

49ers Clips – January 23, 2017

Local Media

Falcons win and 49ers will wait for Kyle Shanahan

By Eric Branch, San Francisco Chronicle

<http://www.sfchronicle.com/49ers/article/Falcons-win-and-49ers-will-wait-for-Shanahan-10875688.php>

49ers in awe of Falcons, Shanahan-scripted offense

By Cam Inman, San Jose Mercury News

<http://www.mercurynews.com/2017/01/22/49ers-in-awe-of-falcons-shanahan-scripted-offense/>

Falcons' win sends 49ers back to Atlanta to meet with Shanahan

By Matt Barrows, Sacramento Bee

<http://www.sacbee.com/sports/nfl/san-francisco-49ers/article128085079.html>

FALCONS ROUT PACKERS, POSTPONE DATE SHANAHAN CAN SIGN WITH 49ERS

By Matt Maiocco, CSNBayArea.com

<http://www.csnbayarea.com/49ers/falcons-rout-packers-postpone-date-shanahan-can-sign-49ers>

49ers to meet with Kyle Shanahan again; wait for new coach extended

By Nick Wagoner, ESPN.com

http://www.espn.com/blog/san-francisco-49ers/post/_id/22964/49ers-to-meet-with-kyle-shanahan-again-but-wait-extended-two-more-weeks

National Media

Will Seahawks keep Luke Willson? That's among questions facing tight end position in offseason

By Bob Condotta, The Seattle Times

<http://www.seattletimes.com/sports/seahawks/will-seahawks-keep-luke-willson-thats-among-questions-facing-tight-end-position-in-off-season/>

Redskins promote Greg Manusky to defensive coordinator

By Master Tesfatsion and Mike Jones, Washington Post

https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/football-insider/wp/2017/01/22/redskins-to-promote-greg-manusky-to-defensive-coordinator/?utm_term=.123ca2be4671

Patriots open to trading backup QB Jimmy Garoppolo

By Kevin Patra, NFL.com

<http://www.nfl.com/news/story/0ap3000000777346/article/patriots-open-to-trading-backup-qb-jimmy-garoppolo>

Mike McCarthy on Falcons: 'We ran into a buzz saw'

By Mark Sessler, NFL.com

<http://www.nfl.com/news/story/0ap3000000777928/article/mike-mccarthy-on-falcons-we-ran-into-a-buzz-saw>

Ben Roethlisberger critical of young receivers after AFC title loss

By Ray Fittipaldo, Pittsburgh Post-Gazette

<http://www.post-gazette.com/sports/steelers/2017/01/23/Pittsburgh-Steelers-needed-offense-to-perform-it-didn-t-AFC-championship/stories/201701230115>

Martellus Bennett among long-suffering veterans enjoying their moment

By Adam Kurkjian, Boston Herald

http://www.bostonherald.com/sports/patriots/2017/01/martellus_bennett_among_long_suffering_veterans_enjoying_their_moment

Local Clips – Full Version

Falcons win and 49ers will wait for Kyle Shanahan

By Eric Branch, San Francisco Chronicle

Kyle Shanahan, the 49ers' presumptive head coach, will retain that awkward title for two more weeks.

The Falcons' offensive coordinator helped guide his team to Super Bowl LI on Sunday as his play-calling was part of a dominant performance in a 44-21 romp over the Packers in the NFC Championship Game. As a result, the 49ers can't hire Shanahan until after Atlanta plays in its second Super Bowl in franchise history Feb. 5.

The 49ers will meet with Shanahan in Atlanta on Friday, when they also will meet with candidates for their general-manager opening, ESPN reported. The 49ers have a second interview with Minnesota assistant general manager George Paton, although Arizona vice president of player personnel Terry McDonough hasn't been ruled out. The 49ers could consider other candidates.

It's possible that Shanahan, 37, will have considerable power as he oversees the rebuilding of a team that has lost 29 of its past 37 games dating to 2014. It's not known whether he will have control of the roster, which is something his father, Mike, demanded in his final 18 seasons as head coach with Denver and Washington.

If Shanahan gets personnel control, it probably will make the GM opening less attractive. On Sunday, NFL Network reported that CEO Jed York does not view the issue of roster control as a "major issue" and hasn't determined whether Shanahan or the GM will have final say.

Mike Shanahan, who was the 49ers' offensive coordinator in their last Super Bowl-winning season in 1994, won two Super Bowls with the Broncos. On Sunday, his son, whose offenses have ranked among the NFL's top 10 in six of his nine seasons as a coordinator, continued to show he learned something from his father.

