

49ers Clips – April 30, 2017

Local Media

***What We Learned on Day 3 of the 2017 NFL Draft***

By Joe Fann, 49ers.com

<http://www.49ers.com/news/article-2/What-We-Learned-on-Day-3-of-the-2017-NFL-Draft/52e42628-c3da-4fff-b805-aa74601f6e23>

***San Francisco 49ers Draft Miami S Adrian Colbert***

By Joe Fann, 49ers.com

<http://www.49ers.com/news/article-2/San-Francisco-49ers-Draft-Miami-S-Adrian-Colbert/2ed7a0a5-2ba8-462f-a7b0-a078580108d7>

***49ers address offense on final day of draft***

By Eric Branch, San Francisco Chronicle

<http://www.sfchronicle.com/49ers/article/49ers-address-offense-on-final-day-of-draft-11109357.php>

***Final tally: 49ers netted two high 2018 picks and more in Bears' trade***

By Eric Branch, San Francisco Chronicle

<http://www.sfchronicle.com/49ers/article/Final-tally-49ers-netted-two-high-2018-picks-and-11109577.php>

***UDFAs: 49ers will sign QB Mullens; WR Cannon***

By Eric Branch, San Francisco Chronicle

<http://www.sfchronicle.com/49ers/article/UDFAs-49ers-will-sign-QB-Mullens-WR-Cannon-11109504.php>

***Extension to exit? 49ers' new regime looked to trade TE McDonald***

By Eric Branch, San Francisco Chronicle

<http://www.sfchronicle.com/49ers/article/Extension-to-exit-49ers-new-regime-looked-to-11109404.php>

***49ers draft recap: New regime wins debut***

By Cam Inman, San Jose Mercury News

<http://www.mercurynews.com/2017/04/29/49ers-draft-recap-new-regime-wins-debut/>

***49ers super candid on Vance McDonald trade talks***

By Cam Inman, San Jose Mercury News

<http://www.mercurynews.com/2017/04/29/49ers-quite-candid-about-vance-mcdonald-trade-talks/>

***49ers draft at a glance, Rounds 4-7: Spread evenly over offense, defense***

By Matt Barrows, Sacramento Bee

<http://www.sacbee.com/sports/nfl/san-francisco-49ers/article147689784.html>

***How 49ers' John Lynch came around on RB Joe Williams***

By Matt Barrows, Sacramento Bee

<http://www.sacbee.com/sports/nfl/san-francisco-49ers/article147668949.html>

***49ers acknowledge Vance McDonald was subject of trade talks***

By Matt Barrows, Sacramento Bee

<http://www.sacbee.com/sports/nfl/san-francisco-49ers/article147658139.html>

***Round 7: 49ers end draft with Miami defensive back Adrian Colbert***

By Matt Barrows, Sacramento Bee

<http://www.sacbee.com/sports/nfl/san-francisco-49ers/article147642129.html>

***49ERS 2017 UDFA TRACKER: SOUTHERN MISS QB AGREES TO TERMS***

By Matt Maiocco, CSNBayArea.com

<http://www.csnbayarea.com/49ers/49ers-2017-udfa-tracker-southern-miss-qb-agrees-terms>

***LYNCH: TE MCDONALD TO RETURN TO 49ERS AFTER BEING ON TRADE BLOCK***

By Matt Maiocco, CSNBayArea.com

<http://www.csnbayarea.com/49ers/lynch-te-mcdonald-return-49ers-after-being-trade-block>

***LYNCH: 49ERS EXPECTED TO PICK UP WARD'S FIFTH-YEAR OPTION***

By Matt Maiocco, CSNBayArea.com

<http://www.csnbayarea.com/49ers/lynch-49ers-expected-pick-wards-fifth-year-option>

***49ERS SELECT CB ADRIAN COLBERT IN SEVENTH ROUND OF THE 2017 NFL DRAFT***

By Matt Maiocco, CSNBayArea.com

<http://www.csnbayarea.com/49ers/49ers-select-cb-adrian-colbert-seventh-round-2017-nfl-draft>

***San Francisco 49ers find defensive foundation but no franchise QB***

By Nick Wagoner, ESPN.com

[http://www.espn.com/blog/san-francisco-49ers/post/\\_/id/24758/san-francisco-49ers-find-defensive-foundation-but-franchise-quarterback-will-wait](http://www.espn.com/blog/san-francisco-49ers/post/_/id/24758/san-francisco-49ers-find-defensive-foundation-but-franchise-quarterback-will-wait)

***49ers attempted to trade Vance McDonald but couldn't find a deal***

By Nick Wagoner, ESPN.com

[http://www.espn.com/blog/san-francisco-49ers/post/\\_/id/24784/49ers-attempted-to-trade-vance-mcdonald-but-couldnt-find-a-deal](http://www.espn.com/blog/san-francisco-49ers/post/_/id/24784/49ers-attempted-to-trade-vance-mcdonald-but-couldnt-find-a-deal)

***Best and riskiest moves for every team's 2017 NFL draft class***

By Nick Wagoner, ESPN.com

[http://www.espn.com/blog/nflnation/post/\\_/id/235666/best-and-riskiest-moves-for-every-teams-2017-nfl-draft-class](http://www.espn.com/blog/nflnation/post/_/id/235666/best-and-riskiest-moves-for-every-teams-2017-nfl-draft-class)

***Best draft pick for all 32 NFL teams***

By Todd McShay, ESPN.com

[http://www.espn.com/nfl/draft2017/insider/story/\\_/id/19272457/todd-mcshay-best-pick-all-32-nfl-teams-nfl-draft-2017](http://www.espn.com/nfl/draft2017/insider/story/_/id/19272457/todd-mcshay-best-pick-all-32-nfl-teams-nfl-draft-2017)

***Mel Kiper's 2017 NFL draft grades***

By Mel Kiper Jr., ESPN.com

[http://www.espn.com/nfl/draft2017/insider/story/\\_/id/18974431/2017-nfl-draft-grades-mel-kiper-grades-draft-class-all-32-teams](http://www.espn.com/nfl/draft2017/insider/story/_/id/18974431/2017-nfl-draft-grades-mel-kiper-grades-draft-class-all-32-teams)

***49ers make another trade, add another running back***

By Josh Alper, ProFootballTalk.com

<http://profootballtalk.nbcsports.com/2017/04/29/49ers-make-another-trade-add-another-running-back/>

***49ers trade 2018 fourth-round pick for Kapri Bibbs and 2017 fifth-rounder***

By Josh Alper, ProFootballTalk.com

<http://profootballtalk.nbcsports.com/2017/04/29/49ers-trade-2018-fourth-round-pick-for-kapri-bibbs-and-2017-fifth-rounder/>

***2017 NFL Draft: Quick-snap grades for all 32 teams***

By Chad Reuter, NFL.com

<http://www.nfl.com/news/story/0ap3000000804541/article/2017-nfl-draft-quick-snap-grades-for-all-32-teams>

National Media

***Five key areas the Seahawks addressed in the 2017 NFL draft***

By Bob Condotta, The Seattle Times

<http://www.seattletimes.com/sports/seahawks/five-key-areas-the-seahawks-addressed-in-the-2017-nfl-draft/>

