before flying with him to Atlanta for another meeting with Shanahan, who is not allowed to talk to the 49ers this week and can't be hired until after the Super Bowl.

"Kyle must have been real fired up to have called Jed and put Jed in touch with me," Lynch said. "I felt it was really important that I was vetted like any other general manager candidate was. I didn't want to be, just because someone liked me, that I was all of a sudden went to the front of the line."

Lynch noted that before even entertaining the 49ers' GM vacancy, he considered Shanahan "the catch of this head-coaching cycle," and Lynch got even more excited once he discovered Shanahan's philosophies "marry with mine."

The 49ers' surprisingly hired Lynch on Sunday after a four-week search in which they announced interviews with eight other candidates, including Saturday's follow-up sessions with George Payton and Terry McDonough.

Lynch, 45, has never worked in a NFL front office. But he played 15 years as a star safety for the Tampa Bay Buccaneers and Denver Broncos, leading to his possible election Saturday to the Pro Football Hall of Fame. Since 2008, he has stayed connected to the league as a broadcaster.

"I can't tell you I've had 20 years in front offices working my way up," Lynch said. "But what I do know is football. I'll put that up against anybody in this league. And I know people and I know how to lead."

"As we learned more and more about John, it became apparent that he was not only one of the best to ever play this game but also a Hall of Fame caliber man, one who people are compelled to follow," York said in a statement in which he also praised Lynch's work ethic, communication skills, competitive spirit,

love of the game and “tremendous insight into what it takes to create a culture that breeds sustained success.”

Lynch finished his playing career with the Denver Broncos from 2004-07 under coach Mike Shanahan, Kyle's father. At the same time, Kyle was launching his NFL coaching career, first as a Buccaneers offensive assistant from 2004-05 and then with the Houston Texans in 2006-09.

Lynch inherits a franchise that has at least 10 draft picks, including No. 2 overall, as well as some \$100 million in salary cap room to spend on free agents.

Lynch expects to surround himself with a solid personnel staff, and he intends to consult at least initially with assistant general manager Tom Gamble. One external candidate is Adam Peters, the Denver Broncos director of college scouting, according to the NFL Network.

“We're going to be really aggressive, and the response has been magnificent to the people that really want to be here,” Lynch added.

Leigh Steinberg, Lynch's initial agent coming out of Stanford in 1993, said Lynch is a “sensational choice” as general manager because of his “off-the-charts, high IQ” and drive to succeed. Steinberg also noted how Lynch's charisma will help recruit free agents, whose contracts will be structured not by Lynch but the 49ers' long-time salary-cap ace, Paraag Marathe.

Steinberg said of Lynch: “He's the person agents will like and want to bring free agents to. He'll open up a lot of doors. With him, you'll see there would be a limited amount of strife. In other words, John's not going to go to newspaper and make a hostile comment about someone he's working with.”

In Baalke's seventh and final year as personnel czar, the 49ers attracted only one starter in free agency last spring, offensive lineman Zane Beadles.

ESPN analyst Mark Dominik, a former Tampa Bay Buccaneers general manager, gave no indication Monday on “NFL Insiders” that he might join the 49ers front office in some capacity to assist Lynch, who played for the Buccaneers while Dominik was their pro personnel director. Dominik, however, shared insights into the bond Lynch must develop with Kyle Shanahan.

“The main thing you have to note is when you're in the position of general manager, you are at the office for a long time, and a lot of that time is spent with the head coach in private meetings, so that relationship has to be healthy,” Dominik said.

McDonough, the Cardinals' vice president of player personnel, said he was surprised to learn of the 49ers' move Sunday night but that Lynch and Shanahan sharing a similar passion for success.

“If you're going to lose a competition to someone, you'd want to lose it to someone like John Lynch,” McDonough told CSN Bay Area. “He's a phenomenal human being. He's highly, highly intelligent and 100-percent class. Just knowing John Lynch like I have from afar, he will give all his effort, 100-percent of his effort, into turning the Niners around.”

Added Steinberg: “I am sure John has strong concepts about how to build that system. It stretches to what offense and defense to run, what players are ideally suited for that, how to spot talent, how to coach talent, how to hire coaches, how to meld it into a working unit and how to have stability.”

Stability is something the 49ers desperately need — along with a Lombardi Trophy they last won in the 1994 season. Shanahan will become their fourth coach in four years.

“I'm fully aware that myself, the team I put around me, we're going to have to earn the respect,” Lynch said. “And the only way you do that is through your actions, and for us that's showing it on the field. We've got a big task in front of us, but I can't tell you how excited I am to attack it.”

Here's what Jon Gruden thinks of the 49ers' GM hire

By Jerry McDonald, San Jose Mercury News

Jon Gruden, like virtually everyone else, never saw it coming.

But after giving the idea of John Lynch as an NFL general manager some thought, Gruden believes the 49ers have a winner.

"I don't think anybody really expected it, but I think John will be excited for the challenge," Gruden said Monday in a phone interview. "Just like he did as a third-round pick out of Stanford, he wants to prove to everybody he can be great and I wouldn't bet against him."

