

49ers Clips – February 14, 2017

Local Media

***49ers will hire Robert Saleh to be defensive coordinator***

By Eric Branch, San Francisco Chronicle

<http://www.sfchronicle.com/49ers/article/49ers-hire-Saleh-to-be-their-defensive-coordinator-10929488.php>

***49ers hire three more coaches, two away from Falcons***

By Daniel Mano, San Jose Mercury News

<http://www.mercurynews.com/2017/02/14/49ers-hire-three-more-coaches-two-away-from-falcons/>

***49ers continue adding to coaching staff with more former Falcons***

By Nick Wagoner, ESPN.com

[http://www.espn.com/blog/san-francisco-49ers/post/\\_id/23437/49ers-continue-adding-to-coaching-staff-with-more-former-falcons](http://www.espn.com/blog/san-francisco-49ers/post/_id/23437/49ers-continue-adding-to-coaching-staff-with-more-former-falcons)

***Bond between Kyle Shanahan, John Lynch key to 49ers' rebuild***

By Nick Wagoner, ESPN.com

[http://www.espn.com/blog/san-francisco-49ers/post/\\_id/23401/bond-between-kyle-shanahan-john-lynch-key-to-49ers-rebuild](http://www.espn.com/blog/san-francisco-49ers/post/_id/23401/bond-between-kyle-shanahan-john-lynch-key-to-49ers-rebuild)

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By Marc Sessler, NFL.com

<http://www.nfl.com/news/story/0ap3000000785608/article/niners-to-name-robert-saleh-as-defensive-coordinator>

***Bowman on Achilles recovery: It's easier to deal with***

By Max Meyer, NFL.com

<http://www.nfl.com/news/story/0ap3000000785647/article/bowman-on-achilles-recovery-its-easier-to-deal-with>

***Charley Casserly mock draft 1.0: Trades shake up Round 1***

By Charley Casserly, NFL.com

<http://www.nfl.com/news/story/0ap3000000785403/article/charley-casserly-mock-draft-10-trades-shake-up-round-1>

***Kyle Shanahan adds 3 more coaches to 49ers staff***

By Staff, Associated Press

<http://pro32.ap.org/node/707084>

National Media

***Sherman Smith won't be back as Seahawks running backs coach, replaced by Chad Morton; assistant LB coach Lofa Tatupu also leaving***

By Bob Condotta, The Seattle Times

<http://www.seattletimes.com/sports/seahawks/report-sherman-smith-wont-be-back-as-seahawks-running-backs-coach-replaced-by-chad-morton/>

***Cardinals And A QB Beyond Carson Palmer***

By Darren Urban, AZCardinals.com

<http://www.azcardinals.com/news-and-events/article-2/Cardinals-And-A-QB-Beyond-Carson-Palmer/dad509e4-ce8c-46bd-87d0-1d5c31727b5a>

***Giants to make a run at re-signing Jason Pierre-Paul***

By Chris Wesseling, NFL.com

<http://www.nfl.com/news/story/0ap3000000785636/article/giants-to-make-a-run-at-resigning-jason-pierre-paul>

***Miami Dolphins hire Andre Carter to help coach their defensive line***

By Adam Beasley, Miami Herald

<http://www.miamiherald.com/sports/nfl/miami-dolphins/article132518844.html>

***Jordan Reed on Redskins' offseason: 'First of all, we got to bring Kirk back'***

By Scott Allen, Washington Post

[https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/dc-sports-bog/wp/2017/02/13/jordan-reed-on-redskins-offseason-first-of-all-we-gotta-bring-kirk-back/?utm\\_term=.6599f5b7eeec](https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/dc-sports-bog/wp/2017/02/13/jordan-reed-on-redskins-offseason-first-of-all-we-gotta-bring-kirk-back/?utm_term=.6599f5b7eeec)

## Local Clips – Full Version

### ***49ers will hire Robert Saleh to be defensive coordinator***

By Eric Branch, San Francisco Chronicle

A defense that proved to be among the worst in NFL history will be overseen by an unproven coach in 2017.

The 49ers will hire former Jacksonville linebackers coach Robert Saleh to be their fourth defensive coordinator in the past four seasons, according to multiple reports. Saleh, 38, will be the NFL's third-youngest defensive coordinator and the 49ers' first rookie defensive coordinator since they hired Greg Manusky in 2007.