***Rams 'stick to the plan' in draft and address variety of needs***

By Gary Klein, Los Angeles Times

<http://www.latimes.com/sports/rams/la-sp-rams-nfl-draft-20170429-story.html>

***Bickley: On paper, Arizona Cardinals ace wacky NFL draft***

By Dan Bickley, The Arizona Republic

<http://www.azcentral.com/story/sports/nfl/cardinals/2017/04/30/bickley-paper-arizona-cardinals-ace-wacky-nfl-draft/307966001/>

***Bills dismiss GM Doug Whaley, expected to release scouting staff***

By Vic Carucci, Buffalo News

<http://buffalonews.com/2017/04/30/bills-dismiss-gm-doug-whaley-scouting-staff/>

***Bears decline former first-rounder Kyle Fuller's fifth-year option***

By Jeff Dickerson, ESPN.com

[http://www.espn.com/blog/chicago-bears/post/\\_id/4705485/bears-decline-former-first-rounder-kyle-fullers-fifth-year-option](http://www.espn.com/blog/chicago-bears/post/_id/4705485/bears-decline-former-first-rounder-kyle-fullers-fifth-year-option)

***Jets' Devin Smith out for 2017 season with torn ACL***

By Connor Hughes, Newark Star-Ledger

[http://www.nj.com/jets/index.ssf/2017/04/jets\\_devin\\_smith\\_out\\_for\\_2017\\_season\\_with\\_torn\\_acl.html#incart\\_river\\_index](http://www.nj.com/jets/index.ssf/2017/04/jets_devin_smith_out_for_2017_season_with_torn_acl.html#incart_river_index)

## Local Clips – Full Version

### ***What We Learned on Day 3 of the 2017 NFL Draft***

By Joe Fann, 49ers.com

The San Francisco 49ers 2017 draft class is complete with 10 new names added to the roster. John Lynch made six selections on Saturday: Utah running back Joe Williams, Iowa tight end George Kittle, Louisiana Tech wide receiver Trent Taylor, Mississippi defensive lineman D.J. Jones, Utah defensive lineman Pita Taumoepeu and Miami safety Adrian Colbert.

San Francisco also traded for Denver Broncos running back Kapri Bibbs.

Here's what we learned on Day 3 now that the 2017 NFL Draft is in the books.

"I didn't think I'd trade so much"

That was Lynch's response when asked about what surprised him during his first draft as an NFL GM.

"I thought I was a pretty conservative guy," Lynch said to get a laugh out of the media on hand.

San Francisco made six trades in all, two of which added draft capital for 2018. The deals were one away from setting a franchise record. The wheeling and dealing wasn't planned going in, but they were opportunistic moves in order to select impact players on their draft board.

"I'm real proud of this draft," Lynch said. "Our scouts did an excellent job, along with our coaches."

"I'm as excited as John (is) as well as the rest of our organization," Kyle Shanahan added. "I think we've improved a whole lot."

### **Joe Williams Passed Character Test**

When Lynch heard that Williams quit the team at Utah, he removed him from consideration. It was Shanahan who circled back to Williams' tape and decided that the 49ers needed to take a harder look as to why the running back took a few weeks away from football in 2016.

As it turns out, Williams was still battling some demons that stemmed from the passing of his sister in 2006. San Francisco's lone fourth round pick shared his story to reporters on a conference call following his selection. Williams had several in-depth conversations with 49ers running back's coach to prove that his head was back in the right place.

Lynch called Williams himself on Saturday morning to confirm his feelings that he was drafting a new man.

"We got really comfortable with the kid and a better understanding of what his story was," Lynch said. "His head coach Kyle Wittingham made it very clear that he did not quit the team. He physically and mentally got tired and he broke down. ... His teammates welcomed him back with open arms."

As for Williams' talent as a ball-carrier...

"His ability to run the ball is as good as anybody's as far as speed, cutting ability, running through tackles and his overall balance," Shanahan said.

### **49ers Got a Stud in the Slot**

San Francisco used a fifth round pick on Taylor. The Louisiana Tech product was the lone receiver added during the draft.

"The thing I look for the most is specific traits that we can take advantage of," Shanahan said. "Trent is as good in the slot role as anyone we were looking at in the draft. He really owned that spot. He's very quick, and his body is always under him. He can make cuts.

"What impressed me the most, apart from his separation ability, was when he got the ball in his hands, he ran angry and pissed off. He gets up the field, and he's not scared to get hit. He's a competitive, violent runner. Those are the guys who keep you on the field and move the chains.

Taylor led the nation with 1,803 receiving yards on 136 receptions in 2016 and scored 12 touchdowns for the Bulldogs.

Vance McDonald was on the Trade Block

The reports were true. San Francisco was shopping Vance McDonald throughout the draft. But that isn't necessarily an indictment of the tight end opposed to other players on the roster. On the contrary, his name was involved in trade discussions due to the interest from other teams.

"That's the reality of new regimes. We had some interest and explored some options."

Lynch didn't pull the trigger on an offer, which means that McDonald still has an opportunity to compete in San Francisco. Shanahan told reporters that he left the tight end a voicemail on Saturday night and added that they'll talk in person on Monday.

"We took over a 2-14 team, and we need to get better in every aspect," Shanahan added. "It wasn't just Vance, but we did it with Vance because people were interested. ... From the texts that Vance sent me, I think he knows it's nothing personal."

McDonald has 64 receptions for 866 yards and seven touchdowns in four seasons with the 49ers.

What's Next?

Lynch said that the 49ers have already begun to call undrafted free agents. San Francisco currently has six openings on its roster. Stay tuned to 49ers.com for details on anyone who is added to the roster.

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### ***San Francisco 49ers Draft Miami S Adrian Colbert***

By Joe Fann, 49ers.com

With the 229th pick in the 2017 NFL Draft, the San Francisco 49ers have taken Miami safety Adrian Colbert.

Colbert began his career at Texas before transferring to Miami in 2016. For his collegiate career, the defensive back totaled 48 tackles, two interceptions and four passes defended.

Mike Mayock noted on Twitter during his pre-draft preparations that Colbert was an underrated prospect in this class.

"You can never question his 'big hit' ability, though," added Russell Brown of Fox Sports. "Time and time again, he will come down and demolish anyone in his way."

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### ***49ers address offense on final day of draft***

By Eric Branch, San Francisco Chronicle

After the 49ers used their first three draft picks on defensive players, general manager and former NFL safety John Lynch was asked Friday about how his offensive-minded head coach was feeling.

Did Kyle Shanahan want to wrest control of the draft room?

"Yeah," Lynch said, smiling. "We were just joking. He said, 'All right, we're going offense now. You've had your fun.'"

Maybe they weren't joking?

Shortly after Lynch spoke, the 49ers traded up into the third round Friday to select Iowa quarterback C.J. Beathard, a move that set the tone for the final four rounds Saturday.

The 49ers opened by selecting Utah running back Joe Williams in the fourth round and grabbed Iowa tight end George Kittle and Louisiana Tech wide receiver Trent Taylor in the fifth. Before those selections, they acquired Broncos reserve running back Kapri Bibbs in a trade that included draft picks.

Happy, Kyle?

The offensive flurry began when the 49ers traded with the Colts to move up 22 spots and grab Williams.

In nine games last year, Williams, who ran a 4.41 40-yard dash, rushed for 1,407 yards (6.7 yards a carry) and 10 TDs.

