

49ers Clips – February 21, 2017

Local Media

***Early free agency: Mitchell to visit 49ers Tuesday***

By Matt Barrows, Sacramento Bee

<http://www.sacbee.com/sports/nfl/san-francisco-49ers/article133941144.html>

***Craving for competition drove John Lynch from booth to GM role***

By Nick Wagoner, ESPN.com

[http://www.espn.com/blog/san-francisco-49ers/post/\\_id/23596/craving-for-competition-drove-john-lynch-from-booth-to-general-manager](http://www.espn.com/blog/san-francisco-49ers/post/_id/23596/craving-for-competition-drove-john-lynch-from-booth-to-general-manager)

***John Lynch adjusting to football life away from family***

By Conor Orr, NFL.com

<http://www.nfl.com/news/story/0ap3000000786892/article/john-lynch-adjusting-to-football-life-away-from-family>

National Media

***Jaguars to trade Julius Thomas to Dolphins***

By Chris Wesseling, NFL.com

<http://www.nfl.com/news/story/0ap3000000786846/article/jaguars-to-trade-julius-thomas-to-dolphins>

***Cowboys rework deals of Tyron Smith, Travis Frederick***

By Todd Archer, ESPN.com

[http://www.espn.com/blog/dallas-cowboys/post/\\_id/4758334/cowboys-rework-deals-of-tyron-smith-travis-frederick](http://www.espn.com/blog/dallas-cowboys/post/_id/4758334/cowboys-rework-deals-of-tyron-smith-travis-frederick)

***Jets offer contract to N.J.'s K'Waun Williams, free agent cornerback, source says***

By Darryl Slater, Newark Star-Ledger

[http://www.nj.com/jets/index.ssf/2017/02/jets\\_offer\\_contract\\_to\\_njs\\_kwaun\\_williams\\_free\\_age.html#incart\\_river\\_index](http://www.nj.com/jets/index.ssf/2017/02/jets_offer_contract_to_njs_kwaun_williams_free_age.html#incart_river_index)

***Jimmy Garoppolo: 5 things to know about the Browns trying to trade for him***

By Mary Kay Cabot, Cleveland Plain Dealer

[http://www.cleveland.com/browns/index.ssf/2017/02/jimmy\\_garoppolo\\_5\\_things\\_you\\_n.html#incart\\_river\\_index](http://www.cleveland.com/browns/index.ssf/2017/02/jimmy_garoppolo_5_things_you_n.html#incart_river_index)

***Vikings need a left tackle, but will it be Matt Kalil?***

By Andrew Krammer, Star Tribune

<http://www.startribune.com/vikings-need-a-left-tackle-but-will-it-be-matt-kalil/414302113/>

## Local Clips – Full Version

### ***Early free agency: Mitchell to visit 49ers Tuesday***

By Matt Barrows, Sacramento Bee

SANTA CLARA -- After visiting with the Seattle Seahawks earlier in the week, free-agent defensive tackle Earl Mitchell will arrive in the Bay Area Tuesday and meet with the 49ers through Wednesday, a source said.

Mitchell, 29, got a head start on free agency when the Dolphins released him last week, and he has four teams interested. After the 49ers, he will head to Denver before winding up his tour in Atlanta.

The 49ers, Seahawks and Falcons all run a similar scheme, which has been described as a 4-3 defense that utilizes personnel that also would fit a 3-4 defense. For the 49ers, one of the missing elements for such a defense is big-bodied defensive tackle adept at stopping the run. Mitchell is listed at 6-3, 310 pounds.

San Francisco's top interior defensive lineman, Glenn Dorsey, will be a free agent next month and the 49ers have not been eager to re-sign him after he's missed big chunks of recent seasons with a torn biceps and an ACL injury. Quinton Dial and Mike Purcell are other options, but neither is perfectly suited for the role.

The Seahawks and Falcons also may have to replace soon-to-be free agents in the middle of their defensive line -- Tony McDaniel in Seattle and Jonathan Babineaux in Atlanta. Mitchell is familiar to the 49ers' new defensive line coach, Jeff Zgonina, who served as an assistant defensive line coach in Houston in 2013 when Mitchell was with the Texans.

The 49ers last week officially replaced Jim O'Neil with Robert Saleh as defensive coordinator. Saleh spent time on the Seahawks defense staff before following one-time Seahawks defensive coordinator Gus Bradley to the Jaguars. Saleh, 38, served as Bradley's linebackers coach in Jacksonville.

In addition to a run-stuffing defensive tackle, the 49ers also could stand to add an elite pass rusher, another inside linebacker or two to provide depth and competition to NaVorro Bowman and Ray-Ray Armstrong and, depending on what position Jimmie Ward plays next season, a fast and rangy free safety in the mold of Seattle's Earl Thomas.

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### ***Craving for competition drove John Lynch from booth to GM role***

By Nick Wagoner, ESPN.com

SANTA CLARA, Calif. -- About an hour after new San Francisco 49ers general manager John Lynch had taken part in his introductory press conference, he walked into the media room at Levi's Stadium for another round of questions with local writers.

Lynch had honestly and earnestly answered every question thrown his way, be it about his lack of experience running a personnel department, the division of power between him and coach Kyle Shanahan, or just about anything else. He'd done so with a smile and plenty of enthusiasm. As the conversation continued, Lynch was asked something a bit more difficult: Why?

