



# 49ERS AT CHIEFS

8.24.19 || 5:00 PM PT



# SAN FRANCISCO 49ERS GAME RELEASE



## SAN FRANCISCO 49ERS

[ 2-0 ]

at

## KANSAS CITY CHIEFS

[ 1-1 ]

SATURDAY, AUGUST 24, 2019 || 5:00 PM PT || ARROWHEAD STADIUM || KANSAS CITY, MO || KPIX 5

### 2019 SEASON SCHEDULE

DATE	OPPONENT	TIME (PT)
<b>PRESEASON [ 2-0 ]</b>		
AUG. 10	DALLAS	W, 17-9
AUG. 19	@ DENVER	W, 24-15
AUG. 24	@ KANSAS CITY	5:00 PM
AUG. 29	LA CHARGERS	7:00 PM
<b>REGULAR SEASON</b>		
SEPT. 8	@ TAMPA BAY	1:25 PM
SEPT. 15	@ CINCINNATI	10:00 AM
SEPT. 22	PITTSBURGH	1:25 PM
OCT. 7	CLEVELAND	5:15 PM
OCT. 13	@ LA RAMS	1:05 PM
OCT. 20	@ WASHINGTON	10:00 AM
OCT. 27	CAROLINA	1:05 PM
OCT. 31	@ ARIZONA	5:20 PM
NOV. 11	SEATTLE	5:15 PM
NOV. 17	ARIZONA	1:05 PM
NOV. 24	GREEN BAY	1:25 PM
DEC. 1	@ BALTIMORE	10:00 AM
DEC. 8	@ NEW ORLEANS	10:00 AM
DEC. 15	ATLANTA	1:25 PM
DEC. 21 OR 22	LA RAMS	TBD
DEC. 29	@ SEATTLE	1:25 PM

### MEDIA CENTER

The 49ers media center is updated daily and contains all of the necessary information to cover the team. On the site, you will find a compilation of 49ers game releases, rosters, updated player bios, gamebooks, transcriptions, statistics, audio files and much more.

To access the site, please visit: [www.49ers.com/media](http://www.49ers.com/media).

### MEDIA GUIDE

The 49ers 2019 media guide is available online at <https://49ers.1rmg.com/> and will be updated weekly throughout the season.

### WEEKLY RELEASE

The electronic version of the 49ers weekly release is available online. To access the book, please visit: <https://49ers.1rmg.com/weekly-releases/>

### 49ERS AT CHIEFS

The San Francisco 49ers hit the road for the second consecutive week in the preseason as they travel to Kansas City to take on the Chiefs. This marks the 10th preseason matchup between the two teams, with the 49ers coming in as winners of each of the past three meetings.

Last week, the Niners traveled to Denver and defeated the Denver Broncos, 24-15, on ESPN's *Monday Night Football*. Prior to the game, the two teams held two joint practices at Denver's UHealth Training Center in Englewood, CO. San Francisco's offense was led by its rushing attack, as the team ran for 185 yards and two touchdowns on 29 carries (6.4 average). RB Raheem Mostert finished with a game-high 58 rushing yards, including a 30-yard touchdown run.

On defense, the 49ers sacked Denver quarterbacks six times, with DL Jay Bromley registering 2.0 sacks on the night. San Francisco held Denver to 139 passing yards with CB Dontae Johnson intercepting Broncos QB Kevin Hogan in the fourth quarter.

### RADIO & TV COVERAGE

#### 49ERS TELEVISION NETWORK

KPIX 5 and CW Bay Area are the official television partners of the San Francisco 49ers preseason broadcasts, and the flagship television stations of the 49ers Television Network. **Greg Papa**, who is in his first season as the Voice of the 49ers, will handle the play-by-play duties for the team. He enters his first season with the 49ers as a 32-year veteran of Bay Area sports broadcasting. He is joined by former Chicago Bears and USC All-American defensive lineman, **Tim Ryan**, who enters his sixth season in the 49ers radio booth. Ryan is a Bay Area native who was previously a color analyst for 49ers preseason games along with 12 seasons in the booth with NFL on FOX. Veteran broadcaster **Dennis O'Donnell** returns for his 19th season as part of the 49ers preseason broadcast. He will be handling sideline duties.

#### 49ERS RADIO NETWORK

All 49ers preseason games can be heard on KGO (810-AM), The Bone (KSAN 107.7-FM) and the 49ers Radio Network. **Bob Fitzgerald** will be on play-by-play. He currently calls NFL and college football games for Sports USA Radio and is the lead play-by-play announcer for Golden State Warriors basketball on NBC Sports Bay Area. Former 49ers linebacker, **Keena Turner** will be the color analyst. Turner played for San Francisco from 1980-90, and currently serves as the team's vice president and senior advisor to the general manager. Joining Fitzgerald and Turner in the booth this year is former 49ers defensive end **Dennis Brown**. He previously worked as an in-studio analyst for NBC Sports Bay Area and also served as an analyst for their pre-game and post-game shows. Originally drafted by the 49ers in the second round (47th overall) in the 1990 NFL Draft, he spent all seven years of his career with the 49ers and was a member of the Super Bowl XXIX Championship team.

#### 49ERS SPANISH BROADCAST

Returning in 2019, all 49ers games will be broadcast in Spanish online at [www.49ers.com/news/Espanol](http://www.49ers.com/news/Espanol). The Faithful can listen to **Jesús Zárate** and **Carlos Ramirez** call every 49ers game this season.