It was quite a finish after Williams temporarily retired before the start of his senior season and missed four games, citing the mental and physical toll of football. He later said there were psychological reasons for stepping away.

Williams said he left football to finally deal with the emotional fallout from the death of his younger sister, Kylee, who had died at 7 in 2006 because of an undiagnosed heart problem. Kylee fell out of her bed at night and Williams blamed himself for not acting faster to save her.

"It was the guilt and the shame that I put upon myself because I didn't act quickly enough, or wake my parents up or call 911," Williams said. "I always thought it was my fault."

Lynch said he initially dismissed the idea of drafting Williams because he was put off by the idea that he had "quit the team." But Shanahan, after being wowed by Williams' video, thought they should further investigate Williams' story. Shanahan, running backs coach Bobby Turner and vice president of player personnel Adam Peters spoke extensively with Williams. Finally, on Saturday morning, before the draft, Lynch spoke with him.

"He just mentioned to me that throughout that process he addressed some things that had been bothering him for a long time," Lynch said. "And he feels like he came out a different person. I think it's a wonderful story."

The 49ers selected Kittle during a draft in which they were speaking to teams about trading tight end Vance McDonald, a 2013 second-round pick who signed a five-year extension in December, when Trent Baalke was the general manager.

"I think that's the reality of new regimes coming in, new schemes," Lynch said. "That's not to say he can't fit into our scheme."

Shanahan, who has been in touch with McDonald about the trade talks, said “a lot of people were interested” and the 49ers viewed it as an opportunity to upgrade in other areas.

“We took over a 2-14 team and we’re going to try to get better in every aspect,” Shanahan said. “... It’s not at all about not having a role. It’s about how can you improve your team.

Kittle is regarded as one of the draft’s best blocking tight ends. He had 42 catches for 604 yards and 10 touchdowns in his final two seasons, indicating his potential as a pass-catcher. He had the third-fastest 40-yard dash among tight ends at the combine (4.52 seconds).

“I put my team before anything that I wanted to do,” Kittle said. “I’m a person that could care less about stats. I just care about winning games.”

Taylor, 5-foot-8, is a slot receiver and punt returner who finished ranked third in the FBS among active career leaders in receptions (327) and fourth in receiving yards (4,179). Last year, he led the nation in receiving yards (1,803) and ranked second in receptions (136).

Taylor said he’s routinely been likened to a host of diminutive NFL receivers.

“I always get comparisons of all the slot guys, like (Wes) Welker, (Dallas’ Cole) Beasley, (New England’s Julian) Edelman,” Taylor said. “That’s what I’ve heard my whole life. But I’d like to go into the NFL and just be my own guy.”

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### ***Final tally: 49ers netted two high 2018 picks and more in Bears’ trade***

By Eric Branch, San Francisco Chronicle

Before he made his first draft pick Thursday night, 49ers general manager John Lynch received a gift.

It came courtesy of the Chicago Bears, who gave the 49ers quite a haul in a trade that provided a resounding start to Lynch’s first draft and provided plenty of reason for optimism for his 2018 draft.

In exchange for moving down one spot - from No. 2 to No. 3 - the 49ers received three picks and still ended up with the player they would have selected at No. 2.

Here’s a breakdown of the trade and what the 49ers did with their picks from Chicago:

#### **TRADE WITH BEARS**

49ers get:

First-round pick (No. 3)

Third-round pick (No. 67)

Fourth-round pick (No. 111)

2018 third-round pick

Bears get:

First-round pick (No. 2)

WHAT 49ERS DID:

With their first-round pick (No. 3): They selected Stanford DL Solomon Thomas

With their third-round pick (No. 67): They traded it to the Saints for a 2018 second-round pick and a 2017 seventh-round pick (No. 229). They selected Miami DB Adrian Colbert with the seventh-rounder.

With their fourth-round pick (No. 111): They traded it, along with the No. 34 pick, for the No. 31 pick. They used the No. 31 pick to select Alabama ILB Reuben Foster, who was on the phone with the Saints, who had the No. 32 pick, when Lynch called him.

#### FINAL COMPENSATION FROM TRADE WITH BEARS:

2018 second-round pick

2018 third-round pick

Miami DB Adrian Colbert

(Used fourth-round pick to move up three spots for Foster)

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#### ***UDFAs: 49ers will sign QB Mullens; WR Cannon***

By Eric Branch, San Francisco Chronicle

The 49ers, who entered the draft with two quarterbacks, will soon have four on their roster.

The 49ers will sign Southern Mississippi's Nick Mullens as an undrafted rookie free agent after drafting Iowa's C.J. Beathard in the third round Friday. The Hattiesburg American first reported Mullens would sign with the 49ers.

Mullens was a three-year starter who also started the final six games of his freshman season. He established school records for passing yards (11,994) and touchdowns (87) and was the Conference USA Player of the Year as a junior.

However, he lacks NFL size (6-foot-1, 187 pounds) and has so-so arm strength. He had a 60.0 completion percentage and 46 interceptions.

Before it was learned Mullens would land with the 49ers, head coach Kyle Shanahan said he hoped to acquire one of the undrafted rookies the team was targeting.

"You always would like to bring four to camp and you usually do," Shanahan said. "Again, we're not going to do it just to do it. I don't want to bring a guy in that we don't think has a chance and then hurt another position. I still think you can get by with three in camp. But if we feel we can get one here in free agency, and there are some guys out there we're targeting — if we could get one of those, I'd love to have a fourth."

Meanwhile, the 49ers will also sign KD Cannon, the Baylor wide receiver said, via Twitter. Cannon (5-11, 182), who was projected by some analysts as a mid-round pick, went undrafted after he collected 87 catches, 1,215 yards and 13 touchdowns last year. He finished his career with 195 catches, 3,113 yards and 27 touchdowns.

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#### ***Extension to exit? 49ers' new regime looked to trade TE McDonald***

By Eric Branch, San Francisco Chronicle



The 49ers' old regime wanted to have tight end Vance McDonald around for many years to come.

The new guys? Um, not so much.

On Saturday, general manager John Lynch acknowledged the 49ers were involved in trade talks during the draft for McDonald, a 2013 second-round pick who signed a five-year extension in December when Trent Baalke was the GM.

"I think that's the reality of new regimes coming in, new schemes," Lynch said. "That's not to say that he can't fit into our scheme. Frankly, we received some interest from some other people. And then we did explore some options throughout the league with Vance. Nothing ended up happening, so Vance will come back and have an opportunity to compete."

Shanahan, who has been in touch with McDonald about the trade talks, said "a lot of people were interested" and the 49ers viewed it as an opportunity to upgrade in other areas.

"We took over a 2-14 team and we're going to try to get better in every aspect," Shanahan said. "... It's not at all about not having a role. It's about how can you improve your team. ... Whether that can bring you two players. Whether that can move you up in the draft to get a different player that might be a bigger need."

McDonald, 26, has shown inconsistent hands throughout his 64-catch, 866-yard career and has missed 16 games due to injuries. Lynch was asked if the chances of dealing McDonald were unlikely with the draft finished.

"I'll never say never," Lynch said. "But I think he comes back in here Monday and I think we'll welcome him with open arms. And he'll compete. That's the message to our players."