The Falcons had 30 first downs, 493 yards and scored touchdowns on six of their first eight drives. In the regular season, Atlanta scored the eighth-most points (540) in NFL history and led the league in yards per play (6.7).

Given Shanahan's offensive focus, the 49ers' defensive-coordinator hire is important. Last season, the 49ers allowed the most yards, rushing yards and points in franchise history. They pursued former Jacksonville head coach Gus Bradley for the position before he was hired by the Chargers on Friday. They also had interest Chicago defensive coordinator Vic Fangio, but he wasn't let out of his contract, a source said.

Barring the unforeseen, Shanahan will become the 19th head coach in the 49ers' 71-year history and the youngest since they hired Dick Nolan when he was 35 in 1968. Shanahan also will be the second-youngest head coach in the NFL behind the Rams' Sean McVay, 30.

Kyle Shanahan

Age: 37

Head-coaching experience: None

College: Graduate assistant, UCLA (2003)

NFL: Offensive coordinator for Falcons (2015-16), Browns (2014), Washington (2010-13), and Texans (2008-09); QB coach (2007) and wide receivers coach (2006); offensive quality-control coach for Bucs (2004-05).

Lineage: Father Mike coached for 20 years in the NFL (including two seasons with the L.A. Raiders, 1988-89), won two Super Bowls with Denver (1997-98 seasons) and had a career record of 170-138.

49ers in awe of Falcons, Shanahan-scripted offense

By Cam Inman, San Jose Mercury News

Shanahan Watch will last two more weeks for the coach-seeking 49ers.

With offensive coordinator Kyle Shanahan dialing up plays for a high-scoring showcase, the Atlanta Falcons advanced Sunday to the Super Bowl by clinching the NFC title and routing the Green Bay Packers 44-21 in the Georgia Dome's finale.

League rules prevent the 49ers from hiring Shanahan or announce a potential deal until after Super Bowl LI in Houston on Feb. 5. However, they are allowed to meet with him a second time this week, and that will take place Friday in Atlanta, perhaps along with general manager-candidate George Paton, a league source said.

"I've pretty much been on a one-track mind all week," Shanahan told USA Today after Sunday's game. "Now that this is over, I'll have a chance to talk with (the 49ers) a little bit more, and after that week, I've got to go back to blocking it out and go to the Super Bowl, which shouldn't be too hard. It's the Super Bowl.

"It's a lot to juggle, but it's definitely something that I'm happy I'm a part of," added Shanahan, who overcame a bout of the stomach flu from Friday night.

Instead of coughing up a 17-0 lead in the NFC Championship Game like they did against the visiting 49ers four years ago, the Falcons kept showing why they're the league's highest-scoring team under Shanahan, their second-year coordinator. They led 24-0 at halftime and 31-0 early in the second half, drawing applause from not only their home crowd but several 49ers players on social media.

Wide receiver Torrey Smith tweeted: "The Falcons offense is balanced and gets EVERYONE involved EARLY." Smith followed up by noting he wasn't disrespecting the 49ers' "good" offense, adding: "We just didn't play well."

Torrey Smith ✓ @TorreySmithWR

The Falcons offense is balanced and gets EVERYONE involved EARLY ☐

Offensive tackle John Theus concisely summed up the Falcons show by tweeting, "Wow." Left tackle Joe Staley, a 10-year veteran and the 49ers' longest-tenured player, expressed his pleasure with a celebratory GIF on Twitter.

Had the Falcons lost Sunday, Jed York and the 49ers brass planned on flying Monday to Atlanta to presumably close a deal with Shanahan, who emerged as their No. 1 target at least since last Monday when New England's Josh McDaniels withdrew from consideration. York has not commented on the three-week search, nor did he tweet anything about the Falcons' win Sunday.

"He's the odds-on favorite to take that San Francisco 49ers job, and they don't have a quarterback on that roster like Matt Ryan," Fox announcer Troy Aikman said during the fourth quarter of Sunday's broadcast. "If he does take the job, things are going to get a little bit tougher."

Shanahan, 37, has never previously been a head coach, although his father, Mike, won back-to-back Super Bowls with the 1997-98 Denver Broncos coach after helping the 49ers win their last one in the 1994 season as their offensive coordinator.

Mike Shanahan is not expected to have a role in the 49ers reorganization after the Jan. 1 dismissals of coach Chip Kelly and general manager Trent Baalke.

"A lot of what Kyle Shanahan has learned offensively, you'd think it came from his father," Aikman added. "He wanted to have a running game like Mike Shanahan had over the years with the Denver Broncos. But he learned a lot of his philosophy and offense from Jon Gruden."

