

49ers Clips – January 7, 2017

Local Media

49ers Interview Kyle Shanahan for Head Coach

By Joe Fann, 49ers.com

<http://www.49ers.com/news/article-2/49ers-Interview-Kyle-Shanahan-for-Head-Coach/b3b99463-a2bf-449f-9a7f-07101af4867a>

Source: 49ers are Josh McDaniels' preferred team

By Eric Branch, San Francisco Chronicle

<http://www.sfchronicle.com/49ers/article/Source-49ers-are-Josh-McDaniels-preferred-team-10841023.php>

Steward: Championship culture? No, 49ers' dire need is championship talent

By Carl Steward, San Jose Mercury News

<http://www.mercurynews.com/2017/01/06/steward-championship-culture-no-49ers-dire-need-is-talent/>

49ers meet with Falcons' Shanahan, Vikings' Paton

By Matt Barrows, Sacramento Bee

<http://www.sacbee.com/sports/nfl/san-francisco-49ers/article125053774.html>

With Josh McDaniels interviewing next, 49ers reach important point in search

By Nick Wagoner, ESPN.com

http://www.espn.com/blog/san-francisco-49ers/post/_id/22669/with-josh-mcdaniels-up-next-niners-reach-important-point-in-search

49ers interview Kyle Shanahan for coach, George Paton for GM

By Josh Dubow, Associated Press

<http://pro32.ap.org/article/49ers-interview-kyle-shanahan-coach-george-paton-gm>

National Media

Pete Carroll and Seahawks seek fresh start in NFL playoffs vs. Lions

By Bob Condotta, The Seattle Times

<http://www.seattletimes.com/sports/seahawks/pete-carroll-and-seahawks-seek-fresh-start-in-nfl-playoffs-vs-lions/>

Rams digging into offensive coordinators in search for new head coach

By Gary Klein, Los Angeles Times

<http://www.latimes.com/sports/rams/la-sp-rams-coach-search-20170106-story.html>

Arizona Cardinals' David Johnson a first-time All-Pro

By Kent Somers, The Arizona Republic

<http://www.azcentral.com/story/sports/nfl/cardinals/2017/01/06/arizona-cardinals-david-johnson-first-time-all-pro/96249666/>

Report: Bills planning to 'move on' from Taylor

By Vic Carucci, Buffalo News

<http://buffalonews.com/2017/01/06/report-bills-planning-move-taylor/>

Dolphins' Tannehill gives update on recovery from knee injury

By Barry Jackson, Miami Herald

<http://www.miamiherald.com/sports/spt-columns-blogs/barry-jackson/article125006154.html>

Browns' Ray Horton could be fired soon; Gregg Williams on the radar, sources say

By Mary Kay Cabot, Cleveland Plain Dealer

http://www.cleveland.com/browns/index.ssf/2017/01/browns_ray_horton_could_be_fir.html

Local Clips – Full Version

49ers Interview Kyle Shanahan for Head Coach

By Joe Fann, 49ers.com

The San Francisco 49ers continued their search for a new head coach with Kyle Shanahan. San Francisco interviewed the Atlanta Falcons offensive coordinator on Friday.

Shanahan is in his second year running the Falcons offense and his ninth NFL season as an offensive coordinator. He previously held the same role with the Houston Texans from 2008-2009, in Washington from 2010-13 and with the Cleveland Browns in 2014.

In 2016, Shanahan pulled the strings of Atlanta's top-ranked offense. The Falcons led the league with 33.75 points per game and ranked second with 415.8 total yards per contest. Matt Ryan is a top MVP candidate this season after throwing for 4,944 passing yards and 38 touchdowns. Atlanta's 11-5 record earned them the NFC South Divisional crown and a first-round bye in the postseason.

"I can recognize, not only why he's a candidate, but why he's a good candidate based on his experience as a play-caller," Falcons head coach Dan Quinn said prior to a December matchup against the 49ers. "Prior to connecting here (in Atlanta), I saw firsthand how good he is and his ability to attack.

"For people to look, I think it's warranted. If someone did speak to him, I know they'd come away very impressed."

Shanahan also has impressive lineage. His father, Mike Shanahan, is a three-time Super Bowl winning coach. Two of those championships came during his tenure as the head coach of the Denver Broncos from 1995-2008. That father-son combo worked together in Washington from 2010-13. Mike served as the head coach while Kyle was the OC.

