

49ers Clips – January 10, 2017

Local Media

***San Francisco 49ers Free Agents in 2017***

By Taylor Price, 49ers.com

<http://www.49ers.com/news/article-2/San-Francisco-49ers-Free-Agents-in-2017/50f498fd-e77d-4e39-84ae-b36ec19ba57f>

***Candid candidate: 49ers' GM hopeful Riddick's opinions are out in the open***

By Matt Barrows, Sacramento Bee

<http://www.sacbee.com/sports/nfl/san-francisco-49ers/article125599239.html>

***49ers aim to avoid past mistakes in latest search***

By Nick Wagoner, ESPN.com

[http://www.espn.com/blog/san-francisco-49ers/post/\\_/id/22721/49ers-aim-to-avoid-past-mistakes-in-latest-search](http://www.espn.com/blog/san-francisco-49ers/post/_/id/22721/49ers-aim-to-avoid-past-mistakes-in-latest-search)

***Jaguars Keep Marrone, and Keep Believing in Bortles***

By Albert Breer, MMQB.com

<http://mmqb.si.com/mmqb/2017/01/10/nfl-doug-marrone-jaguars-coaching-carousel-blake-bortles-tom-coughlin>

***49ers interview Sean McVay for coach, Brandon Beane for GM***

By Josh Dubow, Associated Press

<http://pro32.ap.org/article/49ers-interview-sean-mcvay-coach-brandon-beane-gm>

National Media

***Seahawks tackle Garry Gilliam thinking less and playing better***

By Bob Condotta, The Seattle Times

<http://www.seattletimes.com/sports/seahawks/seahawks-tackle-garry-gilliam-thinking-less-and-playing-better/>

***Rams' coach search continues, minus one candidate; more interviews scheduled this week***

By Gary Klein, Los Angeles Times

<http://www.latimes.com/sports/rams/la-sp-rams-coach-search-20170109-story.html>

***Jermaine Gresham decision looming for Cardinals***

By Kent Somers, The Arizona Republic

<http://www.azcentral.com/story/sports/nfl/cardinals/2017/01/09/jermaine-gresham-decision-looming-cardinals/96362596/>

***Giants' GM Jerry Reese to Odell Beckham: It's time to grow up***

By Dan Duggan, Newark Star-Ledger

[http://www.nj.com/giants/index.ssf/2017/01/giants\\_gm\\_jerry\\_reese\\_on\\_odell\\_beckham.html#incart\\_river\\_index](http://www.nj.com/giants/index.ssf/2017/01/giants_gm_jerry_reese_on_odell_beckham.html#incart_river_index)

***Source: Nelson has multiple broken ribs***

By Ryan Wood, Green Bay Press-Gazette

<http://www.jsonline.com/story/sports/nfl/packers/2017/01/09/nelson-wont-play-if-he-cant-practice-saturday/96363334/>

***Chiefs' Justin Houston, Spencer Ware expected to play Sunday***

By Terez Paylor, Kansas City Star

<http://www.kansascity.com/sports/nfl/kansas-city-chiefs/article125442394.html>

## Local Clips – Full Version

### ***San Francisco 49ers Free Agents in 2017***

By Taylor Price, 49ers.com

The San Francisco 49ers will have 20 free agents in a couple of months. Seventeen of those free agents are unrestricted, while three are classified as restricted free agents.

A couple of things to know before free agency takes place:

-- Unrestricted free agents can negotiate exclusively with the San Francisco until the new league year begins on March 9.

-- Restricted free agents could be tendered a contract. If so, the 49ers would have the right of first refusal to match any offers they may receive.

-- Teams have until 1 p.m. PT on March 1 to designate franchise or transition tags for their free agents.

-- The new league year also begins with the start of NFL free agency, which officially opens on March 9 at 1 p.m. PT. Unrestricted free agents will have a two-day negotiating period on March 7 at 12:59 p.m. PT to enter contract talks. New deals cannot be executed until the start of free agency.

Let's take a look at the 17 aforementioned unrestricted free agents on San Francisco's roster in alphabetical order:

LB Nick Bellore

Started 10 games at linebacker in place of NaVorro Bowman, recorded 82 tackles, one interception and one fumble recovery.

K Phil Dawson

Made 30-of-31 extra-point attempts and was 18-of-21 on field goals with a season-long of 53 yards.

NT Glenn Dorsey

Started six games after suffering a torn ACL late in the 2015 season, recorded 36 tackles and one sack.

