

49ers Clips – January 8, 2017

Local Media

49ers Interview Josh McDaniels for Head Coach

By Taylor Price, 49ers.com

<http://www.49ers.com/news/article-2/49ers-Interview-Josh-McDaniels-for-Head-Coach-/8b5c21a7-35ca-49c4-8e19-23715014fe84>

49ers Interview Jimmy Raye III for General Manager

By Joe Fann, 49ers.com

<http://www.49ers.com/news/article-2/49ers-Interview-Jimmy-Raye-III-for-General-Manager/4a09f2dc-96e3-48d3-a492-339725686b31>

Looking at the candidates to be the next 49ers head coach

By Eric Branch, San Francisco Chronicle

<http://www.sfchronicle.com/49ers/article/Looking-at-the-candidates-to-be-the-next-49ers-10842495.php>

Report: Texans' O'Brien could attract interest of many teams

By Eric Branch, San Francisco Chronicle

<http://www.sfchronicle.com/49ers/article/Report-Texans-O-Brien-could-attract-10842022.php>

49ers revisit Josh McDaniels as potential coach

By Cam Inman, San Jose Mercury News

<http://www.mercurynews.com/2017/01/07/49ers-revisit-josh-mcdaniels-as-potential-coach/>

49ers meet with Patriots' McDaniels but not Caserio

By Matt Barrows, Sacramento Bee

<http://www.sacbee.com/sports/nfl/san-francisco-49ers/article125182649.html>

MCDANIELS INTERVIEWS WITH 49ERS FOR HEAD-COACHING JOB

By Matt Maiocco, CSNBayArea.com

<http://www.csnbayarea.com/49ers/mcdaniels-interviews-49ers-head-coaching-job>

49ERS MAILBAG: WHICH GM BEST PAIRS WITH MCDANIELS?

By Matt Maiocco, CSNBayArea.com

<http://www.csnbayarea.com/49ers/49ers-mailbag-which-gm-best-pairs-mcdaniels>

49ers coaching search skews toward offensive coordinators

By Mike Florio, ProFootballTalk.com

<http://profootballtalk.nbcsports.com/2017/01/08/49ers-coaching-search-skews-toward-offensive-coordinators/>

49ers interview Patriots OC Josh McDaniels for coach opening

By Josh Dubow, Associated Press

<http://pro32.ap.org/article/49ers-interview-patriots-oc-josh-mcdaniels-coach-opening>

National Media

Thomas Rawls puts it together for Seahawks in a record performance vs. Lions

By Larry Stone, The Seattle Times

<http://www.seattletimes.com/sports/seahawks/thomas-rawls-puts-it-together-for-seahawks-in-a-record-performance-vs-lions/>

Rams consider defensive coordinators for head coaching job as Gregg Williams reportedly heads to Cleveland

By Gary Klein, Los Angeles Times

<http://www.latimes.com/sports/rams/la-sp-rams-coach-search-20170107-story.html>

Arizona Cardinals know it's time to find a young QB

By Kent Somers, The Arizona Republic

<http://www.azcentral.com/story/sports/nfl/cardinals/2017/01/07/cardinals-time-find-young-quarterback/96243696/>

Texans roll over Raiders for playoff win

By Dale Robertson, Houston Chronicle

<http://www.chron.com/sports/texans/article/Texans-roll-over-Raiders-for-playoff-win-10842223.php>

Chiefs will try to extend coach Andy Reid this offseason

By Adam Scheffer, ESPN.com

http://www.espn.com/nfl/story/_/id/18430306/kansas-city-chiefs-try-sign-andy-reid-extension-offseason

Bills plan to give new head coach more power within organization

By Staff, ESPN.com

http://www.espn.com/nfl/story/_/id/18430457/buffalo-bills-plan-give-new-head-coach-more-power-organization

Local Clips – Full Version

49ers Interview Josh McDaniels for Head Coach

By Taylor Price, 49ers.com

The San Francisco 49ers continued their head-coaching search on Saturday by interviewing New England Patriots offensive coordinator/quarterbacks coach Josh McDaniels.