Gruden, who learned of the 49ers' hiring while in Orlando as part of ESPN's Pro Bowl telecast, conceded the move was "off the radar." But Gruden learned enough about Lynch in their two years together to think it can work.

"He's the consummate pro," Gruden said. "He's buttoned up all the way. He's prepared. He's into it, he loves it, he's passionate about it."

Like Gruden, Lynch has been a television analyst, working for Fox since his retirement in 2008.

Lynch was the starting safety for the Tampa Bay Buccaneers, a mainstay in the defense of previous coach Tony Dungy, when Gruden arrived in 2002 after being traded by the Raiders.

In that first season, the Bucs won the Super Bowl, beating the Raiders 48-21 with Lynch memorably calling out "Sluggo Seam" while wearing a microphone for NFL Films, directing teammate Dexter Jackson to the right place for one of five Tampa Bay interceptions.

Gruden said Lynch's abilities go far beyond the playing field.

"Forget about his talent as a player, the statistics, the longevity, the durability, the instincts and all that stuff," Gruden said. "He's a leader of men and he's a great communicator. And those are two things that are critical at the general manager position.

"Most importantly, he's got a great work ethic and he's charismatic. If you're a leader, can communicate and have a great work ethic, those are the things you're looking for. He's going to be fine."

Gruden has heard the comparisons to Matt Millen, who left the broadcast booth for a stormy seven-year run as a Detroit Lions executive, but said, "John Lynch and Matt Millen are in two completely different eras. I think it's a great hire."

Brad Johnson, Lynch's roommate on the road with the Bucs from 2001 through 2003, told 95.7 The Game his teammate was always probing for an edge.

"He's been doing the TV part of it, has been watching every position, both sides of the ball, meeting with coordinators, different teams, different organizations, and seeing how they run it," Johnson said. "I can see how he'll go through a learning curve. But he loves the game, studies the game. He wants to be great at it and it'll be neat to see how it all plays out."

Ronde Barber, a Fox analyst and cornerback who played with Lynch in Tampa, told Buccaneers.com he thinks Lynch will be a success in his new career.

“John has always found a way to be successful,” Barber said. “Whether he’s dealing with his abilities and limitations off the field or just being smarter than everyone else, he found a way to succeed in football. He found a way to succeed in what he was doing post-football. I don’t see any reason why his work ethic won’t carry over and make him successful in this, too.”

Derrick Brooks, the Hall of Fame linebacker who played on the Bucs championship team, told Buccaneers.com, “I am rooting so hard for John Lynch to succeed at his new position. He transitioned well from the playing field to the broadcast booth. I expect him to work just as hard to transition from the booth to the front office.”

49ers’ hiring of GM John Lynch developed quickly

By Matt Kawahara, Sacramento Bee

The 49ers’ selection of John Lynch as their new general manager seemed to come out of nowhere Sunday night. For Lynch, it developed nearly as quickly.

“Two weeks ago, I never thought I’d be doing this,” Lynch said on a conference call with reporters. “Things change sometimes.”

After a clandestine candidacy that Lynch said was done out of respect for his family and broadcasting duties with FOX Sports, the 49ers named the 45-year-old former safety their successor to Trent Baalke on Monday, a move that also fortified the favorite for their open head-coaching job.

Lynch, who has no front-office experience, said the move began to take shape during conversations he had with Falcons offensive coordinator Kyle Shanahan after calling Atlanta’s win over the Seattle Seahawks in the NFC divisional round.

Shanahan, who’s expected to be the 49ers’ next head coach, relayed Lynch’s interest to 49ers CEO Jed York, Lynch said. Though the process quickly gained steam, Lynch said he insisted on being “vetted like any other general manager candidate was.”

“I didn’t want – just because someone liked me – that I all of a sudden went to the front of the line,” he said.

The 49ers already have met with Shanahan and are prohibited from doing so again until after the Falcons play the Patriots in the Super Bowl on Sunday. But Lynch made clear his opinion of Shanahan.

“I thought he was the catch of this head-coaching cycle,” Lynch said. “I really did. I think it’s one of the best years I’ve seen a coordinator have. When I talked to Matt Ryan and the players on this (Falcons) team, they spoke of the leadership and the presence that Kyle had in front of that room.”

Lynch, who is in Houston this week honoring commitments to FOX, offered few hints as to the breakdown of personnel and draft decisions under the new structure. He did say he’ll report directly to York and that he expects a collaborative relationship with whomever the 49ers hire as their next coach.

“I can tell you that from the outset what has been communicated to me is we really want this to be a true partnership,” Lynch said. “Jed’s communicated that; (executive) Paraag (Marathe) has communicated that. That’s my wish.”

Multiple outlets reported Lynch had signed a six-year contract. He did not confirm that detail but said, “The commitment that Jed and the 49ers organization have shown me to make this thing come to fruition has been incredible.”