## THE HEAD COACHES



**Kyle Shanahan** was named the 20th head coach of the San Francisco 49ers on February 6, 2017. He enters his third season with the 49ers after spending the previous two seasons as the offensive coordinator of the Atlanta Falcons. Shanahan has 15 seasons of coaching experience at the NFL level, including nine of the previous 11 as an offensive coordinator for the Atlanta Falcons (2015-16), Cleveland Browns (2014), Washington Redskins (2010-13) and Houston Texans (2008-09) prior to joining San Francisco. In six of his nine seasons as an offensive coordinator (2008-09, 2012-13 and 2015-16), Shanahan directed an offense that ranked in the top 10 in the NFL in yards gained. Following the 2016 season, Shanahan was named Associated Press Assistant Coach of the Year, Coordinator of the Year by *The Sporting News* and Assistant Coach of the Year by the Pro Football Writers of America after a record-setting performance by the Falcons offense en route to capturing the NFC South division title and an appearance in Super Bowl LI. Under Shanahan, the 2016 Falcons set franchise records in yards per game (415.8), points scored (540), net passing yards per game (295.3) and average yards per play (6.7). Atlanta QB Matt Ryan, who was named Associated Press Most Valuable Player, Associated Press Offensive Player of the Year, Most Valuable Player/Offensive Player of the Year by the Pro Football Writers of America and FedEx Air Player of the Year, threw for a single-season franchise record and career-high 4,944 passing yards and 38 touchdowns, ranking second in the NFL in both categories. WR Julio Jones recorded 83 receptions for 1,409 yards (17.0 average) and six touchdowns in 14 games played.

### COACHES COMPARISON

<b>Kyle Shanahan</b>		<b>Andy Reid</b>
5-5 (.500)	<b>Preseason Record as Head Coach</b>	39-43 (.476)
5-5 (.500)	<b>Preseason Record with Current Team</b>	14-12 (.538)
10-22 (.313)	<b>Overall Record (Regular/Postseason)</b>	207-138-1 (.600)
3rd	<b>Years as Head Coach with Team</b>	7th
3rd	<b>Years as Head Coach in NFL</b>	21st
16th	<b>Years as an NFL Coach</b>	28th



**Andy Reid** enters his seventh season at the helm of the Chiefs in 2019. Since his arrival in Kansas City, Reid's teams have made the playoffs five out of six seasons, while tallying 65 wins, the highest combined win total of any head coach in franchise history in that timeframe. Reid and the Chiefs finished the 2018 season atop the AFC West for a

third consecutive year, where they would eventually lose in the Conference Championship, the team's best finish since 1993. Reid joined the Chiefs after 14 seasons as Head Coach/Executive Vice President of Football Operations of the Philadelphia Eagles where he compiled a 130-93-1 (.583) regular season record. He owns three NFL Coach of the Year titles. In 2017, Reid led the Chiefs to a 10-6 record en route to the club's second consecutive AFC West title, the first time in franchise history the club has won the division in back-to-back years. The year prior, the Chiefs finished with a 12-4 record and the AFC West title, the team's first since 2010. Reid joined Philadelphia as their head coach in 1999 and remained in that role through the 2012 season, becoming one of just 11 first-time NFL head coaches to lead 12-or-more seasons with the same club. Reid assumed the additional role of Executive Vice President of Football Operations in 2001. He joined Philadelphia after spending seven seasons as an assistant coach with the Green Bay Packers under head coach Mike Holmgren. During his seven years with the Packers, Reid served as the tight ends coach and assistant offensive line coach (1992-96) and as quarterbacks coach (1997-98).

## OH WHAT A MONTH

- Over the last two seasons under head coach **Kyle Shanahan** (2017-18), the 49ers have recorded seven victories in the month of December, tied for the 2nd-most in the NFL. San Francisco's .700 winning percentage ranks t-3rd in the NFL over that timespan.

### HIGHEST WIN % IN THE MONTH OF DECEMBER, 2017-18

Team	Wins	Losses	Win %
1. Los Angeles Chargers	8	2	.800
2. Dallas Cowboys	6	2	.750
<b>3t. San Francisco 49ers</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>.700</b>
Baltimore Ravens	7	3	.700
Kansas City Chiefs	7	3	.700
New England Patriots	7	3	.700
Philadelphia Eagles	7	3	.700



## RACK UP THE YARDS

- Since becoming head coach of the 49ers, Shanahan's offenses have been some of the best in the history of the organization. In 2018, **San Francisco** threw for 4,247 yds., the 9th-most in franchise history and the 2nd-most since 2000.

### MOST PASSING YDS. BY THE 49ERS IN A SINGLE SEASON SINCE 2000

	Year	Passing Yds.
1.	2000	4,400
2.	<b>2018</b>	<b>4,247</b>
3.	<b>2017</b>	<b>4,235</b>
4.	2008	3,724
5.	2015	3,646

- The 49ers finished with 5,769 total net yds. of offense in 2018, the 3rd-most by the franchise since 2000 (6,040 yds. in 2000 & 5,789 yds. in 2012).



## 49ERS RECORD WHEN

TEAM	2018 Reg. Season	Shanahan Reg. Season
Overall	4-12	10-22
At Home	4-4	7-9
On the Road	0-8	3-13
Neutral Site	0-0	0-0
In Primetime	1-2	1-3
In Dome	0-2	1-3
In September	1-3	1-6
In October	0-4	0-9
In November	1-2	2-4
In December	2-3	7-3
In January	0-0	0-0
Vs. NFC	2-10	5-19
Vs. NFC West	1-5	2-10
Vs. NFC East	0-1	1-4
Vs. NFC North	1-3	2-3
Vs. NFC South	0-1	0-2
Vs. AFC	2-2	5-3
Vs. AFC West	2-2	2-2
Vs. AFC East	0-0	0-0
Vs. AFC North	0-0	0-0
Vs. AFC South	0-0	3-1
Scoring on opening drive	3-3	8-4
Scoring first	2-6	7-7
Leading at half	4-4	8-4
Leading after three quarters	4-2	9-3
Winning time of possession	1-4	4-6
Out-rushing opponent	2-6	7-8
Out-passing opponent	3-6	8-9
Out-gaining opponent	2-5	7-6
<b>OFFENSE</b>		
40% + 3rd down conversions	1-5	6-7
50% + 3rd down conversions	0-3	5-4
Not throwing an INT	3-2	4-4
Passing for 300+ yards	1-2	3-4
Having a 100+ yard rusher	1-3	1-4
Having a 100+ yard receiver	2-4	5-6
Scoring 20+ points	4-5	9-8
Scoring 30+ points	2-2	5-3
Rushing for 150+ yards	1-2	3-3
Having 20+ first downs	3-8	9-13
Not allowing a sack	1-1	3-1
Allowing two or fewer sacks	1-4	6-6
<b>DEFENSE</b>		
Opp. less than 40% on 3rd down	2-3	6-6
Opp. less than 30% on 3rd down	2-2	3-3
Scoring a defensive TD	0-1	1-1
Returning an INT for a TD	0-1	1-1
Returning a fumble for a TD	0-0	0-0
Recording 3+ sacks	2-5	5-9
Recording 5+ sacks	1-0	1-1
Winning the turnover battle	1-2	3-4
Allowing 17 or fewer points	2-1	5-2
Allowing a 100-yard rusher	1-2	1-5
Allowing a 100-yard receiver	1-5	4-9
Not allowing a rushing TD	2-4	6-8
Not allowing a passing TD	1-0	2-1