As in why would a former player with a wife, four children and a good job as a color analyst for NFL games on Fox choose to leave for the high-pressure, results-driven business of being a general manager?

Lynch's answer began with a quip but ended with emotion as he choked back tears talking about being away from his family.

"My wife keeps saying, 'Are you sure?'" Lynch said. "I said, 'Well, this has already started. We're in.' I've never been apart from my family, so it's been gut-wrenching already but -- sorry -- that's been tough."

For now, Lynch is living in a local hotel as he adjusts to his new job while his wife Linda and four children -- Jake, 17, Lindsay, 16, Lilly, 14, and Leah, 9 -- are finishing the school year in San Diego. Jake might stay there with Lynch's parents for his senior year, but the rest of the family will eventually relocate to the Bay Area. On weekends, Lynch travels to Southern California or his family comes to visit him.

It's just one of the many sacrifices Lynch has had to make in transitioning to his new, high-profile job after eight years in the broadcast booth. It was also one of the primary things Lynch and his family considered before the Niners surprised the football world by hiring him out of nowhere to help rebuild this once-proud franchise.

"As soon as we started having conversations, I knew that this was going to be a possibility, so the biggest thing was, 'Can I get my family on board?'" Lynch said. "Ultimately, we got there. At first my wife said, 'You go make this decision,' and I said, 'No, no, no, we have to make this decision.' I got them to the point where they were as excited as I was and pulled the trigger."

Lynch said that Denver Broncos general manager/executive vice president John Elway has been an advisor throughout this process (among others). When Elway retired from football, he threw himself into a variety of business ventures but eventually found his way back to football, first in the Arena League and now in his current role with the Broncos.

Like Elway and so many other former athletes, Lynch's post-football career simply didn't satisfy the competitive fire within him. It's a fire that Shanahan recognized still burns in Lynch when the subject of working together in San Francisco was first broached.

"What excited me so much about John is [that] John had a pretty good deal before coming here," Shanahan said. "I remember when he told me why he wanted to be a general manager, and he really missed someone winning and losing at the end of a game. He enjoyed doing the announcing and being a part of the NFL, but the fight to go through something with a group of guys and what we go through together, and it is not easy and it's a grind for everybody, but it is worth it. That's really what people who played, people who coached, those are the reasons when people get out of it, they miss it so much."

It's that same competitive persona that made taking this particular job appealing to Lynch. Although he had never been all-in on moving into personnel, he said he has had conversations with teams in the past about making that move. In the run-up to recent drafts, Elway has invited Lynch to help the scouting department.

"He used to always give me a hard time and kind of bust my chops: 'What are you really doing when you broadcast a game?'" Lynch said, laughing. "'What kind of impact are you having?' He was messing with me."

But Elway also gave Lynch opportunities to see what he was missing, first by asking him to watch tape of safety prospects and write reports. Lynch was a Pro Bowl safety with the Buccaneers and Broncos.

Then, Elway asked Lynch to sit in on some draft meetings. Then, Lynch attended the scouting combine in Indianapolis with the Broncos, participating in every aspect of the process except the interviews.

Seeing it up close gave Lynch a new perspective. Combining that with the need to have a result -- positive or negative -- to take home with him after games, Lynch saw himself making the leap.

"When you've got a guy who had as good of a life setup, with his job and where he was, and he wants to come be a GM for one reason, because he wants to be a part of that working to win again -- and that's how I think, too," Shanahan said. "There's a lot of stuff that goes on in this business, and it's a big-time business and I get that, but when it comes down to it, when you have the people who are working together to try to lead the organization the way they think is pretty simple: It's about football and really not much else."

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***John Lynch adjusting to football life away from family***

By Conor Orr, NFL.com

New San Francisco 49ers general manager John Lynch clearly missed the competitive drive that comes with working for an NFL team.

But he will also miss the stability a life on football's periphery provided him.

Speaking to reporters after his introductory news conference, Lynch offered a glimpse into his family life. His four kids are still in school at home in San Diego and, according to ESPN, Lynch's oldest son could remain there to round out high school.

"My wife keeps saying, 'Are you sure?'" Lynch said, via ESPN.com. "I said, 'Well, this has already started. We're in.' I've never been apart from my family, so it's been gut-wrenching already but -- sorry -- that's been tough."

He added: "As soon as we started having conversations, I knew that this was going to be a possibility, so the biggest thing was, 'Can I get my family on board?' Ultimately, we got there. At first my wife said, 'You go make this decision,' and I said, 'No, no, no, we have to make this decision.' I got them to the point where they were as excited as I was and pulled the trigger."

It's hard to imagine anyone having a crazier offseason than the new members of the 49ers thus far. Head coach Kyle Shanahan goes from watching the biggest collapse in Super Bowl history straight into a new head coaching job. In addition, he has the No. 2 pick in the draft and the challenge of breaking in a first-time general manager. Lynch goes from a broadcaster's schedule to one where he might not be able to come home at times -- ask any tenured general manager about the air mattress in their office.

While all new regimes are fascinating in their own right, nothing will be worth watching as closely as the 49ers this offseason. For Lynch, nothing will be as simultaneously exciting and difficult.