

49ers Clips – May 8, 2017

Local Media

Cannon fired: 49ers release rookie receiver following minicamp

By Matt Barrows, Sacramento Bee

<http://www.sacbee.com/sports/nfl/san-francisco-49ers/article149206239.html>

Solomon Thomas heads back to school after 49ers rookie minicamp

By Nick Wagoner, ESPN.com

http://www.espn.com/blog/san-francisco-49ers/post/_/id/24935/rookie-minicamp-valuable-time-for-soon-to-be-absent-solomon-thomas

49ers release receiver KD Cannon, may add recent tryout player

By Chris Biderman, NinersWire.com

<http://ninerswire.usatoday.com/2017/05/07/49ers-release-receiver-kd-cannon-may-add-recent-tryout-player/>

Jay Cutler and the Odd Offseason of QB Movement

By Peter King, MMQB.com

<http://mmqb.si.com/mmqb/2017/05/08/jay-cutler-tv-nfl-quarterbacks-offseason-draft-peter-king#>

49ers dump K.D. Cannon after rookie minicamp

By Mike Florio, ProFootballTalk.com

<http://profootballtalk.nbcsports.com/2017/05/07/49ers-dump-k-d-cannon-after-rookie-minicamp/>

National Media

Rookie RB T.J. Logan could be home-run threat for Arizona Cardinals

By Bob McManaman, The Arizona Republic

<http://www.azcentral.com/story/sports/2017/05/07/rookie-rb-t-j-logan-could-home-run-threat-arizona-cardinals/311741001/>

Seahawks were fifth-healthiest team in 2016

By Sheil Kapadia, ESPN.com

http://www.espn.com/blog/seattle-seahawks/post/_/id/25573/seahawks-were-fifth-healthiest-team-in-2016

Cowboys to pump brakes on LB Jaylon Smith's minicamp workload

By Todd Archer, ESPN.com

http://www.espn.com/nfl/story/_/id/19336026/cowboys-anticipate-jaylon-smith-doing-much-field-work-rookie-minicamp

Saints' Max Unger (foot) likely to start season on PUP

By Conor Orr, NFL.com

<http://www.nfl.com/news/story/0ap3000000806907/article/saints-max-unger-foot-likely-to-start-season-on-pup>

Patrick Mahomes II's first practice with the Chiefs features lots of verbiage, deep balls and teaching moments

By Terez Paylor, Kansas City Star

<http://www.kansascity.com/sports/nfl/kansas-city-chiefs/article149092499.html>

Local Clips – Full Version

Cannon fired: 49ers release rookie receiver following minicamp

By Matt Barrows, Sacramento Bee

The 49ers on Sunday waived rookie receiver K.D. Cannon, who didn't get drafted but who was a priority free agent for the team.

Cannon, a prolific receiver at Baylor, signed a deal that included a \$45,000 signing bonus, richer than most undrafted free agents receive and a sign the 49ers were eager to have him compete for a roster spot this offseason. His release followed a three-day rookie minicamp and makes him subject to waivers.

It's not known why the 49ers parted with him so soon, although they are expected to sign some of the 50-plus tryout players who impressed over the three-day minicamp. Those players are not now part of the 90-man offseason roster, and to make room the team has to cut the same number of players who are currently on the roster.

Cannon was known for his speed, but also for sloppy route running, which likely caused him to go undrafted. He finished third in school history in receiving yards, touchdowns and receptions.

Solomon Thomas heads back to school after 49ers rookie minicamp

By Nick Wagoner, ESPN.com

Their rookie minicamp is over, but the NFL education is only beginning for the San Francisco 49ers' rookie class.

For most of them, that education will continue at the team's facility during the next five weeks or so. But an NFL rule will keep perhaps the 49ers' most prominent rookie from entering the building again until mid-June.

Third overall pick Solomon Thomas participated fully in last weekend's rookie minicamp and, for him, it might have been even more meaningful than for the rest of his rookie teammates.

"It's really important to show the coaches how I'm going to work, how I'm going to play, my effort on the field," Thomas said. "Of course I'm going to have some mess-ups, but I'm going to try to be as perfect as I can be and just show them how hard I'm going to play for them."

The reason for Thomas' forthcoming absence is a league rule that dictates that players can't participate in offseason activities with their teams until classes at their universities are over.

For most rookies, school is out in mid-May. But Stanford (and several other schools, especially on the West Coast) are on the quarters system. Thomas said he will be able to return June 17, which means he will miss all of the team's organized team activities and, likely, the team's final minicamp. Receiver Trent Taylor, a fellow rookie from Louisiana Tech, is also going to miss time while waiting for classes to end.

This is not the first time this has happened to a Niners first-round pick. Last year, guard Joshua Garnett, who also attended Stanford, had a similar wait.

Thomas remembered seeing Garnett around the Palo Alto campus working out while waiting for his chance to head the 13 miles down the 101 to Levi's Stadium.

