

49ers Clips – February 10, 2017

Local Media

8 Takeaways from John Lynch, Kyle Shanahan's Introductory Press Conference

By Joe Fann, 49ers.com

<http://www.49ers.com/news/ninerfeed/article-2/8-Takeaways-from-John-Lynch-Kyle-Shanahans-Introductory-Press-Conference/7fc0c62d-5fea-4a2f-8c93-6a0cd86d1c3e>

John Lynch wants 49ers to embrace their storied past

By Eric Branch, San Francisco Chronicle

<http://www.sfchronicle.com/49ers/article/John-Lynch-wants-49ers-to-embrace-their-storied-10922073.php>

Shanahan trying to convince Rathman to stay with 49ers

By Eric Branch, San Francisco Chronicle

<http://www.sfchronicle.com/49ers/article/Shanahan-trying-to-convince-Rathman-to-stay-with-10921986.php>

49ers seize new vibe by uniting Kyle Shanahan, John Lynch

By Cam Inman, San Jose Mercury News

<http://www.mercurynews.com/2017/02/09/49ers-seize-new-vibe-by-uniting-kyle-shanahan-john-lynch/>

49ers' Shanahan wants to keep Rathman in undefined role

By Jerry McDonald, San Jose Mercury News

<http://www.mercurynews.com/2017/02/09/49ers-shanahan-wants-to-keep-rathman-in-un>

49ers players optimistic about progress under Shanahan, Lynch

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49ers have high hopes for Lynch-Shanahan partnership

By Matt Kawahara, Sacramento Bee

<http://www.sacbee.com/sports/nfl/san-francisco-49ers/article131867144.html>

Lynch makes it a priority to welcome 49ers alumni

By Matt Barrows, Sacramento Bee

<http://www.sacbee.com/sports/nfl/san-francisco-49ers/article131891789.html>

Colin Kaepernick will meet with John Lynch, Kyle Shanahan to discuss future

By Nick Wagoner, ESPN.com

http://www.espn.com/blog/san-francisco-49ers/post/_id/23320/colin-kaepernick-will-meet-with-john-lynch-kyle-shanahan-to-discuss-future

Kyle Shanahan to run 49ers offense, hoping to retain Tom Rathman

By Nick Wagoner, ESPN.com

http://www.espn.com/blog/san-francisco-49ers/post/_id/23328/kyle-shanahan-to-run-49ers-offense-hoping-to-retain-tom-rathman

Kyle Shanahan meets Bay Area media, but questions remain on SB LI loss

By Nick Wagoner, ESPN.com

http://www.espn.com/nfl/story/_id/18655441/kyle-shanahan-new-san-francisco-49ers-coach-reflects-atlanta-falcons-super-bowl-li-loss

John Lynch wants to rebuild relationships with former 49ers

By Darin Gantt, ProFootballTalk.com

<http://profootballtalk.nbcsports.com/2017/02/10/john-lynch-wants-to-rebuild-relationships-with-former-49ers/>

Kyle Shanahan trying to talk Tom Rathman into hanging around

By Darin Gantt, ProFootballTalk.com

<http://profootballtalk.nbcsports.com/2017/02/10/kyle-shanahan-trying-to-talk-tom-rathman-into-hanging-around/>

Jed York: I believe Shanahan and Lynch will be here more than 6 years

By Michael David Smith, ProFootballTalk.com

<http://profootballtalk.nbcsports.com/2017/02/09/jed-york-i-believe-shanahan-and-lynch-will-be-here-more-than-6-years/>

Kyle Shanahan to control Niners' 53-man roster

By Nick Shook, NFL.com

<http://www.nfl.com/news/story/0ap3000000784904/article/kyle-shanahan-to-control-niners-53man-roster>

49ers hope hiring of Shanahan ends revolving door at coach

By Josh Dubow, Associated Press

<http://pro32.ap.org/article/49ers-hope-hiring-shanahan-ends-revolving-door-coach>

National Media

Bickley: Carson Palmer's back for a final title run

By Dan Bickley, The Arizona Republic

<http://www.azcentral.com/story/sports/nfl/cardinals/2017/02/09/bickley-carson-palmers-back-final-title-run/97720240/>

Reggie McKenzie: Raiders will keep waiting for Aldon Smith

By Daniel Mano, East Bay Times

<http://www.eastbaytimes.com/2017/02/09/reggie-mckenzie-raiders-will-keep-waiting-for-aldon-smith/>

John Dorsey says he's happy in KC, calls time with Chiefs 'greatest four years' of his life

By Terez Paylor, Kansas City Star

<http://www.kansascity.com/sports/nfl/kansas-city-chiefs/article131725344.html>

Patriots' Garoppolo getting lots of looks across the league

By Mark Daniels, Providence Journal

<http://www.providencejournal.com/sports/20170209/patriots-garoppolo-getting-lots-of-looks-across-league>

What the Giants can learn from the Falcons and Patriots in the Super Bowl

By Pat Leonard, New York Daily News

<http://www.nydailynews.com/sports/football/giants/giants-learn-falcons-patriots-article-1.2968630>

Local Clips – Full Version

8 Takeaways from John Lynch, Kyle Shanahan's Introductory Press Conference

By Joe Fann, 49ers.com

The San Francisco 49ers new regime was officially introduced on Thursday at a press conference from the Levi's® Stadium Auditorium. Head coach Kyle Shanahan and general manager John Lynch were joined by 49ers CEO Jed York. Each made an opening statement, and then the trio took questions for nearly 45 minutes.

Here are the top-eight takeaways from the media session:

1. Shanahan explained that the 49ers organization has always had a special place in his heart. The new head coach was a ball boy for the team in middle school during his dad's tenure as San Francisco's offensive coordinator. He shared a unique memory with former 49ers wide receiver John Taylor.

"I remember staying up every night, playing ping pong with John Taylor. It took me two years to beat him and then after I did, then he finally told me he was going to start using his right hand," Shanahan said. "Then I realized I was never able to beat him."

2. This week has been bittersweet for Shanahan. The excitement for a new beginning in the Bay Area was tempered some by the result of Super Bowl LI. Shanahan's Atlanta Falcons lost in overtime to the New England Patriots.

At York's request, Shanahan stayed in Atlanta for an extra two days, something that was greatly appreciated by San Francisco's new head coach.

"To be able to go up to the building in Atlanta the next day and get to talk to all the (Falcons) players, all of us spent some time together and went through it again, it really gave us some closure on it," Shanahan said.