## 2018 COMPARISON

49ERS (rank)	Record	CHIEFS (rank)
4-12 (3rd NFCW)		12-4 (1st AFCW)
21.4 (21st)	<b>Points Per Game</b>	35.3 (1st)
360.6 (16th)	<b>Total Offense</b>	425.6 (1st)
118.9 (13th)	<b>Rushing Offense</b>	115.9 (16th)
241.7 (15th)	<b>Passing Offense</b>	309.7 (3rd)
29:42 (19th)	<b>Possession Average</b>	28:56 (27th)
27.2 (28th)	<b>Points Allowed Per Game</b>	26.3 (24th)
346.6 (13th)	<b>Total Defense</b>	405.5 (31st)
113.4 (t-14th)	<b>Rushing Defense</b>	132.1 (27th)
233.3 (11th)	<b>Passing Defense</b>	273.4 (31st)
37 (t-22nd)	<b>Sacks</b>	52 (t-1st)
2 (32nd)	<b>Interceptions</b>	15 (t-9th)
43.7 (t-27th)	<b>Punting Avg. (Gross)</b>	44.9 (20th)
-25 (32nd)	<b>Turnover Differential</b>	+9 (6th)
<b>49ERS</b>		<b>CHIEFS</b>
<b>PASSING YARDS</b>		
Nick Mullens ..... 2,277		Patrick Mahomes ... 5,097
C.J. Beathard..... 1,252		
Jimmy Garoppolo ..... 718		
<b>RUSHING YARDS</b>		
Matt Breida ..... 814		Kareem Hunt..... 824
Alfred Morris..... 428		Patrick Mahomes ..... 272
<b>RECEPTIONS</b>		
George Kittle..... 88		Travis Kelce..... 103
Kendrick Bourne..... 42		Tyreek Hill..... 87
<b>RECEIVING YARDS</b>		
George Kittle..... 1,377		Tyreek Hill..... 1,479
Kendrick Bourne..... 487		Travis Kelce..... 1,336
<b>INTERCEPTIONS</b>		
Antone Exum Jr..... 1		Steven Nelson ..... 4
Jaquiski Tartt ..... 1		Two Players..... 2
<b>SACKS</b>		
DeForest Buckner ... 12.0		Chris Jones ..... 15.5
Ronald Blair III..... 5.5		Dee Ford..... 13.0
Cassius Marsh..... 5.5		Justin Houston..... 9.0



## 2019 PRESEASON COMPARISON

### 49ERS

2-0  
20.5  
308.5  
136.5  
172.0  
29:20  
12.0  
254.5  
84.0  
170.5  
9  
1  
48.8  
-2

### Record

**Points Per Game**  
**Total Offense**  
**Rushing Offense**  
**Passing Offense**  
**Possession Average**  
**Points Allowed Per Game**  
**Total Defense**  
**Rushing Defense**  
**Passing Defense**  
**Sacks**  
**Interceptions**  
**Punting Avg. (Gross)**  
**Turnover Differential**

### CHIEFS

1-1  
22.5  
357.5  
112.0  
245.5  
30:12  
17.0  
301.5  
72.5  
229.0  
4  
3  
44.0  
+2

### 49ERS

C.J. Beathard.....222  
Nick Mullens .....132  
Wilton Speight .....10

### PASSING YARDS

Chase Litton .....209  
Chad Henne.....122  
Kyle Shurmur.....106

### CHIEFS

### RUSHING YARDS

Raheem Mostert.....66  
Austin Walter .....60  
Deebo Samuel .....59

Josh Caldwell.....59  
Darwin Thompson.....52  
Two Players.....25

### RECEPTIONS

Richie James Jr.....7  
Austin Walter .....5  
Two Players .....3

Cody Thompson .....9  
Blake Bell.....4  
Deon Yelder .....4

### RECEIVING YARDS

Deebo Samuel .....61  
Richie James Jr.....45  
Raheem Mostert.....42

Cody Thompson .....88  
Blake Bell.....70  
Deon Yelder .....63

### INTERCEPTIONS

Dontae Johnson .....1

Three Players.....1

### SACKS

Jeremiah Valoaga .....2.5  
Jay Bromley .....2.0  
Kentavious Street .....1.5  
Three Players .....1.0

Tanoh Kpassagnon.....1.0  
Robert McCray.....1.0  
Alex Okafor .....1.0  
Breeland Speaks .....1.0

## PRESEASON HISTORY

49ers Lead Preseason Series vs. Chiefs 7-2

### Winning

Year	Team	Score	Loc.
1974	Chiefs	26-7	KC
1976	49ers	21-13	SF
1980	49ers	31-21	AZ
1987	49ers	20-7	OH
2000	49ers	33-10	KC

### Winning

Year	Team	Score	Loc.
2002	Chiefs	17-14 (OT)	SF
2003	49ers	24-6	KC
2013	49ers	15-13	KC
2017	49ers	27-17	KC

AZ - Tucson, AZ; OH - Canton, OH

## SERIES HIGHLIGHTS

**Preseason Matchups:** 9

**Preseason Series:** 49ers lead series 7-2

**First Preseason Meeting:** 8/24/74, Chiefs win, 26-7, at KC

**Last Preseason Meeting:** 8/11/17, 49ers win, 27-17, at KC

**Current Streak:** Won 3

**Longest 49ers Win Streak:** 4 (8/15/76-8/13/00)

**Longest Chiefs Win Streak:** 1 - 2 times (Last 8/10/02)

**Most 49ers Points:** 33 (8/13/00): 49ers win, 33-10, at KC

**Most Chiefs Points:** 26 (8/24/74): Chiefs win, 26-7, at KC

**49ers Shutouts:** None

**Chiefs Shutouts:** None



## JUMP ON THEM EARLY

The 49ers offense was extremely successful on 1st down in 2018. The team used multiple ways to jump on defenses early in possessions.

