

49ers Clips – February 9, 2017

Local Media

49ers to introduce Kyle Shanahan on Thursday

By Eric Branch, San Francisco Chronicle

<http://www.sfchronicle.com/49ers/article/49ers-to-introduce-Kyle-Shanahan-on-Thursday-10919006.php>

49ers GM John Lynch: Evaluating college QBs no easy task

By Eric Branch, San Francisco Chronicle

<http://www.sfchronicle.com/49ers/article/49ers-GM-John-Lynch-Evaluating-college-QBs-no-10918896.php>

SHANAHAN SENDS MESSAGE TO 49ER FAITHFUL: 'BE PATIENT WITH US'

By Matt Maiocco, CSNBayArea.com

<http://www.csnbayarea.com/49ers/shanahan-sends-message-49er-faithful-be-patient-us>

John Lynch: 49ers will look at 'every scenario' to find QB solutions

By Nick Wagoner, ESPN.com

http://www.espn.com/blog/san-francisco-49ers/post/_/id/23303/john-lynch-49ers-will-look-at-every-scenario-to-find-qb-solutions

Jeremiah mock draft 2.0: Bills, Giants grab QBs in Round 1

By Daniel Jeremiah, NFL.com

<http://www.nfl.com/news/story/0ap3000000784593/article/jeremiah-mock-draft-20-bills-giants-grab-qbs-in-round-1>

SN source: 49ers to hire Jeff Zgonina as defensive line coach

By Alex Marvez, Sporting News

<http://www.sportingnews.com/nfl/news/49ers-defensive-line-coach-jeff-zgonina-career-giants-san-francisco/sxqw5oc2qpy01n96d0477ruav>

National Media

Sean McVay announces coaching staff: Can it make the Rams playoff contenders?

By Gary Klein, Los Angeles Times

<http://www.latimes.com/sports/rams/la-sp-rams-coaching-staff-20170208-story.html>

Giants re-sign Steve Spagnuolo after defense rebounds in '16

By Jordan Raanan, ESPN.com

http://www.espn.com/nfl/story/_/id/18647198/new-york-giants-re-sign-defensive-coordinator-steve-spagnuolo

Eagles release cornerback Leodis McKelvin

By Zach Berman, Philadelphia Inquirer

<http://www.philly.com/philly/blogs/sports/eagles/Eagles-release-cornerback-Leodis-McKelvin.html>

Cordarrelle Patterson: Stop fooling around with kickoff rules

By Andrew Krammer, Minneapolis Star Tribune

<http://www.startribune.com/touchback-change-did-little-for-touchbacks-but-it-further-limited-vikings-return-edge/413163163/>

Falcons promote Keith Carter to running backs coach

By Michael Cunningham, Atlanta Journal Constitution

<http://www.ajc.com/sports/football/falcons-promote-keith-carter-running-backs-coach/En057JpNPtAcXSn4NNsGAN/>

Local Clips – Full Version

49ers to introduce Kyle Shanahan on Thursday

By Eric Branch, San Francisco Chronicle

Since Sunday night, Kyle Shanahan has been widely criticized for his role in the biggest meltdown in Super Bowl history.

The silver lining: It has provided timely training for the job the Falcons' offensive coordinator accepted the day after Atlanta's 25-point, second-half lead evaporated in an overtime loss to the Patriots.

Shanahan's aggressive play-calling has made him the target of the media's slings and arrows this week. And he might need to continue ducking as the 49ers' head coach.

Given the scope of the rebuilding project he has inherited, Shanahan will be given a grace period. But criticism and second-guessing will be inevitable: He's a rookie head coach, who is expected to have significant personnel control and, as NFL Network reported Wednesday, will serve as his own offensive coordinator.

In other words, with the exception of defensive failings, Shanahan will have his fingerprints on the inevitable stumbles as his new team attempts to crawl out of last season's 2-14 abyss.