Kyle Shanahan's first NFL coaching job was under Gruden as a Tampa Bay Buccaneers offensive quality control coach in 2004-05.

The search for Baalke's replacement remains somewhat up in the air. Paton, the Minnesota Vikings assistant general manager, is expected to have a follow-up interview with the 49ers and presumably Shanahan on Friday in Atlanta, which is where the 49ers interviewed both Paton and Shanahan a first time on Jan. 6.

Terry McDonough, an Arizona Cardinals executive, is also believed to still be on the 49ers' radar, and the franchise is leaving open the possibility of more candidates recommended by Shanahan.

One of Falcons coach Dan Quinn's candidates to replace Shanahan is former 49ers coach Chip Kelly, Fox Sports reported. Kelly went 2-14 in his lone season upon replacing Jim Tomsula, who reportedly is returning to the NFL after a year's hiatus to become Washington's defensive-line coach.

In Kelly's third-to-last game, by the way, the Falcons beat the visiting 49ers 41-13 on Dec. 18.

MadMax ✓ @EliHarold_
Falcons r good man !!!

So far, the 49ers have announced interviews with six potential coaches and nine candidates for general manager. McDaniels and former Raiders coach Tom Cable pulled out of the coach search last week, while three others filled coaching vacancies elsewhere: Sean McVay (Los Angeles Rams), Anthony Lynn (Los Angeles Chargers) and Sean McDermott (Buffalo Bills).

General manager candidates who've rebuffed second interviews or further consideration are the Seattle Seahawks' Trent Kirchner and the Green Bay Packers' tandem of Eliot Wolf and Brian Gutekunst. The 49ers were unable to procure interviews with Kansas City's Chris Ballard and New England's Nick Caserio. On Saturday, the Indianapolis Colts also joined the market for a new general manager, dismissing Ryan Grigson.

Falcons' win sends 49ers back to Atlanta to meet with Shanahan

By Matt Barrows, Sacramento Bee

SANTA CLARA -- The Falcons are heading to the Super Bowl, and the 49ers are heading back to Atlanta for a second interview with Kyle Shanahan.

The Falcons offensive coordinator's unit had another dominating playoff performance Sunday, scoring 44 points and gaining nearly 500 yards against the Green Bay Packers.

The 49ers are permitted a second interview with Shanahan, their presumptive next head coach, after meeting with him earlier this month. According to national reports, that session will take place Friday at

the behest of Falcons head coach Dan Quinn. The 49ers can't make Shanahan's hiring official until after the Super Bowl on Feb. 5.

The upcoming meeting also will occur in conjunction with more interviews for San Francisco's vacant general manager post. The 49ers already have met with two candidates being considered, George Paton of the Minnesota Vikings and Terry McDonough of the Arizona Cardinals.

Others could enter the mix this week.

The 49ers are looking for cohesion between their general manager and head coach, and they may look at candidates who have worked with Shanahan.

Candidates who fit that description include Mark Dominik, who was Tampa Bay's pro scouting director in 2004 and 2005 when Shanahan was an entry-level assistant with the Buccaneers, and Mike Lombardi, who was Cleveland's general manager and vice president of player personnel when Shanahan was the Browns' offensive coordinator in 2014.

The 49ers interviewed Lombardi in 2011, the year they made Trent Baalke their general manager. Lombardi was a scout with the 49ers from 1984 to 1987. The 49ers also have inquired about Jacksonville Jaguars personnel director Chris Polian, who previously served as the Indianapolis Colts' general manager.

The only general manager meeting firmly set for next week is with Paton, who has served as the second in command in Minnesota for the past 10 years. Paton is from Southern California and played at UCLA. He has never worked on the same team as Shanahan, although the two share an agent.

Three previous candidates – Green Bay's Brian Gutekunst and Eliot Wolf, and Seattle's Trent Kirchner – withdrew from the search last week. The 49ers also eliminated others, including ESPN's Louis Riddick and Indianapolis Colts executive Jimmy Raye III, who appears to be the front-runner to take over from recently fired Ryan Grigson.

McDonough has not been eliminated. But it's still unclear whether he will receive a second interview.

FALCONS ROUT PACKERS, POSTPONE DATE SHANAHAN CAN SIGN WITH 49ERS

By Matt Maiocco, CSNBayArea.com

Before the 49ers will have an opportunity to officially hire Atlanta Falcons offensive coordinator Kyle Shanahan as the team's next head coach, executives Jed York and Paraag Marathe will have a chance to meet with him for a second time.