York released a statement Monday saying Lynch is “equipped with tremendous insight into what it takes to create a culture that breeds sustained success,” and that “it became apparent that he was not only one of the best to ever play this game but also a Hall of Fame-caliber man, one who people are compelled to follow.”

Lynch takes over a franchise coming off a 2-14 season just three years removed from its third consecutive appearance in the conference championship game. Along with Baalke, Chip Kelly was fired after just one season as head coach.

Lynch said he has begun to assemble a front office that will include people who are already “in the building.” He mentioned current assistant GM Tom Gamble as someone who has “a ton of experience in this business, and I’d be a fool not to sit down and soak that up.”

After attending Stanford, where he played for former 49ers coach Bill Walsh, Lynch had a 15-year NFL playing career that included one Super Bowl title with Tampa Bay and made him a current finalist for the Pro Football Hall of Fame. He retired in 2008 and has worked since then as an analyst for FOX.

Lynch’s final four playing seasons came in Denver under Kyle Shanahan’s father, Mike. More recently, Lynch said his friend John Elway, the Broncos’ general manager, brought him in during one offseason and showed him some aspects of management.

Because of his lack of front-office experience, Lynch said he understands the skepticism that has accompanied his hiring.

“One thing I told Jed over and over – I know what I don’t know,” Lynch said.

“I can’t tell you that I’ve had 20 years in a front office, working my way up. But what I do know, I know football. I’ll put my football acumen up with most in this league. I know people, and I know how to lead. As I’ve watched John, those are things I think he’s done extremely well, and what I strive to do in this role.”

49ERS GM FINALIST: LYNCH, SHANAHAN HAVE MATCHING DRIVES TO SUCCEED

By Matt Maiocco, CSNBayArea.com

Longtime NFL scout and executive Terry McDonough, a finalist for the 49ers’ general manager position, was surprised to learn Sunday evening the club hired John Lynch for the position he coveted.

But McDonough said he believes the 49ers hired two individuals – Lynch and presumptive head coach Kyle Shanahan -- who share a similar passion and drive to ultimately turn around the franchise.

McDonough, the Arizona Cardinals’ vice president of player personnel, took part in a second interview with the 49ers on Saturday in Atlanta. He met with CEO Jed York, chief strategy officer Paraag Marathe and Shanahan.

McDonough and Minnesota assistant general manager George Paton were the known finalists for the job to replace Trent Baalke, whose firing was announced shortly after the 49ers concluded a 2-14 season.

Ultimately, the 49ers made the surprising decision to hire Lynch, who served the past eight seasons as an NFL television analyst on FOX after a 15-year NFL playing career. Both Lynch and Shanahan will receive six-year contracts, according to a source.

“You have to admire Jed,” McDonough told CSNBayArea.com on Monday. “Six years is a big commitment. He realized it’s going to take a long time. That roster right now is very thin. I really believe in John Lynch’s intelligence and drive. Their drive matches each other, Kyle and John.”

The 49ers are not allowed to officially hire Shanahan, the Atlanta Falcons' offensive coordinator, until after Sunday's season-ending game. The Falcons face Bill Belichick's New England Patriots in Super Bowl 51 in Houston.

McDonough said he recognized similarities between Shanahan and Belichick, under whom he worked as an area scout for four seasons with the Cleveland Browns more than two decades ago.

"Sitting there talking to him, Kyle reminded me a lot of coach Belichick when I interviewed with him back in '92," McDonough said. "Same type of look in their eye. The same type of passion. You just know whatever Kyle Shanahan does, he's going to be successful in life. If he's given the time there and they bring in the right players, there's no doubt in my mind, he's going to have success."

When McDonough first interviewed with the 49ers on Jan. 13 in Santa Clara, Shanahan topped his list of prospective coaches. When the two men were able to sit around and talk football on Saturday, McDonough said his belief in Shanahan was confirmed.

"I'd heard about his attention to detail and his drive, and he was tireless," McDonough said. "He's the first guy in; last guy to leave. Incredibly prepared. A lot of people I know in Atlanta had tremendous respect for him. I like the fact that he had overcome some bad situations in his past and he ended up on top.

"Plus, his offensive game plans and his schemes are phenomenal. We (the Cardinals) had the second-ranked defense in the NFL this year, and he put on a display that day against us (in a game the Falcons won, 38-19)."

Shanahan conducted interviews with Lynch, Paton and McDonough from Friday evening through Saturday. The Falcons allowed Shanahan the opportunity to shift his focus to his next job after a full week of game-planning for the Patriots and before leaving the next day for the Super Bowl.

"You could tell, half his brain was preparing for the Patriots and the other half of his brain was probably realizing he's about to become the head coach of the San Francisco 49ers," McDonough said.

McDonough began his scouting career as an intern with the 49ers in 1989. He said he felt as if the situation with the 49ers was a perfect fit for him. He said he had a strong chance to get the job after an encouraging final interview.

"It was a total rebuild through the roster and they want to do it through the college draft," McDonough said of the 49ers. "Paraag Marathe reached out and he could not have been more professional. I did not know him. When I met him, I found him very engaging and really intelligent. He conducted the first interview, and he was incredible thorough. When I was done with that first interview, I said, 'This is a guy I would want to partner with, along with Jed and whoever the new head coach might be.'

