

49ers Clips – May 15, 2017

Local Media

After offseason makeover, 49ers could have new starters at almost every position group

By Nick Wagoner, ESPN.com

http://www.espn.com/blog/san-francisco-49ers/post/_id/24857/after-offseason-makeover-49ers-could-have-new-starters-at-almost-every-position-group

National Media

Seahawks' rookie mini-camp observations: Ethan Pocic, Cyril Grayson, fun rookies, QB battle, and more

By Bob Condotta, The Seattle Times

<http://www.seattletimes.com/sports/seahawks/seahawks-rookie-mini-camp-observations-ethan-pocic-cyril-grayson-fun-rookies-qb-battle-and-more/>

Rams hope rookies can help quarterback Jared Goff elevate his game

By Gary Klein, Los Angeles Times

<http://www.latimes.com/sports/rams/la-sp-rams-rookie-camp-analysis-20170514-story.html>

Blaine Gabbert, 9-31 as NFL starter, to get a 'fresh start' with Cardinals

By Josh Weinfuss, ESPN.com

http://www.espn.com/blog/arizona-cardinals/post/_id/25600/blaine-gabbert-to-get-fresh-start-with-cardinals-with-chance-to-prove-hes-better-than-9-31-record

Cody Kessler is the man to beat in open QB competition: 'They've got to take it from him,' Hue Jackson says

By Mary Kay Cabot, Cleveland Plain Dealer

http://www.cleveland.com/browns/index.ssf/2017/05/cody_kessler_will_starting_at.html#incart_river_index

John Fox: Bears QB Mitch Trubisky had 'great camp'

By Patrick Finley, Chicago Sun-Times

<http://chicago.suntimes.com/sports/john-fox-bears-qb-mitch-trubisky-had-great-camp/>

Local Clips – Full Version

After offseason makeover, 49ers could have new starters at almost every position group

By Nick Wagoner, ESPN.com

With free agency and the draft in the rearview mirror and organized team activities and minicamps in full swing, here's a starting lineup projection for the San Francisco 49ers:

OFFENSE

QB: Brian Hoyer -- This is Hoyer's job and his chance to prove what he can do if given another year in coach Kyle Shanahan's offense.

RB: Carlos Hyde -- The pressure is on Hyde to stay healthy and deliver after the Niners added multiple running backs, including exciting fourth-round draft pick Joe Williams, who is capable of pushing for this spot.

FB: Kyle Juszczyk -- Shanahan has big plans for the player general manager John Lynch refers to as an "O.W.," or offensive weapon.

LT: Joe Staley -- Like clockwork, this is still Staley's job and will remain that way for the foreseeable future.

LG: Zane Beadles -- Don't be surprised if the loser of the battle for the center job pushes for this spot, but Beadles was solid and reliable in 2016.

C: Daniel Kilgore -- This is a tough call between Kilgore and newly-acquired Jeremy Zuttah. Kilgore gets the benefit of the doubt for now, but Zuttah could easily claim this job in training camp or even possibly before that.

RG: Joshua Garnett -- The second-year guard has been working to trim down and get quicker so he can fit in Shanahan's offense, but a step forward will be expected for him in 2017.

RT: Trent Brown -- Like Beadles, Brown was one of two linemen the Niners could rely on a year ago, and he should settle in here, though he could have competition after the Niners signed the more athletic Garry Gilliam as a restricted free agent.

TE: Logan Paulsen -- This is another spot that should have plenty of competition, but the Niners attempted to trade Vance McDonald during the draft and Paulsen is a guy who can block and Shanahan trusts. Keep an eye on rookie George Kittle as well.

WR: Pierre Garcon -- The undisputed leader of the receivers room and the best wideout on the roster, he'll be one of Hoyer's favorite targets.

WR: Marquise Goodwin -- The speedy Goodwin must prove he can stay healthy, but if he does, he should get plenty of opportunities to make big plays down the field in Shanahan's offense.

DEFENSE

DE: Solomon Thomas -- Thomas will miss a chunk of the offseason program while waiting for class to end at Stanford, but he will step right into the starting lineup when he returns and kick inside on passing downs.

DT: Earl Mitchell -- Mitchell was signed to bolster the Niners' run defense, and they paid him like a starter to do just that from the nose tackle position.

DT: DeForest Buckner -- Buckner's move inside to the three-technique spot should allow him to rush the passer more and continue to evolve in his second season.

DE: Arik Armstead -- Armstead is recovering from injury and this position will be all new to him, but the Niners believe that the change in scheme will allow him to play here and get after the quarterback. Aaron Lynch could also be an option, particularly in sub packages.

LB: Ahmad Brooks -- The veteran Brooks looks like the best fit for the SAM linebacker spot, given his pass-rushing skills, though others such as Eli Harold could also challenge.

MLB: NaVorro Bowman -- Bowman is already back to running and practicing after his Achilles injury and will jump right back into the starting lineup.

LB: Reuben Foster -- Whether it's here at weakside linebacker or in the middle, some combination of Foster and Bowman will occupy these two spots.

CB: Rashard Robinson -- Perhaps the best bet to be among the starting corners, Robinson has the length the Niners are looking for in a corner and is still scratching the surface of his potential going into Year 2.

FS: Jimmie Ward -- Ward's conversion from cornerback should be relatively smooth, considering his college experience at free safety and the Niners didn't draft a potential starter here, an indication they're comfortable with making this move permanent.

SS: Eric Reid -- Reid is better suited to playing near the line of scrimmage than deep and should be able to make more of an impact in that role, though Jaquiski Tartt offers stiff competition for this job.

CB Dontae Johnson -- This spot is still a major question mark for the Niners, and rookie Ahkello Witherspoon could force his way into the mix if he proves that he can be a much better tackler than he was in college.

SPECIAL TEAMS

K: Robbie Gould -- Signed as a free agent to add a reliable, veteran leg.

P: Bradley Pinion -- Still solid in his role, this job is his.

LS: Kyle Nelson -- See Pinion.

KR: Joe Williams -- The Niners released incumbent JaCorey Shepherd a couple of weeks ago so this job is up for grabs but Williams' speed should make him an intriguing candidate.

PR: Jeremy Kerley -- Kerley doesn't particularly like this role and rookie Trent Taylor is a good bet to overtake him, but we'll leave Kerley penciled in for now.