The Falcons advanced to Super Bowl 51 with an impressive 44-21 victory over the Green Bay Packers in the NFC Championship game. Shanahan's offense rolled up 493 yards and converted 10 of 14 (77 percent) on third downs. Atlanta quarterback Matt Ryan completed 27 of 38 passes for 392 yards and four touchdowns.

Shanahan, who was voted the NFL Assistant Coach of the Year last week in a voting of the Pro Football Writers of America, is scheduled to interview with the 49ers on Friday, a source told CSNBayArea.com

NFL rules prohibit the 49ers from hiring Shanahan until after the Falcons' final game of the season. Atlanta will face the Pittsburgh-New England winner in Super Bowl 51 on Feb. 5 in Houston.

Shanahan is expected to be involved in the 49ers' process to hire a general manager. Minnesota assistant general manager George Paton and Arizona vice president of player personnel Terry

McDonough are the finalists among a group of nine candidates who interviewed. The 49ers could also open up the search to consider other candidates, the source said.

Shanahan is expected to become the second coach in 49ers history to be hired after being a coordinator on a Super Bowl team. In 1989, the 49ers promoted defensive coordinator George Seifert after Bill Walsh stepped down following the team's victory over Cincinnati in Super Bowl XXIII.

Shanahan's father, Mike, was the 49ers' offensive coordinator on the Super Bowl-winning team after the 1994 season. Shortly after the 49ers won the Super Bowl with a 49-26 rout of the San Diego Chargers, Shanahan was hired as Denver Broncos head coach. The elder Shanahan served as Broncos coach for 14 seasons and won two Super Bowls.

Atlanta coach Dan Quinn was hired two years ago on the day after the Seattle Seahawks lost to the Patriots in Super Bowl 49. Quinn was Seattle's defensive coordinator.

49ers to meet with Kyle Shanahan again; wait for new coach extended

By Nick Wagoner, ESPN.com

SANTA CLARA, Calif. -- The San Francisco 49ers have already waited longer than the rest of their NFL brethren to hire a head coach, so what's another two weeks?

Two more weeks is what the result of Sunday's NFC Championship game has wrought as the Atlanta Falcons' impressive 44-21 win against the Green Bay Packers means another delay before the Niners can officially hire offensive coordinator Kyle Shanahan as their new head coach.

The Niners first interviewed Shanahan on Jan. 6 when the Falcons enjoyed a bye week during wild card weekend. He has since emerged as the presumptive next coach with the team's other candidates either taking other jobs (Sean McVay, Sean McDermott, Vance Joseph and Anthony Lynn) or taking their names out of consideration (Josh McDaniels and Tom Cable).

But before the Niners can cement a deal with Shanahan, they will at least have the opportunity to meet with him again this week.

Because the Super Bowl won't be played until Feb. 5, the Falcons get another bye week. And because of that additional bye week, league rules allow for the Niners to meet with Shanahan again. That meeting is scheduled to take place Friday in Atlanta. Technically, the Niners could interview Shanahan at any point this week so long as they do it before Sunday but Shanahan is expected to use the early part of the week to begin game planning for the Super Bowl.

When the Niners and Shanahan do meet again, the topic of conversation isn't expected to be an interview so much as a chance for all parties to get on the same page as San Francisco searches for a general manager to pair with Shanahan. Among candidates the Niners have talked to for the general manager job, only Minnesota's George Paton and Arizona's Terry McDonough remain in the mix. The Niners are expected to include Paton in Friday's proceedings to give him a chance to compare team-building philosophies with Shanahan though it's unclear if McDonough will get the same opportunity. It's also possible the Niners could expand their general manager search beyond Paton and McDonough.

The Niners have the only current opening for a head coach in the league after five other teams already filled their vacancies. If they complete a deal with Shanahan, it will be the second time in franchise history they've hired a coach from a Super Bowl team. It last happened in 1989 when they promoted defensive coordinator George Seifert after Bill Walsh chose to depart. He'll also be the first coach since Atlanta's Dan Quinn in 2014 to be hired from a team playing in the big game.

While the wait has undoubtedly been difficult for the Niners, there's no doubt that it's working to their advantage in terms of perception of a possible Shanahan hire. His offense was brilliant again in the NFC title game, piling up 44 points, 493 yards and 30 first downs while averaging 7.2 yards per play.

Shanahan has repeatedly said he doesn't want any of the talk about his becoming a head coach to become a distraction for the Falcons during this postseason, something that clearly hasn't happened to this point.

"[Going to the Super Bowl] is awesome, it's something you wait for your whole life," Shanahan told NFL Network after Sunday's win. "I was just happy our guys played the way they've been doing all year. We're pumped right now, it's not the one we want though, so, we're two weeks away and hopefully we keep it going."