

49ers Clips – February 2, 2017

Local Media

***John Lynch to 49ers Fans: 'We're Going to Make You Proud'***

By Joe Fann, 49ers.com

<http://www.49ers.com/news/article-2/John-Lynch-to-49ers-Fans-Were-Going-to-Make-You-Proud/76df0612-84b6-4560-bfaa-5c022d6ce854>

***David Shaw on 49ers GM John Lynch: 'He's never failed at anything'***

By Eric Branch, San Francisco Chronicle

<http://www.sfchronicle.com/49ers/article/David-Shaw-on-49ers-GM-John-Lynch-He-s-10901878.php>

***Steve Young: 49ers new regime channeling Bill Walsh dynasty***

By Cam Inman, San Jose Mercury News

<http://www.mercurynews.com/2017/02/02/steve-young-49ers-new-regime-channeling-bills-walsh-dynasty/>

***Kyle Shanahan's next daunting task: Rebuild the 49ers***

By Nick Wagoner, ESPN.com

[http://www.espn.com/nfl/story/\\_/id/18600369/kyle-shanahan-atlanta-falcons-next-daunting-task-rebuilding-san-francisco-49ers](http://www.espn.com/nfl/story/_/id/18600369/kyle-shanahan-atlanta-falcons-next-daunting-task-rebuilding-san-francisco-49ers)

***David Shaw a believer in new 49ers GM John Lynch***

By Nick Wagoner, ESPN.com

[http://www.espn.com/blog/san-francisco-49ers/post/\\_/id/23189/david-shaw-a-believer-in-new-49ers-gm-john-lynch](http://www.espn.com/blog/san-francisco-49ers/post/_/id/23189/david-shaw-a-believer-in-new-49ers-gm-john-lynch)

National Media

***Arizona Cardinals wide receiver Larry Fitzgerald says he will return in 2017***

By Ryan Winn, The Arizona Republic

<http://www.azcentral.com/story/sports/nfl/cardinals/2017/02/01/arizona-cardinals-wide-receiver-larry-fitzgerald-says-he-return-2017/97380192/>

***Goodell: NFL hasn't made a decision on Vegas market***

By Conor Orr, NFL.com

<http://www.nfl.com/news/story/0ap3000000781791/article/goodell-nfl-hasnt-made-a-decision-on-vegas-market>

***Pat McAfee walks away from the Colts at 29***

By Zak Keefer, Indianapolis Star

<http://www.indystar.com/story/sports/nfl/colts/2017/02/02/pat-mcafee-walks-away-colts-29/97374974/>

***Jets hire Stump Mitchell as running backs coach***

By Manish Mehta, New York Daily News

<http://www.nydailynews.com/sports/football/jets/jets-hire-stump-mitchell-running-backs-coach-article-1.2961345>

***Raiders, Jack Del Rio talk extension; Mexico City game announced***

By Vic Tafur, San Francisco Chronicle

<http://www.sfgate.com/raiders/article/Raideers-Del-Rio-talk-extension-Mexico-City-10901170.php>

## Local Clips – Full Version

### ***John Lynch to 49ers Fans: 'We're Going to Make You Proud'***

By Joe Fann, 49ers.com

Lynch spent more than 25 minutes on KNBR Wednesday morning with the Murph & Mac show. His first interview with the San Francisco 49ers flagship radio station covered everything from rooming with Edgar Renteria during his minor league baseball career, to his expectations as an NFL general manager.

Lynch continued to speak candidly about the interview process with the 49ers, his qualifications for the job and how important it is to embrace the randomness of life. But maybe the most impactful portion of the half-hour chat came at the end.

As Brian Murphy began to wind down the interview, Lynch interjected with a thoughtful message for what 49ers fans should expect from his new regime.

"I would just tell people, watch the moves we make," Lynch began unprompted. "Of course we're going to make some mistakes along the way, but we're going to make you proud with the type of players that we build this team around. I (also) think it's very important to be invested in this community.

"I remember (former Tampa Bay Buccaneers head coach) Tony Dungy and the first meeting he ever had with us. He told us, 'Our job is to win championships, but if that's all we've done at the end of our time together, then we haven't done enough.' I've been around a lot of people that live that.

"I understand what a special community (the Bay Area is). We want to be a part of it, and we want to make people proud. I can give my commitment that we're going to leave no stone unturned to try and get people that represent the organization. First of all, everything we do, being single-minded to win World Championships and also to make the community proud with the guys we have.