- **San Francisco** averaged 6.61 yds. per play on 1st down this season, ranking t-3rd in the NFL (LAR - 6.82; LAC - 6.62; NO - 6.61).

- The 49ers averaged 14.9 yds. per recept. on 1st down in 2018, ranking 1st in the NFL.

- The 49ers averaged 4.99 yds. per carry on 1st down, ranking 6th in the NFL (Car. - 5.72; Den. - 5.26; GB - 5.14; LAR - 5.08; NO - 5.02).

- The Niners registered 40 rushes of 10-or-more yds. on 1st down, ranking 2nd in the NFL (LAR - 41).

- San Francisco registered 75 big plays on 1st down in 2018 (rushes of 10-or-more yds. and receptions of 20-or-more yds.), the 2nd-most in the NFL. Of those 75 big plays, 40 have been rushing while 35 have been receiving.

### HIGHEST AVG. YDS. PER RECEPT. ON 1ST DOWN, 2018

Team	Avg.
1. San Francisco 49ers	14.9
2. Los Angeles Rams	14.0
3t. Kansas City Chiefs	13.3
Tampa Bay Buccaneers	13.3
5. Los Angeles Chargers	13.1

### MOST BIG PLAYS (RUSHES OF 10+ YDS. & PASSES OF 20+ YDS.) ON 1ST DOWN, 2018

Team	Big Plays
1. Los Angeles Rams	80
2. San Francisco 49ers	75
3. Kansas City Chiefs	64
4. Los Angeles Chargers	63
5. New England Patriots	62



## WHAT'S THE RUSH?

- The 49ers finished the 2018 season averaging 118.9 rushing yds. per game in 2018, ranking 13th in the NFL and 7th in the NFC.

- San Francisco averaged 4.5 yds. per carry in 2018, tied for the 6th-best in the NFC (Car. - 5.1; GB - 5.0; LAR - 4.9; Sea. - 4.8; NYG - 4.7; Atl. - 4.5; Dal. - 4.5).

### MOST RUSHING YDS. PER GAME IN THE NFC, 2018

Team	YPG
1. Seattle Seahawks	160.0
2. Los Angeles Rams	139.4
3. Carolina Panthers	133.5
4. New Orleans Saints	126.6
5. Dallas Cowboys	122.7
6. Chicago Bears	121.1
7. San Francisco 49ers	118.9

## PUSH THE BALL DOWNFIELD

Since the final five weeks of the 2017 season, the **49ers offense** has ranked among the league leaders in several categories.

### Since Week 13 of 2017...

- San Francisco ranks 8th in the NFL with **461 total 1st downs**.

- The Niners have picked up **277 of the team's 461 1st downs through the air**, ranking 9th in the NFL (TB - 346; Pit. - 324; KC - 298; Atl. - 294; LAR - 286; LAC - 284; Phi. - 280; Ind. - 278).

- The 49ers have **227 passing plays that have accumulated 10-or-more yds.**, the 9th-most in the NFL (TB - 295; Atl. - 257; Pit. - 252; Phi. - 249; KC - 248; LAC - 247; LAR - 242; NE - 229).

- San Francisco is averaging **372.2 total net yds.** of offense per game, ranking 9th in the NFL (KC - 422.5; TB - 412.5; Pit. - 403.0; LAR - 397.8; NE - 384.7; LAC - 383.8; Atl. - 378.9; NO - 372.5).

- The 49ers offense has converted on **41.1% (108-263) of the team's 3rd downs**, ranking 10th in the NFL and 6th in the NFC (TB - 49.2%; Pit. - 46.6%; KC - 45.8%; Ind. - 45.8%; Bal. - 43.7%; Atl. - 43.5%; LAR - 42.5%; NO - 42.2%; Dal. - 41.3%).

### MOST 1ST DOWNS SINCE WEEK 13 OF 2017

Team	1st
1. Tampa Bay Buccaneers	511
2. Pittsburgh Steelers	494
3t. Kansas City Chiefs	490
Los Angeles Rams	490
5. Baltimore Ravens	482
6. New England Patriots	479
7. New Orleans Saints	470
8. San Francisco 49ers	461

### HIGHEST NFC 3RD DOWN CONV. PCT. SINCE WEEK 13 OF 2017

Team	3RD %
1. Tampa Bay Buccaneers	49.2
2. Atlanta Falcons	43.5
3. Los Angeles Rams	42.5
4. New Orleans Saints	42.2
5. Dallas Cowboys	41.3
6. San Francisco 49ers	41.1

## EXTEND THE DRIVE

- Over the past two seasons (2017-18), the 49ers offense has registered **56 drives that lasted 10-or-more plays**, ranking t-13th in the NFL and t-6th in the NFC.

- Of San Francisco's 56 10-play drives, the team has seen 47 of those drives result in points. The team's **212 points scored** on those drives ranks 13th in the NFL (Bal. - 280; NE - 265; Phi. - 256; NO - 254; Pit. - 247; KC - 239; Den. - 235; TB - 234; Atl. - 230; Ind. - 223; Car. - 222; LAC - 222).

### MOST DRIVES OF 10-OR-MORE PLAYS IN THE NFC IN 2017-18

Team	Drives
1. Atlanta Falcons	61
2t. Dallas Cowboys	60
Tampa Bay Buccaneers	60
4. Philadelphia Eagles	59
5. New Orleans Saints	58
6t. San Francisco 49ers	56
Green Bay Packers	56
New York Giants	56

## ELITE ON FIRST

- Since the beginning of 2017, the Niners have racked up **5,970 total yds. of offense on 946 plays on 1st down**.