3. Both Lynch and Shanahan were very complimentary of the way York handled the interview process. They each asked the 49ers tough questions before ultimately accepting their respective jobs. The honest and open process is also what makes York confident that he found the right men to lead the 49ers.

"I believe in both of these guys," York said of Lynch and Shanahan. "We aren't where we want to be. We are a two-win team right now, and we need to make sure that these guys have everything that they can to get this thing up and running."

4. Shanahan explained that he has a two-track mind: Family and football.

"As sad as that is, it's true," Shanahan joked before expanding on his statement. "That's all you guys will get from me. ... We're going to hold people accountable. We're going to do it the right way. Everybody who's in this from the top to the bottom will be going in one direction."

5. Lynch emphasized repeatedly that the vision is for a true partnership between he and Shanahan. So when a question was raised about the division of power, Lynch explained that both men will have their hand in every decision.

"I can tell you Kyle has control of the 53," the GM shared. "I have the 90. Free agency and draft, I think I have. But, in all of those, it's also written that, subject to approval of the other guy."

6. The 49ers will have plenty of cap space when it comes time for free agency. So how does Lynch plan on attracting potential talent to come to San Francisco?

"You like winning? Because we're going to do that," Lynch started explaining his pitch. "You like doing things the right way? Because we're going to do that."

"I'd also tell them you've got a head coach that's going to put you in the right position to be successful. I think that's one of Kyle's great skills."

7. First things first. Shanahan will spend the next few days finalizing his coaching staff. From there, it will be time to dive into the film and evaluate the players currently under contract with the 49ers.

"I'm going to sit and watch a lot of tape and study our own roster," Shanahan said. "You've got to do that before you look at anything because I have no opinion on free agency until I know what's here and it starts with what's here."

8. Lynch broke some news during the presser. He announced that former Detroit Lions general manager Martin Mayhew will be joining his front office in San Francisco. The 49ers have since confirmed the hire as Mayhew will assume the role of senior personnel executive.

John Lynch wants 49ers to embrace their storied past

By Eric Branch, San Francisco Chronicle

A month after Hall-of-Fame quarterback Steve Young said the 49ers' five-Super-Bowl past is "gingerly embraced" by current ownership, new general manager John Lynch suggested that could be changing.

Lynch said one the direct questions he posed to CEO Jed York during the interview process involved the franchise's relationship with its decorated alumni.

"That was one thing that maybe I had heard, that guys maybe didn't feel welcome," Lynch said. "And I said, 'I have to have it that these guys are not only welcome, but encouraged. That's what we're aspiring to be."

"So the more we can have them around, the better, to me. I got that assurance. My conversations with those guys -- we can't ride their coattails, we've got to do it on our own. But it sure helps to have a great example right in front of us."

Lynch, who said he's already talked with former players, speaks from experience. He played for Bill Walsh in his final year at Stanford and noted Walsh was "intensely loyal" to the many former 49ers players that dotted his coaching staff.

Lynch also recalled Joe Montana and Ronnie Lott visiting campus.

"Some of the best advice I got about being a safety came from when Bill would say, 'Hey, Ronnie come out and talk with John.' That's kind of where I started to understand the 49ers way and what it was all about."

In January, Young said he's friendly with York, but that the 49ers' change of ownership in 2000 marked a break from the past.

"I think people also need to recognize that when the split happened - when Eddie (DeBartolo) lost the team and Denise (DeBartolo York) got the team -- there was tremendous acrimony between the parties," Young said on KNBR. "And so the past - that 49er past - is gingerly embraced ... They're looking to win Super Bowls into the future ... They are certainly not looking to recreate the 49ers of the 80s and 90s. It's just not part of the future."

Shanahan trying to convince Rathman to stay with 49ers

By Eric Branch, San Francisco Chronicle

The pledge Kyle Shanahan made to Bobby Turner means the 49ers might not have running backs Tom Rathman on their staff for the first time since 2008.

On Thursday, Shanahan confirmed his running backs coach will be Turner, 67, who has spent six of the past seven seasons with him in Atlanta (2015-16) and Washington (2010-13). Shanahan said he told Turner he'd hire him as his running backs coach if he ever became a head coach.

As a result, Shanahan is hoping to convince Rathman to stay in Santa Clara in a different role. Rathman, 54, spent the first eight seasons of his nine-year NFL career as a fullback with the 49ers. Shanahan was a 49ers ball boy during Rathman's final two seasons with the team.

"I love Tom Rathman," Shanahan said. "He's a hero of mine and I know how good of a coach he is. I'm really trying hard to get him to be here in whatever other role he wants. But I know Tom. Tom's a running backs coach. I'm going to try my hardest to keep him here. It's definitely going to be up to him, but I'm going to have to do some convincing, I think."

Rathman has coached running backs throughout his 20-year career with the 49ers (1997-2002; 2009-16); Lions (2003-05) and Raiders (2006-08).

49ers seize new vibe by uniting Kyle Shanahan, John Lynch

By Cam Inman, San Jose Mercury News

SANTA CLARA — Kyle Shanahan and John Lynch, the 49ers new power couple, happily sat side by side at Thursday's introductory press conference, with a 49ers helmet in front of them as a customary prop and CEO Jed York flanking them as their optimistic boss.

This was the first visual of a coach-and-general manager union the reeling 49ers have made into a long-term investment, as each newcomer embarks on a six-year contract.

"It's rare to get two guys to come in together with the same deal. That makes me comfortable," Shanahan said. "... You know you're going to win together and you're going to lose together."

This was unlike recent new-coach coronations, and the 49ers have way too many to compare it to now that Shanahan is their fourth coach in four years.

Instead of that new coach having to conform with an entrenched general manager — like recent tries under Trent Baalke, whose unions ultimately failed with Jim Harbaugh, Jim Tomsula and Chip Kelly — the 49ers are taking a new, double-whammy approach with two novices.

"We aren't where we want to be. We're a two-win team right now," York said, referring to last season's 2-14 record. "We need to make sure we give these guys everything they can to get this thing up and running. I believe in these guys and think they'll be around a lot longer than (six years)."

They've divvied up the personnel powers in a way both see fit: Shanahan controls the in-season, 53-man roster while Lynch oversees the offseason's 90-man unit as well as free agency and the draft, in which the 49ers hold the No. 2 overall pick April 27.

"It's also written: 'subject to approval of the other guy,'" Lynch said of their contracts' power share. "... We've both seen places where it works. And we've seen places that it doesn't work and you've got friction and that's not what we were all about."

Lynch is a first-time general manager, and although he exudes confidence from his past life as a star safety and Fox Sports broadcaster, he is openly humbled by his lack of front-office experience.