They hope Saleh is a quick study. He will be tasked with improving a defense that allowed the eighth-most yards (6,052) and ninth-most points (480) in league history during last year's 2-14 season. The 49ers also allowed the sixth-most rushing yards (2,654) since 1990 and established an NFL record by allowing a 100-yard rusher in seven straight games.

Saleh, who spent the past three seasons with the Jaguars, was a low-level Seattle defensive assistant from 2011 through '13. He served in similar roles with the Texans (2005-10), spending four of those seasons serving with 49ers head coach Kyle Shanahan.

Saleh wasn't the 49ers' first choice. They pursued former Jacksonville head coach Gus Bradley before he became the Chargers' defensive coordinator. They also were interested in Chicago defensive coordinator Vic Fangio, who served in the same role with the 49ers from 2011 through '14. Fangio has one more year left on his contract, and the Bears didn't let him out of his deal.

The 49ers also have been hamstrung in compiling their coaching staff because they had to wait until after the Super Bowl on Feb. 5 to hire Shanahan. Last week, Shanahan, who was the Falcons' offensive coordinator, acknowledged that Atlanta's deep postseason run put him behind.

"That's the first thing that I'm trying to do is finish the staff up — definitely as behind on that as you can be, and that's just the way it is," Shanahan said. "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."

Last year, 49ers defensive coordinator Jim O'Neil, 38, was the league's second-youngest defensive coordinator. O'Neil, who hasn't landed with another team, worked as the Browns' defensive coordinator with Shanahan in Cleveland in 2014.

More hires: The 49ers announced the hiring of wide receivers coach Mike LaFleur, run-game specialist Mike McDaniel and offensive quality-control coach Taylor Embree.

LaFleur, 29, and McDaniel, 33, spent the previous two seasons as offensive assistants with the Falcons. Embree, 28, is the son of 49ers assistant head coach and tight ends coach Jon Embree. He entered the NFL last year as a defensive assistant with the Chiefs.

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### ***49ers hire three more coaches, two away from Falcons***

By Daniel Mano, San Jose Mercury News

Kyle Shanahan brought along two more former Falcons coaches Monday.

Mike McDaniel and Mike LaFleur were among three coaching hires the 49ers announced Monday.

Both offensive assistants for Atlanta last season, McDaniel will be run game specialist while LaFleur will coach wide receivers.

The 49ers also announced the hiring of Taylor Embree, son of assistant head coach/tight ends coach Jon Embree, as offensive quality control coach.

McDaniel, 33, started his coaching career as an intern for Kyle's father, Mike Shanahan, with the Broncos in 2005. He worked with the younger Shanahan from 2006-08 while with the Texans and spent two seasons as running backs coach for the UFL's Sacramento Mountain Lions. McDaniel was an offensive assistant for Washington in 2011-12 while the Shanahans were there and he worked under Kyle Shanahan in Cleveland in 2014 before joining the Falcons for the last two seasons.

LaFleur, 29, worked with Shanahan in Cleveland and in Atlanta after coaching at Davidson and Saint Joseph's College. His brother, Matt, became the Rams' offensive coordinator last week.

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### ***49ers continue adding to coaching staff with more former Falcons***

By Nick Wagoner, ESPN.com

SANTA CLARA, Calif. -- San Francisco 49ers coach Kyle Shanahan made more progress in piecing his staff together Monday evening when the team announced the official hiring of three additional coaches.

The Niners hired offensive quality control coach Taylor Embree, wide receivers coach Mike LaFleur and run game specialist Mike McDaniel. That trio joins the six staff members the 49ers hired last Friday and nearly completes Shanahan's offensive coaching staff. The defensive staff is expected to be in place soon with Robert Saleh expected to take over as coordinator with holdovers such as linebackers coach Jason Tarver and secondary coach Jeff Hafley.

Here's a quick look at the three newest members of the Niners staff:

**Taylor Embree, offensive quality control:** The son of Jon Embree, the team's new tight ends and assistant head coach, Embree comes to the 49ers from Kansas City, where he was a defensive assistant. Before that, he worked a year as a graduate assistant at UCLA, where he played in 50 games as a wide receiver from 2009 to 2011.