McDaniels is the third candidate to interview for the position. He follows Buffalo Bills interim coach Anthony Lynn and Atlanta Falcons offensive coordinator Kyle Shanahan. McDaniels previously interviewed with 49ers CEO Jed York for the team's head-coach opening in 2015.

A former NFL head coach with the Denver Broncos (2009-10), McDaniels has earned recognition for his two stints with the Patriots where he was a part of five AFC champion teams and won four Super Bowls (XXXVI, XXXVIII, XXXIX and XLIX). He's spent the past five seasons as New England's OC and QB coach, helping the franchise become one of the most dominant teams in the NFL. The Patriots have finished sixth or better in total offense during that five-year stretch.

In 2016, New England finished third in points scored per game (27.4), fourth in passing yards per game (269.3) and seventh in rushing yards per game (117.0). Twelve-time Pro Bowl quarterback Tom Brady is also a candidate to win his third Most Valuable Player award after throwing for 28 touchdowns and two interceptions in 12 games.

McDaniels, 40, has 15 years of NFL experience. He entered the league in 2001 as a personnel assistant. He was later hired as a defensive assistant in 2003 and was promoted to quarterbacks coach in 2004. The Patriots won Super Bowls in all three of those seasons. McDaniels added the offensive coordinator title in 2006. His second year as a play-caller saw New England break NFL records for points scored, touchdowns scored and most players scoring touchdowns.

McDaniels went 11-17 in his two-year stint as the Broncos head coach. His next job would be with the St. Louis Rams as OC and QB coach in 2011. He re-joined the Patriots the following season.

A native of Canton, Ohio, home of the Pro Football Hall of Fame, McDaniels is the son of respected prep football coach, Thom McDaniels. Josh McDaniels played quarterback and wide receiver at John Carroll University from 1995-98. He was a college teammate of NFL linebacker London Fletcher and Patriots director of player personnel Nick Caserio. Prior to joining the Patriots in 2001, McDaniels spent one season as a graduate assistant working under Nick Saban at Michigan State.

49ers Interview Jimmy Raye III for General Manager

By Joe Fann, 49ers.com

The San Francisco 49ers interviewed Jimmy Raye III on Sunday for the team's opening at general manager. Raye currently serves as the vice president of football operations for the Indianapolis Colts, a position he's held for the past four years.

The 2016 season marked Raye's 22nd year in the NFL, 17 of which were spent with the San Diego Chargers. Raye was the Chargers director of college scouting before being elevated to the director of player personnel.

Raye works side-by-side with Colts general manager Ryan Grigson on all personnel matters. The talented exec has a niche for finding hidden gems. Over the past two years, Raye has helped identify eight undrafted free agents that all ended up playing in at least one regular season game.

While in San Diego, Raye played a significant role in six AFC West championships as well as the most successful regular season in franchise history, a 14-2 record in 2006.

His father, Jimmy Raye II, was a longtime NFL coach and worked as the 49ers offensive coordinator from 2009-10.

Raye played receiver in the NFL for the Los Angeles Rams before becoming a quality control coach for the Kansas City Chiefs. From there, he jumped over to the personnel side and became a scout for the Chargers in 1996.

The 49ers have now interviewed four candidates for general manager: Raye, George Paton from the Minnesota Vikings, plus Eliot Wolf and Brian Gutekunst from the Green Bay Packers.

Looking at the candidates to be the next 49ers head coach

By Eric Branch, San Francisco Chronicle

Jed York said it Monday: Legend 2.0 isn't walking through the 49ers' revolving head-coaching door.

"There's only one Bill Walsh," York said. "I wish that there was a Bill Walsh. There's not. We need to find the right person and re-establish a championship culture."

York's main point was that Walsh was one of a kind, but his sentiment applies to the head-coach search he's currently overseeing: There are no obvious superstars on the horizon as the 49ers look to make their third hire in three years.