Kyle Shanahan played wide receiver in college at Duke before transferring and playing two seasons for the Texas Longhorns. He began his coaching career in 2003 as a graduate assistant at UCLA. His first NFL gig came in 2004 as an offensive quality control coordinator for the Tampa Bay Buccaneers.

For more on Shanahan, check out this profile done by Peter King's MMQB back in October.

Source: 49ers are Josh McDaniels' preferred team

By Eric Branch, San Francisco Chronicle

Josh McDaniels' preferred team is the 49ers if the Patriots' offensive coordinator decides to leave New England to become a head coach, a source said.

McDaniels, 40, will interview with the 49ers, Rams and Jaguars on Saturday near the Patriots' facility.

The 49ers, who are the only team with a general-manager opening, are appealing to McDaniels because of their clean-slate situation and CEO Jed York's stated commitment to patiently rebuilding. It's believed the 49ers' status as a marquee franchise, despite their recent free-fall, also makes them more attractive than Los Angeles and Jacksonville.

It's possible, of course, McDaniels' preference could change after meeting with each team Saturday. McDaniels, who has served as New England's offensive coordinator and quarterbacks coach since 2012, is probably ready to take his second head-coaching position, the source said.

On Monday, York discussed having a long-term vision with the new regime, which will inherit the NFL's second-most salary-cap space and 11 expected 2017 draft picks, including No. 2 overall. The 49ers are coming off a 2-14 season and have lost 29 of their past 37 games, dating to 2014.

"The decisions that we're going to make are not going to be to have a quick fix, PR turnaround," York said. "Go from a two-win team to an 8-8 team, but that's going to falter and not get to where we need to go."

McDaniels declined an interview with the 49ers in 2011, about a month after he was fired as Denver's head coach with an 11-17 record. He spoke with the 49ers in 2015 before they hired Jim Tomsula.

Of the 49ers' seven known head-coaching candidates, only McDaniels and Seattle offensive line coach Tom Cable have served as NFL head coaches on a non-interim basis.

The 49ers obviously are seeking a head coach and general manager who will form a collaborative partnership. They reportedly have requested an interview with New England director of player personnel Nick Caserio, although it's not known if a meeting will occur. McDaniels and Caserio, who has been with the Patriots since 2001, were teammates at John Carroll University.

ESPN analyst and former NFL executive Louis Riddick, who reportedly will interview with the 49ers next week, has been an avid fan of McDaniels on social media. Riddick and McDaniels also have strong ties to New England head coach Bill Belichick. Riddick, 47, played for Belichick for three seasons during his six-year NFL playing career. McDaniels has spent 13 of his 16 seasons in the NFL with Belichick.

Riddick said Monday on air that York's stated approach to rebuilding makes the 49ers an attractive destination and that he would take the job.

"He will give whoever is given that position the support and the time to get that done," Riddick said.

The 49ers interviewed Vikings assistant general manager George Paton and Atlanta offensive coordinator Kyle Shanahan on Friday.

Steward: Championship culture? No, 49ers' dire need is championship talent

By Carl Steward, San Jose Mercury News

Darting here and there ...

—Our preferred next 49ers head coach rankings: 1. Josh McDaniels. 2. Kyle Shanahan. 3. Sean McVay. All bets are off if Jon Gruden or David Shaw decide to jump into the pool, but unlikely the Niners have enough chlorine for that to happen.

—By the way, we have Tom Cable at No. 36, right after Chip Tomsula.

—General manager? Not picky. Anybody who can organize an astute scouting department, recognizes the need for a new starting quarterback and doesn't stand in front of a mirror admiring himself too often.

—The Niners don't need a "championship culture" either. They just need better players in that Petri dish. Vince Lombardi couldn't win eight games with this roster, let alone Jim Harbaugh.

—Nice Work If You Can Get It Dept.: The 49ers will pay Chip Kelly \$1.5 million per game coached if he eventually winds up collecting his full four-year, \$24 million deal, or if you care to look at this way, \$12 million per victory.

–Kelly could do better than just land on his feet, too. He could land in New England as the Patriots' offensive coordinator when McDaniels inevitably gets a head coaching job and possibly replace a retiring Bill Belichick at some point.

–Jed York is wrong when he says you can't dismiss owners. Sure, you can dismiss them. You just can't get rid of them.