"When I heard it was Kyle, and I met Kyle, I just really believed that was going to be a great job."

While the future of quarterback Colin Kaepernick was not discussed in the meetings, according to McDonough, there was conversation about the structure of the 49ers' decision-making power.

"They never mentioned Colin to me," McDonough said. "I just think that Kyle is going to be given the ability to put players in place that fit his system, which has proven to be a successful system. His father ran it. He runs it."

McDonough said Shanahan spoke about working in unison with the 49ers' next general manager to determine the moves that were needed to build the roster.

"It was not big at all," McDonough said about the topic of personnel power. "When we discussed that, I told him every situation I've been around, the ones that were good, were when people worked together. It wasn't an 'I' thing it was a 'we' thing. He was totally on board.

“The 53 is something that he might have wanted to have on his side of the ledger, but he was totally open to any type of structure, as long as it was in the best interest of winning. That’s what he all about. He talked about ‘winning’ and ‘building’ and ‘team’ and ‘us’ and ‘we.’ There wasn’t a lot of ‘I’ in there.”

McDonough said there was no shame in losing out to Lynch, even though he has no experience working in NFL personnel.

“John Lynch is a guy I actually scouted coming out of college (Stanford),” McDonough said. “If you’re going to lose a competition to someone, you’d want to lose it to someone like John Lynch. He’s a phenomenal human being. He’s highly, highly intelligent and 100-percent class.

“Just knowing John Lynch like I have from afar, he will give all his effort, 100-percent of his effort, into turning the Niners around. I’m a big fan of John Lynch.”

LYNCH LOOKS TO BUILD 'TRUE PARTNERSHIP' WITH SHANAHAN

By Matt Maiocco, CSNBayArea.com

New 49ers general manager John Lynch was short on specifics about the structure of the organization during a conference call with the Bay Area reporters on Monday night.

The 49ers are not allowed to make the hiring of coach Kyle Shanahan official until after the Atlanta Falcons play Sunday in Super Bowl 51 against the New England Patriots.

But Lynch, who was the FOX television analyst in the Falcons’ NFC divisional round game two weeks ago against the Seattle Seahawks, made it clear where he stood on Shanahan, Atlanta’s offensive coordinator. The two continued to talk after the game and Lynch expressed interest in joining him in an executive role with the 49ers, he said.

“I thought he was the catch of this head-coaching cycle,” said Lynch, whom the 49ers hired on Sunday night.

Shanahan’s decision to team with Lynch brought an end to a four-week interview process in which 49ers CEO Jed York and chief strategy officer Paraag Marathe took a leading role in narrowing down the field of candidates.

Lynch said he envisions a true collaboration with the next coach – regardless of how the power is structured.

“From the outset, what’s been communicated to me is that we really want this to be a true partnership,” Lynch said. “Jed’s communicated that. Paraag has communicated that. That’s my wish.”

Throughout the process, league sources told CSNBayArea.com that Shanahan was not insisting on total control over the 49ers’ personal and roster decision.

Terry McDonough, the Arizona executive who was a finalist for the job, told CSNBayArea.com that Shanahan appeared to be amenable to any arrangement in which the coach and general manager worked together.

“The 53 is something that he might have wanted to have on his side of the ledger, but he was totally open to any type of structure, as long as it was in the best interest of winning,” McDonough said. “That’s what he all about. He talked about ‘winning’ and ‘building’ and ‘team’ and ‘us’ and ‘we.’ There wasn’t a lot of ‘I’ in there.”

Lynch, who was a team captain throughout his 15-year NFL playing career, believes one of his best attributes is to serve in a unifying role.

"We're going to strive to create a culture where everybody's working together," Lynch said. "That's one of my strengths. That's something I've done throughout my career. I've had an ability to bring people together.

"Whoever this head coach is going to be, that's will be something that we're all going to understand, that we're like-minded in our pursuit of winning a championship."

Lynch said he has already started the process of attempting to build a supporting cast. He has targeted Denver Broncos director of college scouting Adam Peters for the position of director of player personnel, Mike Garafolo of the NFL Network reported.

Peters came to the Broncos in 2009 with Josh McDaniels from the New England Patriots. This season was his first ad director of college scouting after spending the previous even years as a scout. He was with the Patriots for seven seasons.

"Outside, I don't want to get into specifics, but we're going to be really aggressive," Lynch said. "And the response, I can tell you, has been magnificent from people who really want to be here."

Lynch seemed to confirm he would retain 49ers assistant general manager Tom Gamble through the draft and give him an opportunity to prove himself to remain with the organization. The personnel department has continued to conduct business even after general manager Trent Baalke's firing was announced shortly after the 49ers finished the season with a 2-14 record.

"For someone like Tom Gamble, he's got a ton of experience in this business and I'd be a fool not to sit down and soak that up. I'm here to do that," Lynch said.

"I'm very appreciative, and I can't wait to communicate how appreciative I am to the people in the building that are working really hard."