Consider: Of their seven known candidates, only two have been an NFL head coach on a non-interim basis, and each was fired after ugly tenures: Patriots offensive coordinator Josh McDaniels (with the Broncos) and Seahawks offensive line coach Tom Cable (Raiders) are 28-44 combined as head coaches.

The 49ers' list doesn't lack for intriguing candidates, but it appears they'll have to hire an unproven candidate as they begin their clean-slate, rebuilding project.

Here's a look at the pros and cons of the seven men being considered to take over a team that has lost 25 of its past 32 games.

Tom Cable, 52 Seahawks' assistant head coach/offensive line coach

Pro: How do you close the gap on the rival you can no longer beat? Steal from its staff. Cable has been with the Seahawks for the past six seasons and has unique insight into their winning program. He's also one of two candidates who has been a full-time NFL head coach. In 2010, his last season with the Raiders, he went 8-8, which was one of Oakland's two non-losing seasons from 2003-15. He finished with a 17-27 record in Oakland.

Con: York is seeking a "championship culture," which is a nebulous term. But this should be clear: You don't create it by hiring a coach whose history includes allegations of abuse and domestic violence. In 2009, Cable allegedly broke an assistant coach's jaw, and ESPN reported that three women — two ex-wives and an ex-girlfriend — had accused him of physical abuse. Also, York presumably still wants to win with class.

Vance Joseph, 44 Dolphins' defensive coordinator

Pro: This is telling: The defending Super Bowl champion Broncos, one of the NFL's most well-respected franchises, reportedly have strong interest in Joseph replacing Gary Kubiak. Joseph, a former NFL

cornerback, is a protege of Denver defensive coordinator Wade Phillips and has familiarity with the 49ers: He spent 2005-10 coaching their defensive backs.

Con: He's been a coordinator for just one season in his 12-year coaching career, and his debut in a bigger role this season wasn't jaw-dropping: The Dolphins ranked 29th in yards allowed and 18th in points surrendered. Heck, even the inert 49ers offense had 475 yards in Miami. And this: The 49ers' past three defensive-oriented head coaches were Jim Tomsula, Mike Singletary and Mike Nolan.

Anthony Lynn, 48 Bills' interim head coach

Pro: A running back who played two seasons with the 49ers, Lynn's power-running principles would suit the current team. The 49ers aren't guaranteed to have a top QB soon and, if they have offensive strengths, they consist of Carlos Hyde and a physical offensive line. Lynn replaced Greg Roman as the Bills' offensive coordinator in September, assumed Rex Ryan's role for their finale and is reportedly the favorite to be the Buffalo's next head coach.

Con: Lynn has spent the vast majority of his 17-year NFL coaching career as a running backs coach, and he's never started a season as a coordinator. Sound familiar? The 49ers are two years removed from hiring Tomsula, a well-respected longtime position coach who was ill-suited for a top job. The parallel isn't perfect, but, yeesh, close enough, correct?

Josh McDaniels, 40 Patriots' offensive coordinator/quarterbacks coach

Pro: He's spent 13 of his 16 seasons with Bill Belichick and the NFL's gold-standard franchise, and has softened some of the hard edges that led to his firing as head coach in Denver. He's flourished as a play-caller with Tom Brady, but the Patriots also coaxed wins from Jimmy Garoppolo and rookie Jacoby Brissett this season. Went 11-17 with the Broncos; however, Belichick and Pete Carroll also didn't flourish the first time around.

Con: His long relationship with Belichick is a positive, but not a guarantee: Belichick's hit-and-miss coaching tree, both NFL and college, includes Romeo Crennel, Eric Mangini, Charlie Weis and, well, McDaniels. And another thing about his 11-17 tenure with the Broncos: Many of his players despised him. Said punter Mitch Berger in 2013: "I never played for a guy in my life who guys wanted to play for less. He was just a guy you didn't care about."