"That's the one thing I will promise."

## Best of the Rest

-- Lynch continues to embrace the fact that he won't win everyone over until the 49ers start winning football games.

"Are there skeptics? Absolutely. Should there be skeptics? Absolutely," he said. "I understand that, and I understand that the only way we change those skeptical thoughts is to win. That's what this league is all about.

"I can't make any promises about when that's going to happen, but we're going to work our tails off."

-- The general manager shed some light on what went into hiring vice president of player personnel Adam Peters, who has spent 14 seasons of NFL front office experience with the New England Patriots and Denver Broncos. Prying Peters away from the Broncos was a crucial first step in Lynch's plan.

"You look at his experience, I've talked to people in the New England organization, and I know how much they valued him," Lynch said. "Josh McDaniels valued him so much that he brought him to Denver. Denver valued him incredibly. They kind of had a log jam. I've got a good relationship with John Elway, who immensely respects Adam Peters. He gave him an opportunity for a big promotion.

"Adam Peters was a home-run hire for us. We're full-speed ahead already."

-- Atlanta Falcons offensive coordinator Kyle Shanahan is reported to be the top candidate for the 49ers head coach opening, but nothing can become official until after Super Bowl LI. Once a coach is in place, the two will work together to assess the needs of San Francisco's current roster.

"I'm going to do whatever it takes, along with the head coach and along with the team we build, to put together a winner," Lynch said. "Frankly, we're putting together roles right now."

"As soon as we get our head coach on board, we're going to work tirelessly to be on the same page, so we can go to our scouts and say, 'This is what we're looking for.'"

-- Lynch admitted that one of the things that lured him to a front office position was the desire to have a stake in the game. He loved his time with FOX Sports, but missed the highs and lows of winning and losing.

"The one thing that can be unfulfilling is that there's no scoreboard," Lynch said. "When you're used to scoreboards, winning and losing, that void is always kind of there."

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***David Shaw on 49ers GM John Lynch: 'He's never failed at anything'***

By Eric Branch, San Francisco Chronicle

John Lynch's transition from quarterback to safety midway through his Stanford career was memorable.

Just ask Stanford head coach David Shaw, his college teammate, who recalls Lynch making an immediate impact.

"His first day with pads on, he knocked two guys out," said Shaw, a wide receiver at Stanford. "John had to learn what practice tempo was. One of the guys was a defensive back; he knocked out two guys with one hit. That was when the legend of John Lynch began on the practice field."

Speaking to reporters on national signing day, Shaw acknowledged the 49ers' hiring of Lynch as their general manager was unusual, but he expects his friend to succeed. His reasoning: Lynch has always succeeded.

"An unconventional hire -- to hire somebody as GM who's never worked in a front office before," Shaw said. "Those of us that have been around John since my freshman year, John doesn't fail at anything. John's never failed at anything. John is brilliant, he's competitive, he's tough. He's going to surround himself with people that are like him - smart people that are tough, good football people."

"He's going to make sound decisions. He's not going to care to be the most popular guy in the room. He's not competing to be the GM of the century. He's going to try to build a winner. ... He's never failed at anything, and I don't believe he'll fail with the 49ers."

Lynch was a nine-time Pro Bowl selection during his 15-year NFL career and he flourished as a broadcaster for FOX after he retired.

"A special person," Shaw said. "Ultimate competitor. High-character person that's going to work his tail off to be successful."

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***Steve Young: 49ers new regime channeling Bill Walsh dynasty***

By Cam Inman, San Jose Mercury News

An enthusiastically optimistic Steve Young believes the 49ers can rekindle their glory-days aura with the likely pairing of John Lynch and Kyle Shanahan as general manager and coach.

Young referred to a “toolkit” Bill Walsh instituted during the 1980s dynasty in which an integrated, all-for-one attitude took root.

“John is a guy that feels like we’re getting back to that rootedness and I’m happy,” Young said Wednesday on KNBR 680-AM. “Kyle is one generation away from Mike and he gets that as well.”

Shanahan still can’t be hired as coach until after the Sunday’s Super Bowl, where he is expected to finish out his two-year term as the Atlanta Falcons offensive coordinator. Shanahan played a critical role in Lynch’s surprise hiring Sunday, after Lynch approached him with the concept two weeks ago.

Although 49ers CEO Jed York intimated at his search’s onset last month that he’s consulted with Young, the Hall of Fame quarterback said Lynch’s hiring was “totally out of nowhere” and reflected how peculiar the GM search unfolded.

