

49ers Clips – March 6, 2017

Local Media

Report: If Kirk Cousins stays put, 49ers interested in Mike Glennon

By Daniel Mano, San Jose Mercury News

<http://www.mercurynews.com/2017/03/05/report-if-kirk-cousins-stays-put-49ers-interested-in-mike-glennon/>

Clock ticking on possible 49ers trade for QB Cousins

By Matt Barrows, Sacramento Bee

<http://www.sacbee.com/sports/nfl/san-francisco-49ers/article136621818.html>

49ers should focus on A.J. Bouye, Jabaal Sheard in free agency

By Nick Wagoner, ESPN.com

http://www.espn.com/blog/san-francisco-49ers/post/_/id/23364/49ers-should-focus-on-a-j-bouye-jabaal-sheard-in-free-agency

Predicting the top free-agent target for all 32 NFL teams

By Nick Wagoner, ESPN.com

http://www.espn.com/nfl/story/_/page/32for32x170305/predicting-top-2017-free-agency-target-all-32-nfl-teams-offseason-signings

49ers receiver Jeremy Kerley agrees to 3-year extension

By Staff, Associated Press

<http://pro32.ap.org/node/707774>

National Media

Rams' free-agency foray likely to target receivers and offensive linemen

By Gary Klein, Los Angeles Times

<http://www.latimes.com/sports/rams/la-sp-rams-free-agency-20170305-story.html>

Arizona Cardinals likely to lose Tony Jefferson, Calais Campbell in free agency

By Kent Somers, The Arizona Republic

<http://www.azcentral.com/story/sports/nfl/cardinals/2017/03/05/cardinals-likely-lose-jefferson-campbell-free-agency/98777718/>

Trufant negotiations are heating up

By D. Orlando Ledbetter, Atlanta Journal-Constitution

<http://www.ajc.com/sports/football/trufant-negotiations-are-heating/duodznsLW1xNMnIIP3QAVO/>

Lions showing heavy interest in big corners at combine

By Kyle Meinke, MLive.com

http://www.mlive.com/lions/index.ssf/2017/03/lions_showing_heavy_interest_i.html#incart_river_index

Pierre Garcon: 'I haven't heard anything from the Redskins'

By Dan Steinberg, Washington Post

https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/dc-sports-bog/wp/2017/03/03/pierre-garcon-i-havent-heard-anything-from-the-redskins/?utm_term=.6e663ba1f97c

Local Clips – Full Version

Report: If Kirk Cousins stays put, 49ers interested in Mike Glennon

By Daniel Mano, San Jose Mercury News

Quarterbacks connected with the 49ers by reports gained a member Sunday, as Mike Glennon was added to the list.

The former Tampa Bay quarterback is expected to be pursued by San Francisco if the team cannot acquire Kirk Cousins from Washington, according to the Sacramento Bee.

Rumors are still circulating about the 49ers getting Cousins by trading draft picks to Washington and Dallas, which would in turn send Tony Romo to D.C. If that went down, or the 49ers acquired Cousins some other way, Glennon would not be a target, the Bee reported.

Glennon has thrown for 4,100 yards and 30 touchdowns with a 59.4 completion rate against 15 interceptions over his three-year career with the Buccaneers. Most of that came when Glennon started 13 games for Tampa Bay in 2013.

Clock ticking on possible 49ers trade for QB Cousins

By Matt Barrows, Sacramento Bee

SANTA CLARA -- Tick tock. Talk of a possible trade involving Washington quarterback Kirk Cousins and the 49ers arose as soon as San Francisco zeroed in on Kyle Shanahan as its coach, but the time to consummate the deal is fast approaching.

That's because other free agents, especially wide receivers, are waiting to see what the 49ers do at the position. If Cousins is the quarterback, the 49ers become a more desirable destination for a pass catcher. Last year, he threw for a career-high 4,917 yards.

Free agency begins at 1 p.m. Pacific on Thursday.

Currently, the 49ers are in a nebulous spot for free-agent receivers because they have no quarterbacks signed for 2017. Adding Cousins would require the 49ers not only to work out a long-term deal – one that could make him one of the league's highest-paid players – but to send draft picks to the Redskins. Without that deal, Cousins likely will become an unrestricted free agent next year.

When it was noted last week the 49ers could sign Cousins in 2018 without draft-pick compensation, Shanahan smiled and said, "That's a very good point."

If the 49ers can't land Cousins, they are expected to be among the teams interested in Tampa Bay free agent Mike Glennon, per multiple sources. Atlanta's Matt Schaub and Chicago's Brian Hoyer – both of whom, like Cousins, have played for Shanahan – are other possibilities.

Stanford's top-10 drought – No Stanford defensive player has been drafted in the top 10 since linebacker Jeff Siemon went 10th to Minnesota in 1972. Solomon Thomas has a good chance to surpass that mark.

The 273-pound defensive lineman stood out Sunday, running the 40-yard dash in 4.69 seconds and otherwise looking quick and fluid in line drills at the scouting combine in Indianapolis.

"I can rush anywhere," Thomas said. "I can play anywhere. I play every down. I'm great stopping the run, great rushing the quarterback. I'm very versatile. I have toughness. I try to get after every (offensive) lineman and put the fear of God in them and make a play."