Sean McDermott, 42 Panthers' defensive coordinator

Pro: The 49ers' historically putrid 2016 defense didn't have historically putrid personnel, meaning coaching was an issue. McDermott, the most experienced defensive mind on the market, could start the rebuilding by making one side of the ball respectable. He's one year removed from coaching in a Super Bowl — hello, championship culture — and his defenses have ranked among the NFL's top 12 in six of his eight seasons as a coordinator.

Con: With cornerback Josh Norman gone to Washington and with linebacker Luke Kuechly missing six games this past season, McDermott wasn't such a defensive wizard: His disappointing unit ranked 21st in the NFL. In addition, the 49ers need to find a long-term QB, a must-have for any relevant team, and their head coach should have experience developing and supporting players at the most important position.

Kyle Shanahan, 37 Falcons' offensive coordinator

Pro: His last name probably helped him, at 28, become the NFL's youngest offensive coordinator with Houston in 2008, but he's since stayed in that role because he learned plenty from his dad, Mike. His offenses have ranked among the NFL's top 10 in four of the past five seasons, and he could be peaking. This season, the Falcons scored the eighth-most points (540) in NFL history and rolled up 550 yards in a 41-13 thrashing of the 49ers.

Con: What if his name was Kyle Smith? And would four teams still be interested in him if he didn't have terrific triplets — Matt Ryan, Julio Jones and Devonta Freeman — running his plays in Atlanta? Despite his experience, he was still the NFL's fourth-youngest offensive coordinator in 2016, and his youth could make his lack of head-coaching experience more of an issue.

Sean McVay, 30 Washington offensive coordinator

Pro: He's a charismatic whiz kid who has a deep appreciation for 49ers history: His granddad, executive John McVay, was inducted into the team's Hall of Fame in 2013. Washington QB Kirk Cousins has expressed a deep appreciation for McVay's coaching skills. With McVay calling plays the past two seasons, Cousins, a former fourth-round pick, ranked third in the NFL in completion percentage, fourth in passing yards and fifth in passer rating.

Con: Shanahan is young. McVay is ... well, does he shave yet? If hired, he would be the youngest head coach in the NFL's modern era, eight months younger than Lane Kiffin. (How did that work out, Raiders fans?) He's also spent his three seasons as a coordinator with offensive-minded head coach Jay Gruden, raising some questions about his influence on Washington's attack.

Report: Texans' O'Brien could attract interest of many teams

By Eric Branch, San Francisco Chronicle

Many of the six teams that have head-coach openings are waiting to see if Houston's Bill O'Brien will become available, the NFL Network reported today.

O'Brien, of course, is still employed by the Texans, who will host the Raiders in a wild-card playoff game today. Per the report, there is a "great chance" Houston won't retain their head coach after their season ends, mentioning a trade as a possibility. Meanwhile, the Houston Chronicle's John McClain said, via Twitter, that the Texans won't fire O'Brien.

So are the 49ers among the teams waiting to see how the situation unfolds?

That's unknown, but a team employee with close ties to management, radio analyst Tim Ryan, mentioned O'Brien as a "possible longshot" hire for the 49ers depending on "what happens with him in Houston" during an interview on KNBR on Thursday.

Ryan went on to say he's discussed the 49ers' plan for hiring a head coach and general manager with CEO Jed York.

"I think (York) has a pretty good idea where he wants to go and how he wants to see this thing end up just in my conversations with him," Ryan said. "He's going to end up doing the right thing, whether it's plan A, plan B. I think he's got a couple of plans, where if one doesn't work, the next one will. I don't know if that was the case over the last couple of years."

O'Brien, 47, has a 27-21 record with the Texans and has led them to two straight AFC South titles. The former Penn State coach and Patriots offensive coordinator reportedly could be on the outs because of the "fit" between him and general manager Rick Smith and owner Bob McNair.