Shanahan is a first-time head coach, and although his confidence stems from nine years as offensive coordinator and as the descendant of long-time NFL coach Mike Shanahan, he is greatly humbled by Sunday's Super Bowl defeat as the Falcons' play-caller.

In the wake of watching a 28-3 lead turn into a 34-28 overtime loss to the New England Patriots, Shanahan got hired by the 49ers on Monday to close a long-expected deal, and he then took a couple days to get "some closure" on his Falcons tenure.

"I was definitely grieving it and I probably will for a while," Shanahan said. "... I remember every single play and I will go over those for the rest of my life. That's kind of the life we live as coaches."

Shanahan now will call the 49ers' plays and, thus, he said he won't need to hire an offensive coordinator, a void last attempted by four-time Super Bowl-winner Bill Walsh in the 1980s, when his offensive staff featured Mike Holmgren, Sherman Lewis, Dennis Green and Bobb McKittrick.

As an ode to 49ers lore, Shanahan recalled serving as a ball boy at training camps in Rocklin while his father was the offensive coordinator from 1992-94, a tenure culminated by their last Super Bowl win.

Kyle Shanahan added: "It's a dream come true, not just to be a head coach, but a head coach at a place like this, where you talk about Bill Walsh, George Seifert, Steve Mariucci, Jim Harbaugh and you can go down the line of coaches and players."

Harbaugh? Yep, Shanahan has the moxie to invoke the name of the outcast coach who led the 49ers to three straight NFC title games and a Super Bowl berth. Harbaugh left after the 2014 season to spark the 49ers' avalanche from contention.

Lynch also drew upon the 49ers past, and he told York at the onset of this regime how they needed to encourage alumni back into the fold. Lynch called out by name six former players — Keena Turner, Jesse Sapolu, Guy McIntyre, Eric Wright, Steve Bono and Parys Haralson — in attendance Thursday inside Levi's Stadium's standing-room-only auditorium.

"Those guys created the standard that we're striving for," Lynch said. "I've reached out to a lot of these guys and let them know that not only are they welcome, we really want these guys around because that's what we're aspiring to be. I've also told them we can't ride on their coattails."

To help Lynch with his front-office foray, the 49ers hired Cupertino native Adam Peters away from the Denver Broncos' scouting office a week ago to serve as vice president of player personnel. Thursday brought another addition: senior personnel executive Martin Mayhew, who mentored Lynch in the Buccaneers secondary from 1993-96 and later become the Detroit Lions general manager (2008-15) and New York Giants director of football operations (2016).

The biggest personnel conundrum is at quarterback. Do the 49ers acquire one via trade, draft or free agency? Before they get there, Lynch said he will sit down with Colin Kaepernick, who the GM claimed to have hit it off with while serving as a Fox analyst. Kaepernick can opt out of his contract next month, or the 49ers could release him and avoid his \$14.5 million salary.

Lynch said Kaepernick has reached out to him, and that any decision on the quarterback's future will be a "football decision, but there are different layers to that."

Kaepernick, whose equal-rights movement was embraced by the 49ers last year, did not attend Thursday's press conference, but at least six teammates did show.

Wide receiver Torrey Smith said of the Shanahan-Lynch unveiling: "They aced it. Obviously they're great at public speaking. But they're believable, as well. As players, you have to be excited about what you hear."

Shanahan said controlling the 53-man roster was important to him so players knew coaches were responsible for it, but that Lynch also had strong influence on decisions.

Added Shanahan: "We're not coming in here (saying): 'If things go bad I, want to make sure I have all this stuff.' Things aren't going to go bad.

"We're coming here together," Shanahan continued. "and it's going to work together or we're going to lose together and that's what makes it special. You know what both our intentions are. There's no hidden agendas with any of us."

49ers' Shanahan wants to keep Rathman in undefined role

By Jerry McDonald, San Jose Mercury News

SANTA CLARA — Coach Kyle Shanahan is interested in retaining long-time assistant coach Tom Rathman, but it won't be in his familiar role.

Rathman, 54, has coached the 49ers running backs since 2009, and also served in that capacity from 1997 through 2002. He coached running backs for the Detroit Lions from 2003 through 2005, and was with the Raiders in 2007-08.

Shanahan, however, confirmed that he hired Bobby Turner off the Atlanta Falcons' staff to coach running backs for the 49ers.

"I made a commitment to Bobby Turner a long time ago that if I got a head coaching job I would take him with me regardless of where it was," Shanahan said. "Bobby is a life-long running backs coach just like Tom. Bobby is going to come here and be the running backs coach."

Where that leaves Rathman is yet to be determined.

"I love Tom Rathman. He's a hero of mine and I know how good of a coach he is," Shanahan said. "I'm really trying hard to get him to be here in whatever role he wants. But I know Tom. He's a running backs coach. I'm going to try my hardest to keep him here.

"It's definitely going to be up to him, but I'm going to have to do some convincing I think."

— Shanahan confirmed he will do the play-calling and not hire an offensive coordinator on his staff.

"I didn't think that was the most important thing right now, especially with myself planning on calling it," Shanahan said. "I don't know if it will always be like that, but especially in this first year, I think it's important to set that tone."

49ers players optimistic about progress under Shanahan, Lynch

By Jerry McDonald, San Jose Mercury News

SANTA CLARA — Coming off the least productive season of his six-year career, 49ers wide receiver Torrey Smith is eager to hit the ground running the offensive system of coach Kyle Shanahan.

"I played in that offense before so I kind of know what it is, and you see what Atlanta's doing and it's crazy," Smith said Thursday. "I saw what he did in Cleveland and Washington, so he's very talented and I'm definitely excited."

Smith was joined in the auditorium at the official announcement of the hires of Shanahan and general manager John Lynch by teammates Eric Reid, NaVorro Bowman, Bruce Ellington, Quinton Patton and Mike Davis, as well as several 49ers alumni.

Smith had just 20 receptions for 267 yards and three touchdowns in Chip Kelly's offense and watched the Falcons closely in the postseason.

"There are opportunities for people who play the way I play," Smith said. "There are big opportunities. There are chances. They spread it out. They attack the entire field. It's very balanced. It's cool the way he puts it together."

Bowman, rehabbing from a torn Achilles' liked the idea that Shanahan and Lynch were given six-year contracts. Shanahan will be the 49ers fourth different coach over the past four seasons.

"We have let go of a few coaches the last few years. It shows the organization and Jed is committed to giving guys a shot to show what they can bring to the table," Bowman said. "Six years may be a reach, but it shows Jed is committed to two guys that are proven. John has played in the league and is a Hall of Fame (candidate).