KYLE SHANAHAN DOES NOT ANTICIPATE HIS DAD JOINING HIM WITH 49ERS

By Matt Maiocco, CSNBayArea.com

HOUSTON -- Atlanta Falcons offensive coordinator Kyle Shanahan does not anticipate working with his Super Bowl-winning father in the future.

Shanahan, 37 the presumptive 49ers head coach, all but ruled out the possibility his dad, Mike Shanahan, 64, who won two Super Bowls as head coach of the Denver Broncos, will be joining the 49ers with him.

"We did our deal in Washington and I wouldn't take that back for the world, but that was pretty much the end of it," Shanahan answered Monday night when CSNBayArea.com asked him about the possibility of working with his father again.

The 49ers are not allowed to officially hire Shanahan until after the Falcons' season comes to an end Sunday in Super Bowl 51 against the New England Patriots.

Kyle Shanahan served four seasons as his dad's offensive coordinator when the men worked together in Washington from 2010 to '13. Mike Shanahan was fired after Washington compiled a 24-40 record in four seasons.

Kyle Shanahan spent one season with the Cleveland Browns before joining Dan Quinn's staff with the Atlanta Falcons last season. Shanahan was named NFL Assistant Coach of the Year by the Pro Football Writers of America after guiding the Falcons to the No. 1-ranked offense in the league.

"I always anticipate asking my dad for advice and stuff like that, just like anybody would in their profession if their dad had done the same thing and been successful at it," Shanahan said. "But as far as him working in the building and doing stuff like that, that's definitely not been in the discussions. My dad's basically retired."

John Lynch says doubts on hire as 49ers' GM understandable

By Nick Wagoner, ESPN.com

SANTA CLARA, Calif. -- New San Francisco 49ers general manager John Lynch said he recognizes and understands the skeptics questioning his first foray into running an NFL personnel department.

"I would say that I'm eager to earn their trust," Lynch said. "I think the feelings that some might have there are natural."

Lynch went on to explain how his path to the NFL and then to the doorstep of the Pro Football Hall of Fame (he's a finalist) weren't exactly conventional, so he is accustomed to taking a different route to football success.

"There's a lot of things in my life that haven't been conventional, and I appreciate that [49ers CEO] Jed [York] was willing to think outside the box. ... I would say I understand that [skepticism], and I'm fully aware that myself, the team I put around me, we're going to have to earn the respect. The only way you do that is through your actions. For us, that's showing it on the field. We've got a big task in front of us, but I can't tell you how excited I am to attack it."

Lynch spoke to Bay Area media for about 25 minutes Monday afternoon via conference call from Houston, where he has business this week as a broadcaster for Fox Sports and as a potential Pro Football Hall of Famer.

The Niners officially hired Lynch on Sunday evening in what came as a major surprise to the NFL world. The 49ers spoke to nine candidates for the job, publicly confirming each interview along the way. But while there was always the belief that York could expand the search beyond those nine executives, Lynch's name didn't surface until the moment he was hired.

According to Lynch, the process came together in the span of about two weeks after he broadcast an NFC divisional playoff game between the Atlanta Falcons and Seattle Seahawks.

Following that game, Lynch said he spoke to Falcons offensive coordinator Kyle Shanahan, the presumptive next coach of the 49ers. As the pair talked, Lynch mentioned that he had interest in jumping into management and that he had nearly done so with the Denver Broncos a few years ago.

"If I'm going to bet on somebody, I'm going to bet on John Lynch," Shanahan said Monday night at the Super Bowl's "Opening Night" media event in Houston. "John has succeeded at everything. That's what excites me about him."

Lynch also said he had spoken to others about making the move, but after the conversation, Shanahan presented the option to York.

"That's kind of been out there," Lynch said. "I always said -- I even said to my bosses at FOX -- if the right situation arose, that it would be something that I would have to consider. Kyle and I were in a

conversation; he seemed to get excited. At that point, he turned it over to Jed and [49ers VP of football operations] Paraag [Marathe], and the rest moved fairly quickly."

It also moved quietly, a stipulation Lynch said he requested at the beginning of the process, because he didn't want to have any undue pressure on him, his employers or his family.

"I'm incredibly appreciative and fortunate in this world that things stayed quiet; because what that did, it allowed me to truly assess the situation, to ask the tough questions, to just kind of get with the people that I'm going to be working with and any elephant in the room, just get rid of it," Lynch said. "I didn't need the job, so that gave me a great position to be able to just kind of be very forward, and I asked those questions.

"I wanted to be able to best evaluate this situation as it developed, and I thought it would be much easier if I didn't have the world breathing down my throat."

Lynch now must begin the process of building a staff that can help him adjust to his new role. He complimented 49ers assistant general manager Tom Gamble and said he's looking forward to sitting down to "soak up" Gamble's experience in the scouting world.

Beyond that, Lynch said he will soon start the process of "aggressively pursuing" people he has relationships with who he believes are some of the best in the business to fill out the staff.

