

49ers Clips – January 18, 2017

Local Media

Report: 49ers will offer head-coach job to Kyle Shanahan

By Eric Branch, San Francisco Chronicle

<http://www.sfchronicle.com/49ers/article/Report-49ers-will-offer-HC-job-to-Kyle-Shanahan-10863850.php>

Report: 49ers' list pared as Seahawks GM candidate withdraws

By Eric Branch, San Francisco Chronicle

<http://www.sfchronicle.com/49ers/article/Report-49ers-list-pared-as-Seahawks-GM-10863439.php>

Report: Kyle Shanahan 'almost certain' to take 49ers gig, Tom Cable latest to withdraw

By Cam Inman, San Jose Mercury News

<http://www.mercurynews.com/2017/01/17/seahawks-executive-withdraws-from-49ers-gm-search/>

Report: Near certainty that Shanahan will accept 49ers' offer

By Matt Barrows, Sacramento Bee

<http://www.sacbee.com/sports/nfl/san-francisco-49ers/article127156414.html>

Seattle candidates withdraw as Shanahan becomes sole focus of 49ers

By Matt Barrows, Sacramento Bee

<http://www.sacbee.com/sports/nfl/san-francisco-49ers/article127069744.html>

REPORT: SHANAHAN 'ALMOST CERTAIN' TO ACCEPT 49ERS' OFFER

By Matt Maiocco, CSNBayArea.com

<http://www.csnbayarea.com/49ers/report-shanahan-almost-certain-accept-49ers-offer>

SOURCE: 49ERS PLAN SECOND INTERVIEW WITH SHANAHAN; CABLE WITHDRAWS NAME

By Matt Maiocco, CSNBayArea.com

<http://www.csnbayarea.com/49ers/source-49ers-plan-second-interview-shanahan-cable-withdraws-name>

Sources: 49ers plan to offer Kyle Shanahan head-coaching job

By Staff, ESPN.com

http://www.espn.com/nfl/story/_/id/18497328/san-francisco-49ers-offer-kyle-shanahan-head-coach-job

49ers have plenty to do while waiting for Kyle Shanahan

By Nick Wagoner, ESPN.com

http://www.espn.com/blog/san-francisco-49ers/post/_/id/22912/49ers-have-plenty-to-do-while-waiting-for-kyle-shanahan

Report: Kyle Shanahan "almost certain" to accept 49ers job

By Curtis Crabtree, ProFootballTalk.com

<http://profootballtalk.nbcsports.com/2017/01/18/report-kyle-shanahan-almost-certain-to-accept-49ers-job/>

Will 49ers be in play for Kirk Cousins?

By Mike Florio, ProFootballTalk.com

<http://profootballtalk.nbcsports.com/2017/01/17/will-49ers-be-in-play-for-kirk-cousins/>

Report: 49ers will offer head coaching job to Kyle Shanahan

By Zac Jackson, ProFootballTalk.com

<http://profootballtalk.nbcsports.com/2017/01/17/report-49ers-will-offer-head-coaching-job-to-kyle-shanahan/>

Tom Cable thanks 49ers for consideration in head coaching search

By Josh Alper, ProFootballTalk.com

<http://profootballtalk.nbcsports.com/2017/01/17/tom-cable-thanks-49ers-for-consideration-in-head-coaching-search/>

Report: Trent Kirchner pulls out of 49ers G.M. search

By Josh Alper, ProFootballTalk.com

<http://profootballtalk.nbcsports.com/2017/01/17/report-trent-kirchner-pulls-out-of-49ers-g-m-search/>

49ers to reportedly offer Kyle Shanahan their coaching job when Falcons' season ends

By Sean Wagner-McGough, CBSSports.com

<http://www.cbssports.com/nfl/news/49ers-to-reportedly-offer-kyle-shanahan-their-coaching-job-when-falcons-season-ends/>

Kyle Shanahan becomes last candidate in 49ers coach search

By Josh Dubow, Associated Press

<http://pro32.ap.org/article/kyle-shanahan-becomes-last-candidate-49ers-coach-search>

National Media

Report: NFL looking into whether Seahawks broke rules regarding Richard Sherman injury

By Bob Condotta, The Seattle Times

<http://www.seattletimes.com/sports/seahawks/report-nfl-looking-into-how-seahawks-handled-richard-sherman-injury/>

Bills hire Rob Boras as tight ends coach

By Jay Skurski, Buffalo News

<http://buffalonews.com/2017/01/17/bills-hire-rob-boras-tight-ends-coach/>

Nick Perry giving Packers a helping hand

By Michael Cohen, Milwaukee Journal Sentinel

<http://www.jsonline.com/story/sports/nfl/packers/2017/01/17/perry-giving-packers-helping-hand/96667450/>

As Packers feel grind, Falcons 'physically and mentally healthy'

By Michael Cunningham, Atlanta Journal-Constitution

<http://www.ajc.com/sports/football/packers-feel-grind-falcons-physically-and-mentally-healthy/C8oqoHCHOX3tEt1ZNjs4tM/>

Texans promoting Mike Vrabel to DC, Romeo Crennel to assistant HC

By Aaron Wilson, Houston Chronicle

<http://www.chron.com/sports/texans/article/Texans-promote-Mike-Vrabel-DC-Romeo-Crennel-assist-10865277.php>

Local Clips – Full Version

Report: 49ers will offer head-coach job to Kyle Shanahan

By Eric Branch, San Francisco Chronicle

The 49ers have identified their man.

The question: Will their man sign a contract?

The 49ers will offer their head-coach position to Atlanta offensive coordinator Kyle Shanahan, 37, and are prepared to wait for the Falcons' season to end to hire him, ESPN reported Tuesday. The Falcons host Green Bay in the NFC Championship Game on Sunday.

The fact that the 49ers' upcoming offer to Shanahan leaked to the media could be viewed as a sign the team is confident he'll sign a contract. On Tuesday night, NFL Network reported that it was "almost certain" that Shanahan would accept their offer.