"After Joshua got drafted, he was back at Stanford training with [Stanford director of sports performance] coach [Shannon] Turley," Thomas said. "He took classes for a little bit, but then it got to a point where he

stopped taking classes. He was just around working. So, I was trying to get work with him when he was back. But, he was just in the area, stayed in the area because Santa Clara's about a 20-minute drive, a 15-minute drive. So, he just stayed in the area close to his new home."

The missed time didn't set Garnett back too much, though it probably contributed to the fact that he didn't become a starter at the beginning of the season. He didn't land in the starting lineup until an October game against Buffalo, but he went on to start 11 games.

Now that Thomas and Garnett are teammates again, Thomas has said he'd lean on Garnett to offer advice on how to handle the time away and keep himself from going crazy with his new team practicing just up the street.

"I will be talking with Joshua and other guys on the team," Thomas said. "Talking to the coaches as much as I can to learn as much as I can while I'm away, while I can't be at the facility. So, I'm going to do whatever I can to just continue to learn and get better while I'm away, but still try my best to be here in some way."

At the rookie minicamp, Thomas received his iPad playbook. He lined up at the team's "big" defensive end position on the strong side, and it is natural spot for him after playing a similar position for the Cardinal. Thomas also said he planned to talk to the strength-and-conditioning staff about whether he needed to add or subtract weight and come up with a workout plan for his time away.

While he's away, Thomas said he will be sure to study as much as possible and gather information however he can. Although he can't attend the offseason activities other than the rookie minicamp, he can spend time on the phone with coaches.

Whether Thomas' absence prevents him from starting from day one is the least of his concerns at this point.

"You know, coming in you have to earn your stripes," Thomas said. "I can't come in here and say I'm just going to start right away. I have to work with the guys, get to know my teammates, become a great teammate, become a great practice player and just earn my stripes as I go on and keep working and working until I can say I can get there."

49ers release receiver KD Cannon, may add recent tryout player

By Chris Biderman, NinersWire.com

KD Cannon's career with the 49ers didn't last long.

San Francisco released the promising receiver over the weekend after adding him as an undrafted free agent following the recent NFL draft. The news was first reported by ESPN Radio in Central Texas.

Cannon (5-11, 182) was expected to get taken in the recent draft and seemed like an under-the-radar addition for the receiver-needy 49ers looking to add speed for new coach Kyle Shanahan's offense.

Cannon for Baylor last season logged 1,215 yards on 87 receptions and scored 13 receiving touchdowns. He was considered one of the best deep threat prospects in the class after averaging 16 yards per catch during his three seasons. But he was passed over and signed a deal with San Francisco last week.

In practice rep during rookie minicamp Friday, Cannon gained separation from his defender, made a catch in stride over the middle of the field, but didn't finishing running out the rep. New general manager John Lynch has stressed the importance of culture since getting hired over the winter.

San Francisco may fill Cannon's spot on the 90-man roster with a tryout player. Receiver candidates include B.J. Johnson (Georgia Southern), Michael Esiobu (Lakeland), Joey Augustin (Charleston), Germone Hopper (Clemson), Emmanuel Obajimi (Samford) and Justin Thomas (Georgia Tech).

Jay Cutler and the Odd Offseason of QB Movement

By Peter King, MMQB.com

THEY'RE STARTING

Brian Hoyer, San Francisco. After looking scared in a four-pick playoff embarrassment for Houston 16 months ago, Hoyer slightly redeemed himself in a five-start, 67-percent relief stint with the Bears last year. Still, he's a Kyle Shanahan stopgap with the Niners.

Draft Leftovers

- Every year there are some players with injury questions, and some players ruled undraftable due to injury concerns. There were many this year, and most teams pushed two Alabama players (defensive lineman Jonathan Allen, linebacker Reuben Foster) down the draft board because of shoulder issues. I'll preface this by saying in 1980 the Cincinnati Bengals drafted USC tackle Anthony Muñoz third overall despite the fact that an injured knee caused 14 NFL teams to flunk him on his physical. Muñoz became one of the great offensive linemen of all time. Before the draft, one smart scout told me his team wouldn't draft Foster; the team feared his postseason rotator-cuff surgery would have to be re-done. The Niners, before Foster's medical re-check with the team, labeled him a 2-minus on their medical scale, meaning they had concerns requiring another examination. After that examination, team physical Dr. Timothy McAdams and the Niners were satisfied with Foster's healing, GM John Lynch said, and the medical grade was changed to a 2-plus. "He'll be fine for training camp," Lynch said. "We feel as strong as ever about his health, and really, we've never wavered. Our medical people are confident in him." Foster's shoulder will be monitored as closely as any injury entering training camp, because of everything said about it before the draft and since.

- Arizona and San Francisco and the Jets (and perhaps Cleveland, depending on the rookie season of DeShone Kizer) pushed off their quarterback-of-the-future choices until 2018, when vets Kirk Cousins of Washington and Jimmy Garoppolo of New England could be free agents, and the college crop of passers could be better than this year. I like that.