RB Shaun Draughn

Appeared in 14 games. Rushed 74 times for 196 yards with four touchdowns on the ground. Caught 29 passes for 263 receiving yards with two touchdown receptions.

TE Jim Dray

Signed with the 49ers on Dec. 19, 2016. Appeared in two games.

QB Blaine Gabbert

Started five games in 2016. Completed 91-of-160 pass attempts for 925 yards with five touchdown passes and six interceptions. Rushes 40 times for 173 yards with two touchdowns.

G Andrew Gardner

Signed on Dec. 21, 2016. Started at left guard in the 2017 season finale.

LB Gerald Hodges

Made 11 starts at inside linebacker. Recorded 92 tackles, three sacks, two interceptions, one forced fumble and one fumble recovery.

DT Tony Jerod-Eddie

Appeared in nine games. Recorded seven tackles.

DT Chris Jones

Claimed off waivers on Nov. 8, 2016. Appeared in five games. Recorded 27 tackles in five starts.

WR Jeremy Kerley

Acquired via trade on Aug. 29, 2016. Started 13 games and led the 49ers with 64 receptions and 667 receiving yards. Added three touchdown catches. Averaged 7.6 yards on 21 punt returns with a long of 26 yards.

QB Thad Lewis

Placed on Injured Reserve on Aug. 16, 2016 after sustaining a knee injury in the preseason.

WR Quinton Patton

Placed on Injured Reserve on Dec. 20, 2016. Produced career highs with 37 catches and 308 receiving yards.

QB Christian Ponder

Signed on Aug. 16, 2016. Did not appear in a regular season contest.

WR Rod Streater

Acquired via trade on Sept. 3, 2016. Recorded 18 catches for 191 receiving yards with two touchdown grabs.

G Andrew Tiller

Appeared in 14 games. Made seven starts at guard.

LB Michael Wilhoite

Appeared in 16 games. Made five starts and recorded 59 tackles and one forced fumble.

San Francisco's restricted free agents:

CB Marcus Cromartie

Appeared in nine games. Recorded four tackles.

CB Chris Davis

Began the season as the team's starting slot cornerback, was placed on Injured Reserve on Oct. 10, 2016. Recorded two tackles and a half sack in four appearances.

RB DuJuan Harris

Appeared in nine games, making one start. Rushed 38 times for 138 yards. Caught eight passes for 115 yards and one touchdown.

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***Candid candidate: 49ers' GM hopeful Riddick's opinions are out in the open***

By Matt Barrows, Sacramento Bee

SANTA CLARA -- On October 2013, Louis Riddick was interviewed in a story that polled NFL personnel experts on who they'd choose as their starting quarterback: Alex Smith or Colin Kaepernick.

Riddick, whom the 49ers will talk to Tuesday for their vacant general manager post, went with the popular choice.

"With Colin, I think you get the intelligence and ability to handle volume as far as the amount you can put on him mentally that gives you a lot of options week to week game-plan wise as well, with the difference being that he is willing to take more chances at pushing the ball vertically down the field, and not being so quick to simply take sacks or take off every time the read isn't clean initially," he said in the ESPN story. "There is no question the upside lies with Colin in terms of who has the higher ceiling, and with both given equal weapons/protection, Colin would be the more explosive player and the player I would choose."

Two years later, Riddick had a decidedly more pessimistic take on Kaepernick.

"It looks like the decision-making and accuracy on a consistent basis are not clicking," he said in a USA Today story, this one written after Kaepernick had a four-interception outing against the Arizona Cardinals in 2015.

"I'm starting to feel the same way about Colin as I do (Robert Griffin III)," he continued. "You never want that to be the case. The game against Arizona was terrible. I'm watching saying, 'Colin, are you blind?'"

Riddick was asked if it was so bad the 49ers should think about trading the quarterback.

"If I were in a front office, hell yeah we'd be having internal discussions about possibly prying him out of there," he said. "In a system where you could utilize him as a dual threat, definitely."

All the comments were made during Riddick's role as an ESPN analyst, one in which he is paid to be opinionated. Riddick, 47, spent seven seasons as an NFL defensive back and 13 more in Washington's and Philadelphia's personnel departments. He's said since that his directness is one of the reasons he's no longer in the league.

For the last four years, he's displayed that candor on television, in radio podcasts, in newspaper stories and on Twitter where he has posted more than 14,000 tweets.

All of which makes him an extremely rare case in the guarded and secretive world of NFL front offices. That is, his opinions and analyses are there for the whole world to see.

Most of the time, Riddick's insights have been astute.