If Atlanta advances to Super Bowl LI, the 49ers are expected to request a second interview with Shanahan in the off week before the game Feb. 5, a source said. During that meeting, they could discuss which candidate Shanahan would prefer to fill the team's general-manager vacancy.

The latest development in the 49ers' 17-day search for a head coach didn't qualify as a major surprise.

The offer to Shanahan was foreshadowed Monday when New England offensive coordinator Josh McDaniels withdrew from consideration. McDaniels was the team's top choice and could have had the 49ers' job "if he wanted it," a source told The Chronicle. Multiple sources have said McDaniels was the team's top target.

Without McDaniels, the 49ers zeroed in on Shanahan. Their only other remaining candidate, Seattle offensive line coach Tom Cable, withdrew from consideration Tuesday. His agent, Doug Hendrickson, said via Twitter that Cable was "reaffirming his commitment" to the Seahawks and thanked the 49ers "for the consideration."

The 49ers would have faced a public backlash had they hired Cable. He was fired by the Raiders in 2010 after a 17-27 tenure that included an allegation that he broke an assistant coach's jaw. In addition, three women, two ex-wives and an ex-girlfriend, came forward in 2009 and alleged Cable had abused them.

Cable's decision to withdraw was influenced by the 49ers' interest in Shanahan. It was believed that the 49ers would hire Seattle executive Scott Fitterer or Trent Kirchner for their general-manager opening if Cable was hired. On Tuesday, Kirchner also withdrew from consideration. Kirchner and Fitterer told the 49ers they would leave Seattle only if Cable was hired, a source said.

The 49ers have interviewed seven other candidates for their GM opening: Carolina assistant GM Brandon Beane, Green Bay director of player personnel Brian Gutekunst, Arizona VP of player personnel Terry McDonough, Minnesota assistant GM George Paton, Indianapolis VP of football operations Jimmy Raye III, ESPN analyst/former NFL executive Louis Riddick and Green Bay director of football operations Eliot Wolf.

On Tuesday, NFL Network reported that Gutekunst is the front-runner to land the job, with Paton and Wolf also in contention, if the 49ers hire Shanahan.

Report: 49ers' list pared as Seahawks GM candidate withdraws

By Eric Branch, San Francisco Chronicle

A day after Patriots offensive coordinator Josh McDaniels withdrew his name from consideration for the 49ers' head-coach opening, Seahawks executive Trent Kirchner did the same regarding their general-manager vacancy, NFL Network reported.

Kirchner interviewed with the 49ers on Monday, as did Scott Fitterer, Seattle's other co-director of player personnel. It's been thought either Kirchner or Fitterer would be hired as part of package deal if the 49ers hired Seahawks offensive line coach Tom Cable, one of their two remaining head-coach candidates. The other is Falcons offensive coordinator Kyle Shanahan.

The 49ers have interviewed eight other candidates for their GM opening: Panthers assistant GM Brandon Beane; Packers director of player personnel Brian Gutekunst; Cardinals VP of player personnel Terry McDonough; Vikings assistant GM George Paton; Colts VP of football operations Jimmy Raye III; ESPN analyst/former NFL executive Louis Riddick and Packers director of football operations Eliot Wolf.

Patriots director of player personnel Nick Caserio and Chiefs director of player personnel Chris Ballard declined interview requests.

Report: Kyle Shanahan 'almost certain' to take 49ers gig, Tom Cable latest to withdraw

By Cam Inman, San Jose Mercury News

More signs surfaced Tuesday pointing to Kyle Shanahan eventually becoming the 20th coach in 49ers history — and fourth in four years.

Former Raiders coach Tom Cable, the only other remaining candidate who's interviewed, reversed course Tuesday and plans to remain the Seahawks offensive line coach and assistant head coach.

The projected scenario is that the 49ers hire Shanahan as their coach once he is done as the Atlanta Falcons offensive coordinator in the playoffs, either after Sunday's NFC Championship Game against the Green Bay Packers or after the Super Bowl on Feb. 5.

Shanahan is "almost certain" to accept the 49ers' multi-year offer, according to the NFL Network's Mike Silver, who also reported that Cable had an hour phone interview Tuesday with 49ers owner Denise DeBartolo York.

Cable's exit came shortly after Trent Kirchner, one of two Seahawks executives interviewed Monday, indicated he is no longer interested in filling the 49ers general manager opening, a source confirmed. Both removed themselves from consideration because they expect Shanahan to become coach, Silver reported.

Cable's agent, Doug Hendrickson, tweeted: "Just spoke with my client Tom Cable and he is reaffirming his commitment to the Seahawks. He wishes to thank the 49ers for the consideration."

Shanahan's likely selection as Chip Kelly's successor intensified Monday when New England Patriots offensive coordinator Josh McDaniels announced his withdrawal from consideration.

The three other coach candidates interviewed by the 49ers filled vacancies last week: Anthony Lynn (Los Angeles Rams), Sean McDermott (Buffalo Bills) and Sean McVay (Los Angeles Rams). Of the 17 candidates the 49ers interviewed in coaching searches the previous two years, the only ones unemployed are Mike Shanahan (Kyle's father), former Buffalo Bills coach Rex Ryan and the 49ers' past two coaches, Kelly and Jim Tomsula.

The 49ers have spent the past two weeks conducting concurrent searches for a new general manager and coach.

Kirchner is the Seahawks co-director of player personnel with Scott Fitterer, who interviewed later Monday as the ninth and final known candidate to meet with the 49ers brass, including CEO Jed York.

Which first-time general manager would be pair best with Shanahan remains unknown. Other candidates to have interviewed are the Arizona Cardinals' Terry McDonough, the Green Bay Packers' Brian Gutekunst and Eliot Wolf, the Minnesota Vikings George Paton, the Carolina Panthers' Brandon Beane, the Indianapolis Colts' Jimmy Raye III and ESPN's Louis Riddick.

Report: Near certainty that Shanahan will accept 49ers' offer

By Matt Barrows, Sacramento Bee

SANTA CLARA -- When the 49ers formally offer Kyle Shanahan their head-coaching job, the Falcons offensive coordinator is "almost certain" to accept, according to a report from the NFL Network.