- The team's **6.31 average yds. gained on 1st down** is the 5th-highest in the NFL.

### HIGHEST AVG. YDS. GAINED ON 1ST DOWN IN THE NFL, 2017-18

Team	Avg.
1. New Orleans Saints	6.49
2. Atlanta Falcons	6.39
3. Kansas City Chiefs	6.34
4. New England Patriots	6.33
5. San Francisco 49ers	6.31

## MULLENS IT OVER

Making his NFL debut in Week 9 of the 2018 season vs. Oak. (11/1/18), QB **Nick Mullens** completed 16 of 22 atts. (72.7 percent) for 262 yds., 3 TDs and a passer rating of 151.9 as the 49ers earned a win in the final "Battle of the Bay" on *Thursday Night Football*.

- According to the Elias Sports Bureau, Mullens became the first player, making his NFL debut with the 49ers to throw for 2-or-more TDs in that game.
- With 3 TD passes, Mullens tied the franchise record for the most TD passes by a player in his first start with the 49ers [QB Tim Rattay vs. StL (11/2/03); QB Ty Detmer vs. Car. (11/8/98); QB Matt Cavanaugh at Phi. (9/23/84)].
- He also finished with the 3rd most passing yds. (262) in a first start in 49ers history.

### MOST PASSING YDS. IN FIRST START IN 49ERS HISTORY

Player	Opp.	Date	Yds.	TDs
1. Jimmy Garoppolo	at Chi.	12/3/17	293	0
2. Ty Detmer	vs. Car.	11/8/98	276	3
<b>3. Nick Mullens</b>	<b>vs. Oak.</b>	<b>11/1/18</b>	<b>262</b>	<b>3</b>
4t. Matt Cavanaugh	at Phi.	9/23/84	252	3
Jeff Kemp	at LAR	9/14/86	252	1

- Mullens became just the 3rd player in NFL history with 250-or-more passing yards, 3-or-more TD passes and 0 INTs in their NFL debut (Fran Tarkenton - 1961 & Jim Kelly - 1986).

- His 151.9 passer rating in his NFL debut was the second highest since passer rating was implemented in 1973 (Marcus Mariota in 2015 - 158.3). His passer rating was also was the highest in a single game by a 49ers QB since 10/29/12 vs. Arz. (QB Alex Smith - 157.1).

### HIGHEST PASSER RATING IN A NFL DEBUT SINCE 1973 (MIN. 15 ATTS.)

Player	Rating
1. Marcus Mariota (2015)	158.3
<b>2. Nick Mullens (2018)</b>	<b>151.9</b>
3. Robert Griffin III (2012)	139.9
4. T.J. Rubley (1993)	137.1
5. Jim Everett (1986)	136.6

- Mullens completed 30 of 48 passes for a career-high 414 yds. and 2 TDs at Sea. (12/2/18). His 414 passing yds. were the most by a 49ers QB since QB Tim Rattay registered 417 passing yds. vs. Arz. (10/10/04) and the 2nd-most by a 49ers QB since 2000.

- His passing total was the most against the Seahawks since Pittsburgh Steelers QB Ben Roethlisberger threw for 456 yds. in Week 12 of the 2015 season.

- After completing 20 of 33 atts. for 332 yds., 2 TDs and a passer rating of 102.1 vs. Den. (12/9/18), Mullens became the first undrafted 49ers QB to throw for 300-or-more yds. in consecutive games since QB Jeff Garcia accomplished the feat in the three straight games from 12/3/00-12/17/00.

- Mullens completed 23 of 33 atts. for 282 yds. and 3 TDs at LAR (12/30/18). With 282 passing yds., he became the first 49ers QB to register 220-or-more passing yds. in eight-consecutive games since QB Joe Montana accomplished the feat in nine-consecutive games from 12/9/85 to 12/7/86.

- Mullens threw for 2,277 yds. in his first 8 career games, the 4th-most in the NFL since 1970.

### MOST PASSING YDS. IN FIRST 8 CAREER GAMES, SINCE 1970

Name	Atts.	Comps.	Yds.	TDs	Rtg.
1. Patrick Mahomes, KC	286	185	2,507	22	109.4
2. Andrew Luck, Ind.	336	190	2,404	10	79.0
3. Cam Newton, Car.	287	174	2,393	11	87.1
<b>4. Nick Mullens, SF</b>	<b>274</b>	<b>176</b>	<b>2,277</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>90.8</b>
5. Marc Bulger, StL	250	163	2,062	16	102.1

## SLICK NICK IN DECEMBER

- In the month of December in 2018, QB **Nick Mullens** completed 115 of 181 passes for 1,544 yds., 8 TDs and a 91.5 passer rating. His 1,544 passing yds. were the most in the NFL in the final month of the season.

### MOST PASSING YDS. IN THE MONTH OF DECEMBER, 2018

Name	Atts.	Comps.	Yds.	TDs	Rtg.
<b>1. Nick Mullens, SF</b>	<b>181</b>	<b>115</b>	<b>1,544</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>91.5</b>
2. Baker Mayfield, Cle.	175	115	1,483	10	94.5
3. Andrew Luck, Ind.	202	131	1,481	7	90.0
4. Patrick Mahomes, KC	189	119	1,469	13	105.5
5. Ben Roethlisberger, Pit.	203	140	1,465	10	97.8

- Mullens' passing total in December was the 2nd-most in the NFL in any month in 2018 (Patrick Mahomes, KC - 1,630 yds. in October).

## STRETCH THE FIELD

- **San Francisco** registered 121 big plays in 2018 (rushes of 10-or-more yds. and receptions of 20-or-more yds.), tied for the 5th-most in the NFL. Of those 121 big plays, 60 have been rushing while 61 have been receiving.

