

49ers Clips – February 6, 2017

Local Media

49ers can hire Kyle Shanahan on heels of devastating loss

By Eric Branch, San Francisco Chronicle

<http://www.sfchronicle.com/49ers/article/49ers-can-hire-Kyle-Shanahan-on-heels-of-10910438.php>

Kyle Shanahan now free to become 49ers coach

By Cam Inman, San Jose Mercury News

<http://www.mercurynews.com/2017/02/05/kyle-shanahan-now-free-to-become-49ers-coach/>

National Media

Sherman incident unlikely to cost Seahawks a lot

By Conor Orr, NFL.com

<http://www.nfl.com/news/story/0ap3000000783166/article/sherman-incident-unlikely-to-cost-seahawks-a-lot>

Matt LaFleur, Rams have mutual interest, sources say

By Adam Schefter, ESPN.com

http://www.espn.com/nfl/story/_/id/18624289/los-angeles-rams-seek-talk-matt-lafleur-atlanta-falcons

Tom Brady named Super Bowl MVP after leading historic Patriots rally

By Jeff Legwold, ESPN.com

http://www.espn.com/nfl/story/_/id/18628127/tom-brady-earns-super-bowl-li-mvp-honors

Falcons coach Quinn: 'We ran out of gas'

By D. Orlando Ledbetter, Atlanta Journal-Constitution

<http://www.ajc.com/sports/football/falcons-coach-quinn-ran-out-gas/YgsBl6pkIR5xKIU4YRFigN/>

Jordy Nelson named NFL's Comeback Player of the Year

By Michael Cohen, Milwaukee Journal Sentinel

<http://www.jsonline.com/story/sports/nfl/packers/2017/02/04/jordy-nelson-named-nfls-comeback-player-year/97455338/>

Local Clips – Full Version

49ers can hire Kyle Shanahan on heels of devastating loss

By Eric Branch, San Francisco Chronicle

The finish to the final game of the NFL season means this: The 49ers finally can hire a head coach.

Five weeks after they fired Chip Kelly, the 49ers officially can welcome his replacement, Atlanta offensive coordinator Kyle Shanahan. He became available after the Falcons lost to New England 34-28 in overtime in Super Bowl LI in Houston on Sunday.

Shanahan will arrive in Santa Clara after an excruciating loss.

The Falcons squandered a 28-3 third-quarter lead as their high-powered offense ground to a halt. Atlanta, which scored the eighth-most points (540) in NFL history, had three punts and a fumble on its four fourth-quarter drives. Leading 28-12 midway through the fourth quarter, quarterback Matt Ryan lost a fumble when he was sacked on 3rd-and-1. New England recovered at the Falcons' 25-yard line and scored two minutes later to cut the gap to 28-20.

Shanahan, 37, will be the 19th head coach in the 49ers' 71-year history and the youngest since the 49ers hired Dick Nolan when he was 35 in 1968. Shanahan also will be the second-youngest head coach in the NFL behind the Rams' Sean McVay, 30.

Shanahan will join a wet-behind-the-ears leadership group that is tasked with rebuilding a once-proud franchise. Shanahan is the 49ers' fourth head coach in the past 26 months, and the 49ers have posted a 7-25 record the past two seasons. S.F. is 3-0 against the Rams and 0-17 against the rest of the NFL in its past 20 games.

Shanahan encouraged the 49ers to hire general manager John Lynch, 45, a nine-time Pro Bowl safety and Fox TV analyst with no front-office experience. Their just-hired vice president of player personnel Adam Peters, 37, previously was the Broncos' director of college scouting.

They also could be adding a novice defensive coordinator.

According to national reports, the 49ers are considering New England linebackers coach Brian Flores, 35, and former Jacksonville linebackers coach Robert Saleh, 38, for the position.

Flores has spent his 13-year career with the Patriots. Before coaching its linebackers, he spent the previous four seasons as a safeties coach. Saleh has spent the past three seasons with Jacksonville. From 2006 through '09, Saleh and Shanahan were assistants with the Texans.