The 49ers zeroed in on Shanahan, 37, this week and are expected to have a second interview with him following Atlanta's game Sunday against the Green Bay Packers. News of a union between Shanahan and the 49ers came after two other top candidates, New England offensive coordinator Josh McDaniels and Seattle offensive line coach Tom Cable, pulled out of the running.

The 49ers have yet to hire a general manager and are looking for someone who will mesh well with Shanahan. It's not known whether general manager candidates will be part of the upcoming session with Shanahan, which likely will take place in Atlanta.

Some of the strongest candidates remaining are Green Bay's Brian Gutekunst and Eliot Wolf, Arizona's Terry McDonough and Minnesota's George Paton.

The 49ers could not formally hire Shanahan until the Falcons seasons ends. It's possible that will be at the conclusion of the Super Bowl on Feb. 5.

Seattle candidates withdraw as Shanahan becomes sole focus of 49ers

By Matt Barrows, Sacramento Bee

SANTA CLARA -- The 49ers' hunt for a new coach and general manager narrowed considerably Tuesday when Seattle Seahawks assistant coach Tom Cable and executive Trent Kirchner removed their names from consideration.

That was directly related to an ESPN report that the 49ers plan to offer the head-coaching job to Atlanta Falcons offensive coordinator Kyle Shanahan whenever Atlanta's season ends. The Falcons will host the Green Bay Packers in the NFC championship game Sunday. If the Falcons win, their season wouldn't be complete until after the Super Bowl on Feb. 5.

The 49ers interviewed Cable, Seattle's offensive-line coach, on Sunday. They spoke with Kirchner and Scott Fitterer, the Seahawks' co-directors of player personnel, on Monday. Both executives were linked to Cable, who through his agent thanked the 49ers for their consideration but said he would remain with the Seahawks.

After New England Patriots offensive coordinator Josh McDaniels pulled his name from consideration Monday, Shanahan became the front-runner in the head-coaching search. There was a sense from Kirchner that he and Cable only were being used as leverage to help rein in Shanahan's demands and that the job would be offered to Shanahan.

Cable's withdrawal creates a potential issue for the 49ers. If Shanahan declines the team's offer, who would they hire? Every other candidate who has been interviewed has bowed out of the hunt or found a head-coaching job elsewhere.

The 49ers are seeking chemistry between their next general manager and head coach, which is what drew them to Seattle. It's not known whom they see as a potential match with Shanahan, although their list of general manager candidates likely will be pared this week.

Other general manager candidates the 49ers have interviewed include the Carolina Panthers' Brandon Beane, the Arizona Cardinals' Terry McDonough, the Green Bay Packers' Brian Gutekunst and Eliot Wolf, the Minnesota Vikings' George Paton, the Indianapolis Colts' Jimmy Raye III and ESPN's Louis Riddick.

Shanahan, 37, has not worked with any of those GM candidates. The 49ers will have a second interview with Shanahan, likely in Atlanta, after Sunday's game, at which point he could help the team select a general manager. Gutekunst, McDonough, Paton and Wolf are believed to have had particularly strong initial interviews and likely are being considered as the team reduces its list.

REPORT: SHANAHAN 'ALMOST CERTAIN' TO ACCEPT 49ERS' OFFER

By Matt Maiocco, CSNBayArea.com

Atlanta Falcons offensive coordinator Kyle Shanahan is reportedly "almost certain" to accept the 49ers' offer to become head coach.

Shanahan is the lone remaining candidate among the six individuals who interviewed with 49ers executives Jed York and Paraag Marathe. The 49ers plan for a second interview with Shanahan and a job offer, a source told CSNBayArea.com. Shanahan is expected to accept the 49ers' offer, reports Michael Silver of the NFL Network, citing sources familiar with both parties.

The 49ers continued to work Tuesday evening on the process of narrowing down the general manager choices, a source said. Shanahan is expected to play a role in the select the team's next GM, sources said.

On Tuesday, Seattle offensive line coach Tom Cable and Seahawks co-director of player personnel Trent Kirchner removed their names from consideration for the vacant coach and general manager positions. The 49ers fired Chip Kelly and Trent Baalke after the 49ers' 2-14 season.

One source said Cable and Kirchner believed the 49ers were using them as leverage to hire Shanahan. Cable interviewed with 49ers co-chair Denise DeBartolo York over the phone on Tuesday, NFL Network reported.

The 49ers are allowed to interview Shanahan for a second time after the Falcons' NFC Championship game against the Green Bay Packers on Sunday. The 49ers are prohibited from hiring or making a formal contract offer to Shanahan until the Falcons' season has concluded.

The top remaining candidates for the general manager job are believed to be Green Bay executives Brian Gutekunst and Eliot Wolf, Arizona's Terry McDonough and Minnesota's George Paton.

SOURCE: 49ERS PLAN SECOND INTERVIEW WITH SHANAHAN; CABLE WITHDRAWS NAME

By Matt Maiocco, CSNBayArea.com

The 49ers will interview Atlanta Falcons offensive coordinator Kyle Shanahan after this weekend's NFC Championship game, a source told CSNBayArea.com on Tuesday.

The only remaining head-coach candidate, Tom Cable, formally withdrew from consideration, according to his agent, Doug Hendrickson. Cable interviewed with the 49ers on Sunday.

Meanwhile, the 49ers also have a general manager vacancy to fill. The team is in the process of narrowing down their list of eight candidates, a source said. Seattle's Trent Kirchner pulled his name from consideration on Tuesday. The 49ers could have a round of second interviews for the GM job.

The 49ers fired coach Chip Kelly and general manager Trent Baalke after the club finished the regular season with a 2-14 record.

The 49ers conducted their first interview with Shanahan on Jan. 6, as allowed by NFL rules, when the Falcons were on their bye in the first week of the playoffs as the NFC's No. 2 seed.

The 49ers are allowed to conduct a second interview with Shanahan next week, regardless of whether the Falcons advance to the Super Bowl or their season comes to a conclusion against the Green Bay Packers.

If the Falcons advance to the Super Bowl, the 49ers would not be able to make a formal contract offer to Shanahan until following the Super Bowl.