49ers meet with Falcons' Shanahan, Vikings' Paton

By Matt Barrows, Sacramento Bee

SANTA CLARA -- The 49ers on Friday conducted two interviews in the Atlanta area: The first was with Vikings assistant general manager George Paton, and the second was with Falcons offensive coordinator Kyle Shanahan for San Francisco's vacant head-coach post.

Shanahan, 37, is the son of Mike Shanahan, who served as the 49ers' offensive coordinator in the early 1990s and who has been a head-coaching candidate for San Francisco in the recent hiring cycles.

The younger Shanahan has been an NFL assistant since 2004 and has been an offensive coordinator for four teams: Houston, Washington, Cleveland and, this past season, Atlanta. The Falcons, who finished first in the NFL in scoring and second in total offense in 2016, have a bye in the first round of the playoffs.

Paton, meanwhile, has been a hot GM candidate in recent years but has declined interviews with other teams. Paton has followed Rick Spielman from Chicago to Miami to Minnesota, where Spielman has worked from 2006 and been general manager since 2012.

On Saturday in Massachusetts, the 49ers will interview another offensive coordinator, the Patriots' Josh McDaniels. They also have requested permission to speak with New England's top personnel official, Nick Caserio, although it's unclear whether that interview will take place.

Shanahan also is interviewing with the Broncos, Jaguars and Rams. McDaniels will speak with the Rams and Jaguars. The 49ers are the only team currently seeking a GM.

So far the team has confirmed five interviews: Paton, Packers director of football operations Eliot Wolf and Packers director of player personnel Brian Gutekunst for general manager; and Shanahan and Bills interim coach Anthony Lynn for head coach.

The interview schedule for the next few days:

Saturday: McDaniels

Sunday: Indianapolis Colts vice president of football operations Jimmy Raye III for general manager

Monday: Washington offensive coordinator Sean McVay and Carolina defensive coordinator Sean McDermott for head coach

Tuesday: Carolina assistant general manager Brandon Beane and ESPN analyst Louis Riddick for general manager

With Josh McDaniels interviewing next, 49ers reach important point in search

By Nick Wagoner, ESPN.com

SANTA CLARA, Calif. -- The San Francisco 49ers have no set timeline for when they would like to hire a new coach and general manager. But the process of interviewing candidates continues Saturday with the team set to meet with New England Patriots offensive coordinator Josh McDaniels.

The 49ers could also be interviewing Patriots personnel executive Nick Caserio for their general manager job on Saturday. While the 49ers requested and received permission to meet with Caserio, it's unclear if he agreed to participate. Either way, this is a big day for the 49ers because many believe that the idea of creating a "Patriots West" with the New England combination is one that appeals to 49ers CEO Jed York.

We aren't quite yet at the halfway point of the search for a general manager and a coach, but the Niners have checked off a handful of boxes already. Here's a look at what has been done, what's happening and what's to come:

Interviews completed

Head coach: Buffalo Bills offensive coordinator Anthony Lynn, Atlanta Falcons offensive coordinator Kyle Shanahan

General manager: Green Bay Packers director of football operations Eliot Wolf, Packers director of player personnel Brian Gutekunst, Minnesota Vikings assistant general manager George Paton

Interviews upcoming

Head coach: McDaniels, Washington Redskins offensive coordinator Sean McVay, Carolina Panthers defensive coordinator Sean McDermott, Miami Dolphins defensive coordinator Vance Joseph, Seattle Seahawks assistant head coach Tom Cable

General manager: Caserio (possible, unconfirmed), ESPN analyst Louis Riddick, Indianapolis Colts vice president of football operations Jimmy Raye III, Seahawks co-director of player personnel Scott Fitterer, Seahawks co-director of player personnel Trent Kirchner, Panthers assistant general manager Brandon Beane

McDaniels' is the third interview of seven the 49ers have already set up for the coaching job, and another eight or so candidates have already emerged for the general manager vacancy. Those meetings are to take place over the next week-plus, and more candidates could emerge.

Here's a quick look at McDaniels' candidacy:

Experience: McDaniels played wide receiver at John Carroll University (where he played with Caserio) before getting his first coaching job as an assistant at Michigan State. From there, McDaniels jumped to the Patriots where he worked as personnel assistant, defensive assistant, quarterbacks coach and offensive coordinator from 2001-08. McDaniels then got his first head coaching job with the Denver Broncos, a position he held for less than two full seasons before he was fired. He had an 11-17 record as a head coach. McDaniels spent a season as the offensive coordinator for the St. Louis Rams before returning to New England as offensive coordinator in 2012. He has been doing that since. In his time with the Patriots, he has won four Super Bowls and five AFC titles while working under coach Bill Belichick.

