

49ers Clips – March 1, 2017

Local Media

Report: 49ers QB Colin Kaepernick will opt out of final year of deal

By Eric Branch, San Francisco Chronicle

<http://www.sfchronicle.com/49ers/article/Report-49ers-QB-Colin-Kaepernick-will-opt-out-of-10968141.php>

Colin Kaepernick will end his 49ers tenure, hires new agents on way to free agency

By Cam Inman, San Jose Mercury News

<http://www.mercurynews.com/2017/03/01/colin-kaepernick-hires-new-agents-on-way-out-of-49ers-deal/>

Kaepernick hires new agents, poised for free agency

By Matt Barrows, Sacramento Bee

<http://www.sacbee.com/sports/nfl/san-francisco-49ers/article135669598.html>

Report: Colin Kaepernick's agents say he's opting out

By Josh Alper, ProFootballTalk.com

<http://profootballtalk.nbcsports.com/2017/03/01/report-colin-kaepernicks-agents-say-hes-opting-out/>

Colin Kaepernick indeed opting out of 49ers contract

By Jeremy Bergman, NFL.com

<http://www.nfl.com/news/story/0ap3000000788531/article/colin-kaepernick-indeed-opting-out-of-49ers-contract>

National Media

Jets cut Darrelle Revis, ending storied run with team

By Connor Hughes, Newark Star-Ledger

http://www.nj.com/jets/index.ssf/2017/02/jets_cut_darrelle_revis_ending_storied_run_with_te.html#incart_river_index

Patriots intend to keep QB Jimmy Garoppolo

By Staff, ESPN.com

http://www.espn.com/nfl/story/_/id/18795544/jimmy-garoppolo-not-expected-traded-new-england-patriots

'Good conversations' with Packers, but T.J. Lang intends to test market

By Jason Wilde, ESPN.com

http://www.espn.com/blog/milwaukee/post/_/id/1322/good-conversations-with-packers-but-t-j-lang-intends-to-test-market

Bills won't use franchise tag on cornerback Stephon Gilmore

By Jay Skurski, Buffalo News

<http://buffalonews.com/2017/02/28/bills-wont-use-franchise-tag-cornerback-stephon-gilmore/>

New Orleans Saints to release safety Jairus Byrd: source

By Herbie Teope, New Orleans Times-Picayune

http://www.nola.com/saints/index.ssf/2017/02/saints_to_release_safety_jairu.html#incart_river_index

Local Clips – Full Version

Report: 49ers QB Colin Kaepernick will opt out of final year of deal

By Eric Branch, San Francisco Chronicle

INDIANAPOLIS - Colin Kaepernick has new agents and those representatives will help him navigate free agency for the first time in his six-year career.

As expected, the 49ers quarterback will opt out of the final year of his contract, which will place him on the open market when free agency begins March 9, the NFL Network reported. Kaepernick is now represented by Jeff Nalley and Sean Kiernan after leaving XAM Sports.

Kaepernick, 29, can officially opt out as early as Thursday. The move was expected given his recent performance and scheduled \$14.5 million base salary in 2017. The 49ers would have likely released Kaepernick if he didn't opt out.

Kaepernick's decision doesn't rule out a return to the 49ers in 2017.

Last week, he met with 49ers general manager John Lynch and head coach Kyle Shanahan at the team facility. Lynch said all parties left excited after they visited in his office.

And all parties must keep their options open. It's not known how much interest Kaepernick will attract in free agency and the 49ers don't have many options on their current roster. Their other three quarterbacks, Blaine Gabbert, Christian Ponder and Thad Lewis, are scheduled to become free agents.

The 49ers have been expected to explore trading for Washington quarterback Kirk Cousins and New England quarterback Jimmy Garoppolo. However, Washington and New England are not inclined to trade those QBs, according to national reports.

Colin Kaepernick will end his 49ers tenure, hires new agents on way to free agency

By Cam Inman, San Jose Mercury News

Colin Kaepernick has hired new agents to represent him in his first foray into the free agent market.

Sean Kiernan and Jeff Nalley of Select Sports Group have informed all 32 teams that Kaepernick will opt out of his contract and become a free agent for the first time in his six-year career, NFL Network reported Wednesday.

New 49ers general manager John Lynch and coach Kyle Shanahan have kept an open approach regarding Kaepernick's status, having met with the quarterback last Wednesday at the 49ers facility.

As early as Thursday, Kaepernick officially can opt out of the deal ahead of free agency, which begins March 7, although deals can't be consummated until March 9. Nalley helped restructure Kaepernick's contract last October while acting as a third party, the Sacramento Bee reported.

The 49ers options beyond Kaepernick could be lessening, meanwhile.