Shanahan, 37, is the son for two-time Super Bowl-winning coach Mike Shanahan. He has served nine NFL seasons as an offensive coordinator. His offenses have ranked in the top-10 of total offense in six of those seasons.

Shanahan interviewed for the head-coaching vacancies with Jacksonville and Denver this offseason. Another scheduled interview with the Los Angeles Rams was canceled when Rams officials could not get to Atlanta due to weather conditions.

Sources: 49ers plan to offer Kyle Shanahan head-coaching job

By Staff, ESPN.com

The San Francisco 49ers plan to offer their head-coaching job to Atlanta Falcons offensive coordinator Kyle Shanahan once Atlanta's season ends, sources tell ESPN's Adam Scheffer.

Shanahan is interested in the job but is currently focused on Sunday's NFC Championship Game. The Falcons will host the Green Bay Packers.

The 49ers plan to request a second interview with Shanahan next week after the championship game, a source said. NFL rules allow a second interview following the conference championship.

New England Patriots offensive coordinator Josh McDaniels took himself out of the running on Monday, saying it wasn't the right time and he was going to concentrate on New England's Super Bowl run.

Seattle Seahawks assistant head coach/offensive line coach Tom Cable was also among the candidates considered by the 49ers, but his agent, Doug Hendrickson, tweeted Tuesday that Cable is "re-affirming" his commitment to the Seahawks and thanked the 49ers for their interest.

Doug Hendrickson ✓ @DHendrickson41

Just spoke with my client Tom Cable and he is reaffirming his commitment to the Seahawks. He wishes to thank the 49ers for the consideration

Shanahan, 37, is in his second season as Atlanta's offensive coordinator. The Falcons, led by MVP candidate Matt Ryan, boasted the league's top scoring offense this season, averaging 33.8 points per game.

Besides interviewing with the 49ers, he also talked to the Broncos and Jaguars about their head-coaching vacancies before Denver hired Vance Joseph and Jacksonville promoted Doug Marrone to fill their jobs.

Before joining the Falcons, Shanahan was the offensive coordinator for the Cleveland Browns (2014), Washington Redskins (2010-13) and Houston Texans (2008-09). He began his NFL coaching career in 2004 as an offensive quality control coach for the Tampa Bay Buccaneers before joining the Texans in 2006 as a wide receivers coach. He was the team's quarterbacks coach in 2007 before being promoted to offensive coordinator the next season.

Shanahan is the son of longtime NFL coach Mike Shanahan, who hired his son as the Redskins' offensive coordinator when he was the team's head coach.

The 49ers are seeking to replace Chip Kelly, who was fired as coach after just one season. San Francisco, which finished 2-14 last season, holds the No. 2 pick in the 2017 draft.

The 49ers are also in need of a new general manager after firing Trent Baalke after the season.

49ers have plenty to do while waiting for Kyle Shanahan

By Nick Wagoner, ESPN.com

SANTA CLARA, Calif. -- If it wasn't already obvious who the San Francisco 49ers were targeting as their next head coach after New England Patriots offensive coordinator Josh McDaniels withdrew from consideration Monday, it is now.

ESPN NFL Insider Adam Schefter reported after McDaniels pulled out of the search that Atlanta Falcons offensive coordinator Kyle Shanahan was the favorite to land the job. By Tuesday afternoon, Shanahan was not only the favorite, but Schefter reported that the Niners plan to offer him the job as soon as he's available to be hired.

In addition, the only other remaining coach in the Niners' search, Seattle assistant Tom Cable, apparently withdrew his name from consideration Tuesday afternoon via his agent.

Doug Hendrickson ✓ @DHendrickson41

Just spoke with my client Tom Cable and he is reaffirming his commitment to the Seahawks. He wishes to thank the 49ers for the consideration

So with Shanahan the obvious target, the Niners are now in a position where they must do what's necessary to land him. Of course, they can't hire him in any official capacity until Atlanta's season is over. That could happen as soon as Sunday if the Falcons lose to the Green Bay Packers in the NFC Championship Game. If it doesn't, the Niners are expected to interview Shanahan again during the bye week after the NFC title game, at which point they would likely put parameters in place for a deal, as the Falcons did with coach Dan Quinn two years ago.

As we covered Tuesday, Shanahan is clearly in a position of power, power that only grew when Cable removed himself from the mix. So while the Niners have never committed to hiring a coach then a general manager, or vice versa, it certainly appears the coach will have to come first in this case.

"I think we need to be open and flexible to structure," CEO Jed York said. "We need to make sure that the head coach and the general manager know each other, have a good understanding for each other. It doesn't mean that they had to have worked together in the past, but they have to have a good respect for

each other and a good understanding and know that they have similar visions and philosophies on building a football team. Whatever structure is the best with the people that we're interviewing is the structure that we're going to go with."

That structure has taken shape as other teams have hired some of the coaching candidates the Niners had lined up and two of their interviewees took themselves out of the fray. Which means as the Niners move forward and patiently await an answer from Shanahan, they have some business to take care of, business that could bolster their chances of getting Shanahan ultimately to say yes.

One big step would be to narrow their focus on potential general manager candidates to ones Shanahan might prefer or those they believe he could work best with based on what he might have indicated in his first interview, as well as how those candidates fared in their own discussions with the 49ers. Various reports have linked Shanahan to Green Bay director of college scouting Brian Gutekunst and director of football operations Eliot Wolf, Minnesota assistant general manager George Paton and Arizona vice president of player personnel Terry McDonough.

That quartet could get a second interview at any point since there aren't restrictions on general manager interviews, as there are for head coaches. With Shanahan the clear-cut top coaching candidate, a second round of interviews could focus on how the general manager would work with Shanahan and how his team-building philosophy might mesh with Shanahan's vision for a franchise.

Likewise, if Shanahan does take the job, the Niners could start at least making overtures to potential coaching-staff members Shanahan wants. In fact, Shanahan was once a coach in that position when he went to Atlanta. Although Quinn couldn't be hired until Seattle's 2014 season was done, the Falcons and Quinn had an understanding, and Atlanta actually hired Shanahan as offensive coordinator before Quinn's deal was finalized.

