49ers Clips - January 5, 2017

Local Media

Sean McVay is 49ers' most intriguing head-coach candidate

By Eric Branch, San Francisco Chronicle

http://www.sfchronicle.com/49ers/article/49ers-most-intriguing-HC-candidate-Sean-McVay-10835854.php

49ERS COMPLETE INTERVIEW WITH HEAD COACH CANDIDATE ANTHONY LYNN

By Matt Maiocco, CSNBayArea.com

http://www.csnbayarea.com/49ers/49ers-complete-interview-head-coach-candidate-anthony-lynn

49ers coaching staff free to explore opportunities

By Nick Wagoner, ESPN.com

http://www.espn.com/blog/san-francisco-49ers/post/_/id/22630/49ers-coaching-staff-free-to-explore-opportunities

49ers have some advantages in search for general manager

By Nick Wagoner, ESPN.com

http://www.espn.com/blog/san-francisco-49ers/post/_/id/22619/49ers-have-some-advantages-in-search-for-general-manager

Mel Kiper's 2016 All-Rookie team

By Mel Kiper Jr., ESPN.com

http://www.espn.com/nfl/insider/story/_/id/18395531/mel-kiper-nfl-2016-all-rookie-team-dak-prescott-dallas-cowboys-joey-bosa-san-diego-chargers-rookies-year

49ers interviewing a pair of Packers for G.M. opening today

By Darin Gantt, ProFootballTalk.com

http://profootballtalk.nbcsports.com/2017/01/05/49ers-interviewing-a-pair-of-packers-for-g-m-opening-today/

49ers interview Anthony Lynn for coaching job

By Josh Dubow, Associated Press http://pro32.ap.org/node/702389

National Media

Seahawks' Doug Baldwin says records are nice but championships are all it's about

By Bob Condotta, The Seattle Times

 $\underline{\text{http://www.seattletimes.com/sports/seahawks/seahawks-doug-baldwin-says-records-are-nice-but-championships-are-all-its-about/}$

Rams will interview two more coaching candidates Thursday

By Gary Klein, Los Angeles Times

http://www.latimes.com/sports/rams/la-sp-rams-coach-search-20170104-story.html

Calais Campbell puts up highly-rated season just in time

By Josh Weinfuss, ESPN.com

http://www.espn.com/blog/arizona-cardinals/post/_/id/24297/calais-campbell-puts-up-highly-rated-season-just-in-time

Bill O'Brien, Brock Osweiler downplay heated exchange

By Aaron Wilson, Houston Chronicle

http://www.chron.com/sports/texans/article/Bill-O-Brien-Brock-Osweiler-downplay-heated-10835536.php

The Dolphins can win with Matt Moore — if everything else goes right

By Greg Cote, Miami Herald

http://www.miamiherald.com/sports/spt-columns-blogs/greg-cote/article124621689.html

A family affair: Kyle Shanahan could follow father's footsteps to Broncos

By Nicki Jhabvala, Denver Post

http://www.denverpost.com/2017/01/04/kyle-shanahan-denver-broncos-head-coaching-candidate/

Local Clips - Full Version

Sean McVay is 49ers' most intriguing head-coach candidate

By Eric Branch, San Francisco Chronicle

It's too early to determine a favorite to be the 49ers' next head coach, but there's no question about their most intriguing candidate.

He's younger than five players on their roster and has a close connection to the moribund franchise's good-old days.

He's Washington offensive coordinator Sean McVay, 30, the youngest coordinator in the NFL. He is the grandson of former executive John McVay. Sean McVay will interview with the 49ers on Monday in New York, exactly a week after CEO Jed York invoked McVay's grandfather at a news conference that followed a 2-14 season.

The 49ers also went 2-14 in 1978, and hired Bill Walsh, who hired McVay as the director of player personnel. It was the start of McVay's 21-season tenure, which included each of the 49ers' five Super Bowl titles and led to his induction into the team's Hall of Fame in 2013.

"You need to make sure that the right personalities are there," York said. "We go back to Bill Walsh. Bill Walsh hired John McVay and they worked together and they were a team."

The 49ers, of course, are seeking a head coach and general manager after the awkward arranged marriage between Chip Kelly and Trent Baalke dissolved after less than a calendar year.

The question: Thirty-seven years after his grandfather was part of dramatic about-face, is Sean McVay the head coach to hire as York tries to locate another turnaround tandem?

At first blush, McVay's age would seem to be a disqualifier.

After whiffing on back-to-back coaches, can York really hand over the rebuilding project to someone 11 years younger than kicker Phil Dawson?