Of the 49ers' known seven head-coaching candidates, only Patriots offensive coordinator Josh McDaniels and Seahawks offensive line coach Tom Cable have been NFL head coaches on a non-interim basis.

49ers revisit Josh McDaniels as potential coach

By Cam Inman, San Jose Mercury News

The 49ers were in New England on Saturday, interviewing Josh McDaniels before he embarks on another postseason run as the Patriots offensive coordinator.

McDaniels is the third candidate interviewed this week by 49ers CEO Jed York, with at least three more to come early next week: Washington offensive coordinator Sean McVay, Miami Dolphins defensive coordinator Vance Joseph and Panthers defensive coordinator Sean McDermott.

McDaniels, 40, also spent Saturday interviewing with the Los Angeles Rams and Jacksonville Jaguars. The 49ers would not be able to officially hire McDaniel until the Patriots' season ends.

Patriots player-personnel director Nick Caserio declined to interview, according to NBC Sports' Mike Florio, who also reported that the Kansas City Chiefs blocked an interview of Chris Ballard, their director of football operations. FCaserio and McDaniels were college teammates at John Carroll in their native Ohio, which is also where York was raised.

The 49ers interviewed McDaniels two years ago — during the Patriots' run to a Super Bowl win over Seattle — before they promoted Jim Tomsula as Jim Harbaugh's successor. After Tomsula went 5-11, the 49ers replaced him with Chip Kelly, who was fired with general manager Trent Baalke after going 2-14 this season.

This situation has changed radically since McDaniels' interview in 2015. The 49ers will have a new front office, the No. 2 overall pick in the draft, no big-money commitment to a quarterback and potentially close to \$100 million in salary cap space.

McDaniels has won four Super Bowl rings as a Patriots assistant, with his first stint stretching from 2001-08. Upon replacing Mike Shanahan as the Denver Broncos coach, McDaniels went 8-8 in 2009 and got fired at 3-9 in 2010.

McDaniels was the St. Louis Rams offensive coordinator in 2011 before returning to the Patriots in 2012. He interviewed with the Cleveland Browns in 2014, and with the Atlanta Falcons and 49ers two years ago.

York and Paraag Marathe, the 49ers' chief strategy officer, are expected to remain on the East Coast a few more days in search of the team's next GM and its fourth coach in four years. On Friday, they met with Atlanta Falcons offensive coordinator Kyle Shanahan and Minnesota Vikings assistant GM George Paton.

Jimmy Raye III, son of the former 49ers offensive coordinator, is slated to interview Sunday for the GM post. Carolina Panthers assistant GM Brandon Beane and ESPN analyst Louis Riddick are on the schedule Tuesday. Later next week, the 49ers are expected to interview Seattle Seahawks executives Trent Kirchner and Scott Fitterer, and possibly offensive line coach Tom Cable.

49ers meet with Patriots' McDaniels but not Caserio

By Matt Barrows, Sacramento Bee

SANTA CLARA -- The 49ers coaching search on Saturday took them to New England where they met with perhaps the hottest name in the current hiring cycle, Patriots offensive coordinator Josh McDaniels.

Earlier in the day, the 40-year-old McDaniels met with the Jaguars and the Rams about their head-coaching vacancies.

McDaniels had a failed, controversy-filled run as the Denver Broncos' head coach in 2009-10. It ended 12 games into his second year. The following season he coached the Rams' offense and the season after that he joined the Patriots where he has served as both quarterbacks coach and offensive coordinator.

New England's offense finished third in total points and fourth in total yards in 2016.

The 49ers had been curious about a pairing between McDaniels and Nick Caserio, New England's top personnel executive, who was on the same football team as McDaniels at John Carroll University and who has remained close with him since.

There was no meeting with Caserio, however, on Saturday because Caserio ultimately decided not to interview, Pro Football Talk reported. Caserio has been with the Patriots for 16 seasons and has the top position in their personnel department, although coach Bill Belichick has the final say on the team's roster. Caserio has declined general manager jobs with the Colts and Dolphins in the past.