Something similar could begin taking place soon for the Niners, especially if the Falcons advance to the Super Bowl and San Francisco can get a handle on who Shanahan is targeting in a second interview setting next week.

Of course, none of that matters if the Niners can't follow through and actually get Shanahan. To this point, there's nothing indicating he will say no, but until a deal is agreed upon and signed, it's up to the Niners to do whatever possible to make things easier when their wait is over.

Report: Kyle Shanahan 'almost certain' to accept 49ers coaching job

By Chris Biderman, TheNinersWire.com

It was reported Tuesday that the 49ers were ready to offer Falcons offensive coordinator Kyle Shanahan their head-coaching position after two known candidates dropped out from consideration.

Hours later, a report from NFL Media said Shanahan was "almost certain" to accept the job, filling the last remaining coaching vacancy of six since the end of the regular season.

Michael Silver ✓ @MikeSilver

According to sources familiar with both parties, it is almost certain that Kyle Shanahan will accept the 49ers' multi-year offer to be HC

Patriots offensive coordinator Josh McDaniels withdrew his name from consideration on Monday, which was followed up by Seahawks offensive line coach Tom Cable on Tuesday.

Silver had more details:

Michael Silver ✓ @MikeSilver

Niners' interest in Tom Cable was real. Owner Denise DeBartolo York interviewed him on the phone today for an hour...

Michael Silver ✓ @MikeSilver

Among the GM candidates who told Jed York they wanted Cable as HC: Trent Kirchner, Scott Fitterer, Chris Ballard (declined to interview)

Shanahan entered the search as one of the hottest candidates available, along with McDaniels, who was considered the favorite for the job until pulling out this week.

The 49ers cannot hire Shanahan officially until the Falcons' season is over. They host the Packers in the NFC Championship Game on Sunday. If Atlanta moves on, a second interview can be held during the bye week preceding the Super Bowl and can put pen to paper after the game.

If San Francisco lands Shanahan, the next step is finding a general manager. Silver reported Packers director of player personnel Brian Gutekunst is the favorite for the post.

Michael Silver ✓ @MikeSilver

Shanahan will essentially get to pick his GM from available candidates. I still believe Packers exec Brian Gutekunst is the favorite...

Report: 49ers to offer coaching job to Falcons Kyle Shanahan

By Chris Biderman, TheNinersWire.com

Falcons offensive coordinator Kyle Shanahan is going to wait until his season with the Falcons is over before making decisions about the next step of his career.

That step could be as coach of the 49ers, who are going to offer him their coaching job, according to a report from ESPN. Shanahan remains the favorite to land the job.

Adam Scheffer ✓ @AdamScheffer

49ers plan to offer their HC job to Falcons' OC Kyle Shanahan whenever Atlanta's season ends, sources tell ESPN. Willing to wait for him.

Shanahan has been a coordinator for the last nine seasons. He was the architect for the Falcons' offense that set a franchise record for points scored – while leading the NFL – and finished second in total yardage.

Shanahan helped turn Matt Ryan into an MVP candidate while Atlanta's offense ranked in the top five in both passing and rushing.

"Kyle's great," Ryan said before the Falcons played the 49ers last month. "I think eventually, when he gets an opportunity, he'll do a great job as a head coach. Selfishly, I'd like to keep him here for a while. We've been doing some really good things together. But if he does get an opportunity, he'll do a great job. I really think he's a really, really good football coach."

Shanahan's father, Mike, was the 49ers' offensive coordinator in 1993 and 1994, when the team with Steve Young at quarterback won its fifth Super Bowl. Mike Shanahan went on to win back-to-back Super Bowls with the Broncos as a head coach in 1997 and 1998.

Patriots offensive coordinator Josh McDaniels withdrew his name from consideration for San Francisco's coaching vacancy on Monday. The San Francisco Chronicle reported the job was McDaniels', "if he wanted it."

The 49ers also interviewed Seahawks offensive line coach Tom Cable for the opening Sunday. Seattle co-director of player personnel Trent Kirchner removed his name from San Francisco's search for a new general manager.

The 49ers fired coach Chip Kelly and Trent Baalke in the hours after their Week 17 loss to the Seahawks that culminated a 2-14 finish, marking the third straight season their win total declined.

Packers executive Brian Gutekunst favored to pair with Kyle Shanahan

By Chris Biderman, TheNinersWire.com

The 49ers are planning on offering their head coaching job to Falcons offensive coordinator Kyle Shanahan – who will wait until after his season with Atlanta is over before making any decisions about his next step.

But San Francisco still has a vacancy at their general manager position and have been looking for a coach-GM pairing that can work well together.

According to NFL Media, Packers director of player personnel Brian Gutekunst is among the favorites to fill the opening.

Michael Silver ✓ @MikeSilver

If you're handicapping Niners: Shanahan likely top choice. Not certain he accepts. If he does, Gutekunst GM frontrunner. Paton & Wolf next.

The other candidates Silver mentioned, Eliot Wolf and George Paton, work with the Packers and Vikings, respectively. The second round of interviews for the GM opening is expected to happen this week.

Ian Rapoport ✓ @RapSheet

The #49ers are expected to get top GM candidates with Kyle Shanahan next week -- when they are allowed -- to see who meshes well.

The 49ers can't hire Shanahan until after his season with Atlanta is over. The Falcons will host the Packers on Sunday in the NFC Championship Game. San Francisco can schedule a second interview with Shanahan during the bye week preceding the Super Bowl if the Falcons advance.

Patriots offensive coordinator Josh McDaniels withdrew his name from consideration for San Francisco's coaching vacancy on Monday. The San Francisco Chronicle reported the job was McDaniels', "if he wanted it."

Seattle offensive line coach Tom Cable is the other known remaining candidate. He interviewed for the position on Sunday.

The 49ers other GM candidates are ESPN analyst Louis Riddick, Colts vice president of football operations Jimmy Raye III, Panther assistant GM Brandon Beane, Cardinals executive Terry McDonough and Seattle co-director of player personnel Scott Fitterer.