**Mike LaFleur, wide receivers:** Let there be no confusion, this is Mike LaFleur, the brother of new Los Angeles Rams offensive coordinator Matt LaFleur. Like his brother, Mike LaFleur worked with Shanahan as an offensive assistant for the past two seasons in Atlanta. He entered the NFL in 2014 as an offensive coaching intern with the Cleveland Browns and also has served as offensive coordinator, quarterbacks and receivers coach at Davidson College, as well as the former two positions at Saint Joseph's College. LaFleur played quarterback and safety at Elmhurst College.

**Mike McDaniel, run game specialist:** McDaniel is another former Falcons staff member under Shanahan who will take on a new role upon his arrival in the Bay Area. He was an offensive assistant in Atlanta for the past two years and also spent a season as the receivers coach for the Browns in 2014. He also worked with Shanahan with the Washington Redskins, working as an offensive assistant and receivers coach. He also worked with Shanahan for the Houston Texans and was an intern with the Denver Broncos in 2005. He played wide receiver at Yale.

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### ***Bond between Kyle Shanahan, John Lynch key to 49ers' rebuild***

By Nick Wagoner, ESPN.com

SANTA CLARA, Calif. -- As San Francisco 49ers CEO Jed York set out to hire a new coach and general manager, his primary goal was to find two qualified candidates who, for better or worse, would be tied at the hip in their efforts to rebuild his once-proud franchise.

In assessing what went wrong with coach Chip Kelly and general manager Trent Baalke and with Baalke and the coaches who preceded Kelly, York cited a disconnect between the two most important jobs in the football operation. The lack of cohesion was evident to anyone following the team, and the toxic environment it created seeped into the locker room.

"I think like they said the communication between the GM and the head coach is most important," safety Eric Reid said. "I'm not here to bash anybody, but I think that's something we struggled with in the past."

The absence of that bond is how a franchise can go from appearances in three consecutive NFC Championship Games to a record of 15-33 over the past three seasons, including a dreadful 2-14 mark in 2016. After an extensive search in which he interviewed 15 candidates for both positions, York came to the conclusion that coach Kyle Shanahan and general manager John Lynch would be the best combination to right the ship.

Although York initially said it didn't matter if his new coach and general manager had worked together previously so long as they had similar philosophies and could get along, it was no coincidence that York ultimately hired two men who did have previous ties, even though Lynch had never held a position in an NFL front office.

Taking it a step further, York wanted to make it clear he was committed to Lynch and Shanahan for the long haul and end the recent cycle of musical coaches by giving both unprecedented six-year contracts.

"I believe in both of these guys," York said. "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. I believe in these guys, and I think they're going to be here a lot longer than that."

Shanahan and Lynch are already knee-deep in the rebuilding process. Neither is under any delusion that this will be a quick-fix turnaround, but they've already navigated one potentially bumpy road.

The division of power in a football operation can lead to disagreements and has killed off many previously strong relationships. Lynch and Shanahan had no such issues as they divvied up responsibilities in San Francisco.

On paper, Lynch will control the 90-man roster as well as free agency and the draft, while Shanahan will have final say on the 53-man roster, though the ultimate goal will be to make decisions together.

"We committed to truly making it a partnership, and I think the roles as they're defined are reflective of that," Lynch said. "And so, that's the way we wanted it. That's the way we wanted it reflected, but that's the reality of it. That's the way when we started having these discussions, I think why they went so well is because that's what both of our motivations were. I think we've both seen places where it works, and that's the situation you have. We've seen places that it doesn't work, and you've got friction, and that's not what we were all about."

That breakdown will be a departure for the Niners, who have operated recently with Baalke calling the shots. Reid said it has been hard on the players to have a general manager who isn't at every practice and in every meeting making the decisions on the 53-man roster.

With the history between Shanahan and Lynch, the Niners' hope is that there can be disagreements along the way without those spiraling into bigger organizational issues. It's why Shanahan didn't demand full power even though he was in position to as the clear-cut favorite to land the job.