Given Shanahan's offensive focus, the defensive-coordinator hire is particularly important. Last season, the 49ers allowed the most yards, rushing yards and points in franchise history. They pursued former Jacksonville head coach Gus Bradley for the position before he was hired by the Chargers. They also had interest in Chicago defensive coordinator Vic Fangio, who was the 49ers' defensive coordinator from 2011 through '14, but he wasn't let out of his contract.

Meanwhile, Shanahan could be bringing to the 49ers a quarterback with whom he has deep ties.

Atlanta backup Matt Schaub, an unrestricted free agent in March, could sign with the 49ers, ESPN reported.

With the Texans, Shanahan was Schaub's quarterbacks coach (2007) and offensive coordinator (2008-09) before they reconnected with the Falcons this season.

Turning 36 in June, Schaub presumably would be a backup, although the 49ers' current quarterback situation could provide an opportunity to compete for the starting spot. Colin Kaepernick reportedly will opt out of the final year of his contract, and the 49ers' three other QBs, Blaine Gabbert, Christian Ponder and Thad Lewis, are set to become free agents.

Schaub has made just two starts, thrown 93 passes and played for three teams since 2013, when he lost his starting role to Case Keenum in Houston midway through the season. Schaub surrendered his role after a stretch during which he had an interception returned for a touchdown in an NFL-record four straight games.

In 2009, with Shanahan, Schaub led the NFL in passing yards (4,770) and had career highs in touchdown passes (29) and passer rating (98.6).

Schaub, a Pro Bowl selection in 2009 and 2012, ranks 10th among active quarterbacks in passer rating (89.1), 15th in passing yards (24,867) and 17th in touchdowns (133).

Kyle Shanahan now free to become 49ers coach

By Cam Inman, San Jose Mercury News

Kyle Shanahan's 49ers tenure is on the clock. Well, almost.

Now that Shanahan is done serving as the Atlanta Falcons offensive coordinator in Sunday's Super Bowl, the 49ers officially can hire him and close a deal that became a foregone conclusion two weeks ago.

Shanahan, in the wake of the Falcons' 36-28 overtime loss to the New England Patriots, figures to be announced as coach on Monday. His introductory press conference at 49ers headquarters likely won't be until Tuesday or Wednesday, presumably alongside new general manager John Lynch, who a week ago was the surprise choice to replace Trent Baalke.

The 49ers fired Baalke and coach Chip Kelly after finishing the season on New Year's Day with a loss to the Seattle Seahawks, sealing a 2-14 record and their third straight season without a playoff berth. The 49ers are seeking their fourth coach in four years.

Five other teams filled coaching vacancies since the 49ers started their searching a month: the Jaguars (Doug Marrone), the Bills (Sean McDermott), the Rams (Sean McVay) and the Chargers (Anthony Lynn).

Shanahan, 37, would become the third-youngest coach of the 20 hired by the 49ers. The only ones younger were Jack Christiansen (34; 1963-67) and Frankie Albert (35; 1956-68).

Shanahan's father, Mike, was 35 when he got his first head-coaching job with the Los Angeles Raiders in 1988. The elder Shanahan served as the 49ers offensive coordinator during their 1994 season's run to a Super Bowl title, and he then became coach in Denver (1995-2008) and Washington (2010-13).

— Quarterback Matt Schaub, 35, is a pending free agent who could be targeted by Shanahan as a 49ers quarterback, ESPN reported. Shanahan was the Houston Texans offensive coordinator in 2008-09 when Schaub's career accelerated.

Schaub was Matt Ryan's backup this season in his second stint with the Falcons, having been drafted by them in 2004 before moving to the Texans (2007-13), the Raiders (2014) and the Baltimore Ravens (2015). Schaub has 63.9 completion percentage for his career with 133 touchdown passes and 90 interceptions, 14 of which were returned for touchdowns.

— Reported candidates to become the 49ers defensive coordinator are Brian Flores, the Patriots linebackers coach, and Robert Saleh, who worked on the Texans defensive staff during Shanahan's time

there. Flores' candidacy was reported on Fox Sports' pregame show. Saleh was the Jacksonville Jaguars linebackers coach the past three years, and he was poised to assume that role with the Los Angeles Chargers this season but the 49ers' job could lure him, NFL Network reported.

Falcons quarterbacks coach Matt LaFleur could garner interest for the 49ers and Rams offensive coordinator openings, according to the NFL Network.