Seahawks co-director of player personnel Trent Kirchner removed his name from the running on Monday.

York has emphasized finding a coach and general manager pairing that works well together. Riddick was linked with McDaniels but might be out of the equation now that McDaniels removed himself from the coaching search. McDonough has Shanahan atop his list of coaching candidates, according to CSN Bay Area.

Kyle Shanahan remains favorite for 49ers job, but will wait to decide

By Chris Biderman, TheNinersWire.com

On the heels of Seahawks co-director of player personnel Trent Kirchner bowing out from the 49ers' search for a new general manager, a report from NFL Media indicated there's clarity when it comes to the 49ers' search for a new coach.

UPDATE: THE 49ERS WILL OFFER THEIR COACHING POSITION TO KYLE SHANAHAN, ACCORDING TO A REPORT

Ian Rapoport ✓ @RapSheet

There's nothing official from Tom Cable regarding the #49ers job. But it's clear this is Kyle Shanahan's job to take (when they are done).

NFL Network's Mike Garafolo, who first reported Kirchner removed himself from the GM race, said Shanahan won't make a decision on the 49ers' job until his season with the Falcons is over. He's focusing on getting the team to the Super Bowl.

On NFL Network's "Up to the Minute:"

"And I'm also told that Shanahan intends to remain focused on the Falcons and won't make a decision on his coaching future, even behind the scenes, even to himself, until he is through the postseason run and can take a full look at the 49ers' situation," Garafolo said.

Minutes after his Cable Tweet, Rapoport said of Cable: "From my understanding, (Cable's) not going to officially pull out like some of the other candidates like Josh McDaniels or Trent Kirchner.

"But he knows the way the 49ers are headed, and that is toward hiring Kyle Shanahan, when his team is done, whenever that may be. So it seems like one piece in the 49ers puzzle is in the process of being solved. We just don't know who the general manager would be, along with Kyle Shanahan."

San Francisco CEO Jed York and chief strategy officer Paraag Marathe can't interview Shanahan for a second time until after the Falcons play in the NFC Championship Game Sunday. Shanahan can't be hired until Atlanta's season is over.

Patriots offensive coordinator Josh McDaniels withdrew his name from consideration for San Francisco's coaching vacancy on Monday. The San Francisco Chronicle reported the job was McDaniels', "if he wanted it."

The 49ers GM candidates are ESPN analyst Louis Riddick, Packers director of football operations Eliot Wolf, Packers director of player personnel Brian Gutekunst, Minnesota assistant GM George Paton, Colts vice president of football operations Jimmy Raye III, Panther assistant GM Brandon Beane, Cardinals executive Terry McDonough and Seattle co-director of player personnel Scott Fitterer.

It was previously reported by NFL media that Gutekunst or Wolf were the favorites to land the position. The Milwaukee Journal Sentinel reported Gutekunst was the preferred Green Bay executive over Wolf.

York has emphasized finding a coach and general manager pairing that works well together. Riddick was linked with McDaniels but might be out of the equation now that McDaniels removed himself from the coaching search. McDonough has Shanahan atop his list of coaching candidates, according to CSN Bay Area.

Kyle Shanahan is right choice for 49ers

By Rob Lowder, TheNinersWire.com

And then there was one.

Atlanta Falcons offensive coordinator Kyle Shanahan is the only candidate standing in the 49ers' search for a new coach.

Patriots offensive coordinator Josh McDaniels and Seahawks offensive line coach Tom Cable, who rounded out the final three, removed their names from consideration on Monday and Tuesday, respectively.

All other candidates interviewed by CEO Jed York and lieutenant Paraag Marathe have taken head coaching jobs elsewhere: Sean McDermott to the Bills, Sean McVay to the Rams and Anthony Lynn to the Chargers.

ESPN's Adam Shefter reported Tuesday that the 49ers plan to offer the position to Shanahan whenever Atlanta's season ends.

NFL Network's Mike Silver expanded, reporting that it was "almost certain" Shanahan would sign on with the 49ers. Whether that will be after a loss to Green Bay in the NFC Championship Sunday, or after the Super Bowl, the team seems willing to wait.

Why? Because Shanahan is worth waiting for and he always has been.

The son of former 49ers offensive coordinator and two-time Super Bowl-winning head coach Mike Shanahan is on a path to getting his first head coaching job.

Kyle Shanahan entered the NFL in 2004 as an offensive quality control coach for the Buccaneers. After two years, he joined the Houston Texans as their wide receiver coach. He was then promoted to the quarterback's coach in 2007 before becoming the team's offensive coordinator the following season. He's been an offensive coordinator for the last nine years.

Whether in Houston ('08-'09), Washington ('10-'13), Cleveland ('14), or Atlanta, Shanahan's offenses have largely been good. They finished in the top 10 in six of his nine seasons as coordinator. This season with Atlanta has been his best.

Shanahan authored the NFL's highest scoring offense and played a significant role in quarterback Matt Ryan's emergence as an MVP candidate. Ryan notched career highs with 4,944 yards passing and 38 touchdowns with just seven interceptions – a career low. The Falcons were balanced, ranking second in yards passing and fifth in rushing.

Shanahan has elite talent to work with, which he wouldn't have with San Francisco to start. Ryan's stable of weapons includes receivers Julio Jones, Mohamed Sanu and Taylor Gabriel – and running backs Devonta Freeman and Tevin Coleman. Finding new quarterback and weapons would be among his earliest mandates.

Shanahan in the divisional round over the weekend beat the brakes off San Francisco's rival Seattle Seahawks, 36-20. Even when the 49ers one of the most talented teams in the league under coach Jim Harbaugh, they always struggled against Seattle's vaunted defense.

York and the 49ers are trying to get on the right track with their fourth coach in four years. They could have rushed the process, hired an uninspiring candidate like Lynn, McDermott or Doug Marrone. Instead, they were willing to wait for either McDaniels or Shanahan. Now they're likely to get one of the two best candidates of the hiring cycle.

What does San Francisco offer Shanahan?