McVay, who will turn 31 on Jan. 24, would be the youngest head coach in the NFL's modern era, eight months younger than Lane Kiffin was when he joined the Raiders in 2007. Kiffin's two-season tenure was a failure, and the subsequent hirings of 32-year-olds Raheem Morris (Tampa Bay, 2009) and Josh McDaniels (Denver, 2009) also ended poorly.

Still, NFL history also includes plenty of coaches who weren't much older than McVay when they started Super Bowl-winning careers: John Madden (32), Don Shula (33), Jon Gruden (34), Bill Cowher (34) and Mike Tomlin (34).

McVay's name might have helped get him in the NFL door, but he has risen through the ranks on merit.

In 2008, McVay was hired by Gruden, a family friend, as the Buccaneers' assistant wide receivers coach. McVay has spent the past seven seasons with Washington, ascending from assistant tight ends coach (2010), to tight ends coach (2011-13), to offensive coordinator when he was 28 in 2014.

If he's hired by the 49ers, McVay would bring a deep appreciation for the franchise's storied past.

Growing up in Atlanta, he played catch with Steve Young and Jerry Rice when the 49ers made their thenannual trip there, it was noted in a Sports Illustrated feature in August.

The story also described McVay studying, again, the 49ers' final drive in the 1981 NFC title game.

"People think it's Joe Montana winning this game," McVay said. "No, sir. It's this (run) '18-19 Bob!' Look at all these extra bodies in the backfield. Here's '18-19 Bob' again."

The game was played Jan. 10, 1982, four years before McVay was born, but, indeed, the 49ers' 13-play, 89-yard drive that culminated in The Catch included 45 rushing yards and just five completions.

Say this: The kid coach seems to know his stuff.

Interviews: The 49ers conducted their first head-coaching interview with Buffalo interim head coach Anthony Lynn on Wednesday. They are scheduled to interview GM candidates Eliot Wolf and Brian Gutekunst, both Packers executives, in Green Bay on Thursday.

49ERS COMPLETE INTERVIEW WITH HEAD COACH CANDIDATE ANTHONY LYNN

By Matt Maiocco, CSNBayArea.com

Anthony Lynn on Wednesday became the first individual to interview for the 49ers' head-coaching job for the second year in a row.

Lynn, 48, completed his interview with the 49ers on Wednesday afternoon, the club confirmed. Lynn finished the season as the Buffalo Bills' interim head coach after the firing of Rex Ryan.

CEO Jed York and Paraag Marathe, the 49ers' chief strategy officer and executive vice president of football operations, are conducting the interviews as the process begins to find a head coach and general manager.

Lynn played for the 49ers in 1995 and '96. He saw action in all 16 games in his final season with the 49ers, mostly on special teams. He gained 164 yards on 24 rushing attempts. He finished his playing career with the Denver Broncos from 1997 to '99, and was on two Super Bowl-winning teams.

Lynn was hired to join Ryan's staff with the Bills after spending his previous six years with the New York Jets as running backs coach. The title of assistant head coach was added in 2013.

He also spent time as running backs coach with Cleveland (2007-08), Dallas (2005-06) and Jacksonville (2003-04).

After the 49ers hired Chip Kelly last year, Kelly also interviewed Lynn for the position as offensive coordinator. Kelly hired Curtis Modkins for the position.

Lynn returned to Ryan's staff as assistant head coach/running backs. He was promoted to offensive coordinator early in the season after Greg Roman was fired. Lynn finished the season as interim head coach after Ryan's firing.

He is also believed to be a strong candidate to become the permanent head coach of the Bills. The Los Angeles Rams and Jacksonville Jaguars are reportedly interested in interviewing him for their openings, too.

49ers interviews

Wednesday: Buffalo interim head coach Anthony Lynn (coach)

Thursday: Green Bay director of player personnel Brian Gutekunst (GM); Green Bay director of football operations Eliot Wolf (GM)

Friday: Minnesota assistant general manager George Paton (GM); Atlanta offensive coordinator Kyle Shanahan (coach)

Saturday: New England offensive coordinator Josh McDaniels (coach); New England director of player

personnel Nick Caserio (GM) Monday: Sean McVay (coach)

TBA: Miami defensive coordinator Vance Joseph (coach); ESPN analyst Louis Riddick (GM); Indianapolis vice president of football operations Jimmy Raye III (GM)

49ers coaching staff free to explore opportunities

By Nick Wagoner, ESPN.com

SANTA CLARA, Calif. -- Technically, the staffs left behind by fired San Francisco 49ers coach Chip Kelly and general manager Trent Baalke are still employed. But that isn't likely to be a permanent condition, which is why CEO Jed York let it be known earlier this week that those coaches are free to seek other jobs.

