

49ers Clips – June 28, 2017

Local Media

***John Lynch thinks DB Rashard Robinson 'looks like a No. 1 corner'***

By Daniel Mano, San Jose Mercury News

<http://www.mercurynews.com/2017/06/27/who-is-john-lynch-most-excited-to-see-in-49ers-training-camp/>

***NFC West Q&A: What will be the biggest surprise in the division in 2017?***

By Nick Wagoner, ESPN.com

[http://www.espn.com/blog/seattle-seahawks/post/\\_id/25915/nfc-west-qa-what-will-be-the-biggest-surprise-in-the-division-in-2017](http://www.espn.com/blog/seattle-seahawks/post/_id/25915/nfc-west-qa-what-will-be-the-biggest-surprise-in-the-division-in-2017)

***John Lynch names a handful of 49ers players he's most excited about***

By Kevin Jones, KNBR

<http://www.knbr.com/2017/06/27/john-lynch-names-a-handful-of-49ers-players-most-hes-excited-about/>

***Unsigned draft pick count down to just ten, including seven first-round picks***

By Curtis Crabtree, Pro Football Talk

<http://profootballtalk.nbcsports.com/2017/06/27/unsigned-draft-pick-count-down-to-just-ten-including-seven-first-round-picks/>

National Media

***Disputing Seahawks' optimism, Pro Football Focus says Seattle enters 2017 with worst offensive line in NFL***

By Bob Condotta, The Seattle Times

<http://www.seattletimes.com/sports/seahawks/disputing-seahawks-optimism-pro-football-focus-says-seattle-enters-2017-with-worst-offensive-line-in-nfl/>

***Every NFL Play Is a Brutal Game of Chess***

By Andy Benoit, MMQB.com

<http://mmqb.si.com/mmqb/2017/06/28/nfl-james-urban-cincinnati-bengals-wide-receivers-coach>

***Andrew Luck on shoulder: 'No reason to be sullen or morose,' runs Change The Play camp***

By Brody Miller, The Indianapolis Star

<http://www.indystar.com/story/sports/nfl/colts/2017/06/27/andrew-luck-shoulder-no-reason-sullen-morose/430235001/>

***Jaguars CB Jalen Ramsey resumes running after undergoing surgery two weeks ago***

By John Reid, The Florida Times-Union

<http://jacksonville.com/sports/jaguars/2017-06-28/jaguars-cb-jalen-ramsey-resumes-running-after-undergoing-surgery-two-weeks>

## Local Clips – Full Version

### ***John Lynch thinks DB Rashard Robinson 'looks like a No. 1 corner'***

By Daniel Mano, San Jose Mercury News

Like many in Niner Nation, there's a level of anticipation for John Lynch with training camp a month away.

The 49ers general manager mentioned several rookies and complimented cornerback Rashard Robinson when asked about who he's excited to see in pads starting July 27 during an interview with KNBR's Gary & Larry show.

"When you watch him in OTAs he looks like a No. 1 corner and that certainly was a position of need and concern for us," Lynch said of Robinson. "Rashard has made us feel a lot better about that position."

Lynch is also encouraged by the red-zone possibilities provided by rookie tight end George Kittle, a fifth-round draft pick out of Iowa who Lynch said "really flashed" during Organized Team Activities.

"He's got some suddenness to him in his movements (and) he catches the ball extremely well," Lynch said. "George gives us something we don't have, in a play-maker down near the red zone ... He is that guy where in a 1-on-1 situations you can flex him out, you can put him in the middle of the field, and he can impose his will and just out-athlete people. So that has been extremely positive."

Another fifth-round pick impressed Lynch enough for the GM To call him the most enticing wide receiver on the roster.

"Trent Taylor is exactly what we thought he'd be: he's a guy that can flat-out separate," Lynch said of the Louisiana Tech product. "You need those guys who can just go get open, and he's a guy who we saw on film has the ability to do that against just about anyone. He's carried that over to practice. He's been fun to watch."

Lynch also liked what he saw from veteran linebacker Malcolm Smith, veteran lineman Elvis Dumervil and rookie running back Joe Williams during OTAs.

"We've been pleased with everyone," Lynch said, "but ... we'll know when we put the pads on and start playing games."

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### ***NFC West Q&A: What will be the biggest surprise in the division in 2017?***

By Nick Wagoner, ESPN.com

The NFC West has had its ebbs and flows over the past few seasons, but one thing that has stayed consistent is going through the Seattle Seahawks to win the division title. The Seahawks have won the division three of the past four seasons and four of the past seven.

Will they stay on top, challenged by the Arizona Cardinals? Will the Los Angeles Rams or San Francisco 49ers, who had a combined six wins last season, rise up?

Today's question: What will be the biggest surprise in the division in 2017?