A clean slate. A chance to build a franchise from the ground up. York has made it clear since the beginning of the search that this was about finding the most cohesive relationship between the team's future general manager and head coach.

Shanahan will have a say in who becomes general manager, if not pick Trent Baalke's replacement outright. That's not a luxury new coaches get very often. The new duo could have nearly \$100 million in salary cap space and the second-overall pick in the NFL draft to rebuild the team's foundation.

Shanahan is a good hire, whether he was the first choice or not. Now it's up to York to get out of the way and let him work.

Report: Kyle Shanahan "almost certain" to accept 49ers job

By Curtis Crabtree, ProFootballTalk.com

The San Francisco 49ers will have to wait a little bit longer, but it appears their search for a new head coach is winding down.

According to Mike Silver of NFL Network, Falcons offensive coordinator Kyle Shanahan is "almost certain" to accept the job as 49ers head coach. An ESPN report earlier on Tuesday indicated that the 49ers would be offering the job to Shanahan.

Shanahan cannot officially be offered the job until after the Falcons' season comes to end. That could come as soon as Monday or may have to wait an additional two weeks until after Super Bowl LI. Regardless, the 49ers search for a fourth different head coach in four seasons is drawing to a conclusion.

The Falcons similarly had to wait for head coach Dan Quinn to become available following Super Bowl XLIX two years ago.

Shanahan will be available to interview again next week after the NFC Championship even if the Falcons advance to the Super Bowl. Once Shanahan is in place, the 49ers appear committed to finding a general manager candidate that can mesh well with him.

Will 49ers be in play for Kirk Cousins?

By Mike Florio, ProFootballTalk.com

With the 49ers planning to hire Kyle Shanahan to coach the team and currently having a quarterback depth chart that consists of Colin Kaepernick, Blaine Gabbert, and Christian Ponder, the next question becomes whether the 49ers will make a play for Washington quarterback Kirk Cousins.

In 2012, Washington made Kirk Cousins a fourth-round draft pick. Then-coach Mike Shanahan has repeatedly raved about Cousins, and Kyle Shanahan ran the offense in Washington for the first two years of Cousins' career.

Cousins, who was subject to the franchise tag in 2016, would be entitled to \$23.94 million in 2017 if Washington tags him again. Washington could, in theory, apply the exclusive version of the tag (which would potentially drive that number much higher) in order to block the 49ers or anyone else from trying to poach Cousins.

However, the non-exclusive tag would give Washington a pair of first-round picks as compensation for Cousins, and San Francisco holds the second overall selection in round one. Washington arguably would

be thrilled to flip Cousins for the No. 2 pick in 2017 plus wherever the 49ers land in the first round next year.

Washington also could tag Cousins and trade him for less than two first-round picks.

The situation quickly becomes a high-stakes game of chess, checkers, and chicken for Washington, the 49ers, and Cousins. To preserve the ability to trade Cousins, Washington will have to be prepared to commit \$23.94 million in cash and cap space to him. If Cousins promptly signs the tender (like he did in 2016) and they can't trade Cousins, Washington will be stuck, with Cousins getting \$23.94 million for one year, being entitled to \$34.47 million under the tag in 2018, and wanting a long-term deal based on those figures.

The situation makes it imperative for the 49ers and Washington to quickly flesh out a non-binding plan for making a deal happen when the new league year opens in March, if the 49ers want Cousins, if Cousins wants the 49ers, and if the 49ers are willing to give both Washington and Cousins what they want in order to get it done. The fact that Washington G.M. Scot McCloughan previously served in that same role with the 49ers could expedite things, if Shanahan's plan for fixing the 49ers offense consists of bringing to the Bay Area that quarterback with whom Shanahan worked in 2012 and 2013.

Report: 49ers will offer head coaching job to Kyle Shanahan

By Zac Jackson, ProFootballTalk.com

The 49ers will offer Falcons offensive coordinator Kyle Shanahan their head coaching job as soon as they're allowed to, ESPN's Adam Schefter reported

The Falcons host the Packers in the NFC Championship Game on Sunday. Shanahan interviewed with the 49ers earlier this month in the window such interviews with coaches from playoff teams are allowed.

Schefter's report said the 49ers are "willing to wait" for Shanahan. Theirs is the only head coaching job that remains unfilled, and when Patriots offensive coordinator Josh McDaniels removed his name from consideration for the job Monday, Shanahan became the presumptive favorite

By rule, the 49ers can meet with Shanahan next week even if the Falcons win Sunday and advance to the Super Bowl. Both Albert Breer of MMQB.com and Ian Rapoport of NFL Network reported that the 49ers will have Shanahan meet with potential general manager candidates at that time. The 49ers fired both GM Trent Baalke and head coach Chip Kelly at the end of the 2016 season.

Shanahan is in his second year as offensive coordinator with the Falcons. He previously held the same role in Washington, Houston and Cleveland.

Tom Cable thanks 49ers for consideration in head coaching search

By Josh Alper, ProFootballTalk.com

Word on Tuesday evening is that the 49ers are planning a second interview with Falcons offensive coordinator Kyle Shanahan with the intention of making him their next head coach.

If that doesn't work out, it looks like they'll be back at square one in their search. Patriots offensive coordinator Josh McDaniels said that he's no longer pursuing the job and now Seahawks offensive line coach Tom Cable, the only other candidate they've interviewed that hasn't landed a job elsewhere, has announced he'll be staying in Seattle.

Cable's agent Doug Hendrickson made the announcement on Twitter shortly after word about the 49ers' plans regarding Shanahan broke and said Cable thanked the team for considering him in their search. That only serves to strengthen the reports about Shanahan being the choice for the team that once employed his father as their offensive coordinator.

Cable will have his hands full trying to get the Seahawks offensive line up to speed after a rough season that ended with the unit playing poorly against the Falcons in the divisional round. Coach Pete Carroll indicated Monday that the team does not plan to spend a lot in free agency to upgrade the unit and that they believe their young group can get better next season.