Pro Football Talk also reported that the 49ers were blocked by the Chiefs in their attempts to interview director of player personnel Chris Ballard for the general manager job. Teams can block interviews for that position so long as they are in the playoffs. Kansas City has a bye in Round 1.

The 49ers have interviewed three candidates for their head-coach opening so far: Buffalo's Anthony Lynn, Atlanta's Kyle Shanahan and McDaniels. They will meet with Washington offensive coordinator Sean McVay and Carolina defensive coordinator Sean McDermott on Monday in New York.

They've also met with several general-manager candidates. Their next one will be Sunday when they interview Indianapolis vice president of football operation Jimmy Raye III

Sunday: Indianapolis Colts vice president of football operations Jimmy Raye III for general manager

Monday: Washington offensive coordinator Sean McVay and Carolina defensive coordinator Sean McDermott for head coach

Tuesday: Carolina assistant general manager Brandon Beane and ESPN analyst Louis Riddick for general manager.

MCDANIELS INTERVIEWS WITH 49ERS FOR HEAD-COACHING JOB

By Matt Maiocco, CSNBayArea.com

The 49ers sat down Saturday afternoon for a scheduled three-hour interview with New England Patriots offensive coordinator Josh McDaniels, the team announced.

The 49ers were the last team scheduled to interview McDaniels, 40, who met earlier with Jacksonville and the Los Angeles Rams. The interviews were scheduled for three hours apiece with one-hour breaks in between, a source told CSNBayArea.com.

McDaniels fit all of his head-coaching interviews into an 11-hour window on Saturday before getting back to work Sunday to prepare for the Patriots' AFC Divisional-Round playoff game that is scheduled for next Saturday. He only wanted to interview for jobs for which he would seriously consider, a source said.

The 49ers also had submitted a request to the Patriots to interview director of player personnel Nick Caserio for the team's vacant general manager position. The Patriots granted the request, a source told CSNBayArea.com, but Caserio is not believed to have interviewed on Saturday.

The 49ers, which have confirmed all interviews with candidates, had no announcement on Saturday about a meeting with Caserio, who did not return a phone call Saturday from CSNBayArea.com. Caserio

has turned down interviews and offers in the past. He declined to interview with Indianapolis in 2012 and declined Miami's job offer in 2014.

McDaniels previously turned down an interview with the 49ers in 2011, shortly after he was fired less near the end of his second season as head coach of the Denver Broncos. After one season as offensive coordinator of the St. Louis Rams, McDaniels returned to run the New England offense under Bill Belichick.

Two years ago, McDaniels interviewed with the 49ers but is believed to have pulled his name from consideration. The 49ers' job is apparently more attractive now because a coach and a general manager will be matched together to come in with carte blanche to form the organization to their likings.

This week on Boston radio station WEEI, quarterback Tom Brady said he sees McDaniels "more than anybody in my life" and he hopes McDaniels remains with the Patriots.

"I see why there is a lot of interest and there should be because I think he's the best in the NFL," Brady said. "Great coaches get opportunities and he's fortunate to be in a position where he should get them because he's earned it. I would hate to lose him, but I think it's always aspirational for a coach because it's great to lead a team, lead an organization."

49ERS MAILBAG: WHICH GM BEST PAIRS WITH MCDANIELS?

By Matt Maiocco, CSNBayArea.com

The 49ers are on Day 4 of their coach-general manager tour as they sort through a lengthy list of candidates for both jobs.