Shanahan, 37, the NFL's second-youngest head coach, isn't known to lack confidence. And the news conference Thursday to introduce him and general manager John Lynch could be revealing on the heels of Sunday's loss.

Such affairs are typically big on honeymoon-period hot air and short on substance. But how Shanahan answers a few what-were-you-thinking Super Bowl questions could provide insight into his maturity, the size of his ego and the thickness of his skin.

Those are relevant personality traits for a head coach. Shanahan's ability to handle scrutiny or lead an NFL team is unknown.

The 49ers hope Shanahan's people skills are on par with his widely hailed play-calling, the fourth quarter of the Super Bowl notwithstanding. And Falcons owner Arthur Blank recently said Shanahan made strides in the former area during his second season in Atlanta in 2016.

"I think Kyle has focused hard on being inclusive this year (with) the other players and coaches," Blank said to ESPN. "He's focused on that. He's focused on being a good listener and trying to understand where they were coming from. Kyle is a brilliant offensive mind and a great play-caller.

"Part of being good at any position of leadership in life is being a good listener and understanding where other people are coming from. That just makes you better. I think he got better this year in that regard. And I think he and (quarterback) Matt (Ryan) were more on the same page this year than they've been in the past."

Shanahan inexperience in his current role could partly explain why New England offensive coordinator Josh McDaniels was the 49ers' top candidate before he withdrew from consideration. Of their seven candidates, only McDaniels and Seattle offensive line coach Tom Cable had previous NFL head-coaching experience.

For his part, McDaniels, 40, has admitted his people skills and immaturity were part of his undoing during his 11-17 tenure with the Broncos, which ended with his dismissal in 2010.

On Sunday night, McDaniels celebrated as Shanahan absorbed a crushing loss pinned partly on his play-calling.

Now, before he can completely move on, Shanahan probably will have to rehash his role in the defeat Thursday.

His answers could provide clues as to how he'll handle the adversity ahead.

New RBs coach: Atlanta running backs coach Bobby Turner, 67, is expected to have the same role with the 49ers, NFL.com reported. Turner has served as an NFL running backs coach the past 22 seasons with Denver (1995-2009), Washington (2010-14) and Atlanta (2015-16).

The 49ers want to retain running backs coach Tom Rathman on their staff in some capacity. Rathman has been the 49ers' running backs coach since 2009, serving under four head coaches. Rathman was a fullback for the first two seasons of Mike Shanahan's three-year tenure as the 49ers' offensive coordinator from 1992 through '94.

49ers GM John Lynch: Evaluating college QBs no easy task

By Eric Branch, San Francisco Chronicle

The 49ers could very well use a high-end draft pick on a quarterback this spring, but that won't necessarily mean they'll expect him to immediately start in 2017.

On Tuesday, general manager John Lynch noted the increasingly steep learning curve college quarterbacks face when they arrived at the next level. That's because of the proliferation of spread offenses that don't have huddles, direct snaps from center or the complexity of pro-style systems.

In discussing the trend on KNBR, Lynch mentioned two rookie quarterbacks: Denver's Paxton Lynch, a first-round pick, and Dallas' Dak Prescott, a fourth-rounder.

Both played in spread offenses in college, which made them hard to evaluate.

Prescott, however, was a first-year sensation, while Lynch backed up Trevor Siemian.

Given both quarterbacks' college background, John Lynch suggested the Cowboys guessed right.

Here's what Lynch said about the difficulty of evaluating college quarterbacks:

"I think a perfect example is a guy like Dak Prescott. Why did he get drafted in the fourth round? Because no one saw him do the things that he would need to do in the NFL to be successful. The Dallas Cowboys -- they can say, 'Hey, we saw something.' Well, you drafted him in the fourth round. Why did you wait until then?