McDonald has excelled as a blocker, but the 49ers added Logan Paulsen, a strong blocker, in free agency. They also selected Iowa's George Kittle, regarded as one of the draft's best blocking tight ends, in the fifth round Saturday. Their tight ends corps also includes Garrett Celek, Blake Bell and Je'Ron Hamm.

"We want Vance here," Shanahan said. "All the guys we have here we want here until we can get better."

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#### ***49ers draft recap: New regime wins debut***

By Cam Inman, San Jose Mercury News

Kyle Shanahan and John Lynch won their draft debut as the 49ers' new power brokers, enhancing their rebuilding effort through a trade-happy, need-filling weekend.

Their harmonious haul: 10 drafted players, a running back via one of their six trades, and two valuable picks in next year's draft that could help position them for a franchise quarterback, if needed.

"I had no idea I was going to trade that much," Lynch, a first-time general manager, said Saturday. "I thought I was a fairly conservative guy and we'd have a calm draft."

"The only reason that transpired like that was the opportunity that came our way with Chicago."

Lynch and Shanahan, the 49ers' first-year coach, made the NFL take notice right away Thursday. They swung a lopsided deal with the Chicago Bears that still delivered Stanford defensive lineman Solomon Thomas at No. 3 overall, as well as three more draft picks.

"I'm as excited as John and everybody in our organization," Shanahan said. "I feel we've added depth and most importantly competition."

Praise quickly showered down on the 49ers – a long-lost sight in these parts – and franchise icon Ronnie Lott tweeted: “Well done @49ers. D always starts up front!”

The 49ers defense, historically bad last season, indeed hogged their initial draft moves. After Thomas came a jolt of swagger and hard-hitting prowess in Alabama linebacker Reuben Foster at No. 31.

Once another defender arrived in the third round – Colorado cornerback Ahkello Witherspoon, a Sacramento native — Lynch knew how it looked to have a former Pro Bowl safety load up on defense with his picks. Lynch said even Shanahan joked with him about it inside the draft room.

“He said, ‘All right. We’re going offense now. You’ve had your fun,’ ” Lynch said with a laugh. “But, we’re both trying to improve this football team and we felt like these were the best players for us at the time and we’ll see where we go from here moving forward.”

Cue: Shanahan’s offensive influence.

In rational succession came quarterback C.J. Beathard (third round), running backs Kapri Bibbs (trade with Denver Broncos) and Joe Williams (fourth round), tight end George Kittle (fifth round) and wide receiver Trent Taylor (sixth round).

The 49ers jostled back into Friday’s third round to take Beathard, the draft’s sixth quarterback taken and the franchise’s highest-drafted since Colin Kaepernick (2011, second round).

Before Beathard’s senior season, he drew quite an endorsement: “We’ve got the next Tom Brady right over here, the quarterback, he’s going to be the next Tom Brady,” future president Donald Trump said of Beathard at a 2016 campaign appearance. “The next Tom Brady, come on. And I know Tom, and he’s a great guy.”

Shanahan immediately halted any hype of Beathard being a potential rookie starter, slotting him behind Brian Hoyer and top backup Matt Barkley.

If none of those quarterbacks inspire this season, the 49ers have ammunition to make a play for a marquee one next year. Through trades, they acquired the New Orleans Saints’ 2018 second-round pick and the Chicago Bears’ third-round choice.

That Bears pick was part of their loot for sliding one spot, going from No. 2 to 3, where Lynch selected his one-time classmate at Stanford. Lynch returned to The Farm in 2014 to complete his degree, and Thomas was a self-described “star-struck” freshman when he saw Lynch in their decision-analysis class.

“Off of (this draft), you could tell he makes good decisions,” Thomas quipped in the 49ers locker room Friday.

“Nobody told me (the draft) was this tiring. I feel I just played a game, and then some,” said Lynch, a former nine-time Pro Bowl safety

Lynch’s first order of business Saturday was to call Williams, who temporarily retired from Utah’s team early last season to finally mourn his sister’s fatal heart attack from 10 years earlier.

“I was gone for four weeks and it helped get my life back in order, because at the time it was in shambles,” Williams said on a media call. “I did everything to come to peace with her death.”

Williams returned to rush for 179 yards against Oregon State, 332 yards against UCLA and he closed with 222 yards en route to Foster Farms Bowl MVP honors at Levi’s Stadium.

The 49ers had dismissed Williams until learning more about his comeback, and Shanahan said he got especially intrigued “on a random, boring day” when he opted to watch Williams’ game film.

— Southern Miss quarterback Nick Mullens headlines the class of undrafted free agents signed by the 49ers, who’ll confirm that crop later this week. Others linked to the 49ers: wide receivers KD Cannon (Baylor), Victor Bolden (Oregon State) and Kendrick Bourne (Eastern Washington); offensive linemen Erik Magnusen (Michigan), J.P. Flynn (Montana State) and Darrell Williams Jr. (Western Kentucky); running back Matt Breida (Georgia); defensive back Lorenzo Jerome (St. Francis, Pa.), linebackers Donavin Newsom (Missouri) and Jimmie Gilbert (Colorado); defensive lineman Noble Nwachukwu (West Virginia); and, tight end Cole Hikutini (Louisville).

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#### ***49ers super candid on Vance McDonald trade talks***

By Cam Inman, San Jose Mercury News

General manager John Lynch confirmed the 49ers indeed explored trading away tight end Vance McDonald during the draft, four months after he signed a contract extension under their former regime.

“That’s the reality of new regimes coming in, new schemes,” Lynch said Saturday. “That’s not to say he can’t fit into our scheme. Frankly we received some interest from other people, then we did explore some options throughout the league with Vance.

“And nothing ended up happening, so Vance will come back and have an opportunity to compete.”

Coach Kyle Shanahan called McDonald on Friday night amid reports of trade talks, but McDonald was attending his brother’s wedding and did not answer Shanahan’s call. “I left a long message. He sent me a text this morning,” Shanahan said. “We’re all good and will talk in person (Monday).”

“We want Vance here,” Shanahan added. “All the guys we have here, we want here, until you can get better.”

Lynch said the 49ers will welcome back McDonald “with open arms.”

McDonald was a 2013 second-round draft pick who has seven career touchdowns. His December extension through 2021 that includes \$9 million guaranteed. McDonald participated in this past week’s voluntary minicamp.

“We took over a 2-14 team and we need to get better in every aspect,” Shanahan said. “It was true with Vance. But it wasn’t just Vance. We’re trying any way possible to improve our team. We did it with Vance the most because a lot of people were interested in him.”

Although the 49ers drafted Iowa tight end George Kittle in Saturday’s fifth round, Lynch said that was not reflective of a possible McDonald trade.

Lynch estimated a quarter of the teams called the 49ers shopping players. “It’s been going on for years,” Lynch said. “Our big deal, Kyle and I, was we are always going to be up front with players. Guys understand this is a business.”

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#### ***49ers draft at a glance, Rounds 4-7: Spread evenly over offense, defense***

By Matt Barrows, Sacramento Bee

Joe Williams

Selected: Round 4, pick 121

College: Utah

Position: Running back

Height/Weight: 5-foot-11, 210 pounds

Comment: He's an explosive runner who had two games last season in which he finished with more than 200 rushing yards. However, he's never been a prolific pass catcher – important in Kyle Shanahan's offense – and has commitment concerns after walking away from the game for a month last year.