Before we get to answering questions posted on Facebook for 49ers Mailbag, here is where the search stands:

Wednesday

Buffalo interim head coach Anthony Lynn (coach)

Thursday

Green Bay director of football operations Eliot Wolf (GM)

Green Bay director of player personnel Brian Gutekunst (GM)

Friday

Minnesota assistant general manager George Paton (GM)

Atlanta offensive coordinator Kyle Shanahan (coach)

Saturday

New England offensive coordinator Josh McDaniels (coach)

Sunday

Indianapolis vice president of football operations Jimmy Raye III (GM)

Monday

Washington offensive coordinator Sean McVay (coach)

Carolina defensive coordinator Sean McDermott (coach)

Tuesday

Carolina assistant general manager Brandon Beane (GM)

ESPN analyst Louis Riddick (GM)

Next in line

Miami defensive coordinator Vance Joseph (coach)
Seattle offensive line/assistant head coach Tom Cable (coach)
Seattle co-director of player personnel Scott Fitterer (GM)
Seattle co-director of player personnel Trent Kirchner (GM)

* * *

Q: How are the Niners going to determine a good GM/HC pairing if they are hiring them at the same time? Shouldn't they hire a GM first? (Dustin Heron)

A: That's exactly how they plan to determine a good coach-GM pairing, by hiring them together.

Here's what Jed York had to say during his press conference on Monday:

"We need to be open and flexible to structure. We need to make sure that the head coach and the general manager know each other, have a good understanding for each other. Doesn't mean that they had to have worked together in the past, but they have to have a good respect for each other and a good understanding and know that they have similar visions and philosophies on building a football team."

Remember all that talk that York might be demoted or stripped of power? Well, the opposite appears to be true. Although he was involved in the previous coaching searches, York ultimately left the decisions to GM Trent Baalke.

This time, York wants to sign off on both hires and determine for himself if he believes the coach and general manager will be able to work together and pull in the same direction.

Q: Which would McDaniels prefer? Caserio or Riddick? (Isaac Lopez)

A: The 49ers' job is certainly more intriguing to Josh McDaniels now than it's ever been because he would have a major voice (the voice?) in the hiring of the team's general manager.

He declined to interview with the 49ers in 2011, shortly after the Denver Broncos fired him as head coach after less than two seasons. Two years ago, McDaniels interviewed with the 49ers, but he was not sold on the job – most likely because he had continued questions about the structure with Baalke as general manager.

What makes this a good situation for McDaniels now is that he will be coming into a situation where he and a general manager of his choosing (or at least a GM with whom he feels comfortable) will have carte blanche to build the roster and do everything they deem necessary to turn the franchise around.

The 49ers are expected to have \$80 million in cap room and 10 draft picks, including the No. 2 pick in each round.

It looks as if Nick Caserio is opting to remain as New England's top personnel guy under coach Bill Belichick. ESPN analyst Louis Riddick has made it known what he thinks of McDaniels, and it's safe to assume they know each other. Riddick has to be considered a strong candidate for a position he's already stated he would accept.

Minnesota assistant general manager George Paton is highly respected within NFL circles and could remain in the picture regardless of which way it goes at head coach. And although Green Bay executive Eliot Wolf does not know McDaniels, those who know both of them believe they would fit well together.

Q: Will all Chip Kelly and Trent Baalke guys be let go? Will new HC/GM determine new DC? (Alex Tran)

A: The head coach and general manager will be completely free to choose their staffs. On Monday, York said he spoke to the coaching staff and those in football operations.

Said York:

"I let them know that the new general manager and the new head coach are going to make the final decisions on who's here and who's not. Those folks are all under contract. They are going to have the ability to go somewhere else and there are no tampering charges. They are free to talk to anybody else."

So, yes, the takeaway is that Jed York and Paraag Marathe are conducting these interviews. According to York, he will make the hires and then step out of the way and give the coach and general manager all the support they feel they need to build the roster to their specifications.

49ers coaching search skews toward offensive coordinators

By Mike Florio, ProFootballTalk.com

The 49ers rose to prominence via the brains of offensive genius Bill Walsh. It's no surprise, then, that the current San Francisco coaching search is tilting toward the offensive side of the football.

Of the six official candidates for now, four are offensive coordinators. The other two come from the defensive side of the ball.