"We've been looking at (college) quarterbacks all day ... Paxton Lynch, a guy on the Broncos, is an immensely talented kid. And I was out at their training camp a lot last year. Every time they went into a two-minute drill and it became street ball, he scored. Put him in a huddle and he had to turn and look to his coach for help because he had never called a play. He had looked to the sideline, they had held up cards. And you get into Kyle Shanahan's system -- you've got 15-word plays. The coach is in your ear, but you still have to replicate that with confidence, with authority.

"And so it's a big challenge for this entire league. It extends deeper to just the quarterback position. But at that position, in particular, that's a challenge. I think what you have to keep in mind, if you get a guy like that - Paxton Lynch, I think, is going to be just fine - but you maybe should have known that Year 1, it's going to be a developmental year. You have to keep that in mind. It's just the reality.

"These guys are playing a different style of football. I don't think it's great for the game. But it's the reality because it's all over high school and college football. So that's going to be a challenge moving forward."

SHANAHAN SENDS MESSAGE TO 49ER FAITHFUL: 'BE PATIENT WITH US'

By Matt Maiocco, CSNBayArea.com

Shortly after arriving in the South Bay with a six-year contract as the 49ers' new head coach, Kyle Shanahan asked the team's fan base for patience in what figures to be a dramatic rebuilding project.

Shanahan and general manager John Lynch both signed six-year contracts to replace Chip Kelly and Trent Baalke, whose firings were announced immediately after the 49ers' 2-14 season.

"Give us some time, be patient with us," Shanahan said in a brief video posted on the 49ers' Twitter account. "I promise you guys we're going to work as hard as anyone and do things the right way with good people, high character guys. It's going to be a lot of work, tough work, but I promise you guys it'll be worth it. And we'll do this right way and make you guys proud and will not let you guys down. (I) look forward to talking to you all."

Shanahan and his wife, Mandy, arrived in the Bay Area on Wednesday via a private plane from Atlanta. Shanahan, Lynch and 49ers CEO Jed York are scheduled to appear at a press conference at Levi's Stadium on Thursday at 1 p.m.

New GM John Lynch issued the following statement in a Twitter video: "Hey Faithful, it's your new general manager John Lynch. I wanted to say hello and I can't wait for this season to get going, but we've got a lot of work to do before that," said Lynch. "Kyle and I are so excited for this opportunity."

"As I've said to many other people, we're not gonna promise a whole lot other than the fact that we will work tirelessly to get this team back on top where it belongs. It's a proud organization; we're striving for that, we're gonna do it right and we're gonna make you proud with the type of guys we bring to this team as well.

"Faithful, we can't wait to see ya in 2017 and we're gonna go off to work until then and appreciate the warm, warm welcome that everyone's been giving us."

John Lynch: 49ers will look at 'every scenario' to find QB solutions

By Nick Wagoner, ESPN.com

SANTA CLARA, Calif. -- On Wednesday, we took a closer look at some of the possibilities the San Francisco 49ers will have to consider as they seek both short- and long-term solutions at quarterback.

What's missing from that discussion (and still is, really) is what exactly new coach Kyle Shanahan wants in his franchise signal-caller. Shanahan will turn his attention to evaluating quarterbacks, especially the college kind, here soon enough. But in the meantime, new general manager John Lynch joined KNBR radio this week and offered some insight into how the process will work.

Lynch made it clear he knows how important getting the right quarterback is for the team's rebuilding efforts.

"That's a big question," Lynch said. "When I played, I had to play against those guys, and so I don't know if I ever, in my mind I think I knew but I couldn't really admit it to myself because it would only be surrender. Because when you go against a great one, you're helpless. So I'll tell you, that changed when I

went up in the broadcast booth and you start just seeing the effect these guys have on football teams. I think there was a stat that I saw recently, where on the AFC side, 14 of the last 16 Super Bowls have been [Tom] Brady, [Peyton] Manning, then Ben Roethlisberger had a couple in there. And so, that just speaks to how important that position is."