"Kyle, watching the Falcons move the ball, with my intellect, he had me off my beat. I'm glad to have him on our side."

Lynch's background as an NFL safety was intriguing to Reid, a 49ers starting safety.

"I think that's awesome to have a former player in the GM role," Reid said. "Somebody that not only understands the game of football, but played the game of football.

"I think he has a different outlook on things when he makes those decisions. So it's pretty cool."

Bowman liked that both the coach and general manager were selling.

"Just hearing those guys talk, them understanding there can't be any egos here. Guys have to be open to realizing what we have," Bowman said. "If anyone has insight, let's listen to it and see if it's the right choice.

"We have one goal in mind: to get back to the winning ways and not have to hire a fifth (coach)."

— Smith missed the last three games with a concussion but has recovered.

"If we were in the playoffs, I probably could have played," Smith said. "They dragged it out, which was good."

— Bowman said rehab on his left Achilles' tear is going well.

"I'm working. Doing everything the trainers ask me to do," Bowman said. "No timetable set on when I'll be clear to do every single thing. The Achilles' is improving every single day and giving me confidence I'll be back."

49ers have high hopes for Lynch-Shanahan partnership

By Matt Kawahara, Sacramento Bee

SANTA CLARA -- In their first public appearance since being hired by the 49ers, new general manager John Lynch and head coach Kyle Shanahan clarified how they plan to divide responsibilities over personnel.

Lynch said he will have control over the 90-man roster, free agency and the draft, while the 53-man roster on opening day will be Shanahan's decision.

"But in all of those it's also written, 'subject to approval of the other guy,' " Lynch said. "That's the way we wanted it."

The 49ers introduced Lynch and Shanahan in a news conference Thursday at Levi's Stadium, and a theme was the partnership between the two. Both arrive in San Francisco with no experience in their new roles. Both received six-year contracts.

The length of those deals indicates the 49ers, coming off a 2-14 season, do not expect an immediate turnaround.

"I think in talking to Kyle, he was very direct with what he wants to do with the team and how he wants to build this thing and get it right," 49ers owner Jed York said. "He knows that he's going to have the leeway to do that and he's going to have the time to do that."

The 49ers wanted to bring in a GM and head coach who could work together and found their pairing only after Lynch – then analyzing games for Fox – mentioned his interest in a front-office job to Shanahan, who relayed it to York.

"To have an opportunity where an owner gives you a chance to come in with the GM, and to make sure that we both meet together before they do it, that's what made this so special," Shanahan said. "That's something that I didn't think ... I could pass up."

Shanahan arrives from Atlanta, where his tenure as offensive coordinator ended with a difficult overtime loss to New England in the Super Bowl last Sunday. After the Falcons blew a 28-3 third-quarter lead, Shanahan came under fire for some of his late play calling. He said Thursday he spent the day after the game at the Falcons' facility, talking with players to get some "closure," before departing for his new job.

"I remember every single play and I will go over those for the rest of my life," Shanahan said. "When you're the coordinator of an offense, or the head coach of a team, you're responsible for what happens out there."

Though now a head coach, Shanahan said he will retain play-calling duties on offense at least in his first season with the 49ers and will not designate a separate coordinator. That is fine with Lynch, who joked his vision for the offense is "whatever Kyle wants to do."

"I think he's innovative; I think he's aggressive," Lynch said. "Those are things I believe in."

Shanahan, meanwhile, said he recognized in Lynch, who played 15 seasons at safety in the NFL, somebody whose competitive fire was not being stoked by his broadcasting job.

"He missed someone winning and losing at the end of a game," Shanahan said. "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 – it's not easy and it's a grind for everybody, but it is worth it."

Both men said they are building their respective staffs, aware that with free agency starting next month and the draft set for April, they have little time to ease into their new roles.

Lynch announced Thursday the 49ers have hired former Detroit general manager Martin Mayhew, an ex-teammate of Lynch, as a senior personnel executive, padding a front office that already includes new vice president of player personnel Adam Peters and assistant general manager Tom Gamble.

"I've got to surround myself with a great team," Lynch said. "I've already done that."

Asked about the 49ers' talent level, Lynch admitted, "There's some work to be done.

"I don't think it's a 2-14 roster, though," he said. "It's a little better than that."

Shanahan is expected to bring multiple assistant coaches with him from Atlanta, including running backs coach Bobby Turner. Shanahan said he "made a commitment" to Turner to include him in his first head-coaching foray, but that he hopes longtime 49ers running backs coach Tom Rathman will remain "in whatever other role he wants."

As for roster decisions, Shanahan said he felt that having control of more than the 53-man roster was "not something to fight for."

"I wanted both to have shared responsibility, and I think John felt the same," he said. "We're not, 'If things go bad, I want to make sure I have all this stuff.' Things aren't going to go bad. We're coming here together, and it's going to work together, or we're going to lose together."

Lynch makes it a priority to welcome 49ers alumni

By Matt Barrows, Sacramento Bee

SANTA CLARA -- With a comfortable job as a Fox analyst, a family in San Diego and a small window to figure out whether he wanted to be the general manager of the 49ers, John Lynch said he posed a lot of "direct questions" to team owner Jed York during their interview process.

Thursday, Lynch acknowledged that one of those questions had to do with former 49ers players – and the notion that some alumni felt less than embraced by the organization in recent years.

"That was one thing maybe I had heard, that guys didn't feel welcome," Lynch said after Thursday's press conference to introduce him and new head coach Kyle Shanahan.

"And I said I have to have that, where these guys are not only welcome, but encouraged. That's what we're aspiring to be. So the more we can have them around, the better to me. And I got that assurance."

Though Lynch never played for the 49ers, he did play under Bill Walsh at Stanford and recalled players like Joe Montana and Ronnie Lott coming out to watch their practices.

"Some of the best advice I got as a safety happened like that, where Bill would say, 'Hey Ronnie, come out and talk to John,'" Lynch said. "That's kind of where I started to understand the 49er way and what it's all about."

Lynch made a point during Thursday's press conference of acknowledging former 49ers in the audience, including Keena Turner, Eric Wright and Jesse Sapolu.

"Those guys created the standard that we're striving for," Lynch said. "I've reached out to a lot of these guys and let them know that not only are they welcome, we really want these guys around because that's what we're aspiring to be. I've also told them we can't ride on their coattails. We understand that we have to earn their trust as well."

- Also present for Thursday's unveiling were several current players, including safety Eric Reid, receiver Torrey Smith and linebacker Navorro Bowman. All said they came away impressed by the first public appearance of Lynch and Shanahan since their hires.