Report: Trent Kirchner pulls out of 49ers G.M. search

By Josh Alper, ProFootballTalk.com

The 49ers interviewed a pair of Seahawks executives on Monday as part of their search for a new General Manager, but one of them has reportedly taken himself out of the running on Tuesday.

Mike Garafolo of NFL Media reports that Trent Kirchner has removed his name from consideration for the position. Kirchner is co-director of player personnel in Seattle with Chris Fitterer, who also interviewed with the 49ers on Monday and presumably remains in the running for the job.

In addition to the two Seahawks execs, the 49ers have interviewed a pair of Packers personnel men — Eliot Wolf and Brian Gutekunst — and they have also spoken to ESPN analyst Louis Riddick, Cardinals vice president of player personnel Terry McDonough, Vikings assistant general manager George Paton and Colts executive Jimmy Raye.

The 49ers are also looking for a head coach and that search appears to be down to Kyle Shanahan and Tom Cable after Josh McDaniels announced he's no longer considering a move to Santa Clara.

49ers to reportedly offer Kyle Shanahan their coaching job when Falcons' season ends

By Sean Wagner-McGough, CBSSports.com

When the Falcons' season ends, Kyle Shanahan will have to decide between staying in Atlanta to coach the Falcons' historically great offense or taking on the challenge of rebuilding the 49ers -- a task that has proved to be too difficult for two coaches in the past two seasons.

The 49ers will offer Shanahan, 37, their head coaching job, according to ESPN's Adam Schefter.

Adam Schefter ✓ @AdamSchefter

49ers plan to offer their HC job to Falcons' OC Kyle Shanahan whenever Atlanta's season ends, sources tell ESPN. Willing to wait for him.

Before zeroing in on Shanahan, the 49ers also interviewed Patriots offensive coordinator Josh McDaniels, who recently withdrew himself from consideration, and Seahawks offensive line coach Tom Cable, who also withdrew. So, Shanahan appears to be the frontrunner, even though that means the 49ers will be forced to wait for the Falcons' season to end.

They're scheduled to play host to the Packers on Sunday in the NFC title game.

Albert Breer of the Monday Morning Quarterback reported that the 49ers will interview Shanahan again about their general manager vacancy.

Albert Breer ✓ @AlbertBreer

Niners plan to bring Shanahan back next wk. If Atl wins -- 2d interview, to vet GM candidates. If they lose -- it'll be to try to hire him. <https://twitter.com/AdamScheffer/status/821487668446064641> ...

CBS Sports NFL Insider Jason La Canfora added that the second interview will likely determine if Shanahan will take the job:

He will meet with the 49ers in Atlanta early next week, sources said, at which point the 49ers will try to sell him on the job. They'll present GM candidates and work to put together a staff he would be comfortable with. It's by no means a guarantee Shanahan would leave a great situation on Atlanta for a franchise with a horrible reputation since it's fallout with Jim Harbaugh.

Shanahan would remain a top candidate for most any head coaching job next year, while the 49ers would be in a crisis of sorts were he to decline their offer next week, as they need to replenish a full front office and coaching staff.

Shanahan, the son of two-time Super Bowl winning coach Mike Shanahan, guided Matt Ryan to an MVP-caliber regular season and led an offense that tied for the seventh-most points scored in NFL history. He has been with Atlanta since the beginning of the 2015 season and previously held offensive coordinator jobs with the Texans, Redskins and Browns.

As it stands, the 49ers' roster is devoid of talent, which is why they've gone 7-25 since Jim Harbaugh bolted for Michigan, and fired Jim Tomsula and Chip Kelly in successive seasons. But the team does hold the No. 2 pick in draft, which might give Shanahan a chance to find and groom a quarterback -- if he takes the job, of course.

Given the dominant state of the Falcons offense, he could prefer to stay in Atlanta and seize a better opening in the future.

Kyle Shanahan becomes last candidate in 49ers coach search

By Josh Dubow, Associated Press

SANTA CLARA, Calif. (AP) — The search for a new San Francisco 49ers coach has narrowed in on Atlanta offensive coordinator Kyle Shanahan after the only other candidate remaining pulled out of consideration.

Seattle offensive line coach Tom Cable's agent, Doug Hendickson, tweeted Tuesday that Cable is "re-affirming" his commitment to the Seahawks and thanked the 49ers for their interest. That follows New England offensive coordinator Josh McDaniels pulling out on Monday and leaves Shanahan as the only remaining candidate.

The Niners can't hire Shanahan until the Falcons' season ends. Atlanta hosts Green Bay in the NFC championship on Sunday. If the Falcons win, the 49ers could request a second interview with Shanahan during the bye week next week.

Shanahan is the son of two-time Super Bowl winning head coach Mike Shanahan, who also won a title as offensive coordinator in San Francisco in 1994.

Kyle Shanahan's stock as a candidate has climbed as his Atlanta offense has flourished. Atlanta led the NFL in scoring, averaging 33.8 points per game, and quarterback Matt Ryan was picked as a first-team AP All-Pro this season.

Shanahan got his first NFL job as an offensive quality control coach in Tampa Bay in 2004. He also served as an offensive coordinator in Houston, Washington and Cleveland before arriving in Atlanta last season.

The 49ers have the only coach opening left in the NFL after the other five vacancies have all been filled.

Three coaches who interviewed with team CEO Jed York have already taken jobs elsewhere, with Washington offensive coordinator Sean McVay getting hired by the Los Angeles Rams, Carolina defensive coordinator Sean McDermott getting the job in Buffalo and Bills interim coach Anthony Lynn taking over the Chargers.

Vance Joseph was hired in Denver before he could interview with San Francisco.

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

He has interviewed nine candidates for general manager although Seattle co-director of player personnel Trent Kirchner pulled out on Tuesday, according to NFL Network.

The other eight candidates are Seattle co-director of player personnel Scott Fitterer, Arizona vice president of player personnel Terry McDonough, ESPN analyst Louis Riddick, Carolina assistant GM Brandon Beane, Indianapolis vice president of football operations Jimmy Raye III, Minnesota assistant GM George Paton, Green Bay director of football operations Eliot Wolf and Packers director of player personnel Brian Gutekunst.