### MOST BIG PLAYS (RUSHES OF 10+ YDS. & PASSES OF 20+ YDS.) IN 2018

Team	Big Plays
1. Los Angeles Rams	133
2. Kansas City Chiefs	130
3. Seattle Seahawks	124
4. Los Angeles Chargers	122
<b>5t. San Francisco 49ers</b>	<b>121</b>
Carolina Panthers	121

### MOST REC. YDS. AFTER THE CATCH IN THE NFL IN 2018

Team	YAC
1. Pittsburgh Steelers	2,820
2. Kansas City Chiefs	2,669
<b>3. San Francisco 49ers</b>	<b>2,308</b>
4t. Green Bay Packers	2,190
New England Patriots	2,190

- The 49ers registered 2,308 yds. after the catch last season, the 3rd-most YAC in the NFL (Pit. - 2,820; KC - 2,669).

## FRESH SQUEEZED JUICE

- FB **Kyle Juszczyk** was used in a variety of ways in 2018. In addition to his rushing and blocking, Juszczyk registered 30 receipts for 324 yds. and 1 TD. His 324 rec. yds. on the season ranked 9th in the NFC among RB/FBs.

### MOST REC. YDS. AMONG RB/FBs IN THE NFC, 2018

Player	Rec.	Yds.	Avg.	TDs
1. Christian McCaffrey, Car.	107	867	8.1	6
2. Tarik Cohen, Chi.	71	725	10.2	5
3. Saquon Barkley, NYG	91	721	7.9	4
4. Alvin Kamara, NO	81	709	8.8	4
5. Todd Gurley III, LAR	59	580	9.8	4
6. Ezekiel Elliott, Dal.	77	567	7.4	3
7. David Johnson, Arz.	50	446	8.9	3
8. Theo Riddick, Det.	61	384	6.3	0
<b>9. Kyle Juszczyk, SF</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>324</b>	<b>10.8</b>	<b>1</b>
10. Dalvin Cook, Min.	40	305	7.6	2

- Juszczyk earned a trip to the 2019 Pro Bowl as a starter, marking his third-consecutive trip to the Pro Bowl (2017-18) and second straight as a member of the 49ers.

## NOTHIN' BUT A JIMMY G THANG



The 49ers acquired **Jimmy Garoppolo** in a trade with the New England Patriots on October 31, 2017. Originally selected by New England in the second round (62nd overall selection) of the 2014 NFL Draft, Garoppolo is a two-time Super Bowl champion (XLIX & LI) who won each of his first seven career starts in the NFL. The 49ers and Garoppolo agreed to a five-year contract extension through 2022 on February 8, 2018.

### 2018 Highlights...

- Completed 18 of 26 atts. (69.2 pct.) for 206 yds., 2 TDs and QB rating of 118.4 vs. Det. (9/16). His 118.4 QB rating was the highest as a member of the 49ers and the second-highest of his career (min. 10 atts.) [135.4 vs. Mia. (9/18/16)].
- In the first half vs. Det., Garoppolo completed 10 of 14 atts. (71.4 pct.) for 119 yds., 1 TD and a QB rating of 120.8. His 71.4 comp. pct. marked his highest comp. pct. in the first half in his career. His previous first half career high was 69.2 pct. [18 of 26 (69.2 pct.) vs. Mia. (9/18/16) & 18 of 26 (69.2 pct) vs. Ten. (12/17/17)].

### Career Highlights...

- After becoming the 49ers full-time starter in Week 13 of 2017, Garoppolo registered the 3rd-most passing yds. in the NFL in that span (1,542) and led the 49ers to a perfect 5-0 record to close out the season.
- Over the final five weeks of the 2017 season, Garoppolo led the NFL in yds. per att. (8.76) and finished in the top-10 in completions (118 - 6th), passing 1st downs (76 - 2nd) and completions of 25-or-more yds. (12 - 5th).
- In his first career start with the 49ers at Chi. (12/3/17), completed 26 of 37 atts. for 293 yds. According to the Elias Sports Bureau, his 293 passing yds. set the franchise record for most passing yds. by a player in his first start with the team.
- Completed 31 of 43 atts. for a career-high 381 yds., 1 TD and at QB rating of 106.8 in the team's 25-23 win vs. Ten. (12/17/17). Threw for over 300 yds. passing in consecutive games for the first time in his career, becoming the first 49ers QB to register consecutive 300-yd. passing games since QB Jeff Garcia had three consecutive 300-yd. games in 2000 [323 at SD (12/3/00); 305 vs. NO (12/10/00) & 402 vs. Chi. (12/17/00)].
- Garoppolo is the 3rd 49ers QB since the merger in 1970 to win each of his first three road starts. QB Elvis Grbac won each of his first four road starts from 1995-96 and QB Jim Plunkett won his first three starts on the road in 1976.

#### MOST PASSING YDS. IN THE NFL, WEEKS 13-17 OF 2017

Player	Yds.
1. Jameis Winston, TB	1,584
2. Philip Rivers, LAC	1,567
<b>3. Jimmy Garoppolo, SF</b>	<b>1,542</b>
4. Blake Bortles, Jax.	1,443
5. Matthew Stafford, Det.	1,436

### Garoppolo's First Five...

- After throwing for 1,542 passing yds. through his first five starts with the 49ers, Garoppolo set the franchise record for most passing yds. in their first five starts with the team. He is also the 1st 49ers QB to win each of his first 5 starts with the team, since 1970.
- His 1,542 passing yds. through his first five starts with the 49ers ranks 4th among all QBs in their first 5 starts with a new team since the merger in 1970.

#### MOST PASSING YDS. IN FIRST FIVE STARTS IN FRANCHISE HISTORY

Player	Atts.	Comps.	Pct.	Yds.	TDs	INTs
<b>1. Jimmy Garoppolo</b>	<b>176</b>	<b>118</b>	<b>67.0</b>	<b>1,542</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>5</b>
2. Jeff Kemp	166	103	62.0	1,385	10	4
3. Elvis Grbac	164	117	71.3	1,376	8	4
4. Steve Bono	185	105	56.8	1,251	7	3
5. Brian Hoyer	194	115	59.3	1,211	4	4

### Garoppolo's First Seven...

- Dating back to 2016, Garoppolo won his first seven starts to begin his career in the NFL. According to the Elias Sports Bureau, Garoppolo is 1 of 5 QBs to win their first seven NFL starts since the merger in 1970.
- Garoppolo's 2,038 passing yds. through his first seven NFL starts ranks 5th among all QBs since the merger in 1970.