"I've had a chance to talk to both Mr. Lynch and Mr. Shanahan; it's a different feeling," Reid said. "I believe in what they're saying."

"A lot of times, at least in my experience, when you talk to a coach you leave and you're like, 'Oh yeah, that's what you say, but we'll see what happens.' But when I walked out of that room I felt very confident that what they're saying was true."

Smith said he played in a version of Shanahan's offense under then-offensive coordinator Gary Kubiak in Baltimore and is "definitely excited" about his potential role next season.

"Once you're able to establish the run game, which is very important in any offense, there's opportunities for people who play the way I play," Smith said. "There's big opportunities, there's chances, they spread it out, they attack the entire field. It's very balanced and it's very cool the way it's put together."

Bowman, meanwhile, has watched the 49ers hire their fourth head coach in four seasons, following Jim Harbaugh, Jim Tomsula and Chip Kelly.

"Change is needed," Bowman said. "If everyone comes in committed to put the work in and get in line with the process, I think we'll be in the right direction."

- Bowman, whose season was cut short by a torn left Achilles tendon in Week 4 against Dallas, provided an update of sorts on his recovery.

"I'm working," he said. "Every single day, doing everything the trainers are asking me to do. There's no timetable set when I'll be cleared to do every single thing. But the sky's looking bright for me. I feel great. The Achilles is definitely just improving every single day and giving me confidence knowing I will be back."

The 49ers' vocal leader on defense has been limited to just 20 games over the past three seasons by injuries. He missed the entire 2014 season recovering from torn ligaments in his knee suffered in the previous year's NFC Championship Game.

Bowman said that compared to that rehab process, his current one is much more easier to deal with.

"Not spending those long hours warming up trying to get my workout in, it's definitely easier to deal with than my knee," he said. "And like I said, I can definitely see a positive light at the end of the tunnel."

- Lynch gave a breakdown of personnel decisions, saying he will have control over the 90-man roster, free agency and draft, while Shanahan will have final say on the 53-man roster. If that seems trivial, Reid offered an explanation of why having Shanahan in charge of the opening day roster matters:

"It's been my experience where you talk to a coach and you see where you're at with the team, but he's not even the person that makes the decision with your life essentially," Reid said. "It's encouraging to know that the person that's out there coaching you every day, watching what you do every day, seeing the work that you put in every day, is going to be the person making the decision."

- Lynch announced the 49ers' hiring of former Lions general manager Martin Mayhew as a senior personnel executive. He later offered a candid reason for the hire, saying he wanted somebody in his front office "who's been in the seat I'm in right now."

Lynch is not only a first-time GM, but has never worked in an NFL front office. Mayhew was the Lions' GM for seven seasons, during which time the team drafted players such as Matt Stafford and Ndamukong

Suh. Mayhew spent last season as the director of football operations/special projects for the New York Giants.

A former NFL cornerback, Mayhew also manned the same secondary as Lynch in Tampa Bay. He is Lynch's second big front-office hire after new VP of player personnel Adam Peters, who joins holdover assistant GM Tom Gamble as a seasoned talent evaluator.

Lynch said he brought Mayhew in for "a little bit of everything – to evaluate, but it's also a guy whom I trust immensely. ... One recurring thing I keep hearing from people is, get people you trust and get people you know have your back. And Martin's motivation is purely to be here, to help us win, to help me in some of the places where I've got some ground to gain."

Colin Kaepernick will meet with John Lynch, Kyle Shanahan to discuss future

By Nick Wagoner, ESPN.com

SANTA CLARA, Calif. -- In his role as a color analyst at Fox, San Francisco 49ers general manager John Lynch covered plenty of Niners games. Along the way, Lynch and quarterback Colin Kaepernick got a chance to know each other well. It's custom before a game for the network televising it to have production meetings in which the broadcasters get to meet with select players and coaches. It's also custom for the quarterback to be one of those players.

So Lynch often found himself huddled in a room before games quizzing Kaepernick on a variety of topics. As Lynch tells it, he and Kaepernick got along quite well.

"Colin and I, when I did some 49ers games, I'd say we hit it off," Lynch said. "I think there was a trust there. So I think that trust extends. I was thrilled when he reached out. I look forward to talking with him.

"Colin and I, [49ers vice president of communications] Bob [Lange] used to say, 'He doesn't trust many people, but he seems to trust you.'"

That already-established relationship apparently allowed Kaepernick to feel comfortable enough to reach out after Lynch was hired as the team's new general manager. Lynch, coach Kyle Shanahan and Kaepernick are now set to meet soon to discuss Kaepernick's future with the team.

It's a future in which both sides will have some say. Kaepernick can and is expected to opt out of his contract in early March. If Kaepernick surprises and chooses not to, the Niners would have the option to release him with minimal damage to the salary cap.

Of course, all parties could still come together and choose to bring Kaepernick back on a different deal.

"Colin reached out and we plan on visiting," Lynch said. "That's something Kyle and I committed to. Kyle spoke to that in order to find out what you need you have to first really take inventory of what you have. And so, we're still very much in the process of doing that. We're just at the beginning of it. The first order of business is Kyle and I both really attacking it and seeing what we have here, and we'll do that with his situation. We'll sit down with him and if we see fit that he's a part of it, we'll commit to that. If not, we'll figure things out."

While Lynch has been spending long hours at Levi's Stadium getting to know the current roster, Shanahan has not yet had a chance to dive in and see what's in place. That will happen soon because Shanahan and his staff must get to work with Lynch and his staff on offseason priorities, including free agency and the draft.

At this stage, Shanahan's only real knowledge of the Niners' roster is what he's seen on tape of their defense when he's prepared to play against them.

"With me it's, I see a lot better than I hear," Shanahan said. "I need to go watch it on tape. Colin, just like any other player, is someone I'm going to be watching a lot of tape on over these next few weeks. Before we can look into anything, free agency, draft, anything, you have to know what the players on your team are. That doesn't happen from just turning on a game. That happens from watching a lot of stuff. It takes a lot of time. It is a process. I am a little bit behind right now, but I have the time to do it and I'm looking forward to it and can't wait to get started on it."

From a numbers standpoint, Kaepernick had one of his best seasons in 2016, at least his best since 2013. He took over as the starter in Week 6 and went on to throw for 2,241 yards and 16 touchdowns, with just four interceptions, while completing 59.2 percent of his passes for a passer rating of 90.7, which ranked 17th in the NFL. His 468 rushing yards were second among quarterbacks, and his 6.8 yards per carry were a career high.