George Kittle

Selected: Round 5, pick 146

College: Iowa

Position: Tight end

Height/Weight: 6-foot-4, 250 pounds

Comment: He's considered one of the best blocking tight ends in the draft, something he did often in Iowa's pro-style offense. Kittle emphasized his versatility, which is what likely drew Kyle Shanahan's attention. The 49ers coach wants to be able to run and throw equally well out of the same personnel groups.

Trent Taylor

Selected: Round 5, pick 177

College: Louisiana Tech

Position: WR

Height/Weight: 5-foot-8, 181 pounds

Comment: Taylor is small and isn't particularly fast. But he got open for 1,803 yards last season, which led the nation. He figures to line up as a slot receiver and will push Jeremy Kerley for playing time and Bruce Ellington for a roster spot. Taylor also returns punts.

D.J. Jones

Selected: Round 6, pick 198

College: Mississippi

Position: DT/NT

Height/Weight: 6-foot-1, 319 pounds

Comment: Jones will be added to the mix at nose tackle where free-agent acquisition Earl Mitchell is the starter and Quinton Dial and Mike Purcell are the backups. He's a weight-room champ with the Rebels who played against excellent competition in the SEC and who has the perfect physique for the position.

Pita Taumoepenu

Selected: Round 6, pick 202

College: Utah

Position: OLB/DE

Height/Weight: 6-foot-1, 243 pounds

Comment: He was used as a pass-rush specialist at Utah, which likely will be his role with the 49ers. Their so-called "Leo" spot calls for a relentless, athletic edge rusher. That's how Taumoepeanu describes himself. He had nine sacks for Utah last year, including two at the Foster Farms Bowl at Levi's Stadium.

Adrian Colbert

Selected: Round 7, pick 229

College: Miami

Position: S/CB

Height/Weight: 6-foot-0, 200 pounds

Comment: Colbert has played both safety and cornerback over a college career that began at Texas and finished at Miami. Whether he makes the team or not likely depends on his ability as a punt and kick coverage specialist.

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### ***How 49ers' John Lynch came around on RB Joe Williams***

By Matt Barrows, Sacramento Bee

When John Lynch learned Utah running back Joe Williams had walked away from his team for a month last season, his reaction was similar to that of the rest of the NFL.

"I was like, 'uh uh -- not interested,'" Lynch, the 49ers general manager, said Saturday.

But the more he and coach Kyle Shanahan watched Williams slice through college defenses and the more the 49ers explored his background, the faster his opinion changed.

Before the fourth round began on Saturday, Lynch spoke to Williams on the phone. And a few hours after that, he drafted him with the 121st overall pick.

"We got really comfortable with the kid and (had) a better understanding of what his story was," Lynch said.

Despite missing four games last season, Williams ran for 1,407 yards and 10 touchdowns, including a 332-yard performance against UCLA and a 222-yard game against Indiana in the Foster Farms Bowl at Levi's Stadium.

"He has the ability to make all the cuts, the ability to be a very good 'back in this league," Kyle Shanahan said. "Now he's got to do it and be consistent. And after talking with him ... we feel very good about the guy. We know there are things we do have to help him with, but I think he can have a very bright future for us and for himself in the NFL."

After concentrating on defense early in the draft, the 49ers switched to offense Saturday, including trading for Broncos running back Kapri Bibbs. The 49ers got Bibbs, 24, and a fifth-round pick from Denver in exchange for a fourth-round selection next year.

Other Saturday additions were tight end George Kittle, a strong blocker who once was roommates with third-round pick C.J. Beathard, prolific receiver Trent Taylor from Louisiana Tech, Mississippi nose tackle C.J. Jones, pass rusher Pita Taumoepeanu and defensive back Adrian Colbert from Miami.

Williams was the biggest -- and most controversial -- addition.

He took a circuitous route to Utah, getting kicked off the University of Connecticut team in 2013 for using a teammate's credit card. Then he decided to step away from the Utah program in September after citing mental and physical fatigue.

Williams said he was really wrestling with guilt.

His younger sister, Kylee, died in 2006 at age 7 due to an undiagnosed heart problem. She fell out of her bed one night and Williams blamed himself for not acting more quickly to save her.

"That's when she died in my hands," Williams said in recalling her death. "Just the guilt and shame that I had put upon myself, because I didn't act quickly enough for, you know, with my parents or to call 9-1-1. I always thought that it was my fault."

Lynch said running backs coach Bobby Turner spoke with Williams regularly -- to the point where they communicated on a daily basis -- and steadily became convinced that the running back should be considered. Lynch eventually came around as well after talking to Williams' college coach, Kyle Whittingham, and finally speaking with Williams himself.

"Before I drafted a young man like that, I wanted to talk to him," Lynch said of his Saturday morning phone call. "... He mentioned to me that throughout that process he kind of addressed some things that had been bothering him for some time and feels like he came out a different person. I think it's a wonderful story."

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#### ***49ers acknowledge Vance McDonald was subject of trade talks***

By Matt Barrows, Sacramento Bee

The 49ers on Saturday acknowledged they talked about trading tight end Vance McDonald over the last few days but did not end up moving the former second-round draft pick.

"I think that's the reality of new regimes coming in," general manager John Lynch said. "That's not to say he can't fit into our scheme. Frankly, we received some interest from some other people, and then we did explore some options throughout the league with Vance."

Kyle Shanahan said he called McDonald Friday and the two exchanged texts.

"We're all good," he said. "We're going to talk in person (Monday). We took over a 2-14 team. We need to get better in every aspect, and we're going to try to in every aspect. It wasn't just Vance. ... We (talked about) Vance the most because a lot of people were interested in Vance. But we're ready to do that with anybody. We're going to try to improve our team in any way possible because we have a lot of work to do."

McDonald signed a five-year contract extension in December worth as much as \$35 million. He averaged more than 16 yards a reception last year and caught four touchdowns, one of them for 75 yards. But he has yet to play a full 16-game season since being taken in the second round in 2013.

McDonald and Logan Paulsen, a free-agent acquisition, lined up with the first-team offense during the team's minicamp. The 49ers also have Garrett Celek, Je'Ron Hamm and Blake Bell at the position and added George Kittle out of Iowa in the fifth round on Saturday.

"It left me thinking because, I would say, a quarter of the teams called us with various players that they're trying to shop," Lynch said. "It got me thinking how many times in my career I was shop and I never knew about it."

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### **Round 7: 49ers end draft with Miami defensive back Adrian Colbert**

By Matt Barrows, Sacramento Bee

With their final pick in the draft, the 49ers selected Miami defensive back Adrian Colbert.

Who is he?: Colbert started four games at safety at Texas before transferring to Miami. He played cornerback there, starting two games last season and playing in eight. Colbert finished 2016 with 22 tackles, one interception and three pass break ups. He measured 6-0, 200 pounds at his pro day and ran his 40-yard dash in 4.49 seconds.

How he fits: Colbert will get a chance to play both safety and cornerback with the 49ers but his roster spot likely hinges on his special teams ability. One of the team's biggest needs is free safety. Jimmie Ward, who has been injured in recent years, lined up there in the team's recent minicamp. His backup was Vinnie Sunseri.