The West becomes known as the worst division in the NFC. It started trending this way last season, when Seattle won the division with 10 victories and did so comfortably, three games clear of second-place Arizona. What some might have viewed as an aberration looks more like the NFC West's new reality. Like most things in the NFL, divisional toughness is cyclical, and it's time for the West's downturn after a run of dominance. Consider that from 2012 to 2015, the West had multiple playoff representatives in every

season and had nine teams in that span with campaigns of 10 or more victories. The fast, physical nature of the teams in the division made for weekly street fights. Now, the Seahawks still look like the favorites, but they're not as dominant as they once were. The Cardinals appear to be hanging on for one final run. And the Rams and 49ers are in rebuilding mode. Meanwhile, the other NFC divisions seem to be in an uptick, with legitimate contenders almost across the board. Assuming the rebuilds in San Francisco and/or Los Angeles go as planned, it won't be long before the West rises again, as Seattle and Arizona are too good at talent evaluation and acquisition to be down long. For now, though, the West isn't best anymore.

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***John Lynch names a handful of 49ers players he's most excited about***

By Kevin Jones, KNBR

Training camp is exactly one month away from commencing in Santa Clara. Veterans and rookies will both report July 27th. At the moment, players and coaches are taking some much needed time away from the sport before the football grind.

That didn't prevent 49ers GM John Lynch from giving 23 minutes of his time to Gary and Larry Tuesday on KNBR. Lynch listed a handful of players he's excited about. None got a more gushing review than tight end George Kittle.

"A guy we got in the fifth-round is a guy who really flashed," Lynch said. "He's got some suddenness to him in his movements. He catches the ball extremely well. One of the things we knew is that we weren't going to be able to build this to the way we want it in one year. I think George gives us something we don't have in a playmaker down near the red zone, where you've got a one-on-one matchup. We're confident we're going to move the ball because Kyle knows how to put together an offense. And we've got guys who fit into what he wants to do. The speed, the separators, all that.

"One thing you have to be able to do, when you're down near the red zone and everything tightens up, you have guys who man-on-man can just beat the guy in front of him. We were concerned we didn't have that and were going to have to live without it for a year. We feel like George Kittle maybe gives us something where he is that guy, in a one-on-one situation you can flex him out, put him in the middle of the field and he can kind of impose his will and just out-athlete people. That has been extremely positive. We thought that coming in, but he probably exceeded our expectations."

I noticed the same things about Kittle to close out minicamp. He reminds me of former Redskins tight end Chris Cooley. He's slippery once he has the ball in his hands, and quick enough to beat safeties in the middle of the field. If it's a coin flip between Kittle and some of the other well-traveled veterans, it would behoove the 49ers to go with the rookie. They aren't developing a whole lot of young talent for a rebuilding team. The only other rookies who would be considered for a starting spot are the first-rounders — Solomon Thomas and Reuben Foster. Kittle's emergence should help this offense.

Lynch said Malcolm Smith's athleticism at linebacker has been eye-opening, and that he disagrees with people who say the team overpaid for him. The GM also mentioned rookie Joe Williams showed up to the facility out of shape in April, but left on a really strong note. What about a roster holdover?

"I didn't know much about Rashard Robinson, but when you watch him in OTAs, he looks like a No. 1 cornerback," Lynch said. "That certainly was a position of need and a concern for us. Rashard has made us feel a lot better about that position."

It's understood that one of Lynch's main goals is to spew positivity about the 49ers. He's actually been phenomenal at winning the PR battles. The 49ers really haven't done anything wrong since he was hired on Jan. 30.

Still it is encouraging to hear him name specific reasons why he's excited about certain players. He ended the interview with Gary and Larry chatting about two receivers.

"Trent Taylor is exactly what we thought he'd be," Lynch said. "He's a guy that can flat out separate. You need when it comes to any down, but especially on third-down, you need guys that can just get open. He's a guy we saw on film that just had an ability to do that against just about anyone. He's carried that over to practice. He's been fun to watch.

"Marquise Goodwin, I think one thing I saw when I studied Kyle Shanahan running offenses in Atlanta, he probably knew how to use speed more so than any offensive coordinator in this league. I'm really excited to see Marquise, a guy who clearly has that, be utilized in Kyle's system. Those are two guys that come to mind that really jump."

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***Unsigned draft pick count down to just ten, including seven first-round picks***

By Curtis Crabtree, Pro Football Talk

After Jourdan Lewis signed with the Cowboys on Tuesday night, the number of unsigned draft picks across the NFL stands at just ten.

Seven of those 10 picks were selected in the first round.

The seven first-round picks yet to sign are: Bears quarterback Mitchell Trubisky (second overall), 49ers defensive lineman Solomon Thomas (third), Titans wide receiver Corey Davis (fifth), Jets safety Jamal Adams (sixth), Chiefs quarterback Patrick Mahomes (10), Raiders cornerback Gareon Conley (24) and Browns defensive back Jabrill Peppers (25).

Safety Obi Melifonwu of the Raiders is the only second-round pick yet to sign. Defensive tackle Eddie Vanderdoes of the Raiders and Packers defensive end Montravius Adams are the remaining third-round picks yet to sign contracts.

First-round picks can sign a four-year contract with a fifth-year option while all remaining draft picks can only sign four-year deals.