Of course, Kaepernick drew more attention for what happened before games than during them last season. His decision to kneel during the national anthem in protest of racial inequality made him a polarizing figure, though he wasn't a distraction to his teammates, who voted him the winner of the Len Eshmont Award as the 49ers player who "best exemplifies the inspirational and courageous play of Len Eshmont." The award is thought to be the most prestigious in-house honor a player can receive.

Lynch indicated Thursday that the decision on Kaepernick's future will be mostly about football, but did acknowledge that many things would be taken into account.

"It will be a football decision, but I think part of that, there's different layers to that," Lynch said. "So I think everything will be included in the decision. I'm not talking specifically about his stance, though. I think you have a quarterback, the great ones are leaders of men, so I think all of those things will be taken into account. I'm looking forward to sitting down with him, I really am."

Kyle Shanahan to run 49ers offense, hoping to retain Tom Rathman

By Nick Wagoner, ESPN.com

SANTA CLARA, Calif. -- If everything goes according to plan, San Francisco 49ers coach Kyle Shanahan will have his staff lined up and under contract as soon as possible.

"That's the first thing that I'm trying to do is finish the staff up," Shanahan said. "Definitely as behind on that as you can be and that's just the way it is. I wish I could have started earlier, but getting to play in the Super Bowl is a pretty cool thing also. So, it's something that you've got to deal with but it's something that I'm going to be doing here nonstop. We're not there yet. We're getting closer, but nothing's finalized. That's something that we've got to get done a lot sooner than later."

From the sound of it, though, Shanahan and general manager John Lynch aren't that far from getting a staff in place. After his Thursday news conference, Shanahan said that many of the reports about how the staff was shaping up were pretty accurate. But until those coaches are under contract, Shanahan didn't want to discuss too many specifics. He did, however, offer some insight into a couple of the more interesting machinations taking place behind the scenes.

First and foremost, Shanahan confirmed that he does not intend to hire a formal offensive coordinator and that he will call the plays for the Niners offense. That shouldn't be a surprise to anyone since Shanahan is known for his prowess as a play caller. He didn't seem overly concerned with how handling those duties might affect his transition to being a head coach though he did indicate he could begin prepping an assistant to take on those duties at some point in the future.

"I plan on calling the plays, which is usually an offensive coordinator's duty," Shanahan said. "I don't think it's that important to name an offensive coordinator. We're going to get a bunch of good coaches in here

that I think a bunch of guys will eventually be capable of doing that. But, I didn't think that was the most important thing right now, especially with myself planning on calling it. I don't know if it will always be like that, but especially in this first year, I think it's important to set that tone."

That doesn't mean Shanahan is naive to the fact that he will have more and different responsibilities as the man in charge. As all head coaches do, Shanahan will face no shortage of new challenges that he didn't have as a coordinator.

"I'm very confident that I'll be able to do a good job as a head coach," Shanahan said. "I can't do everything the exact way I've done as a coordinator, but when I was a coordinator I couldn't do everything the exact same way I did when I was a quarterback coach, or a receiver coach, or a quality control or a G.A. You have to adjust. You have to grow. You never stay the same. You're always getting better or worse. I've been waiting for this moment my whole life and I know I'm ready for it. I believe I've been ready for it for a while. I'm not going to be a finished product by any means. You better work every single day to get better and I promise you guys I will. I hope I can start off being great right away, but I know it's going to take work and I'm not going to do everything right, but I promise you guys I'll learn from my mistakes. You're going to get someone committed to their job and it'll work out."

Among the coaches Shanahan is expected to retain are holdovers Jason Tarver (outside linebackers) and Jeff Hafley (defensive backs) but the status of running backs coach Tom Rathman remains up in the air. Shanahan cited Rathman's name during his introductory news conference as a player he looked up to when he was a kid and his father Mike was coaching the 49ers.

Rathman has been a fixture around the franchise from his playing days to now, playing fullback for the team from 1986 to 1993 then coaching six seasons with Steve Mariucci and the 49ers beginning in 1997. He returned to the team in 2009 and has been the running backs coach under Mike Singletary, Jim Harbaugh, Jim Tomsula and Chip Kelly.

Alas, Shanahan has been preparing to be a head coach for many years and said he long ago promised running backs coach Bobby Turner he would take him wherever he lands. Turner coached with Mike Shanahan for 15 seasons in Denver and has been with Kyle Shanahan in Atlanta and Washington.

Still, Shanahan said he would like to keep Rathman in the fold albeit in a different role, something they discussed Thursday morning.

"I love Tom Rathman," Shanahan said. "He's a hero of mine, and I know what kind of coach he is. I'm trying hard to get him to be here in whatever other role he wants. But I know Tom. Tom is a running backs coach. I'm going to try my hardest to keep him here. It's definitely going to be up to him. But I'm going to have to do some convincing."

Kyle Shanahan meets Bay Area media, but questions remain on SB LI loss

By Nick Wagoner, ESPN.com

SANTA CLARA, Calif. -- On a day when newly minted San Francisco 49ers coach Kyle Shanahan would have preferred to look only to the future, he was asked multiple times to relive the past.

The Niners formally introduced Shanahan and general manager John Lynch to the San Francisco Bay Area media Thursday, and the pair spent about 45 minutes answering questions on a variety of topics. But one subject that came up early and often was the end of Sunday's Super Bowl LI and Shanahan's handling of the playcalling in the second half, as the Atlanta Falcons blew a 25-point lead and ultimately lost to the New England Patriots 34-28 in overtime.

"Obviously, you guys know the result of that, which wasn't easy," said Shanahan, who had been Atlanta's offensive coordinator. "It's as hard as anything I've gone through."

Shanahan has received particular criticism for his handling of a late drive in which Atlanta had moved deep into New England territory with a chance to run the clock down and kick a field goal to make it a two-score game. Hanging on to a 28-20 lead with the ball at the Patriots' 22 and 4:40 to go, Shanahan called for a Devonta Freeman run, which ultimately lost a yard. Instead of continuing to call run plays, Shanahan opted for two passes. The first resulted in a sack and a 12-yard loss; the second resulted in an offensive holding penalty that took away another 10 yards before quarterback Matt Ryan threw incomplete on third down.

Instead of a 40-something-yard field goal attempt that would have made the score 31-20 and burned more time off the clock, Atlanta punted from its 45 and used just over a minute of game clock between Freeman's run and the punt.

"I remember every single play, and I will go over those for the rest of my life," Shanahan said. "That's kind of the life we live as coaches. It's magnified in the Super Bowl, but it's also that case in every game."