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### **49ERS 2017 UDFA TRACKER: SOUTHERN MISS QB AGREES TO TERMS**

By Matt Maiocco, CSNBayArea.com

The 49ers are reportedly adding a fourth quarterback to their 90-man roster.

Nick Mullens a four-year starter at Southern Mississippi, agreed to terms with the 49ers after the conclusion of the Saturday's NFL draft.

Mullens posted a drawing on Twitter from his childhood of "Joe Montana, Football Star." He wrote, "I've known about the @49ers since 2nd grade & now I can't wait to be apart of the organization! Ready to get to work in San Fran."

Draft picks, players who sign as undrafted rookies and other rookies invited for tryouts are scheduled to report Thursday for the 49ers' rookie minicamp. Practices will be held Friday, Saturday and Sunday.

As a senior, Mullens (6 foot 1, 196 pounds) completed 65.5 percent of his passes for 3,272 yards with 24 touchdowns and 11 interceptions.

Mullens joins a quarterback group that includes starter Brian Hoyer, backup Matt Barkley and third-round draft pick C.J. Beathard.

Other reported 49ers free-agent agreements include:

--TE Cole Hikutini, Louisville: He began his career with one-season stints at Sacramento State and City College of San Francisco before transferring to Louisville. Hikutini (6-4, 247) caught 50 passes for 668 yards and eight TDs in his final college season. Hikutini missed the Cardinals' bowl game, the Senior Bowl and combine workouts due to a knee injury. He returned from the non-surgical injury to run at his pro day. Hikutini announced his signing with the 49ers via Twitter.

--RB Matt Breida, Georgia Southern: In three seasons at Georgia Southern, Breida rushed for 3,740 yards and 37 touchdowns while averaging 6.9 yards a carry. Georgia Southern announced Breida's decision to sign with the 49ers.

--OL Erik Magnuson, Michigan: Magnuson (6-6, 305) was a first-team All-Big Ten performer who started every game at right tackle. He announced on Twitter that he has agreed to terms with the 49ers.

--WR Kendrick Bourne, Eastern Washington: He caught 211 passes for 3,130 yards and 27 touchdowns in his four-year career. Bourne (6-1, 203) had his best season as a senior, with 79 receptions for 1,201 yards and seven touchdowns. Eastern Washington announced Bourne's three-year contract.

--OT Darrell Williams Jr., Western Kentucky: Williams (6-5, 315) started 41 games. He played his final two seasons at right tackle after moving from right guard. Western Kentucky announced the contract agreement with the 49ers.

--WR KD Cannon, Baylor: Cannon caught 195 passes for 3,113 and 27 touchdowns in his three-year career. He turned pro after a junior season in which he caught 87 passes for 1,215 yards and 13 touchdowns. He announced his contract agreement with the 49ers via Twitter.

--DB Lorenzo Jerome, Saint Francis (PA): Jerome, a Senior Bowl invite, was named first-team FCS All-American. He intercepted six passes in 2016 with 59 tackles, 5.5 tackles for loss and 11 pass break-ups. He added a touchdown on a kickoff return. Saint Francis announced the contract agreement.

--WR Victor Bolden, Oregon State: Bolden played four seasons at Oregon State, catching a total of 170 passes for 1,863 yards and seven touchdowns. Bolden (5-8 ¾, 178) ran 4.54 seconds in the 40-yard dash at the combine. (Bolden via Twitter)

--LB Jimmie Gilbert, Colorado (Colorado Football)

--OL J.P. Flynn, Montana (Flynn via Twitter)

--DE Noble Nwachukwu, West Virginia (@WVUSports247)

--LB Donavin Newsom, Missouri (Columbia Daily Tribune)

--OL Bret Treadway (Treadway via Twitter)

--DB Jihaad Pretlow, Fordham (Instagram @la\_rivers)

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### **LYNCH: TE MCDONALD TO RETURN TO 49ERS AFTER BEING ON TRADE BLOCK**

By Matt Maiocco, CSNBayArea.com

The 49ers explored trade options for veteran tight end Vance McDonald during the three-day draft, but he is scheduled be back with the team when the club reports Monday for the fourth week of the offseason program.

"I think that's the reality of new regimes coming, new schemes," 49ers general manager John Lynch said Saturday at the conclusion the seven-round draft. "That's not to say that he can't fit into our scheme. Frankly, we received some interest from some other people, then we did explore some options throughout the league with Vance. Nothing ended up happening, so Vance will come back and have an opportunity to compete."



Coach Kyle Shanahan said he called McDonald on Friday night to keep him updated on the team's thought process in pursuing trade options. McDonald was at his brother's wedding, Shanahan said, so he left him a long voice message. McDonald responded Saturday morning with a text. Shanahan said the two men will speak on Monday in Santa Clara.

"We did take over a 2-14 team," Shanahan said. "We don't feel all the answers are here right now. We have a lot of work to do. We need to improve in any way possible. And we're going to do that. We're going to do that from an organizational standpoint. How can we improve the building? How can we improve the coaching staff? How can we improve the personnel department? How can we improve the players?"

"Just from Vance's text back, I think people understand that. I think it does make sense. I don't think that's something personal."

Former 49ers general manager Trent Baalke signed off on a five-year contract extension for McDonald in December that consisted of a \$7 million signing bonus. McDonald appeared in 11 games last season, catching 24 passes for 391 yards and four touchdowns. The 49ers acquired McDonald as a second-round draft pick 2013. In 48 career games, McDonald has 64 receptions for 866 yards and seven touchdowns.

The 49ers signed veteran tight end Logan Paulsen in the offseason. On Saturday, the 49ers selected Iowa tight end George Kittle in the fifth round of the draft. Kittle joins fellow tight ends McDonald, Garrett Celek, Paulsen, Blake Bell and Je'Ron Hamm on the 49ers' 90-man roster.

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#### ***LYNCH: 49ERS EXPECTED TO PICK UP WARD'S FIFTH-YEAR OPTION***

By Matt Maiocco, CSNBayArea.com

The 49ers plan to pick up the fifth-year option on defensive back Jimmie Ward for the 2018 season, general manager John Lynch said Saturday.

The league-wide deadline for picking up the option is Wednesday. After the 49ers did not draft a free safety within the first two days of the draft, it became apparent Ward fits into the team's plan for at least the next two seasons. Coach Kyle Shanahan said he was excited after watching Ward during the team's minicamp this week.

The fifth-year option, a product of the 2011 collective bargaining agreement, enables teams to control the rights of first-round draft picks for one season beyond the mandatory four-year contract. The salary for safeties drafted outside the top 10 is \$5.957 million.

The salary is guaranteed for injury only. The team can void the deal until the first day of the 2018 league year.

Ward, whom the 49ers selected with the 30th overall pick of the 2014 draft, was the team's top nickel back in his first two seasons, appearing in 24 games. Last year, Ward moved to cornerback, where he started 11 games before landing on injured reserve with a shoulder injury.

With the 49ers' conversion to a defense based on the Seattle Seahawks' scheme, Ward is being moved to free safety. He is expected to fill a role based on what Earl Thomas plays with the Seahawks.

Here are the 49ers' decisions since the inception of the fifth-year option rule:

--The 49ers picked up the fifth-year option on Aldon Smith before restructuring the contract. The 49ers eventually released Smith before the start of his fifth season due to multiple off-field incidents.