A day after Washington placed the exclusive franchise tag on Kirk Cousins, ESPN reported Wednesday morning the New England Patriots are not expected to trade backup quarterback Jimmy Garoppolo, who is entering the final year of his rookie contract.

Shanahan will talk to the media Wednesday afternoon at the NFL scouting combine in Indianapolis, and Lynch will follow suit Thursday.

Since seizing the starting role midway through the 2012 season and helping the 49ers to Super Bowl XLVII, Kaepernick's career has pivoted south alongside the franchise's overall health in recent seasons. He is 28-30 all-time as their starter, including a 1-10 mark this past season upon replacing Blaine Gabbert, who also is ticketed for free agency.

Kaepernick hires new agents, poised for free agency

By Matt Barrows, Sacramento Bee

INDIANAPOLIS -- Colin Kaepernick has hired new agents, setting the stage for him to opt out of his 49ers contract this week and test free agency next week.

Kaepernick parted ways with his original agents last month and brought on Jeff Nalley and Sean Kiernan of Select Sports Group this week. Kaepernick, 29, foreshadowed this move midway through last season when he restructured his contract and Nalley handled the deal.

Kaepernick currently is the only 49ers quarterback signed for the upcoming season and is due to earn nearly \$15 million in base salary. The 49ers, however, could release him with little ramifications to their salary cap. Kaepernick also can opt out of the deal and enter free agency, which begins on March 9.

A day after Washington placed the exclusive franchise tag on Kirk Cousins -- thus making a trade less likely -- ESPN reported the Patriots are not expected to trade backup quarterback Jimmy Garoppolo, who also had been a possibility to the 49ers.

Kaepernick, meanwhile, met with 49ers officials last week and, according to new general manager John Lynch, said the sides left "excited" about the meeting. Kyle Shanahan will hold a media session today in Indianapolis; Lynch will speak Thursday.

Three other quarterbacks who were with the 49ers in 2016 -- Blaine Gabbert, Christian Ponder and Thaddeus Lewis -- are scheduled to become unrestricted free agents next month.

Kaepernick, according to those close to him, is open to returning to the 49ers in 2017. That would only happen with a more modest contract. He started 11 games this past season and seemed to get better, and stronger, as he recovered from three operations as the season wore on.

He finished with 16 touchdown passes against four interceptions and a 90.7 passer rating. That was his highest mark since the 2013 season (91.6), which ended with a 49ers loss to Seattle in the NFC championship game.

Kaepernick has been living in New York with his girlfriend, Nessa Diab, who hosts a nationally syndicated radio show, since the season ended. Kaepernick never returned to his pre-surgery weight last season and has been working out daily in New York and has returned to full strength.

Report: Colin Kaepernick's agents say he's opting out

By Josh Alper, ProFootballTalk.com

Colin Kaepernick hired new agents recently and it looks like their first order of business will be finding their client a new team for the 2017 season.

Ian Rapoport of NFL Media reports that agents Jeff Nalley and Sean Kiernan have informed NFL teams that Kaepernick will be opting out of his contract. A window for Kaepernick to do so opens on Thursday

and the 49ers hold the same option to back out of a deal that called for Kaepernick to make a \$14.5 million base salary in 2017.

That wasn't a particularly realistic option, but there was a chance for the two sides to agree on a new number that would make more sense. That can still happen, of course, although Kaepernick's decision suggests that he'll be talking to other clubs before any deal is struck for next season.

Which clubs will be interested in Kaepernick's services is the next question that needs to be answered, although he'll need to wait until next week for formal discussions with anyone other than the 49ers to get going.

Colin Kaepernick indeed opting out of 49ers contract

By Jeremy Bergman, NFL.com

The Colin Kaepernick era in San Francisco is nearing its close.

The quarterback's new agents told all 32 teams on Tuesday that he will be opting out of his contract with the 49ers, sources told NFL Network Insider Ian Rapoport. Kaepernick was due \$16.9 million in salary and bonuses in 2017.

This news comes just one week after new general manager John Lynch said Kaepernick left the team facility "excited" following a "positive discussion."

Kaepernick's exit from the Bay was a foregone conclusion following his tumultuous 2016 season. Rapoport reported early in December that Kap was likely to void his contract, an option that became available when he restructured his deal in October. It's still possible Kaepernick can return to the 49ers at a reduced rate determined by the QB market.

Since he led San Francisco to its first Super Bowl appearance in 18 years in 2012, Kaepernick's production has tapered off significantly. The quarterback's already-low completion percentage dipped well below 60 percent in 2015 and 2016 and he has struggled to make strong throws past 10 yards and outside the numbers.

His off-field actions aside, the economic interest in Kaepernick from a football standpoint will be an intriguing sub-sub-plot to free agency. He hasn't produced enough consistently to be a starting quarterback in 2017 for any team that's not rebuilding, but his skill-set will still be valuable in a backup role.