

49ers Clips – February 28, 2017

Local Media

***Mike Mayock: Five Prospects Worthy of 49ers No. 2 Overall Pick***

By Joe Fann, 49ers.com

<http://www.49ers.com/news/article-2/Mike-Mayock-Five-Prospects-Worthy-of-49ers-No-2-Overall-Pick/37af0365-54f9-4055-b979-21b06dd86604>

***49ers head to Indianapolis with big to-do list; which prospects make sense***

By Matt Barrows, Sacramento Bee

<http://www.sacbee.com/sports/nfl/san-francisco-49ers/article135377014.html>

***Multiple receivers needed for 49ers' rebuild***

By Nick Wagoner, ESPN.com

[http://www.espn.com/blog/san-francisco-49ers/post/\\_/id/23641/multiple-receivers-needed-for-49ers-rebuild](http://www.espn.com/blog/san-francisco-49ers/post/_/id/23641/multiple-receivers-needed-for-49ers-rebuild)

***Re-drafting first round of 2016 draft: NFL Nation makes each pick***

By Nick Wagoner, ESPN.com

[http://www.espn.com/nfl/insider/story/\\_/id/18756984/re-drafting-first-round-2016-nfl-draft-dak-prescott-first-pick-los-angeles-rams](http://www.espn.com/nfl/insider/story/_/id/18756984/re-drafting-first-round-2016-nfl-draft-dak-prescott-first-pick-los-angeles-rams)

***49ers tender contracts to Purcell, Bradford***

By Staff, Associated Press

<http://pro32.ap.org/article/49ers-tender-contracts-purcell-bradford>

National Media

***Steelers sign Antonio Brown to new five-year deal***

By Marc Sessler, NFL.com

<http://www.nfl.com/news/story/0ap3000000788040/article/steelers-sign-antonio-brown-to-fiveyear-extension>

***Chargers put franchise tag on free-agent linebacker Melvin Ingram***

By Dan Woike, Los Angeles Times

<http://www.latimes.com/sports/chargers/la-sp-chargers-franchise-ingram-20170227-story.html>

***Chiefs finalizing five-year, \$41.25 million extension for Laurent Duvernay-Tardif***

By Terez Paylor, Kansas City Star

<http://www.kansascity.com/sports/nfl/kansas-city-chiefs/article135290444.html>

***Report: Raiders will let Latavius Murray test free agency***

By Daniel Mano, Bay Area News Group

<http://www.eastbaytimes.com/2017/02/27/report-raiders-will-let-latavius-murray-test-free-agency/>

***Browns still have no plans to franchise Terrelle Pryor with deadline looming***

By Mary Kay Cabot, Cleveland Plain Dealer

[http://www.cleveland.com/browns/index.ssf/2017/02/browns\\_still\\_have\\_no\\_plans\\_to.html#incart\\_river\\_index](http://www.cleveland.com/browns/index.ssf/2017/02/browns_still_have_no_plans_to.html#incart_river_index)

## Local Clips – Full Version

### ***Mike Mayock: Five Prospects Worthy of 49ers No. 2 Overall Pick***

By Joe Fann, 49ers.com

NFL Network's lead draft expert Mike Mayock is an invaluable source of information this time of year. Mayock hosted his annual pre-NFL Combine conference call on Monday and held court for well over an hour. Media members from around the country joined the call and asked questions about the teams and prospects from their respective regions.

During the conversation, Mayock touched on a few topics that are pertinent to the San Francisco 49ers. Specifically, the heralded draft guru shared how many players are worthy of the 49ers No. 2 overall pick. Mayock began by explaining that he doesn't have a single quarterback ranked in the Top-10 of this year's draft class.

According to Mayock, there are five players whose draft stock makes them deserving to be taken second overall. That would be Texas A&M defensive end Myles Garrett, Ohio State safety Malik Hooker, LSU safety Jamal Adams, Alabama linebacker Reuben Foster and Alabama defensive tackle Jonathan Allen.

"I think those five guys are all legit," Mayock said.

Here are some notes on each prospect.

Garrett: This year's top edge-rusher is also widely regarded as the top overall player in the 2017 NFL Draft. Garrett posted 31 career sacks in three seasons with the Aggies.

Hooker: One of the top two safeties in his class, Hooker grabbed seven interceptions in 2016, returning three for touchdowns.

Adams: The other clear-cut top safety in 2017. Adams posted 7.5 tackles for loss in 2016 with one sack and one interception.

Foster: A do-it-all linebacker that some draft analysts forecast to be starting next to NaVorro Bowman in 2017. Foster recorded 13 tackles for loss and five sacks in his final season with the Crimson Tide.

Allen: This year's top-ranked interior defensive lineman racked up 10.5 sacks and a whopping 16 tackles for loss last season at Alabama. Mayock raved about Allen several times throughout the call.

Mayock added that an argument can be made for two running backs to be taken in the Top-5.

"If you want to talk about whether or not running backs should go that high, you can have that conversation also with (LSU's) Leonard Fournette and (Florida State's) Dalvin Cook," Mayock said.