Peer to Peer Counseling

Joe Dumars is a big football fan. He's also one of the only people in the world who could fairly judge what San Francisco GM John Lynch just did in Lynch's rookie NFL draft. Dumars walked off the basketball court—after what turned out to be a Hall of Fame career—in the spring of 1999. A year later, three weeks before the NBA draft, Dumars was hired by the Detroit Pistons to be their president of basketball operations, a role in which he served for 14 seasons. In 2003, he was voted NBA executive of the year.

I reached out to Dumars to see how he thought Lynch did in his first draft, particularly as it pertained to the fourth-round pick, running back Joe Williams. A quick recap, if you missed last week's column, in which I wrote about embedding in the 49ers' draft room for the first draft of Lynch and coach Kyle Shanahan as they set out to rebuild the 49ers. After Friday's second day of the draft, Shanahan was desperate for the team to draft Williams—who wasn't even on their draft board because of his college history: At UConn he stole and used a former teammate's credit card, and at Utah he quit the team for a month last fall as he coped with depression.

Shanahan wanted Williams. Lynch didn't. So on Saturday morning, a few hours before the draft began, Lynch came into the office early and phoned Williams and spent a half-hour going over his life story. He now believes Williams' troubles date back to when he was 13, when Williams blamed himself for the

death of his younger sister. He never got sufficient treatment to overcome the guilt he felt until last fall. So Lynch thought about it, and he changed his mind. The Niners picked Williams in the fourth round. Dumars read the story.

"I thought it was great, the back and forth you described between him and Kyle. That is the essence of trying to acquire players, the back and forth, the relationship between the coach and the guy acquiring players for the coach. There has to be a trust. There has to be respect. It is a perfect story for why the back and forth and all the background checks are really important.

"It's easy to look at the actions. But what Lynch did was, he listened to his coach. He wanted to know the whys. Why did Joe Williams behave like that? I thought it was fascinating. Been there, done that. If you don't know the background, and if you don't know the reasons for the background, or you don't want to try to learn the reasons, you can't understand.

"One of the things that's great about sports, for me, is the stories behind the stories. Each person has a story line. After I read what you wrote, from this point forward, I will follow Joe Williams' career. I will be pulling for him. I will be pulling for this to work.

I asked Dumars: "Any advice for Lynch? You've been in his shoes."

"First: Trust your instincts. You've been in the game as a player and been around the game for a long time. He know players. Be instinctive, and stick to your guns. Then, when there are things you don't know, seek the advice of others who have been through it. Don't try to know it all. Because you don't. Get on the phone, seek the advice of elders. That's what I did. I've been there."

Pod People

- San Francisco CEO Jed York, on whether he regrets not signing Jim Harbaugh to a contract extension before their ugly divorce: "We tried a lot of times to get an extension done with Jim, and for whatever reason those didn't culminate. And, ultimately, as successful as it was here, I think Jim is very happy, and he's doing an unbelievable job at Michigan. We obviously didn't have success after Jim left. I don't know that we'd be sitting here with John Lynch and Kyle Shanahan if something happened. And I don't know if it would have worked long-term if we did get something done. I regret how we performed the last two years. I regret how the relationship was frayed between me and a coach that did a lot of great things for this franchise. And I actually talked to his brother [Ravens head coach] John [Harbaugh] briefly at the owner's meetings, and he said, 'You know, you guys need to get together sometime and have dinner.' And I said, 'I'd love to do that.' I'd love to get together. And I think enough time has kind of passed where you can let whatever issues that were there be buried and just truly be thankful for three great years. When nobody expected us, certainly in 2011, to beat the Saints the way we did. To get close and be two muffed punts away from going to a Super Bowl in '11. And just all the things that happened. You know, I'd love to sit down with Jim. Not in front of cameras, not in front of anybody else, but just share an evening with him and truly say thank you. And wish him the best of luck."

49ers dump K.D. Cannon after rookie minicamp

By Mike Florio, ProFootballTalk.com

The 49ers thought well enough of undrafted receiver K.D. Cannon a week ago to give him a \$5,000 signing bonus and a \$40,000 guaranteed salary. After the team's rookie minicamp, they thought poorly enough of Cannon to cut him.

PFT has confirmed that Cannon has been waived after only a weekend of non-contact practices with other rookies and tryout players.

He'll be subject to waivers, but it's unlikely anyone will claim the contract and step into San Francisco's shoes as to the \$40,000 in guaranteed base salary. If someone signs Cannon as a free agent and he makes a regular-season roster, the 49ers can make back the \$40,000, if the contract contains offset language on the guarantee. (It would be a shock if it didn't.)

Regarded as a fourth-or-fifth-round prospect coming out of Baylor, the biggest knock on Cannon is that he has a slender frame.