He's been quick to praise Patriots offensive coordinator Josh McDaniels, perhaps the 49ers' top head-coaching candidate, in recent years, and because of that many have linked them as a one-two combination in San Francisco. In March of 2015, when Frank Gore was entering free agency, Riddick said he thought the veteran running back, 31 at the time, still could be a top runner. He was right. Gore rushed for 1,025 yards this past season, the 12th most in the NFL.

Some of his takes, however, are sure to make long-suffering 49ers fans wince.

On Twitter, Riddick acknowledged he was "very high on" A.J. Jenkins when the receiver was coming out in the draft in 2012 and Riddick was in the Eagles' personnel department. Jenkins, taken in the first round by the 49ers that year, easily was former general manager Trent Baalke's biggest draft miss. Baalke traded Jenkins after just one year, and he has been out of the NFL for the last two years.

Riddick also asserted on Twitter in 2014 that offensive linemen Marcus Martin and Brandon Thomas, both of whom were selected by the 49ers in the third round that year, were "two of my favorite OL's acquired for great value due to positional versatility. ... Future starters."

Martin has started 24 games at guard and center over the last three seasons, but he's struggled when he's played and he lost his starting role this past season. The 49ers traded Thomas, who was recovering from an ACL injury when he was drafted, in 2016 and he spent the season on Detroit's practice squad.

Kaepernick, meanwhile, is polarizing among 49ers and there's a fair chance he won't be on the team no matter whom the 49ers hire at general manager. But he also happens to be the only quarterback currently signed for the 2017 season.

One assertion on which Riddick will get no argument from 49ers fans. He said recently on ESPN's "NFL Insiders" show that the 49ers roster needs a "massive overhaul" at "some very, very, very important positions."

The Twitter Chronicles of Riddick:

\* "Devey and Pears. Not even close to being good enough to be dependable starters."

-- October 22, 2015

\* Jaquiski "Tartt is a very intriguing blend of football IQ, competitiveness, athletic skill, & versatility. Makes a strong group even stronger."

-- May 22, 2015

\* "Very impressed by what #49ers are doing. Jimmie Ward the best, most versatile DB in this draft (along w/Kyle Fuller)."

-- May 10, 2014

\* "as you know, was very high on (A.J.) Jenkins coming out in the '12 draft as well, so will be following his development closely"

-- July 24, 2013

\* "Ray Ray Armstrong continually showed up at LB for the #Rams. Favorite of mine during his early years with the #Canes"

-- Aug. 11, 2013

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***49ers aim to avoid past mistakes in latest search***

By Nick Wagoner, ESPN.com

SANTA CLARA, Calif. -- Understandably, San Francisco 49ers CEO Jed York had no interest in looking to the past last week at his now yearly news conference discussing the latest in an ever-expanding line of coaching searches.

York had just fired coach Chip Kelly and general manager Trent Baalke and was about to embark on a cross-country tour to find the right replacements. There already was enough on his plate. So when he was asked about the mistakes that led him to a point where he's about to have his fourth head coach in as many years, it wasn't something he wanted to discuss.

"I can't look backward," York said. "We need to make sure we're looking forward and doing everything that we can to get this team back. It's very easy to play revisionist history. I'm just not going to play that game."

York, of course, was referring to the thing that set in motion the chain of events that led the Niners to this place: the "mutual parting of ways" with former coach Jim Harbaugh. It was Harbaugh who had led a Niners renaissance, taking the team to three straight NFC Championship Games and coming up a play short of winning a Super Bowl. For as quick as the Niners rose under Harbaugh, they stumbled following his departure.

There's no need to rehash why the Niners, Baalke and Harbaugh went through that messy divorce, but it's worth recalling as a place that York and his advisors went wrong so they don't make similar mistakes again.

Without saying so explicitly, York made it clear he sees how the inability to get and keep Baalke and Harbaugh on the same page followed by the shotgun marriage between Baalke and Kelly were detrimental to the franchise's health. There also was some apparent discord in the hiring of Jim Tomsula over Adam Gase, according to a report by Fox's Jay Glazer.

"I need to make sure we have the right communication between the general manager and the head coach, and the head coach and his staff," York said. "That's why those two guys need to be on the same page and we need to have the right people on the staff. We're going to continue to do everything that we can to get better. They're going to have a very, very long leash in terms of making decisions.

"There are no sacred cows here. Whether that's in the personnel department, on the coaching staff, in the locker room. They need to be able to re-establish a championship culture. That's going to take time to re-establish a championship culture. I'm not doing this so we can get to 8-8 or 9-7 and say, 'See, we turned it around, we're good.' My ultimate goal is to win a championship, win multiple championships. That's the foundation we need to lay."