The 49ers have interviewed or will interview Patriots offensive coordinator Josh McDaniels, Falcons offensive coordinator Kyle Shanahan, Washington offensive coordinator Sean McVay, Bills offensive coordinator Anthony Lynn, Broncos defensive coordinator Vance Joseph and Panthers defensive coordinator Sean McDermott.

Unlike the other five teams searching for coaches, the 49ers are also searching for a General Manager. Originally, the plan was to hire a G.M. before hiring a head coach. That could change (especially with Chris Ballard and Nick Caserio out of the mix); if it does, however, it means that a pair of non-football executives (Jed York and Paraag Marathe) will be picking a head coach without the involvement of a more traditional football person. While they possibly have the benefit of consultants and advisors, there's no substitute for having in the interviews someone who can truly speak the language and genuinely connect, or not, with the person who will take the reins of the franchise.

The crapshoot nature of the process, especially as it relates to whether a successful coordinator will become a successful head coach, means that the 49ers accidentally could emerge with the right man for the job. Without a G.M. or a V.P. of football operations or some other experienced football person who is screening the coaching candidates and talking to the coaching candidates and picking the very best candidate to coach the team, the 49ers are operating at a disadvantage in relation to the other teams.

Except maybe the Bills, where no one really knows what G.M. Doug Whaley is doing and where non-football executive Russ Brandon appears to be pulling the strings.

49ers interview Patriots OC Josh McDaniels for coach opening

By Josh Dubow, Associated Press

SANTA CLARA, Calif. (AP) — The San Francisco 49ers' cross-country coach and general manager search landed in New England on Saturday where the team interviewed Patriots offensive coordinator Josh McDaniels for the head coach's job.

Team CEO Jed York has been meeting with candidates for both jobs all week as he seeks to replace coach Chip Kelly and general manager Trent Baalke following a 2-14 season that tied the worst mark in franchise history.

McDaniels is the first coach to be interviewed who has full-time experience at the job. In between stints as coordinator in New England under Bill Belichick, McDaniels was head coach in Denver in 2000-10. He

won his first six games before finishing 8-8 his first season and was fired with a 3-9 record in his second year.

He spent the 2011 season as offensive coordinator in St. Louis before returning to the Patriots during the 2011 playoffs and replacing Bill O'Brien as coordinator in 2012.

In eight seasons as offensive coordinator for the Patriots, McDaniels has guided the team to six top-10 rankings in total offense, including No. 1 marks in 2007 and '12. While most of that success came with Tom Brady at quarterback, McDaniels did help New England finish 11-5 in 2008 after Matt Cassel took over at QB when Brady had a season-ending knee injury in the opener.

McDaniels joined the Patriots in 2001 and has been part of four Super Bowl champions in New England.

McDaniels will be a highly sought coaching candidate this offseason, with Jacksonville and Los Angeles among the other teams interested in him.

The 49ers previously interviewed Atlanta offensive coordinator Kyle Shanahan on Friday and Buffalo interim coach Anthony Lynn on Wednesday for the coach's opening.

York said he was open to hiring either the coach or general manager first.

York said the primary goal in the search is finding a coach and general manager who can work well together. The Niners got rid of coach Jim Harbaugh following the 2014 season in part because of conflicts with Baalke. Harbaugh led the team to its only successful stretch of the past 15 years with trips to the NFC title game in his first three seasons from 2011-13, and a Super Bowl appearance.

Jim Tomsula replaced him and was fired after a 5-11 season. York then fired both Baalke and Kelly after this past season.

The Niners became the first team in nearly four decades to fire coaches in successive seasons after only one-year tenures. The only other time that happened since the 1970 merger came when San Francisco fired Monte Clark after the 1976 season and Ken Meyer the following year. The 49ers then fired Pete McCulley midway through the 1978 season and interim coach Fred O'Connor after the year before hiring Bill Walsh to start a dynasty.

York has met with three candidates for the general manager's job: Minnesota assistant GM George Paton, Green Bay director of football operations Eliot Wolf, and Packers director of player personnel Brian Gutekunst.