After the game, reports surfaced that Shanahan had been heard telling people at the team hotel that he "blew it." Shanahan couldn't recall if that was what he said verbatim but acknowledged Thursday that he understands the criticism.

"I don't know if I used those exact words, but that sounds about how I talk," Shanahan said. "When you're the coordinator of an offense or you're the head coach of a team, you're responsible for what happens out there. If a play doesn't go right, if a player misses something, that starts with the offensive coordinator when you're on offense. I did believe we had a very good chance to win that game, especially at the end, and we didn't get it done."

"In terms of using the words, 'I blew it,' I don't look at it that way. I believe we missed an opportunity. We didn't get it done. I'll go back through every play for the rest of my life."

With Shanahan pegged to take the Niners job soon after the Super Bowl, the assumption was that he would be on a plane to San Francisco on Monday. Instead, Shanahan said 49ers CEO Jed York told him to take a day and a half to collect himself.

As a result, Shanahan spent Monday with his Falcons players.

"I was definitely grieving it, and I probably will for a while, but to be able to go up to the building in Atlanta the next day and get to talk to all the players -- all of us spent some time together -- and go through it again really gave us some closure on it," Shanahan said. "We put our whole heart and souls into that season, into that game. We did everything we could. I know the results weren't what we wanted; you've got to live with that. But I'm real proud of the coaching staff, myself, the players, that we did as good as we could."

"We had no hesitation, and we let it all out there. You've got to live with the results, but that's why we're in this business: You've got to take the good with the bad. I'm just very happy that I was a part of it."

As for how the late collapse will affect him moving forward, Shanahan acknowledged that it helps him knowing he stayed true to his aggressive approach.

"It's human nature when you get in big moments like that to lock up, to hesitate, to try to take the easy way out and make sure you don't get blamed," Shanahan said. "That's something that I wasn't going to do and people on our team weren't going to do. We played that game how we played the entire year, and I thought I called plays in that game the way I had the entire year."

"Doesn't mean I'm always right. Doesn't mean they're always going to work. But I promise you I prepare as hard as I possibly can. I always do what I believe is right with our coaching staff and the players, and then you live with the consequences."

"Yeah, it's going to be hard living with that loss," he added. "Every play that didn't work, I regret, as always. But I can deal with it, because I can look at myself in the mirror and know I did what I thought was right at the time, and that was the most important thing to me. I didn't change because of a circumstance. I did what I thought was right, but whatever happens, if you do what you thought was right and you believed in that because of the preparation you had, then you should be able to live with the consequences."

John Lynch wants to rebuild relationships with former 49ers

By Darin Gantt, ProFootballTalk.com

It's not nearly as bad as James Dolan/Charles Oakley with the Knicks, but the 49ers haven't necessarily tapped into resources of their former stars of late.

But that's something new General Manager John Lynch wants to change, saying he asked owner Jed York specifically about the involvement of alumni when he interviewed for the job.

"That was one thing that maybe I had heard, that guys maybe didn't feel welcome," Lynch said, via Eric Branch of the San Francisco Chronicle. "And I said, 'I have to have it that these guys are not only welcome, but encouraged. That's what we're aspiring to be."

"So the more we can have them around, the better, to me. I got that assurance. My conversations with those guys — we can't ride their coattails, we've got to do it on our own. But it sure helps to have a great example right in front of us."

Former 49ers quarterback Steve Young said the past never seemed to be a priority for the current administration, dating back to the split when power over the team went from Eddie DeBartolo Jr. to his sister Denise DeBartolo York.

"I think people also need to recognize that when the split happened — when Eddie lost the team and Denise got the team — there was tremendous acrimony between the parties," Young said during an interview on KNBR in January. "And so the past — that 49er past — is gingerly embraced, . . . They're looking to win Super Bowls into the future. . . . They are certainly not looking to recreate the 49ers of the 80s and 90s. It's just not part of the future."

But Lynch recalled playing for Bill Walsh at Stanford, and what he gained from visits from 49ers greats such as Joe Montana and Ronnie Lott. So while there's a fine line between being stuck in the past and having a healthy relationship with it, it seems Lynch wants to help rekindle relationships with some guys who have actually won games there.

Kyle Shanahan trying to talk Tom Rathman into hanging around

By Darin Gantt, ProFootballTalk.com

New 49ers coach Kyle Shanahan promised if he ever got a head coaching job, he wanted to take running backs coach Bobby Turner with him.

Problem is, the 49ers have a bit of a franchise legend in that chair already, so Shanahan is trying to find a way to keep Tom Rathman regardless.

"I talked to Tom today," Shanahan said, via Matt Maiocco of CSNBayArea.com. "I made a commitment to Bobby Turner a long time ago that if I got a head-coaching job I was going to take him with me,

regardless of where that was. And Bobby is a life-long running backs coach, just like Tom. Bobby is going to come here and be the running back coach.

"I love Tom Rathman. He's a hero of mine, and I know what kind of coach he is. I'm trying hard to get him to be here in whatever other role he wants. But I know Tom. Tom is a running backs coach. I'm going to try my hardest to keep him here. It's definitely going to be up to him. But I'm going to have to do some convincing."

Rathman was the bruising fullback on two Super Bowl winners in the late 1980s and early 90s, and was hired as a coach in 1997 by Steve Mariucci. Other than the three years he followed Mariucci to Detroit and two with Lane Kiffin and the Raiders, he's been on the 49ers staff since, working for Mike Singletary, Jim Harbaugh, Jim Tomsula, and Chip Kelly.

Because of his connection with past glories, he's been considered a fixture there, now we just have to see if he's willing to accept a different role to remain.

Jed York: I believe Shanahan and Lynch will be here more than 6 years

By Michael David Smith, ProFootballTalk.com

The 49ers gave new coach Kyle Shanahan and new General Manager John Lynch unusually long six-year contracts. But owner Jed York doesn't think there's any concern that he's given his new hires too much job security.

York said today that he expects Shanahan and Lynch to last not just six years, but a lot more than six years.

"I believe in these guys," York said. "We aren't where we want to be. We're a two-win team right now. And we need to make sure that these guys have everything they need to get up and running. And I believe in these guys and I believe they're going to be here a lot longer than that."

York fired Jim Harbaugh two years ago, Jim Tomsula last year, and Trent Baalke and Chip Kelly this year. So he doesn't exactly have a track record of showing a lot of patience. But he's adamant that Shanahan and Lynch will fulfill those long-term contracts. And more.

Kyle Shanahan to control Niners' 53-man roster

By Nick Shook, NFL.com

Much of the 49ers' quick fall from grace came as a result of internal conflict.