"Nobody else has been let go," York said. "I talked to the coaches. I talked to as many of the scouts, certainly, that are internal. Obviously, we have some scouts that are on the road that aren't in the building. I talked to football operations staff and I let them know that the new general manager and the new head coach are going to make the final decisions on who's here and who's not. Those folks are all under contract. They are going to have the ability to go somewhere else and there's no tampering charges, they are free to talk to anybody else."

Some of those coaches have already begun the process of moving on. Quarterbacks coach Ryan Day landed the same job at Ohio State after spending the past two seasons with Kelly in the NFL. To this point, none of the others have landed new opportunities yet, though that's to be expected as jobs become open when other teams begin filling their head coaching vacancies.

Many times, some of those assistant jobs aren't filled until the Senior Bowl later this month. With most of the NFL world in one spot, the Senior Bowl's secondary function is to serve as a de facto job fair for coaches in need of jobs.

When the Niners do hire a new head coach, some of the current staff could at least get an opportunity to interview or be considered for current jobs. Someone like running backs coach Tom Rathman, a longtime 49er who has worked for the organization under multiple coaches since 2009.

York said he wanted to make sure the departing assistants had the chance to go elsewhere without worry.

"I want to make sure that their families are taken care of and whether they are here or whether they are somewhere else I wish them the best and I respect everything that they've done," York said. "It's not an easy time. Those are the people that on a day like this are forgotten. We talk about the general manager, we talk about the head coach, but we don't talk about the guys that are really in the trenches and I want to make sure that we do everything that we can to take care of them whether they are here or whether they're not going forward."

49ers have some advantages in search for general manager

By Nick Wagoner, ESPN.com

SANTA CLARA, Calif. -- While the San Francisco 49ers' search for a new head coach could potentially be difficult because of a barren roster and the franchise's recent history of making quick changes, they actually could be well-positioned to land a strong general manager.

Undoubtedly, the task in front of any general manager and head coach is a daunting one. The Niners just went 2-14, with those 14 losses tied for the most in franchise history. Along the way, they set franchise records for futility in points allowed, yards allowed and rushing yards allowed. They saw nobody selected to the Pro Bowl, and it's entirely possible they will need an all new group of quarterbacks this offseason.

From the outside, one might look at that and think it's best to run as far away from the situation as possible. But that's not how personnel types think. Where one sees a mess, another sees a blank canvas with plenty of paint to create whatever he wants.

"When you're starting with a clean slate and have two guys that are coming in to work together, two guys who will be fighting for each other and building what they see is necessary to get the 49ers back to where we need to be -- that's what we're trying to put together," 49ers CEO Jed York said. "We're going to have the opportunity with a lot of draft picks, we're going to have the opportunity with a lot of salary-cap room. There are some pieces here. I don't think there are enough pieces here, but there are some pieces we can build with."

Understandably, York is going to make the best case he can for why his jobs are appealing. That doesn't mean he's wrong, though, particularly when it comes to his GM vacancy.

Here's a look at what the Niners have working for them as they begin working through a candidate list that includes Green Bay executives Eliot Wolf and Brian Gutekunst, Minnesota assistant general manager George Paton, New England director of player personnel Nick Caserio, Indianapolis vice president of football operations Jimmy Raye III, ESPN front-office insider Louis Riddick and Seattle executives Trent Kirchner and Scott Fitterer:

- 1. It's the only job available: As it stands, there are six head-coaching jobs available but only the Niners have an opening for a new general manager. It's an unusual twist, as teams generally try to pair a new coach and general manager when starting over. One could argue the Niners' biggest mistake of the past couple years (aside from the Jim Harbaugh debacle) was not blowing it all up sooner and instead trying to force a shotgun marriage between Trent Baalke and Chip Kelly. The Niners will learn a lot about how many around the league view them in the coming weeks. They should have their pick of candidates, but that doesn't guarantee those candidates will view the job as good enough to leave their current situations. Still, it's a good thing for the Niners that there won't be competition from other franchises for the top personnel types.
- 2. There's an abundance of cap space: York confirmed Monday that the 49ers will roll over the nearly \$40 million in salary-cap space they had left over this season into next. Depending on where the salary-cap number comes in and which free agents of their own the Niners bring back, a new general manager could have upward of \$80 million to spend on the open market.
- 3. They have the No. 2 pick in the NFL draft: It's not as appealing as the No. 1 pick, but clearly it's the next-best thing. The Niners have enough needs that they could simply draft the best player available or look to make a deal to add more picks. As it stands, the Niners have 10 picks in the draft but could land more via the compensatory process. It's a solid set of selections to begin the rebuild needed in San Francisco.
- 4. General managers have been given time: Yes, the Niners are now searching for their fourth coach in four years, but York was plenty patient with Baalke. In fact, many would argue that he was too patient and should have moved on sooner. Baalke got six years in charge and was able to hire three head coaches, more than most GMs get. Before Baalke, Scot McCloughan got four years in charge and probably would have had more were it not for the personal issues that forced the sides to part ways. Since York became team president in 2008, the Niners have had only those two as general managers while employing five head coaches. York indicated Monday that the new general manager and coach will get a "very long leash" to make decisions. Coaches haven't had that in San Francisco recently, but the same can't be said of general managers.