The unfortunate news for the Niners is that these are things that should have been rectified two years ago or, at the least, last year. While there was no way to predict the mass exodus that followed the 2014 season, the signs that change was needed were evident soon after.

Instead of spending draft picks to bolster depth and create competition, Baalke used many selections on players recovering from injury in hopes they could take a sort of NFL redshirt and be ready to contribute down the line. Tomsula had been a loyal employee but was simply overmatched as head coach, and Kelly was put in a no-win situation without the time to get it right.

Add it all up and you have a team that went 7-25 over the past two seasons. What's worse, those seasons would have been more acceptable if they came during the growing pains of a talented young quarterback or an inexperienced defense trying to find its way. Instead, the sobering reality is that the Niners are just now starting their rebuild, and that's assuming York & Co. can find the right people to lead it.

"I'm confident in him," receiver Torrey Smith said. "I think it's easier to not be because of the last few years or whatever, but changes happen all the time in any business, and this is a business. I think as long

as he's committed to it and he gets the right people in, then it's a place where, organization-wise as a player, it has everything that you want. It's a good place to be, but you've got to perform, you've got to win."

The Niners' search is more than a week old and so far, at least, York seems intent on following through on finding a tightly bonded combination for the coach and general manager. He has interviewed multiple general manager and coach candidates with ties to one another and there's still more on the way. That doesn't even account for people with longstanding relationships the public might not be privy to.

Ultimately, there are no guarantees when it comes to York's next hires. Making sweeping change pays off only when the right hires are made. York did that when he hired Harbaugh, but hasn't in his past two tries. It's in the understanding of what went wrong that answers must be found.

"There's been changes a few years in a row," Smith said. "But you know how much this franchise means to him and how much he wants to be successful. I don't think there's anybody out here that doesn't want to be successful. I think he's committed to starting completely over and letting there be a growth period and see what happens."

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### ***Jaguars Keep Marrone, and Keep Believing in Bortles***

By Albert Breer, MMQB.com

San Francisco: Josh McDaniels has had the inside track, and my understanding is that he preferred the Niners' situation to the other two he interviewed for, because this is a from-the-ground-up situation. No bad contracts, pick your own QB, high draft picks... it's basically like an expansion team. And there'll be a new GM coming with you, too. If McDaniels gets the job, it could be Lou Riddick filling that role.

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### ***49ers interview Sean McVay for coach, Brandon Beane for GM***

By Josh Dubow, Associated Press

SANTA CLARA, Calif. (AP) — The San Francisco 49ers interviewed Washington offensive coordinator Sean McVay for the team's vacant head coaching job and Carolina assistant general manager Brandon Beane for the GM job on Monday.

CEO Jed York met with McVay first and then sat down with Beane later as part of his cross-country interview tour to find replacements for fired coach Chip Kelly and general manager Trent Baalke following a 2-14 season that tied the worst mark in franchise history.

McVay is the grandson of former Niners executive John McVay, who teamed with coach Bill Walsh to build a dynasty in San Francisco. Walsh hired McVay as director of player personnel when he took over as coach in 1978. McVay was part of the organization for five Super Bowl titles.

The 30-year-old Sean McVay is the youngest offensive coordinator in the league. He has filled that role the past three seasons in Washington and has helped developed a unit that finished third in total offense and second in passing offense this past season.

McVay also spent three years as tight ends coach and one season as an offensive assistant in Washington before being promoted to coordinator in 2014.

McVay is the fourth candidate to interview for the coaching job and all come from the offensive side of the ball. York has also met with New England offensive coordinator Josh McDaniels, Atlanta offensive coordinator Kyle Shanahan and Buffalo interim coach Anthony Lynn, who was offensive coordinator before replacing Rex Ryan for the final game this season.



Beane has spent the past two seasons as assistant general manager in Carolina under Dave Gettleman. He was director of football operations for the Panthers the previous seven years and helped build the team that went to the Super Bowl last season.

Beane also served as interim general manager in 2012 after Marty Hurney was fired six games into the season.

The Niners have interviewed four other general manager candidates: Indianapolis vice president of football operations Jimmy Raye III, Minnesota assistant GM George Paton, Green Bay director of football operations Eliot Wolf and Packers director of player personnel Brian Gutekunst.

York said he was open to hiring either the coach or general manager first. He said the primary goal in the search is finding a coach and general manager who can work well together.