#### MOST PASSING YDS. IN FIRST SEVEN STARTS SINCE 1970

Player	Years	Yds.
1. Billy Volek, Ten.	2003-04	2,305
2. Patrick Mahomes, KC	2017-18	2,149
3. Cam Newton, Car.	2011	2,103
4. Kirk Cousins, Was.	2012-14	2,043
<b>5. Jimmy Garoppolo, NE/SF</b>	<b>2016-17</b>	<b>2,038</b>

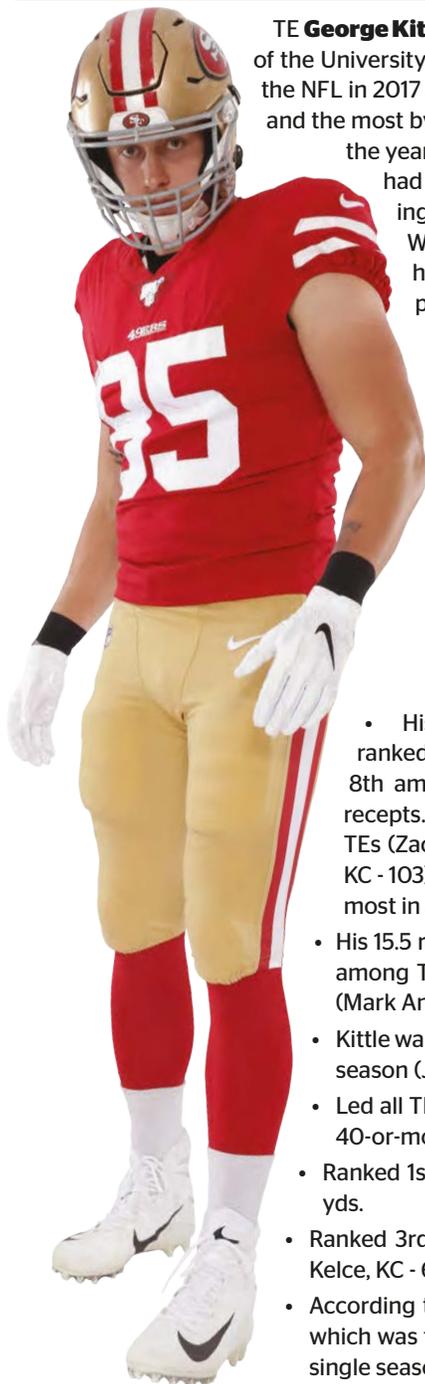
#### NFL QBs TO WIN THEIR FIRST SEVEN STARTS, SINCE 1970

Player	Wins
Ben Roethlisberger	15
Mike Tomczak	10
<b>Jimmy Garoppolo</b>	<b>7</b>
Dieter Brock	7
Daunte Culpepper	7

## STONE COLD KITTLE



TE **George Kittle** was selected by the 49ers in the 5th round (146th overall) of the 2017 NFL Draft out of the University of Iowa. As a rookie in 2017, he registered 515 receiving yards which ranked 2nd in the NFL in 2017 among rookie TEs and also were the 8th-most in a single season by a 49ers rookie and the most by a 49ers rookie TE since the merger in 1970. He improved on those numbers from the year prior and finished the 2018 season statistically among the best TEs in football and had the most receiving yards in a single season by a TE in NFL history (1,377), earning AP Second-Team All-Pro honors and a trip to the 2019 Pro Bowl. Following his Week 9 performance against the Denver Broncos in 2018, Broncos OLB Von Miller had high remarks for Kittle. Said Miller, "George Kittle's a hell of a player and he took some 10-yard plays the distance today. There's not many tight ends in the league that can do that."



### 2018 Highlights...

- Finished the season with 88 receipts. for 1,377 yds. (15.6 avg.), both team highs. His 1,377 yds. are the most in a single season by a TE in NFL history.

#### MOST REC. YDS. IN A SINGLE SEASON BY A TE IN NFL HISTORY

Player	Year	Recepts.	Yds.	Avg.	TDs
<b>1. George Kittle, SF</b>	<b>2018</b>	<b>88</b>	<b>1,377</b>	<b>15.6</b>	<b>5</b>
2. Travis Kelce, KC	2018	103	1,336	13.0	10
3. Rob Gronkowski, NE	2011	90	1,327	14.7	17
4. Jimmy Graham, NO	2011	99	1,310	13.2	11
5. Kellen Winslow Sr., SD	1980	89	1,290	14.5	9

- His 1,377 yds. on the season ranked 1st in the NFL among TEs and 8th among all players, while his 88 receipts. ranked 3rd in the NFL among TEs (Zach Ertz, Phi. - 116; Travis Kelce, KC - 103). His receipt. total was also the most in a single season by a 49ers TE.

#### MOST RECEPTS. IN A SINGLE SEASON BY A 49ERS TE

Player	Year	Recepts.	Yds.	TDs
<b>1. George Kittle</b>	<b>2018</b>	<b>88</b>	<b>1,377</b>	<b>5</b>
2. Eric Johnson	2004	82	825	2
3. Vernon Davis	2009	78	965	13
4. Brent Jones	1993	68	735	3
5. Vernon Davis	2011	67	792	6

- His 15.5 rec. avg. ranked 3rd in the NFL among TEs with at least 32 receipts. and 13th among all players (Mark Andrews, Bal. - 16.6; O.J. Howard, TB - 16.6).
- Kittle was 1 of 4 TEs in the NFL to lead their team in rec. yds. on the season (Jared Cook, Oak.; Zach Ertz, Phi.; Jordan Reed, Was.).
- Led all TEs and ranked t-2nd among all players with 6 receipts. of 40-or-more yds.
- Ranked 1st in the NFL among TEs with 20 receipts. of 20-or-more yds.
- Ranked 3rd in the NFL among TEs with 60 rec. 1st downs (Travis Kelce, KC - 68; Zach Ertz, Phi. - 66).
- According to Radar360, finished with 870 rec. yds. after the catch which was the most in the NFL among all players and the most in a single season since 2010.