"I've always thought none of it matters if you're working with the right guy," Shanahan said. "So, it's what do you want to put down on paper. I don't need all of that down on paper. It was important to me to have the 53 on paper because I think it's important that the players know that, and that the coaching is ultimately going to be responsible for that. But, that's more of a perception thing.

"When I got paired up with John and talking to Jed, why demand all of that stuff when I don't think it matters? It's not something to fight for. It wasn't something that John needed to fight for. I wanted both to have shared responsibility, and I think John felt the same, and we're not coming in here, 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, and that's what makes it special. You know what both our intentions are. There's no hidden agendas with any of us."

Undoubtedly, there will be plenty of challenges along the way that will test the relationship between Lynch and Shanahan. But they're at least starting from a place of mutual understanding of the daunting task that is in front of them and have a similar idea on how to attack it.

"Every decision we make won't be based off perception, it won't be based off what gets people to like us the most. It's going to be based off of what's best for this organization and gives this place the best chance to win, and I hope people can respect that, and I believe players respect that," Shanahan said. "We'll shoot people honest [answers], and it will be very simple to understand why we make our decisions. We've got a one-track mind, and it's how to get this organization great again."

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### ***Niners to name Robert Saleh as defensive coordinator***

By Marc Sessler, NFL.com

The San Francisco 49ers have pinpointed a new defensive coordinator.

NFL Network's Mike Garafolo reported Monday that Robert Saleh will fill the position under new head coach Kyle Shanahan.

Whispered about as a possible hire for Anthony Lynn's Chargers, Saleh now heads west from Jacksonville, where he spent the past three seasons as the Jaguars' linebackers coach. Prior to that stop, Saleh worked for the Seahawks from 2011 to 2013 as Seattle's defensive quality control aide.

Shanahan knows Saleh from their shared time together in Houston, where the latter began as a defensive intern in 2005 before working as a defensive quality control coach (2006 to 2008) and assistant linebackers assistant from 2009 to 2010.

Saleh has his work cut out for him in San Francisco. Beyond an on-the-mend NaVorro Bowman, safety Eric Reid and defensive ends DeForest Buckner and Arik Armstead, the Niners offer a paper-thin roster that finished last in the league in yardage and points allowed.

The honeymoon period won't last long if that kind of play continues by the Bay.

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### ***Bowman on Achilles recovery: It's easier to deal with***

By Max Meyer, NFL.com

NaVorro Bowman is on an offseason road to recovery once again.

The 49ers linebacker suffered a torn left Achilles on a non-contact play in San Francisco's Week 4 loss to Dallas. Yet, to him, the recovery doesn't compare this time around to the severe knee injury he suffered in the 2014 NFC Championship that caused him to miss the ensuing season.

"It's much more easy to deal with," Bowman said, per CSNBayArea.com. "(I'm) not spending those long hours warming up, trying to get my workout in. It's definitely more easy to deal with than my knee. I can definitely see a positive light at the end of the tunnel."

Following the gruesome knee injury, Bowman was a first-team All-Pro in his first season back in 2015, the fourth time he's earned the accolade. Bowman was off to another strong start in 2016 before his latest devastating setback.

Given how badly the defense struggled this past campaign, the 49ers have to feel fortunate that their biggest key on that side of the ball is feeling optimistic about this comeback attempt.

"I'm working every single day, doing everything that the trainers are asking me to do," Bowman said. "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 key is definitely just improving every single day and giving me confidence, knowing that I will be back."

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***Charley Casserly mock draft 1.0: Trades shake up Round 1***

By Charley Casserly, NFL.com

RANK 2

49ERS

Jonathan Allen - DE, Alabama: Allen is an excellent 3-4 defensive end who gives you an inside pass rush.

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***Kyle Shanahan adds 3 more coaches to 49ers staff***

By Staff, Associated Press

SANTA CLARA, Calif. (AP) — San Francisco 49ers coach Kyle Shanahan has added three new members of his coaching staff.

Shanahan announced Monday that Mike McDaniel will be the team's new run game specialist, Mike LaFleur will be wide receivers coach and Taylor Embree will be offensive quality control coach.

McDaniel and LaFleur both worked in Atlanta with Shanahan when he was offensive coordinator for the Falcons.

Embree is the son of 49ers assistant head coach and tight ends coach Jon Embree.