"Outside, I don't want to get into specifics, but I can just tell you that we're going to be really aggressive and the response I can tell you has been really magnificent with people that really want to be here," Lynch said.

Lynch declined to say how the Niners would divide power between himself and Shanahan. But a source told ESPN's Jim Trotter that Lynch will have final say on the draft and the 90-man roster, while Shanahan, assuming his hire as coach, would have control of the 53-man roster.

Lynch, who will report directly to York, emphasized the importance of coming to a consensus on major football decisions.

"I can tell you that from the outset, what has been communicated to me is that we really want this to be a true partnership," Lynch said. "Jed has communicated that, Paraag has communicated that, that's my wish."

Beyond that, Lynch also pointed to previous stops in his playing career, specifically in Denver, where he has spent some offseasons sitting in draft meetings with general manager John Elway and his staff, as basis for his understanding of the job.

Lynch called Elway one of his closest friends and made it clear he intends to lean on Elway for help when needed.

"One thing I told Jed over and over is that I know what I don't know and I'm not going to profess, I can't tell you that I've had 20 years in front offices working my way up, but what I do know, I know football. I put my football acumen up with most in this league. I know people, and I know how to lead."

Conversation with Kyle Shanahan set stage for John Lynch hire
By Nick Wagoner, ESPN.com

SANTA CLARA, Calif. -- It was just two weeks ago that new San Francisco 49ers general manager John Lynch wasn't even involved in the team's search to replace Trent Baalke.

Lynch was handling his normal duties as a color analyst for Fox and the Niners were chipping away at a list of candidates that went nine deep. Then, as Lynch tells it, he broadcast the NFC divisional playoff game between the Atlanta Falcons and Seattle Seahawks. That was the first domino in a series of events that led to the Niners' surprising hire of Lynch, who has never worked in an NFL personnel department.

So what did broadcasting a game that didn't directly involve the 49ers have to do with Lynch? The answer is Falcons offensive coordinator Kyle Shanahan.

At the time, word had already begun to spread that Shanahan was going to become San Francisco's new head coach when Atlanta's season came to an end. In the meantime, 49ers CEO Jed York and executive vice president of football operations Paraag Marathe were seeking a general manager who could work in lockstep with Shanahan.

Lynch and Shanahan nearly overlapped in Tampa Bay when Lynch was still playing and Shanahan was working as an offensive assistant, but Lynch departed for the Denver Broncos that offseason. There, Lynch played for Shanahan's father, Mike.

While York had said prior experience working together wasn't a prerequisite for either job, he did want the new regime to have some familiarity and an easy rapport. For all of their experience working through the scouting ranks, none of the nine candidates had a direct tie to Shanahan, which made none of them a slam dunk hire in the eyes of the Niners.

After Atlanta's win against Seattle, Lynch circled back to Shanahan, something he said is normal.

"Somewhere in that week after, Kyle and I caught up as we often do after a game that I broadcast of his and just told him how impressed I was and at that time I know that he was interviewing for a lot of jobs and we just started a conversation," Lynch said. "And at some point I indicated to him that, 'Hey, you know Kyle three or four years ago I had conversations with the Denver Broncos about getting into management. In the recent months I've had a couple situations that arose with prospective owners and I've sat down with them and kind of shared my philosophies.'"

Having played for the Broncos and lived in Denver when John Elway was making his transition from player to management, Lynch said he had developed an itch to potentially someday do the same, something he conveyed to Shanahan.

"John Elway is one of my good friends and I watched him," Lynch said. "I was living in Denver when he went through that process. He was kind enough to invite me into the building for offseason meetings and such. That's kind of been out there and I always said, I even said to my bosses at Fox if the right situation arose that it would be something that I would have to consider. Like I said, Kyle and I were in a conversation, he seemed to get excited, at that point he turned it over to Jed and Paraag and the rest moved fairly quickly."

Indeed it did. The past two weeks featured a series of clandestine meetings between York and Lynch. Lynch spent the night at York's home last week and traveled with York and Marathe to meet with Shanahan in Atlanta over the weekend. With each passing conversation, Lynch said he could feel the momentum building toward York giving him the opportunity. It finally did on Sunday evening when the 49ers made it official.

Of course, without the mutual admiration between Shanahan and Lynch, it never would have happened.

"I thought he was the catch, and this is long before I was ever thinking in this role, I was just thinking in my job as an analyst, I thought he was the catch of this head-coaching cycle," Lynch said. "I really did. I think it's one of the best years I've seen a coordinator have. But when I talked to Matt Ryan and the players on this team, they spoke of the leadership and the presence that Kyle had in front of that room. I think that in this league, again, I get to see a very global outlook of the league and there's a lot of really good coordinators, but there's some that really separate themselves. I just thought Kyle, he really did that

this year. He has impressed me for a long time. This year he put it all together. And it wasn't just calling plays. It was setting up plays and he was doing things and as soon as I got in front of him and saw the other part, his philosophies and how they marry with mine and all those things it just got me really excited."