As for the consensus top wideouts this year – Clemson's Mike Williams and Western Michigan's Corey Davis – Mayock evaluated their potential value at No. 2 overall.

"I think it's a bit of a reach. I think their value starts around (pick) 10 or so," he said. "I wouldn't quite put them up with that other group."

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### ***49ers head to Indianapolis with big to-do list; which prospects make sense***

By Matt Barrows, Sacramento Bee

INDIANAPOLIS -- We know that long arms and frayed ACLs were what the 49ers' previous general manager, Trent Baalke, looked for at the scouting combine. The key characteristics sought by the team's new leadership group, led by general manager John Lynch and head coach Kyle Shanahan, are unknown as they make their first trip to Indianapolis together this week.

What is obvious, however, is that the 49ers need help at several positions and that the upcoming draft is thought to be one of the deepest in recent memory, especially at pass rusher, cornerback, safety, running back and tight end. One spot where there are no obvious stars, however, is quarterback, which is the 49ers' No. 1 need.

Here are the team's Top 5 priorities and the players who could fill them. Players were selected on how they fit the 49ers' system and needs:

#### Quarterback

The three most highly rated quarterbacks plan to perform just about every drill in Indianapolis. Perhaps that should be expected when there is no clear-cut frontrunner and there is plenty to gain from showing off your skills. The most seasoned of the group, Clemson's Deshaun Watson, was the star of the national championship game but must explain to NFL evaluators why he threw 17 interceptions in 2016 despite his experience under center. (Competitor Mitch Trubisky of UNC, for example, threw only six). Both the Browns, who have the first pick, and the 49ers need a quarterback. Few, however, feel there is one worthy of a Top 10 selection. Will that change between now and April 27?

1. Deshaun Watson, Clemson
2. Mitch Trubisky, North Carolina
3. DeShone Kizer, Notre Dame
4. Patrick Mahomes, Texas Tech
5. Davis Webb, Cal

#### Wide receiver

Baalke miscalculated badly when he drafted A.J. Jenkins in the first round in 2012 and then shied away from the position in future drafts. As a result, the 49ers had arguably the NFL's lousiest receiving corps last season. Baalke's successors must bring more firepower or no quarterback will flourish. The top two prospects, Clemson's Mike Williams and Western Michigan's Corey Davis, have NFL-ready physiques but need to run fast 40-yard dash times to propel themselves into the draft's Top 10. The 49ers also could – and should – address this position in free agency.

1. Mike Williams, Clemson
2. Corey Davis, Western Michigan
3. John Ross, Washington
4. Juju Smith-Schuster, USC
5. Chad Hansen, Cal

#### Pass rusher

The 49ers' best pass-rushing outside linebacker last season, Ahmad Brooks, had six sacks. The rest of the players at the position combined for 4 1/2 sacks. The team simply needs to bring more pressure from

the edge, and it has 10 picks in a draft that is teeming with potential sack artists. If the Browns grab the top prospect, Texas A&M's Myles Garrett, with the top pick, the 49ers might have to decide whether Alabama's Tim Williams or Tennessee's Derek Barnett is worthy of pick No. 2. Missouri's Charles Harris, meanwhile, may have the quickest first step of the bunch and would be a nice fit for the 49ers' new "Leo" pass-rush position. He's unlikely to be available in Round 2, however.

1. Myles Garrett, Texas A&M
2. Tim Williams, Alabama
3. Derek Barnett, Tennessee
4. Charles Harris, Missouri
5. Takkarist McKinley, UCLA

#### Linebacker

The 49ers have just one inside linebacker signed for next season with more than five career starts and that player, NaVorro Bowman, is coming off an Achilles tear that cost him most of the 2016 season. The 49ers must reload at the position no matter whether Bowman returns to full strength or not. The top prospect, Alabama's Reuben Foster, is a possibility with the second overall pick. If the 49ers waited until the second round, Temple's Haasan Reddick still might be available.

1. Reuben Foster, Alabama
2. Zach Cunningham, Vanderbilt
3. Haasan Reddick, Temple
4. Raekwon McMillan, Ohio State
5. T.J. Watt, Wisconsin (strong-side linebacker)

#### Running back

Kyle Shanahan's running backs combined for 93 catches and 946 receiving yards last year in Atlanta. Carlos Hyde made some strides in that area last year for San Francisco (27 catches for 163 yards) but could use a supporting cast member. The following players might not be worth the second overall pick, but they would be a good complement to Hyde.

1. Christian McCaffrey, Stanford
2. Curtis Samuel, Ohio State
3. Alvin Kamara, Tennessee
4. Jeremy McNichols, Boise State
5. Marlon Mack, South Florida

#### On-field workout schedule

Friday: Running backs, offensive linemen and kickers

Saturday: Quarterbacks, wide receivers and tight ends

Sunday: Linebackers and defensive linemen

Monday: Defensive backs

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***Multiple receivers needed for 49ers' rebuild***

By Nick Wagoner, ESPN.com

SANTA CLARA, Calif. -- The free-agent market is scheduled to open March 9 and teams may begin negotiations with those poised to hit the market beginning March 7. We'll count down to that with a position-by-position look at what the San Francisco 49ers have in place, who is set to hit the market, what the team needs and who might fit the bill.