The importance of quarterback productivity is something that certainly isn't lost on the 49ers or their fans. Over the past three seasons, Niners quarterbacks have combined to rank 31st in the NFL in passing yards per game, 24th in completion percentage and passer rating, 26th in yards per attempt (6.45) and 23rd in QBR. The presence of Colin Kaepernick and Blaine Gabbert has offset that to some degree because of their running ability, but the fact remains that the Niners have consistently owned one of the least dynamic passing attacks in the league.

In hiring Shanahan, the Niners undoubtedly hope that is about to change. Shanahan has spent nine years as an NFL offensive coordinator, with stops in Houston, Cleveland, Washington and Atlanta. In six of those nine seasons, Shanahan has called plays for an offense that finished in the top nine in the league in yards per game.

Shanahan's finest work came this season when Atlanta led the league in points scored (540) and yards per play (6.7) and was second in yards per game (415.8). That performance earned Shanahan the Assistant Coach of the Year award, and quarterback Matt Ryan claimed MVP honors.

Ryan isn't the only quarterback Shanahan has had success with, either. He's helped journeymen like Brian Hoyer as well as high draft picks like Robert Griffin III have their best NFL seasons.

The key now is for Shanahan and Lynch to get on the same page so the personnel department knows what Shanahan is looking for when evaluating the position.

"The answer for us is that Kyle and I are going to get together, and we've already discussed it, but we're gonna get together and find out exactly what he's looking for in a quarterback," Lynch told KNBR. "And then we're gonna evaluate the guys we have, we're gonna evaluate the draft, and we're going to look hard at free agency, trades, whatever we need to do to get a guy. And it may not be this year. It may be that we draft and develop. We're looking at every scenario, but we're both big believers, and I don't think this is anything revolutionary, everyone knows how important that position is; but we certainly place a huge emphasis on it and we're gonna work hard to get that right."

One thing that will be of utmost importance is a quarterback with the mental acumen to handle Shanahan's offense. It's a complicated scheme with lengthy verbiage that could easily overwhelm a quarterback without the mental wherewithal to comprehend it.

"You get in Kyle Shanahan's system and you've got 15-word plays," Lynch said. "And the coach is in your ear but you still have to replicate that with confidence and authority. And so it's a big challenge for this entire league. I think it extends deeper than just the quarterback position, but at that position in particular, that's a challenge."

Which is why it's very likely that even if the 49ers select a quarterback early in the NFL draft, they'll bring in a veteran who can help him along and even provide a buffer before he'd have to play. Lynch even floated the idea that the Niners' search for a franchise quarterback could last beyond this offseason.

"It's just the reality, these [college] guys are playing a different style of football," Lynch said. "I don't think it's great for the game, but it's the reality, because it's all over college and high school football. So that's gonna be a challenge moving forward."

Jeremiah mock draft 2.0: Bills, Giants grab QBs in Round 1

By Daniel Jeremiah, NFL.com

RANK 2

49ERS

Marshon Lattimore - CB, Ohio State: The 49ers could address the QB position with this pick but Lattimore carries a much higher grade than any of the signal-callers in this draft class.

SN source: 49ers to hire Jeff Zgonina as defensive line coach

By Alex Marvez, Sporting News

The 49ers have a new defensive line coach.

Sporting News has learned that Jeff Zgonina will be leaving his post as the Giants' assistant defensive line coach to join Kyle Shanahan's staff.

Zgonina, 46, played 17 NFL seasons as a defensive lineman with seven different teams. He served as Houston's assistant defensive line coach in 2013.

While out of the NFL, Zgonina became known for participating in dog shows with his Neapolitan mastiff Nook. Video from the Wall Street Journal can be found [here](#).

As first reported by Sporting News, the 49ers are trying to hire Robert Saleh and Jerome Henderson as co-defensive coordinators. After being fired in Jacksonville, Saleh was set to become San Diego's linebackers coach before a better opportunity became available in San Francisco.

Henderson is the defensive passing game coordinator in Atlanta, where Shanahan was offensive coordinator before signing a six-year deal Monday with the 49ers.