Kyle Shanahan says he won't be hiring his dad

By Mike Florio, ProFootballTalk.com

Incoming 49ers coach Kyle Shanahan had the leverage to try to get his dad a job with the team. Kyle apparently won't be doing it.

"We did our deal in Washington and I wouldn't take that back for the world, but that was pretty much the end of it," Shanahan said Monday, via Matt Maiocco of CSNBayArea.com.

That may be the case. It also may be the case that Kyle tried to parlay his status as the stand-alone cheese into a job for Mike, and the 49ers balked.

As PFT reported in December, the 49ers will not be hiring Mike Shanahan. That report emerged in response to a claim that Mike Shanahan possibly would be brought in to claim some of the power wielded by CEO Jed York. So there's no way the 49ers could hire Mike Shanahan without creating the impression that York has been undermined and/or marginalized.

It's possible that Kyle Shanahan tried to get his dad a job and the the 49ers said no. Given the ability of the previously leak-ridden team to suddenly keep things quiet about the courtship of new G.M. John Lynch, it's impossible at this point to rule out anything.

Kyle Shanahan "excited" about having John Lynch as G.M. with 49ers

By Curtis Crabtree, ProFootballTalk.com

Kyle Shanahan will be leaving his post as Falcons offensive coordinator in a week's time to become the new head coach of the San Francisco 49ers. John Lynch will be taking over the team's General Manager role after being hired by the 49ers on Sunday night.

While the pairing of Lynch with Shanahan may have been a bit unorthodox, it's a match that has Shanahan eager to get started once Super Bowl LI is in the books.

"John, I think, has been interested in it for a while, just talking to him," Shanahan said of Lynch, via Nicki Jhabvala of the Denver Post. "John is a guy that I have developed a relationship with over the years. He's a guy that lives and dies football. He's a very smart guy who, I think, really wanted to get back into it, where he could compete on Sunday and there's actually a winner and loser at the end of the game. Just had some talks together and got him in. He did a great job this weekend, along with the two other guys too (Terry McDonough and George Paton). Obviously decided to go with John so I'm excited."

Lynch doesn't have any NFL executive experience and Shanahan is getting his first go as a head coach in the NFL. While the 49ers can't officially offer Shanahan the job until Monday, the writing has been on the wall for a while. Shanahan hand-selecting his G.M. just further cemented the inevitability.

The 49ers will hope Shanahan and Lynch can mirror the success of their rivals to the north in the Seattle Seahawks. Pete Carroll was hired as head coach and picked John Schneider to be his general manager. San Francisco is hoping their arranged marriage will be similarly fruitful.

John Lynch didn't see this coming either

By Darin Gantt, ProFootballTalk.com

As it turns out, John Lynch is exactly as surprised as the rest of us.

The new 49ers General Manager talked to reporters Monday, and expressed the same kind of astonishment as many others had upon his getting a job no one knew he applied for.

"Two weeks ago I never thought I'd be doing this," he said, via Matt Maiocco of CSNBayArea.com.

Lynch was vague when discussing the division of labor in a (his) new front office, since they can't technically say Kyle Shanahan's going to be the coach as soon as the Super Bowl's over.

And he knows plenty of people will be skeptical of his rapid ascension to the job, which no one even knew he was a candidate for (since the 49ers helpfully omitted him from their transparent identification of other candidates).

"I'm eager to earn their trust," Lynch said of their fans.

There are others in the organization who could justifiably say the same thing.

Reporters' Notebook: Kyle Shanahan praises 49ers GM Lynch

By Gregg Rosenthal, NFL.com

HOUSTON -- Kyle Shanahan was so popular at Super Bowl LI Opening Night that he couldn't get to his seat. By the end of his hour-long session with the media, having an awkward place to sit was the least of his problems.

Shanahan could not find his backpack after the session, according to USA Today, forcing the Falcons offensive coordinator to scour the makeshift carpeted floor at Minute Maid Park like an amateur detective. It turns out that San Francisco Examiner columnist Art Spander mistakenly lifted the bag, believed to contain the game plan for Super Bowl LI. Falcons security personnel saw the bag Spander left behind and eventually the writer was contacted, apologetically returning Shanahan's prized possession.

"That would have been bad," Shanahan told USA Today.

With that crisis and accompanying conspiracy theory avoided for the week, Monday's festivities concluded without screaming headline news or drama from either team. Players and coaches from both squads avoided wading into the swirling world outside of football, delicately answering or completely avoiding questions related to politics.

Shanahan was more forthright discussing his expected opportunity as the future head coach of the San Francisco 49ers. While nothing is official with Shanahan and the 49ers, he didn't try to avoid the issue.

"I can't B.S. you guys. I mean, I'm looking forward to talking to them after the game when this all ends," Shanahan said.

He confirmed that he met with new 49ers general manager John Lynch before Lynch was offered the job and was effusive in his praise for the former Broncos player. Shanahan wasn't worried about Lynch jumping straight from the broadcast booth to a team's front office.