Position: Wide receiver

Under contract: Torrey Smith, Bruce Ellington, Aaron Burbridge, Eric Rogers, Chris Harper, DeAndre Smelter.

Pending free agents: Quinton Patton, Jeremy Kerley, Rod Streater.

What's needed: With the possible exception of quarterback, the 49ers have no greater need than to upgrade the talent on the perimeter. And the Niners don't just need a receiver, they need multiple. Patton, Kerley and Streater were three of their most productive wideouts a season ago (such as it was), and now all three are poised to test free agency. It's possible the team could bring one back, with Kerley coming off the best season of the three. Smith is owed a lot of money relative to his production, but the Niners don't really need the cap space and his veteran presence could be welcome with the possibility of so many changing parts.

The 49ers might also look to do a complete revamp at this position. In 2016, their receivers combined for 160 receptions, 1,777 yards and eight touchdowns. By comparison, Pittsburgh's Antonio Brown had 106 catches for 1,284 yards and 12 touchdowns.

As the 49ers seek help for the position, the No. 1 priority should be a No. 1 receiver, preferably a big, physical type who can run every route and make contested catches in traffic. Looking at coach Kyle Shanahan's past offenses, it's easy to say he needs to find his new version of Julio Jones, though finding that player is far more difficult. Still, a reasonable approximation would be more than welcome in San Francisco.

This free-agent market could actually offer some intriguing options. Chicago's Alshon Jeffery undoubtedly matches the description of a big, physical wideout who can win contested balls. However, Jeffery will also come with a huge price tag and a lengthy injury history. He might be better suited for a team closer to contention than the Niners. Washington's Pierre Garcon and DeSean Jackson would also liven things up a bit but might be similar to Jeffery, in where they are in their careers.

Cleveland's Terrelle Pryor might be the most interesting possibility. He looked the part of a No. 1 wideout at times last year, despite shoddy quarterback play, and is still scratching the surface of his potential at the position. He won't come cheap, and it would be a bit of a gamble. But the Niners have the cap space to roll the dice should they choose.

Elsewhere, if the Niners don't keep Kerley, they could use a talented slot receiver. Shanahan made hay with Taylor Gabriel last year, and he'd probably love to bring Gabriel with him from Atlanta. But Gabriel is a restricted free agent, and it's unlikely Atlanta will let him go without getting legitimate compensation (think second-round-or-better tender). The Cleveland Browns recently released Andrew Hawkins and

though he's not as dynamic as Gabriel, he'd offer some leadership in a young locker room while also contributing in the slot.

This year's draft class also seems to have some quality options, so it would make sense for the 49ers to attempt to use both avenues to bulk up here and give help to whoever is playing quarterback in 2017.

Possible fits: Alshon Jeffery (Chicago), Pierre Garcon (Washington), DeSean Jackson (Washington), Terrelle Pryor (Cleveland), Taylor Gabriel (Atlanta/restricted), Kendall Wright (Tennessee), Adam Thielen (Minnesota/restricted), Kenny Stills (Miami), Robert Woods (Buffalo), Andrew Hawkins.

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***Re-drafting first round of 2016 draft: NFL Nation makes each pick***

By Nick Wagoner, ESPN.com

7. San Francisco 49ers

Re-draft pick: DeForest Buckner, DE, Oregon

Actual pick: DeForest Buckner, DL, Oregon

It's tempting to take local boy Jared Goff to give the Niners a potential franchise quarterback, but this way new coach Kyle Shanahan can pick the guy he wants to develop to lead the franchise into the future. Buckner quietly put together a strong rookie season while playing the role of defensive iron man. Despite missing a game because of injury, he played 963 snaps, second only to the New York Giants' Olivier Vernon among defensive linemen and his 73 tackles ranked second. He also had six sacks, fourth among NFL rookies. With San Francisco expected to transition to a 4-3 under front, Buckner should have the chance to further unlock his pass-rushing ability by moving to the 3-technique.

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***49ers tender contracts to Purcell, Bradford***

By Staff, Associated Press

SANTA CLARA, Calif. (AP) — The San Francisco 49ers tendered one-year contracts to exclusive rights free agent nose tackle Mike Purcell and linebacker Carl Bradford on Monday.

Exclusive rights free agents are players with less than three years of experience and they are unable to negotiate with other teams.

Purcell started the first five games last season and played in 15 games overall for San Francisco. He had 26 tackles and one forced fumble. He originally joined the team as an undrafted free agent out of Wyoming in 2015.

The 49ers claimed Bradford off waivers in December from the Green Bay Packers. He played the final two games of the season for San Francisco and had two tackles on defense and two on special teams.