“John Lynch is one of the best guys I know,” Young said. “Great human being, fundamentally, as a communicator and as a person. He’s really a phenomenal guy.

“We’re going to make him an honorary Niner. He’s not, but he could be.”

Technically, Lynch indeed is a 49er now, but Young was willing to make the connection based on Lynch playing at Stanford under Walsh in 1992 and then capturing Walsh’s team-oriented essence with the Denver Broncos in 2004-07 under coach Mike Shanahan, Kyle’s father and Young’s offensive coordinator with the 1994 49ers en route to their last Super Bowl win.

Kyle Shanahan, back in 1994, was a 15-year-old ballboy for the 49ers. Or, as Young recalled: “He was kind of a cocky, little kid back then. ‘Mike, what are you going to do with this kid when he grows up?’ Now you have it.”

As emotionally invested as he is in a 49ers resurgence, Young expressed some skepticism about how roster and salary-cap powers will be dispersed. ESPN reported that Lynch will oversee the 90-man roster and Shanahan the 53-man unit for game days. Meanwhile, Paraag Marathe is expected to have a strong influence as their salary-cap coordinator and contract negotiator.

“There are things I fear, because people say control doesn’t mean you have total control,” Young said. “They can work together but that hasn’t always worked in the past.

“John will find connections and ways to make it work collaboratively. The truth is neither guy has ever had the job, never has been a head coach, never has been a general manager.

“They have no idea how it’s going to go.”

While other franchises followed Walsh’s revolutionary inroads for their success, Young said the 49ers lost it over the past 15 years, aside from early in Jim Harbaugh’s coaching tenure from 2011-14.

“You’ve got to hope now that despite not being direct relationships that they understand what that was,” Young said, “because it’s still dominating in the league. I feel with this, we can.”

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***Kyle Shanahan's next daunting task: Rebuild the 49ers***  
By Nick Wagoner, ESPN.com

HOUSTON -- Kyle Shanahan has a tough job Sunday night, but the job he has a couple of days later is going to be a lot tougher.

The Atlanta Falcons' offensive coordinator says he's singularly focused on helping coach his current team to victory over the New England Patriots on Sunday in Super Bowl LI. But it's well known by now that, once the game is over, Shanahan is to become the next coach of the San Francisco 49ers. And while ascending to head coach is the dream of most coordinators, moving from the Falcons to the 49ers right now is like trading in a sports car for a box of Legos and four wheels.

The Niners just gave totally inexperienced former player and broadcaster John Lynch a six-year contract to be their next general manager -- a move Shanahan had to bless because the Niners were determined that their next coach/GM combo be comfortable working together. The contract Shanahan receives to be a first-time head coach is expected to be the same length, and his role in helping find the new GM speaks to the power he'll have. Six years is an unusually long contract for an NFL coach or executive, and these deals stand as unspoken admission that the project Shanahan and Lynch are undertaking is not expected to be quick or easy.

Which is good, because if the 49ers thought otherwise they'd be kidding themselves. This is a 2-14 team that has changed coaches three years in a row, has no idea who its quarterback will be in 2017 and had no players selected to this year's Pro Bowl. Shanahan is a brilliant designer of game plans and executor of in-game offensive adjustments. His new job is going to require him to be much more. Basically, he has to rebuild the 49ers franchise.

Shanahan is only 37 years old, but he has been an NFL offensive coordinator for nine years already and was more or less raised for this. The son of two-time Super Bowl-winning former Denver Broncos coach Mike Shanahan, Kyle's answer when asked what advice his father gave him about building an organization sounded specific to the one he's joining.

"Just be patient, make sure to do it the right way," he said. "You've got to make smart decisions. You're always trying to win games, but it's always just for that week. It's for the future."

One thing of which 49ers fans can be certain: Their new coach is a guy who knows what he wants. As an offensive coordinator, Shanahan has not held personnel power, but he has offered input into his teams' decisions on adding players. Part of the reason the Falcons spent big on free-agent wide receiver Mohamed Sanu last offseason was because Shanahan saw a specific role for him in Atlanta's offense.

"He's an excellent player evaluator, and I think he can evaluate any position," said Falcons quarterbacks coach Matt LaFleur, who has worked on Shanahan's staff eight of the past nine years in Houston, Washington and now Atlanta. "He has a vision for what he wants, and he knows how to find those players to fit exactly what that vision is. He can recognize what players do well and put them in position to be successful. I think that's one of his best attributes."