Is the 49ers' second overall pick too high for Thomas? Maybe not. But it likely would mean one of the team's first-round picks from the last three years – Arik Armstead and DeForest Buckner are the others – will be on the sideline when the base defense takes the field.

Slimmer Vanderdoes – UCLA defensive tackle Eddie Vanderdoes got as heavy as 345 pounds last season because of injuries. The former Placer High School standout slimmed down to 305 pounds for the combine, and Sunday, he ran the 40-yard dash in 4.99 seconds.

Vanderdoes, who also had a strong showing at the Senior Bowl in January, is expected to be drafted in the middle rounds.

Tomsula sighting – Who was the energetic NFL defensive-line coach putting Thomas, Vanderdoes and others through their drills Sunday? None other than Jim Tomsula, who emerged from his year away from football without his signature mustache and looking decidedly trimmer than when he was the 49ers' coach in 2015. The Redskins hired Tomsula as their defensive-line coach in the offseason.

Another defensive-line coach in Indianapolis is longtime 49ers lineman Bryant Young, who is now with Atlanta. Young said he was excited to size up Thomas. Young noted that when he came out of Notre Dame in 1994, he weighed 276 pounds, similar to what Thomas weighs now.

Young reunited with Falcons coach Dan Quinn, his 49ers position coach for two seasons, and with onetime 49ers teammate Jeff Ulbrich, Atlanta's linebackers coach.

49ers should focus on A.J. Bouye, Jabaal Sheard in free agency

By Nick Wagoner, ESPN.com

SANTA CLARA, Calif. -- Here are some moves the San Francisco 49ers should consider when free agency opens at 4 p.m. ET Thursday:

Add a big-ticket item or two: The 49ers have the second-most cap space in the NFL so they can afford to chase top free agents. Of course, that doesn't mean they should spend for the sake of spending. Any high-priced additions should be younger players heading toward their prime who can still be effective by the time the Niners have had a chance to rebuild. Looking at this year's market, those types of players aren't abundant but there are some who fit the description. Houston cornerback A.J. Bouye (25), New England defensive end Jabaal Sheard (27) and linebacker Dont'a Hightower (26), Buffalo cornerback Stephon Gilmore (26), Chicago receiver Alshon Jeffery (27) and Cleveland receiver Terrelle Pryor (27) are players who make sense. The Niners probably won't break the bank and go on a wild spending spree, but they can afford one or two from that list and still have plenty left over to help elsewhere.

Find a steady veteran hand at quarterback: The Niners are in the midst of a complete makeover of their quarterback room, which means they need to find multiple quarterbacks this offseason. It remains to be seen when they can find their long-term starter or where he will come from but it would serve them well to find an established veteran to bring some stability to the group. Even better, they could find a veteran with experience in coach Kyle Shanahan's offense who could provide leadership and guidance for the other quarterbacks who will inevitably come on board. To that end, there are two obvious options set to hit free agency: Atlanta's Matt Schaub and Chicago's Brian Hoyer. Schaub worked with Shanahan in Houston and Atlanta, and Hoyer spent time with Shanahan in Cleveland. Either would be a sensible, cost-effective option who can help the 49ers through this transitional period.

Get a head start on reshaping the culture: While we're on the topic of players who speak Shanahan's language, the Niners shouldn't stop with one of those veteran quarterbacks. One phrase that inevitably comes up when hiring a new coach is "establishing a culture." It goes beyond simple knowledge of a system and extends to how players are supposed to go about their business. One way to get that process

jump started is to add players who have a history of helping in that area and have a history with the coach. In Shanahan's case, there are multiple free agents he has worked with in recent years that would be good pickups not only for their ability on the field but for what they can do in the locker room. Atlanta fullback Patrick DiMarco and tight end Jacob Tamme would both be helpful in this regard and neither figures to be overly expensive.

Predicting the top free-agent target for all 32 NFL teams

By Nick Wagoner, ESPN.com

San Francisco 49ers

Cornerback A.J. Bouye

The 49ers have needs all over the roster, but there aren't many big-ticket players set to hit the open market who make sense in new coordinator Robert Saleh's 4-3 defense. Bouye is an obvious exception, given that Saleh's scheme is built on the same principles as the Seahawks. A tall, long cornerback capable of covering one side of the field is a good place to start for a defense that was 28th in yards per attempt allowed in 2016. Bouye is only 25 and looks the part of an ascending player who could be entering his prime. An added bonus for the 49ers: Signing a top corner would give San Francisco the freedom to move Jimmie Ward to free safety if they wanted.

49ers receiver Jeremy Kerley agrees to 3-year extension

By Staff, Associated Press

SANTA CLARA, Calif. (AP) — The San Francisco 49ers have agreed to a three-year contract extension with wide receiver Jeremy Kerley.

General Manager John Lynch on Saturday lauded Kerley as a "true pro." He said the team was "really impressed" with Kerley on the field and in the locker room, and that he's seen as a "great fit for our scheme."

The 27-year-old Kerley led the team with a career-high 64 receptions for 667 yards and three touchdowns. He appeared in all 16 games, starting 13.

He also was the primary punt returner, returning 21 for 158 yards. Kerley was acquired by the 49ers in a trade with the Detroit Lions before last season. He also played five seasons with the New York Jets.