--Wide receiver A.J. Jenkins was traded to the Kansas City Chiefs before his second NFL season.

--The 49ers picked up the fifth-year option on safety Eric Reid for this season. He is scheduled to earn \$5.676 this season.

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### **49ERS SELECT CB ADRIAN COLBERT IN SEVENTH ROUND OF THE 2017 NFL DRAFT**

By Matt Maiocco, CSNBayArea.com

ADRIAN COLBERT

Position: Defensive back

College: Miami

Height: 6-0

Weight: 200

Selection: Seventh round, No. 229 overall

The 49ers selected Miami defensive back Adrian Colbert with the team's final pick of the draft.

General manager John Lynch wrapped up his first draft with the selection of Colbert with the No. 229 overall selection. Colbert has the ability to play cornerback or free safety with the 49ers. He could make the team as a core special-teams performer.

Colbert played his first three college seasons at Texas before transferring to Miami, where he saw action in eight games with two starts. As a senior, he recorded 22 tackles and one interception.

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### **San Francisco 49ers find defensive foundation but no franchise QB**

By Nick Wagoner, ESPN.com

Here are the biggest post-draft questions the San Francisco 49ers have to answer:

When will the 49ers make a move for a franchise quarterback? The Niners drafted Iowa quarterback C.J. Beathard late in the third round, and coach Kyle Shanahan said Beathard will be third on the depth chart, with hopes that he can develop in the coming years. But the Niners still don't have their long-term solution at the position. That's not surprising after Shanahan and general manager John Lynch spent a lot of time preaching the need for patience in the run-up to the draft. But the Niners did make an effort to position themselves to land a franchise quarterback in 2018 when veterans Kirk Cousins and Jimmy Garoppolo could be free agents and the draft could have a number of top prospects. The Niners acquired additional second- and third-round picks in next year's draft so they have extra ammunition in case they want to make a trade to get the quarterback they want.

Who steps up in the secondary? While the Niners' additions to the front seven should bolster the pass rush, there are still some question marks in the secondary, especially at cornerback. The Niners released former starter Tramaine Brock and have been experimenting with former starting corner Jimmie Ward at free safety. That leaves second-year corner Rashard Robinson as a likely starter but also leaves an opening on the other side. Third-round pick Ahkello Witherspoon could compete for that spot but will have to prove he's capable of tackling consistently before he can win the job. Suffice to say, there will be a lot of competition here in the coming months before the 49ers can sort it all out.

What will the defensive line look like? Upon drafting Solomon Thomas with the third overall pick, the Niners have spent their first pick in each of the past three drafts on a defensive lineman. Which puts the onus on defensive coordinator Robert Saleh to make the pieces fit. Early indications are that Thomas will play left defensive end on early downs and move inside on passing downs. That likely leaves DeForest Buckner to play 3-technique defensive tackle, and the Niners seem willing to try Arik Armstead at the "Leo" or "Elephant" position on the other side. The fits make sense for Thomas and Buckner, though each

will have to prove himself. Armstead, however, doesn't really match the typical description for that position, so it seems to be an odd fit. Perhaps he can make it work, but if not, the Niners are in serious need of an upgrade at that spot to help the pass rush.

What's next for Lynch and Shanahan? While it's way too early to pass judgment on the new regime's draft class, we can evaluate a few things in terms of their approach. Did they have a plan? Did that plan make sense? Did they execute that plan? From my standpoint, the answers are yes, yes and yes. Lynch and Shanahan operated in this draft like old veterans, deftly moving up and down the board to stockpile talent while keeping a necessary eye to the future. Now, it's up to Shanahan and his staff to develop the talent in place while Lynch continues to help build the culture. Nothing is guaranteed and there's a lot of work left to do, but this is a strong start for a franchise that needed some positive momentum.

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### ***49ers attempted to trade Vance McDonald but couldn't find a deal***

By Nick Wagoner, ESPN.com

Among the endless scuttlebutt that comes with NFL draft weekend was a rumor that cropped up Friday indicating the San Francisco 49ers were shopping starting tight end Vance McDonald. As it turned out, it wasn't just a rumor.

Niners general manager John Lynch and coach Kyle Shanahan acknowledged Saturday afternoon that they had indeed had conversations about dealing McDonald but nothing they liked materialized.

"I think that's the reality of new regimes coming in, new schemes," Lynch said. "That's not to say that he can't fit into our scheme. Frankly, we received some interest from some other people and then we did explore some options throughout the league with Vance and nothing ended up happening. So, Vance will come back and have an opportunity to compete. That's where that stands."

Shanahan and Lynch have made it clear since arriving in the Bay Area that they would be as up front with players as possible, so they wanted to make sure McDonald knew that his name was coming up in trade talks. To their credit, Lynch and Shanahan have thus far offered similar transparency with the media and weren't afraid to discuss how such conversations came about and how they approach it with McDonald.

On Friday, Shanahan attempted to call McDonald to talk to him about it but McDonald was attending his brother's wedding. Shanahan left a lengthy message and McDonald texted him back on Saturday morning. Shanahan said he anticipated talking to McDonald in person in the next couple of days but offered further explanation on why the Niners were willing to make a move with McDonald and, apparently, other veterans on the roster.

"We took over a 2-14 team and we need to get better in every aspect and we're going to try to in every aspect," Shanahan said. "It was true with Vance, but it wasn't just Vance. We weren't doing Vance just specifically. We're trying any way possible to improve our team. We did it with Vance the most because a lot of people are interested in Vance. But we were ready to do that with anybody. We'll listen to that always and try to improve our team in any way we can because we have a lot of work to do. If we don't think it will improve our team, then we're going to do what's best for the organization and I think our players will respect that. We'll be upfront with that, but that's exactly what it was about, just taking over a 2-14 team and we need to get better. It started in free agency, then went to the draft these last few days. We'll always be looking to improve."

Of course, such transparency also has the potential to create friction between the team and player if a trade doesn't work out. But Lynch and Shanahan also said they believe further conversations can ease such concerns.

"Our big deal, Kyle and I, is just that we were always going to be upfront with players, because I know from my experience in this league, so long as people are upfront and tell you what they're doing and why

they're doing it," Lynch said. "Guys understand that this is a business. And so, that's something we've committed to do and will continue to do. I think as long as you operate as such, players will understand."

The Niners signed McDonald to a five-year contract extension near the end of last season but that deal wasn't put together by the current regime. As Shanahan and Lynch explained it, where McDonald fits in Shanahan's offense might not have been how the Niners envisioned him fitting under previous coach Chip Kelly. McDonald is coming off his best NFL season, posting 24 catches for 391 yards and four touchdowns.

But McDonald has never played a full 16-game season and has struggled with drops in his four-year career. The 49ers drafted Iowa tight end George Kittle in the fifth round Saturday and signed Logan Paulsen in the offseason. Shanahan's offense favors versatile tight ends who can do a little bit of everything.

"We don't feel all the answers are here right now," Shanahan said. "We've got a lot of work to do and we need to improve it every way possible and we're going to do that. You do that from an organization standpoint, how can we improve the building, how can we improve the coaching staff, how can we improve the personnel department, how can we improve the players."

Still, Shanahan expressed confidence that McDonald understood why the Niners at least explored trading him. Lynch wouldn't rule out a deal materializing but for now it seems McDonald will be welcomed back.