It's not that Shanahan believes he can work only with players who fit his system. Part of his belief about player evaluation and acquisition is that it helps maximize a player's talent when you can clearly articulate the role and expectations you have for him.

"You look at a Julio Jones, and he can do whatever. He can do anything," Shanahan said. "But there aren't many like him, and if you're not getting someone like that, you've got to look closely at their traits. Find out what a guy does best, and then can you put him in a scheme where you only ask that of him."

The most important thing Shanahan will have to do in San Francisco is find a quarterback. Colin Kaepernick is expected to opt out of his contract, and the other two quarterbacks on the roster -- Blaine Gabbert and Christian Ponder -- are free agents. Shanahan evaluated Jimmy Garoppolo as part of the 2014 draft class when he was in Cleveland, and the Patriots' backup could be available in a trade. The 49ers have the No. 2 overall pick in April's draft and could take the first quarterback off the board.

Shanahan's not giving away any quarterback plans, but he had the same answer multiple times this week when asked what he's looking for.

"There are so many ways to be successful, but for the most part you want a guy who's a pure thrower," Shanahan said. "There aren't very many of them on the planet, but ideally you look for a guy who's a pure thrower and who's fearless."

Expect some familiar faces to follow Shanahan to the Bay Area. He may have a hard time prying coaches away from the Falcons to bring with him, but it would be no surprise to see some players accompany him. Matt Schaub, the Falcons' backup quarterback, played for Shanahan in Houston and is a free agent, as is Chris Chester, the Falcons' starting right guard, who played for him in Washington. Having players who know and understand what you want to do and can communicate it to the ones who don't is important for a new coach facing a challenge as daunting as this. And Shanahan's players believe in him.

"He just knows football," Chester said. "He's as comfortable talking defense as he is talking offense, and he can break down a play from either perspective. He may be the best I've ever seen in terms of X's and O's, and he understands the whole game, the whole organization. In part, I think that's because of his background and his experience with his dad, who must be a great resource for him to have."

Shanahan has taken several opportunities this week to insist that his father will not be accompanying him to the 49ers. He coached under Mike in Washington, but this show is going to be his own, along with Lynch.

"I truly believe that, whenever you have as smart guy with high character who works extremely hard, when you have a guy with those qualities, it's only a matter of time before he figures it out," Kyle Shanahan said. "If I'm going to bet on somebody, I'm going to be on John Lynch. John has succeeded at everything, and that's what excites me about him."

Whether Lynch, Shanahan and whichever coaches, players and personnel executives end up surrounding them will succeed in San Francisco is impossible to foretell. Shanahan has the talent to do this job, and he's got a résumé that says he deserves the chance.

But this particular job he's taking is a hard one. There's no Matt Ryan or Julio Jones or Vic Beasley Jr. in San Francisco. If Shanahan wants to get back to the Super Bowl with his new team, he's going to have to figure out a way to find or make them.

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### ***David Shaw a believer in new 49ers GM John Lynch***

By Nick Wagoner, ESPN.com

SANTA CLARA, Calif. -- Stanford football coach David Shaw played wide receiver for the Cardinal in the early '90s, making him a teammate of new San Francisco 49ers general manager John Lynch.

While Shaw spent most of Wednesday discussing his latest recruiting class, he also took time to answer some questions about how he thinks Lynch will fare in his new job.

After acknowledging that hiring Lynch without any personnel experience is a bit unconventional, Shaw told the San Francisco Chronicle that he believes in his former teammate.

"Those of us that have been around John since my freshman year, John doesn't fail at anything," Shaw said. "John's never failed at anything. John is brilliant, he's competitive, he's tough."

"He's going to surround himself with people that are like him -- smart people that are tough, good football people. He's going to make sound decisions. He's not going to care to be the most popular guy in the

room. He's not competing to be the GM of the century. He's going to try to build a winner. ... He's never failed at anything, and I don't believe he'll fail with the 49ers."

Of course, Shaw's name is one that has been bandied about for multiple NFL jobs in recent seasons, but he remains committed to his alma mater. The last time the Niners made a major football hire from Stanford -- coach Jim Harbaugh -- it turned out pretty good before an ugly ending.

If Lynch can enjoy similar success while maintaining a harmonious relationship, it would go a long way in turning around a once-proud franchise. Even if many are taking a wait-and-see approach regarding Lynch's tenure, he clearly has at least one major Bay Area believer.