

49ers Clips – January 20, 2017

Local Media

49ers: Kyle Shanahan sounds the part with reporters

By Eric Branch, San Francisco Chronicle

<http://www.sfchronicle.com/49ers/article/49ers-Kyle-Shanahan-sounds-the-part-with-10870104.php>

By carrying over nearly \$40 million in cap space, 49ers have plenty to spend

By Nick Wagoner, ESPN.com

http://www.espn.com/blog/san-francisco-49ers/post/_/id/22943/by-carrying-over-nearly-40-million-49ers-enter-offseason-with-plenty-to-spend

National Media

Ravens' Zachary Orr will announce retirement today because of neck injury

By Jeff Zrebiec, Baltimore Sun

<http://www.baltimoresun.com/sports/ravens/ravens-insider/bal-ravens-zachary-orr-will-announce-retirement-today-because-of-neck-injury-20170120-story.html>

Browns are close on Jamie Collins' new deal, source says

By Mary Kay Cabot, Cleveland Plain Dealer

http://www.cleveland.com/browns/index.ssf/2017/01/browns_are_getting_close_on_ja.html#incart_river_index

John Pagano is sixth known candidate to interview for Redskins defensive coordinator

By Liz Clarke, Washington Post

https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/football-insider/wp/2017/01/19/john-pagano-is-sixth-known-candidate-to-interview-for-redskins-defensive-coordinator/?utm_term=.c064d438d48a

Bills hire Rick Dennison as offensive coordinator

By Vic Carucci, Buffalo News

<http://buffalonews.com/2017/01/19/bills-hire-dennison-offensive-coordinator/>

McGinn: Packers' GM picture remains unchanged

By Bob McGinn, Milwaukee Journal Sentinel

<http://www.jsonline.com/story/sports/nfl/packers/mcginn/2017/01/19/mcginn-packers-gm-picture-remains-unchanged/96795820/>

Local Clips – Full Version

49ers: Kyle Shanahan sounds the part with reporters

By Eric Branch, San Francisco Chronicle

In his first news conference since becoming the 49ers' presumptive next head coach, Atlanta offensive coordinator Kyle Shanahan sounded, well, like a head coach.

On Thursday, Shanahan, 37, began his 11-minute session with reporters with an opening statement. It was a savvy move designed to limit questions about the much-discussed next step in his career: NFL Network has reported that Atlanta head coach Dan Quinn told his assistants this week that Shanahan would be the 49ers' next head coach and the coaches broke into applause.

However, by league rules, the 49ers can't hire Shanahan until the Falcons' season ends, and Atlanta will meet Green Bay on Sunday in the NFC Championship Game. Given that, Shanahan acknowledged only that the 49ers had "some interest" when asked if a deal was on the table.

"No, there's definitely no understanding of that," Shanahan said. "I think there's some interest, obviously. I felt that in my interview a couple of weeks ago. ... It's a pretty good situation to be in as far as where our team is at right now."

Shanahan stressed the prospect of new employment wouldn't hinder how he worked for his current employer. He repeatedly said he appreciated the NFL rules that limit contact between teams and coaches who remain in the playoffs because it eliminated distractions.

"I used to think that the rules weren't that cool," Shanahan said. "I love the rules. It makes it very simple for me. It's cut and dry. You don't have an option. There's a lot of stuff out there. My friends growing up hear this stuff. My wife hears this stuff."

"Everyone wants to ask me what's going on and I don't know. I'm in my office looking at film all day and there's nothing I'm allowed to do about it."

If the Falcons reach the Super Bowl, Shanahan will meet with the 49ers in Atlanta next week, which is the off week before the game. He is expected to be involved in their hiring of a general manager and meet with GM candidates in Atlanta.

It's not known what, if any, personnel power Shanahan will have with the 49ers. If he does have significant personnel control, it could make the position less attractive to potential GMs.

One person Shanahan won't be working with is Chicago defensive coordinator Vic Fangio. The 49ers' defensive coordinator for four seasons under Jim Harbaugh, who left when the head-coaching job went to Jim Tomsula in 2015, was believed to be a prime candidate to be Shanahan's defensive coordinator, but a source said the Bears won't let Fangio out of his contract.

Earlier Thursday, Green Bay director of football operations Eliot Wolf withdrew his name from consideration for the opening after he received a new deal from the Packers. Wolf, 34, the son of Hall of Fame executive Ron Wolf, is viewed a possible heir apparent to Green Bay general manager Ted Thompson, 64.

With Wolf's exit, there are two finalists who reportedly will have second interviews with the 49ers: Green Bay director of player personnel Brian Gutekunst and Minnesota assistant general manager George Paton. Arizona vice president of player personnel Terry McDonough also remains a possibility.

The Milwaukee Journal Sentinel reported Gutekunst, 43, is likely the leading candidate for the job entering his second interview, but the situation could change based on his meeting with Shanahan. The

newspaper cited a “source close to the 49ers’ search” as saying, “It’s been Gutekunst for two weeks. He killed that interview.”

Meanwhile, Shanahan appears to be headed to the 49ers on a series of high notes. On Saturday, he got the first playoff win of his 13-year career when the Falcons beat Seattle. On Thursday, he was named the NFL’s Assistant Coach of the Year by the Pro Football Writers of America. Next, comes the NFC title game in the Georgia Dome.

As if to underscore what he was thinking about, Shanahan wore a team-issued T-shirt that read: “The only fight that matters is the one we are in.”

By carrying over nearly \$40 million in cap space, 49ers have plenty to spend

By Nick Wagoner, ESPN.com

SANTA CLARA, Calif. -- In assessing the selling points he believed would work to the San Francisco 49ers' advantage in their search for a new head coach and general manager, team CEO Jed York pointed to money.

No, not how much York would be willing to pay either position, but the amount of money a new regime would have to spend to improve the football operation. Or, more specifically, the salary cap flexibility that awaits.

"We're going to have the opportunity with a lot of salary cap room," York said at his season-ending news conference. "There are some pieces here. I don't think there are enough pieces here, but there are some pieces that we can build around. But, again, it's got to be a partnership. It's got to be a collaboration between me, the head coach, and the general manager so that we can get this thing right."

Just how much salary cap room the Niners figured to have depended on how much of the leftover space the team had in 2016 would be carried over to 2017. York vowed that the team would roll over all of its available unspent cash.

"We've always rolled over the salary cap, so that's easy to say," York said.

According to figures released by the NFLPA this week, York followed through on that promise, as the Niners rolled over \$38,708,916. It was the third most money a team rolled over in the league and the most of any team in the NFC.

To be clear, that's not the amount of salary cap space the Niners will have in 2017. Rather, it's how much space they had left in 2016 that they can now add to whatever space they were already projected to have in 2017, a surplus of sorts.

While the official salary cap amount for every team in the league has not yet been officially set by the NFL, the Niners were already projected to have more than \$40 million in available cap space. According to Spotrac.com, combining the already available cap space with the carryover would leave San Francisco with a projected \$83.6 million in cap space for 2017.

It's also worth noting that though the Niners could re-sign some of their own before free agency begins, there's a good chance that number will actually increase before the start of the new league year in March. Quarterback Colin Kaepernick has the ability to opt out of his contract, an option he's expected to exercise. If Kaepernick does opt out, it would clear another \$16.9 million. If he opts in, the Niners could still choose to release him and free that money up in the process.

It seems unlikely the Niners will dive deep into free agency to sign a bunch of big names in hopes of a quick turnaround, there's no doubt they'll have the money and flexibility to begin this rebuild however they see fit.