5. A chance to execute a vision: The Niners haven't committed to hiring a general manager then a coach or vice versa, but either way, York made it clear that the new duo in charge must be familiar with each other and have a good rapport. Assuming that's the case, any GM hire will presumably have a vision for how he wants to build a team that he shares with a head coach. Since the Niners are a team without much direction, the opportunity to lay down a plan and see it through is an enticing one for any candidate. It doesn't hurt that for as much dysfunction as the Niners have had recently, this is still one of the NFL's premier historical franchises.

Mel Kiper's 2016 All-Rookie team

By Mel Kiper Jr., ESPN.com

Defensive end

Joey Bosa, San Diego Chargers DeForest Buckner, San Francisco 49ers Yannick Ngakoue, Jacksonville Jaguars

I'm going to cheat a little here and go with three defensive ends and only one defensive tackle. You already know about Bosa. He's a machine. Buckner played almost 1,000 snaps for the 49ers and was one of their most consistent defenders. He had six sacks and 73 tackles. Ngakoue was a little up and down but finished with eight sacks and an interception.

49ers interviewing a pair of Packers for G.M. opening today

By Darin Gantt, ProFootballTalk.com

The Giants aren't the only team rolling into Green Bay this week with a lot on the line.

According to Ian Rapoport of the NFL Network, 49ers officials will be in Wisconsin today to interview Packers executives Eliot Wolf and Brian Gutekunst for their vacant General Manager job.

They're also scheduled to meet with Vikings personnel man George Paton on Friday, making a quick lap through the NFC North as they conduct coach and G.M. searches simultaneously.

Wolf, the son of Hall of Fame G.M. Ron Wolf, has been viewed by some as a possible or eventual replacement for Packers G.M. Ted Thompson. He came through the pro personnel ranks and is now Green Bay's director of football operations, while Gutekunst was promoted to director of player personnel after rising through the college scouting ranks.

49ers interview Anthony Lynn for coaching job

By Josh Dubow, Associated Press

SANTA CLARA, Calif. (AP) — The San Francisco 49ers interviewed Buffalo Bills interim coach Anthony Lynn on Wednesday for their head coach opening.

Lynn is the first candidate to interview with the Niners as they begin the process of finding the replacement for Chip Kelly, who was fired after one season on Sunday. San Francisco also fired general manager Trent Baalke and is looking to fill that spot as well.

CEO Jed York said earlier in the week that he was open to hiring the head coach or the general manager first and that the key issue was finding two people who can work closely together in those roles.

Lynn is also considered the front-runner for the job in Buffalo. A person with direct knowledge of the Bills coaching search told The Associated Press that the team is scheduled to interview Lynn on Thursday. The person spoke to the AP on Wednesday on the condition of anonymity because the team has not revealed its interview schedule. The Bills do announce who they're interviewing once the meeting is taking place.

On Wednesday, the Bills said Carolina Panthers defensive coordinator Sean McDermott was the first to interview for the job.

Lynn was promoted to interim coach last week after Rex Ryan was fired, and he coached the Bills in a 30-10 season-ending loss at the New York Jets. He began the season as Buffalo's running backs coach before being elevated to offensive coordinator in September when Greg Roman was fired after an 0-2 start.

Bills owner Terry Pegula told the AP on Monday that Lynn was a candidate for the job but not "a lock."

Lynn oversaw an offense that led the NFL in yards rushing for a second consecutive season.

Lynn split a six-year NFL career between Denver and San Francisco in the 1990s, and then broke into the coaching ranks in 2000 as a Broncos offensive and special teams assistant. Lynn then served as running backs coach in Jacksonville, Dallas and Cleveland before being hired to Ryan's staff with the New York Jets in 2009.

Lynn previously interviewed for both the head coaching and offensive coordinator jobs in San Francisco last offseason.

San Francisco has had three coaches in the past three seasons, having let go of Jim Harbaugh following an 8-8 record in 2014 and then firing Jim Tomsula after a 5-11 season and Kelly after the team matched the worst record in franchise history at 2-14.

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.

The 49ers have also been linked to New England offensive coordinator Josh McDaniels, Atlanta offensive coordinator Kyle Shanahan, Washington offensive coordinator Sean McVay, Miami defensive coordinator Vance Joseph and McDermott as possible head coach candidates.