First, there was Jim Harbaugh versus Trent Baalke. Then there was Chip Kelly versus Trent Baalke. (Jim Tomsula was wedged in between there for a single ill-fated season, but his problem wasn't strife within the building.)

It seems like Jed York finally might be learning from past mistakes.

New Niners general manager John Lynch and head coach Kyle Shanahan told reporters Thursday that the hiring process itself was intended to avoid such friction between two powerful men set to join forces.

"To have an opportunity where an owner gives you a chance to come in with the GM and to make sure that we both meet together before they do it, that's what made it so special," Shanahan said Thursday. "You don't get that opportunity much in our business and it's something that I never really thought I would

get that opportunity. In seeing that you had an owner who understood how important that was and gave us that opportunity, I didn't think that was something I could pass up."

Shanahan will have control of the active, 53-man roster, while Lynch will have control of the full 90-man roster, and free agency and the draft. Even then, though, decisions will come with a requirement of the approval of the other.

"Free agency and draft, I think I have, but in all of those it's also written that subject to approval of the other guy," Lynch said. "That's the way we wanted it, that's the way we wanted it reflected, but that's the reality of it."

So, that seals it. Peace and love is ahead for the Niners as they attempt to rebuild a roster that is lacking in talent and have decisions to make about multiple positions, including quarterback.

Ah, yes, quarterback. About that:

"Colin (Kaepernick) reached out and we plan on visiting," Lynch said. "That's something Kyle and I committed to. Kyle spoke to that in order to find out what you need, you have to first really take inventory of what you have. We are still very much in the process of still doing that. We are just at the beginning of it."

The Kapernick situation is a unique one. The quarterback went from losing the starting job after struggling with arm fatigue, to replacing Blaine Gabbert permanently as the Niners became irrelevant while trudging to a 2-14 finish. Kaepernick showed glimpses -- a comeback win over the Rams late in the season was one -- that he might have enough to stick around in San Francisco. But before that decision is made, Shanahan needs to look at the film.

"With me, I see a lot better than I hear," Shanahan said. "I need to go watch it on tape. Colin, just like any other player, someone I'm going to be watching a lot of tape on over these next few weeks. Before we can look at anything, free agency, draft, anything, you have to know what the players on your team are. That doesn't happen from just turning on a game. That happens from watching a lot of stuff. It takes a lot of time. It is a process."

Quarterback has to be at the top of the list of decisions to make in San Francisco. It's likely they'll know rather soon which direction the Niners want to go at the position. And according to what the new dynamic duo of San Francisco said Thursday, it'll be the first of many joint decisions made in the Bay.

49ers hope hiring of Shanahan ends revolving door at coach

By Josh Dubow, Associated Press

SANTA CLARA, Calif. (AP) — For the third straight offseason, San Francisco 49ers CEO Jed York hired a new head coach and introduced him with a news conference full of platitudes.

After running off Jim Harbaugh following the 2014 season and Jim Tomsula and Chip Kelly after one-year tenures the past two seasons, York believes he has found the right man in Kyle Shanahan to lead the Niners back to respectability first and then into championship contention.

York has bet heavily on it, giving Shanahan and new general manager John Lynch six-year contracts and a promise of patience after the recent revolving door.

"(It) shows that he's willing to give you some time," Shanahan said Thursday. "What I didn't want to do was come here and make a bunch of decisions just trying to win to save ourselves right away. I want to win the first day to the last day. I'm going to do everything possible to do that. But, I also want to make the right decision for the organization. John wants to make the right decision for the organization."

With Lynch having a job as a successful television analyst at Fox and Shanahan regarded as one of the league's brightest young assistants with many head coaching opportunities in the future, the two spent much of the interview time questioning York about a franchise that has fallen into disrepair in recent years rather than selling themselves.

Lynch has said he asked the 49ers to keep his candidacy secret, in part to test their ability to keep news from leaking. Shanahan wanted to make sure he understood what it took to win.

"I wasn't going in there just trying to get offered the job," Shanahan said. "I was going in there just being brutally honest. To watch how Jed responded to everything, it made me believe in him."

The franchise has done little in recent years to earn that belief. After three straight trips to the NFC title game and one Super Bowl appearance under Harbaugh in 2011-13, the Niners have won just 15 games the past three years and hit rock bottom in 2016 with a 2-14 mark that matched the worst in franchise history.

San Francisco was the only team without a player who received a single vote for the AP All-Pro team and has holes throughout the roster, starting at quarterback where last year's starters Colin Kaepernick and Blaine Gabbert both could be free agents this offseason.

"There's some work to be done, but I don't think it's a 2-14 roster," Lynch said. "There's more talent than that."

Shanahan and Lynch are playing catch up, as the last general manager and coach to get hired this offseason. The first task for Shanahan is to hire a staff and Lynch already is working double-days, holding draft meetings with his scouts during the day and then watching film of the existing roster at night.

Shanahan couldn't get the job until after Atlanta played in the Super Bowl and then needed a day or two off to recover after the Falcons blew a 28-3 lead to lose 34-28 to New England in overtime.

Shanahan came under criticism for his play-calling in the fourth quarter, especially for calling passes instead of using the run to bleed the clock.

"I was definitely grieving it and I probably will for a while," Shanahan said. "But to be able to go up to the building in Atlanta the next day and get to talk to all the players, all of us spent some time together and go through it again, really gave us some closure on it."

While the hiring of Shanahan and Lynch weren't new, there was some clarity that came out of the introductory news conference.

The two were clear on the structure of control in the franchise with both men answering directly to York and Lynch having control of the 90-man roster, the draft and free agency, while Shanahan has final say on the 53-man roster. But they both downplayed those responsibilities, saying it will be a partnership with input going both directions.

Lynch also said he had hired former Detroit general manager Martin Mayhew as a senior personnel executive. Mayhew drafted players like Matthew Stafford and Ndamukong Suh during his tenure with the Lions after a playing career that included a Super Bowl title in Washington and four seasons as a teammate of Lynch's in Tampa Bay.

"One thing I keep hearing from people is get people you trust and get people you know have your back," Lynch said. "Surround yourself with people who have been there before. I felt like he fit that bill perfectly."

Shanahan said he is racing to put his staff together and only confirmed one hire in running backs coach Bobby Turner, who worked with Shanahan in Washington and Atlanta. Shanahan said he had promised

Turner he'd hire him whenever he got a head coaching job, but said he'd like to also find a role for former 49ers star Tom Rathman, who has been running backs coach since 2009.