"I truly believe that whenever you have a smart guy who is very talented and has extremely high character and has no problem working extremely hard ... if given the time, it's a matter of time before they

figure it out," Shanahan said. "John is as impressive a human being as there is and has succeeded in everything he's done."

Shanahan drew a comparison between Lynch and Broncos general manager John Elway, who took an untraditional route to successfully leading a front office. Shanahan and Lynch will make for a unique pair in San Francisco, but it won't get any weirder by Kyle's father being added to the mix -- Mike Shanahan is staying retired.

"We did our deal in Washington and I wouldn't take that back for the world, but that was pretty much the end of it," Kyle said.

For six more days Shanahan's focus will be on earning his first Super Bowl ring as he closes out his fourth stint as an NFL offensive coordinator. Shanahan ranked the six Super Bowls he has attended as among the greatest experiences of his life. Now, he's coaching in the game, against one of his father's biggest rivals as he sits on the cusp of running his own team.

"It's just cool to be here," Shanahan said.

And it's a lot cooler now that Shanahan has reacquired that bag.

Lance Zierlein mock draft 1.0: Browns get Garrett, Fournette

By Lance Zierlein, NFL.com

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Mitch Trubisky - QB, North Carolina: While he has only one season of high-end production, the tape shows a player with an NFL arm, throwing anticipation and poise. Trubisky might have the toughness to learn on the go as an early starter.

Lynch takes unusual path from field to booth to 49ers GM

By Josh Dubow, Associated Press

SANTA CLARA, Calif. (AP) — Ever since watching John Elway step into an NFL front office in Denver and build a Super Bowl champion, John Lynch was intrigued about leaving the broadcast booth for a management job.

That process sped up rapidly a few weeks ago when Lynch called up Atlanta offensive coordinator and the presumptive next coach of the San Francisco 49ers Kyle Shanahan after calling a Falcons playoff game.

Lynch told Shanahan he'd be interested in a front-office job and Shanahan quickly relayed that information to San Francisco CEO Jed York.

After several phone conversations with York and Niners chief strategy officer Paraag Marathe, the process sped up. Lynch met with York and Marathe for an in-person meeting last week and then flew to Atlanta to sit down with Shanahan as well.

It all led to the surprise Sunday night when San Francisco handed the general manager job to a person who has spent his entire career as a player and broadcaster.

"I know what I don't know," Lynch said in a conference call Monday. "I won't tell you I've had 20 years in front offices working my way up. What I do know, is I know football. I'd put my football acumen up with most in this league. I know people and I know how to lead."

Lynch has plenty of work to do after taking over a team that went just 2-14 this past season leading to the firing of general manager Trent Baalke and coach Chip Kelly and had a depleted roster that didn't include a player who got a single vote for the All-Pro team.

Lynch, who is spending this week at the Super Bowl in Houston finishing his work for Fox, said he has been on the phone almost constantly talking since getting the job talking to people about joining the organization.

Getting a new head coach will have to wait another week. Shanahan is the only remaining candidate, but can't sign a contract until after the Super Bowl on Sunday.

But Lynch did not hold back on his praise for the son of his former coach in Denver, Mike Shanahan.

"I thought he was the catch of this head coaching cycle. I really did," Lynch said. "It's one of the best years I've seen a coordinator have."

The relationship between Lynch and his coach will be key to the success for the Niners. Conflicts between former coach Jim Harbaugh and Baalke eventually led to Harbaugh's ouster following the 2014 season, speeding the descent for the franchise that went to three straight NFC title games and one Super Bowl from 2011-13.

After just seven wins the past two years under Jim Tomsula and Kelly, York set out to overhaul the operation with finding a coach and general manager who can work well together.

Lynch would not give specifics in how the control of the roster will be divided, but stressed that he wanted a "true partnership" with his coach.

"One common denominator in places where they have successful cultures and results, everyone is working in the same direction," Lynch said. "In places that are inconsistent or consistently poor franchises, you can see it."

Lynch said he knows it will take time to earn the trust of skeptics who doubt whether someone with no front-office experience is capable of being a general manager.

The previous person to make the jump from the broadcast booth to the GM role without any experience was Matt Millen, who had a 31-84 record during his time in charge of Detroit from 2001-08.

But Lynch said he hasn't always taken the most traditional route in his career. He came to Stanford as a quarterback who also played minor league baseball before coach Bill Walsh convinced him that safety was his best route to the NFL.

After struggling to get on the field early in his career, Lynch went on to have a stellar career that included three All-Pro selections and a Super Bowl title in Tampa Bay that has made him a Hall of Fame finalist this year.

"There are a lot of things in my life that haven't been conventional," he said. "I appreciate that Jed was willing to think outside the box."

York called Lynch a "world-class competitor" who has earned respect around the league for his work ethic and passion going back to his playing days.

"Having already helped lead a team to a Super Bowl title as a player, John is equipped with tremendous insight into what it takes to create a culture that breeds sustained success," York said in a statement.

"Having spent the last eight seasons as an analyst with Fox, he has honed his skills as a talented communicator while also developing valuable relationships around the league and a vast knowledge of the NFL that will be beneficial to our team."