"We want Vance here," Shanahan said. "All the guys we have here, we want here until you can get better. I try to give an analogy. If someone called and offered to give the Niners [New England Patriots QB] Tom Brady, but I had to go, they should listen to that. I wouldn't be offended. I would get that. You explore all avenues to improve your team and that's nothing more than that."

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### ***Best and riskiest moves for every team's 2017 NFL draft class***

By Nick Wagoner, ESPN.com

San Francisco 49ers

Best move: Trading down from No. 2 to No. 3 and taking DE Solomon Thomas. Adding Thomas, who many considered one of the safest picks in the draft, is just icing on the cake after the trade the Niners made with the Bears before the pick. The 49ers moved down one spot and picked up two third-round choices and a fourth-round pick in return. They used that fourth-rounder to move back into the first and now have some additional picks in 2018 they can use to help acquire their franchise quarterback, if needed. Riskiest move: Moving up to draft LB Reuben Foster. The Niners viewed Foster as one of the three best players in the draft and, based purely on talent, many others also had him in that range. But Foster slipped to No. 31 because of a lingering shoulder injury as well as a negative drug test for a diluted sample at the scouting combine. If Foster is healthy and stays on track, he could be the steal of the draft. If not, this was a missed opportunity with a valuable draft choice.

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### ***Best draft pick for all 32 NFL teams***

By Todd McShay, ESPN.com

San Francisco 49ers

Solomon Thomas, DL, Stanford (pick No. 3)

The analysis of this pick is two-fold. First, Thomas is one of the most complete players in this draft, possessing an outstanding combination of size, quickness and power. And second is the trade GM John

Lynch manufactured as part of the pick. Lynch could've easily selected Thomas No. 2 overall, but Lynch traded down one pick with the Bears and got a ransom in return: Third- and fourth-round picks in 2017 and an additional third in 2018. They used the fourth-rounder this year to trade up and get ILB Reuben Foster (our No. 8 overall player) with the 31st pick. And then they traded the third-rounder they received in the initial deal to the Saints for a 2017 seventh (DB Adrian Colbert) and 2018 second. So the 49ers got two top-10 players in this class and 2018 second- and fourth-rounders. This is the most ridiculous series of trades I've seen in all of my years doing this.

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### ***Mel Kiper's 2017 NFL draft grades***

By Mel Kiper Jr., ESPN.com

San Francisco 49ers: A-

Top needs: Quarterback, offensive line, defensive back

John Lynch went straight from the booth to a general manager role, but didn't look like a rookie GM in his first draft. On the first night, he made two smart trades and added two prospects (Solomon Thomas and Reuben Foster) I ranked in my top eight overall. To move down one spot from No. 2 to No. 3 with the Bears, the Niners got pick Nos. 67 and 111 this year and a third-round pick in 2018. That's a heist. The added draft value allowed them easy passage to slide up for Foster. Even if you didn't love these players, you'd have to say bravo to the maneuvering.

Elsewhere, the 49ers were able to target clear needs at cornerback with Ahkello Witherspoon in Round 3, and at running back with Joe Williams in Round 4. George Kittle is the best fullback/tight end hybrid in the draft. D.J. Jones and Pita Taumoepeu are useful D-line depth pieces and Trent Taylor could help at receiver.

If there's a puzzler here, it's the use of a third-rounder on C.J. Beathard, a guy I had rated well behind a few other QBs available at the time. The divide on Beathard is whether you see physical tools that translate to a potential starter. I'm not quite in that camp.

Overall, the 49ers did well to not just settle for picking good players and make a play for adding a second elite player. Reuben Foster carries some risk, but at No. 31? Bring it on. This is a good start to the Lynch era.

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### ***49ers make another trade, add another running back***

By Josh Alper, ProFootballTalk.com

Before the 49ers made their first pick of the final day of the draft, they made a trade with the Broncos that landed them running back Kapri Bibbs.

Adding Bibbs didn't completely satisfy their desire to bolster their backfield, however. They traded the 143rd and 161st picks in this year's draft to the Colts for the 121st pick and used it on Utah running back Joe Williams.

Williams played an abbreviated season in 2016 after giving up football for part of the year. Williams said his decision to walk away from the game resulted from his need to deal with the death of his seven-year-old sister and the time off didn't seem to hurt his game as he ran for the majority of his 1,407 yards and scored all 10 of his touchdowns after returning to the Utes in October.

Williams and Bibbs join Carlos Hyde, Tim Hightower, DuJuan Harris and Mike Davis in a crowded backfield. Given how much the 49ers have been trading during this draft — six deals thus far — that could change before the day is out.

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### ***49ers trade 2018 fourth-round pick for Kapri Bibbs and 2017 fifth-rounder***

By Josh Alper, ProFootballTalk.com

New 49ers General Manager John Lynch has been an active trader in his first draft and that continued on Saturday.

Adam Scheffter of ESPN reports that the 49ers have sent a 2018 fourth-round pick to the Broncos in exchange for running back Kapri Bibbs and a fifth-round pick this year. The 49ers now have seven picks on Saturday while the Broncos have five left.

Bibbs ran 29 times for 129 yards in 12 games last season and also had two catches for 75 yards, including a 69-yard touchdown. C.J. Anderson and Devontae Booker are at the top of the running back depth chart for the Broncos, but more help may be coming before the day is out.

Bibbs will join Carlos Hyde, Tim Hightower, DuJuan Harris and Mike Davis as backfield options for the Niners in 2017.

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### ***2017 NFL Draft: Quick-snap grades for all 32 teams***

By Chad Reuter, NFL.com

San Francisco 49ers

Draft picks: Solomon Thomas (No. 3 overall), Reuben Foster (No. 31 overall), Ahkello Witherspoon (No. 66 overall), C.J. Beathard (No. 104 overall), Joe Williams (No. 121 overall), George Kittle (No. 146 overall), Trent Taylor (No. 177 overall), D.J. Jones (No. 198 overall), Pita Taumoepeenu (No. 202 overall), Adrian Colbert (No. 229 overall)

Day 1 grade: A

Day 2 grade: C+

Day 3 grade: A

Overall grade: B+

The skinny: In Round 1, the 49ers got their guy at No. 3, and picked up two thirds (one future) and a fourth in the process. That's a big win. They picked the second-best player in the draft in Solomon Thomas. Then Reuben Foster was sitting there just waiting for someone to grab him, so they traded a fourth-round pick to Seattle to get him. If Foster's shoulder is OK, he'll be another Patrick Willis in the middle. GM John Lynch found a much-needed cornerback in Ahkello Witherspoon, a long and lean player who will need a bit of time to get ready. In the late fourth, they picked up Iowa quarterback C.J. Beathard, a solid backup pick-up. That's a bit early for him, going over Joshua Dobbs and Nathan Peterman.

Running back Joe Williams is a blur, and could be a great value. Nose tackle D.J. Jones and receiver Trent Taylor are short, but active and productive. They'll compete. I would have liked to see the Niners get offensive line help, but they could get that after the draft. GM John Lynch found a much-needed cornerback in Ahkello Witherspoon, a long and lean player who will need a bit of time to get ready. In the

late fourth, they picked up Iowa quarterback C.J. Beathard, a solid backup. That's a bit early for him, though, going over Joshua Dobbs and Nathan Peterman.