Philosophy: The Patriots are known for their chameleon-like game plans in which every week brings something different. McDaniels is a big part of that, not tying himself into one overriding philosophy other than to be open to change every week. New England has long been a proponent of catering to its talent rather than the other way around. However, McDaniels has tendencies, some of which have included a balanced offense with a power running approach. At various times, McDaniels has used elements of a spread, up-tempo scheme and has also been heavy on two tight end sets with Rob Gronkowski and Aaron Hernandez. Trying to pigeonhole McDaniels would be a mistake. It's part of what makes him an intriguing candidate to get a second head coaching opportunity.

Ties to the 49ers: The Niners tried to interview McDaniels in 2011 when the Broncos let him go, but he declined and instead landed with the Rams as offensive coordinator. He then agreed to interview with the 49ers two years ago but ended up staying in New England as San Francisco promoted Jim Tomsula. For what it's worth, McDaniels is a native of Barberton, Ohio, which is about an hour away from Youngstown, Ohio, home of the York and DeBartolo families.

Competition: Like with Shanahan, there's no shortage of teams that covet McDaniels. In fact, he will have a busy Saturday as he must finish his interviews before he gets to work on preparation for New England's divisional round game. McDaniels has interviews set up with the Jacksonville Jaguars and Los Angeles Rams, in addition to the 49ers. The biggest competition of all might be the Patriots. McDaniels is in a good situation and it will take the right one to pry him away.

49ers interview Kyle Shanahan for coach, George Paton for GM

By Josh Dubow, Associated Press

SANTA CLARA, Calif. (AP) — The San Francisco 49ers interviewed Atlanta offensive coordinator Kyle Shanahan for their head coach opening and Minnesota assistant general manager George Paton for their GM vacancy.

Team CEO Jed York met with both candidates on Friday as part of his cross-country tour of interviews as he seeks to replace coach Chip Kelly and general manager Trent Baalke following a 2-14 season that tied the worst mark in franchise history.

The 49ers have announced interviews with five candidates overall, with York meeting Wednesday with Buffalo Bills interim coach Anthony Lynn about the coaching job and Thursday with Green Bay director of football operations Eliot Wolf and Packers director of player personnel Brian Gutekunst about becoming general manager.

York said he was open to hiring either the coach or general manager first.

Shanahan is the son of two-time Super Bowl winning head coach Mike Shanahan, who also won a title as offensive coordinator in San Francisco in 1994.

Kyle Shanahan's stock as a candidate has climbed as his Atlanta offense has flourished . Atlanta led the NFL in scoring, averaging 33.8 points per game, and quarterback Matt Ryan was picked as a first-team AP All-Pro on Friday.

Shanahan is eligible to interview this week during the Falcons bye but can't be hired until after Atlanta's season is finished.

Shanahan got his first NFL job as an offensive quality control coach in Tampa Bay in 2004. He also served as an offensive coordinator in Houston, Washington and Cleveland before arriving in Atlanta last season.

Paton has 20 years of NFL personnel experience and has turned down interviews for GM openings in the past but decided to meet with the 49ers. He has worked most of his career alongside Vikings general manager Rick Spielman, assisting him in Chicago, Miami and for the past 10 years in Minnesota.

York said the primary goal in the search is finding a coach and general manager who can work well together. The Niners got rid of coach Jim Harbaugh following the 2014 season in part because of conflicts with Baalke. Harbaugh led the team to its only successful stretch of the past 15 years with trips to the NFC title game in his first three seasons from 2011-13 and a Super Bowl appearance.

Jim Tomsula replaced him and was fired after a 5-11 season. York then fired both Baalke and Kelly after this past season.

The Niners became the first team in nearly four decades to fire coaches in successive seasons after only one-year tenures. The only other time that happened since the 1970 merger came when San Francisco fired Monte Clark after the 1976 season and Ken Meyer the following year. The 49ers then fired Pete McCulley midway through the 1978 season and interim coach Fred O'Connor after the year before hiring Bill Walsh to start a dynasty.