#### HIGHEST REC. AVG. IN THE NFL AMONG TEs, 2018

Player	Avg.
1t. Mark Andrews, Bal.	16.6
O.J. Howard, TB	16.6
<b>3. George Kittle, SF</b>	<b>15.5</b>
4. Rob Gronkowski, NE	14.6
5. Jesse James, Pit.	14.1

- Registered 100-or-more rec. yds. 4 times on the season, the most 100-yd. games by a TE in a single-season in franchise history. His 100-yd. game total also marked the first time a member of the 49ers registered four games of 100-or-more rec. yds. since WR Michael Crabtree accomplished the feat in 2012 [113 yds. vs. Buf. (10/7/12), 101 yds. at StL. (12/2/12), 107 yds. at NE (12/16/12) & 172 yds. vs. Arz. (12/30/12)]
- Had 6 games on the season with 90-or-more yds., the most in a single season by a 49ers TE.

#### MOST REC. YDS. AFTER THE CATCH IN THE NFL AMONG ALL PLAYERS

Player	YAC
<b>1. George Kittle, SF</b>	<b>870</b>
2. Christian McCaffrey, Car.	851
3. Saquon Barkley, NYG	768
4. James White, NE	665
5. JuJu Smith-Schuster, Pit.	648

- With 3 receipts. of 70-or-more yds. on the season, Kittle joined WR Odell Beckham Jr. (3 in 2015 with NYG) and WR Torrey Smith (3 in 2015 with SF) as the last players to have 3-or-more receipts. of 70-plus yds. in a single season.

## GEORGE OF THE JUNGLE

### Career Highlights...

- Registered 1,377 yds. in 2018, the most in a single season by a TE in NFL history. He was the first member of the 49ers to reach 1,000 rec. yds. in a single season since WR Anquan Boldin registered 1,062 rec. yds. in 2014. His 1,377 rec. yds. are the most by a 49ers player since WR Terrell Owens had 1,412 rec. yds. in 2001.
- Finished with 7 receipts. for a career-high 210 yds. and 1 TD vs. Den. (12/9/18). His 210 rec. yds. were the most in a single game by a TE in franchise history, the 8th-most among all players and the 3rd-most by a TE in a single-game in the NFL since 1960. According to the Elias Sports Bureau, Kittle's 210 rec. yds. in the 1st half were the most in the 1st half of an NFL game since Seattle Seahawks WR Steve Largent registered 224 rec. yds. in the 1st half at Det. (10/18/87).

#### MOST REC. YDS. BY A TE IN A SINGLE GAME, SINCE 1960

	<u>Player</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Opp.</u>	<u>Rec.</u>	<u>Yds.</u>	<u>TDs</u>
1.	Shannon Sharpe, Den.	10/20/02	at KC	12	214	2
2.	Jackie Smith, StL Cardinals	10/13/63	vs. Pit.	9	212	2
<b>3.</b>	<b>George Kittle, SF</b>	<b>12/9/18</b>	<b>vs. Den.</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>210</b>	<b>1</b>
4t.	Rich Caster, NYJ	9/24/72	at Bal. Colts	6	204	3
	Pete Retziuff, Phi.	11/14/65	vs. Was.	7	204	0

- Since entering the NFL in 2017, Kittle ranks 3rd in the NFL in rec. yds. among all TEs.

#### MOST REC. YDS. BY A TE IN THE NFL, SINCE 2017

	<u>Player</u>	<u>Recepts.</u>	<u>Yds.</u>	<u>Avg.</u>	<u>TDs</u>
1.	Travis Kelce, KC	186	2,374	12.8	18
2.	Zach Ertz, Phi.	190	1,987	10.5	16
<b>3.</b>	<b>George Kittle, SF</b>	<b>131</b>	<b>1,892</b>	<b>14.4</b>	<b>7</b>
4.	Rob Gronkowski, NE	116	1,766	15.2	11
5.	Jared Cook, Oak.	122	1,584	13.0	8

- His 515 rec. yds. in 2017 ranked 2nd in the NFL in 2017 among rookie TEs (Evan Engram, NYG - 722 yds.) and also were the 8th-most in a single season by a 49ers rookie and the most by a 49ers rookie TE since the merger in 1970.

#### MOST REC. YDS. BY A ROOKIE TE IN 2017

	<u>Player</u>	<u>Rec. Yds.</u>	<u>Rd. Selected</u>	<u>Overall Pick</u>
1.	Evan Engram, NYG	722	1st	23rd
<b>2.</b>	<b>George Kittle, SF</b>	<b>515</b>	<b>5th</b>	<b>146th</b>
3.	O.J. Howard, 432	432	1st	19th
4.	David Njoku, Cle.	386	1st	29th
5.	Gerald Everett, LAR	244	2nd	44th

- Has registered the two longest TD receipts. by a TE in franchise history [82t at LAC (9/30/18) & 85t vs. Den. (12/9/18)].



## BREIDA THE CHEETAH

After signing with the 49ers as an undrafted rookie free agent out of Georgia Southern University in 2017, **Matt Breida** appeared in all 16 games of his first season in the NFL and registered the most rushing yards by an undrafted player in 2017. Paired with head coach Kyle Shanahan and running backs coach Robert Turner Jr., he is building on Shanahan and Turner's tremendous track-record with running backs.

### 2018 Highlights...

- Ranked 21st in the NFL and 11th in the NFC in rushing yds. (814) and 4th in average yds. per carry (5.3).
- Had 10 rushes that went for 20-or-more yds., the 6th-most in the NFL this season (Saquon Barkley, NYG - 16; Nick Chubb, Cle. - 11; Ezekiel Elliott, Dal. - 11; Todd Gurley II, LAR - 11; Joe Mixon, Cin. - 11).
- Registered 14 carries for 106 yds. at TB (11/25), reaching 100-or-more rushing yds. in consecutive games [101 rushing yds. vs. NYG (11/12/18)] for the first time in his career. Breida became the first member of the 49ers to register at least 100 rushing yds. in consecutive games since RB Frank Gore in 2014 [158 rushing yds. vs. SD (12/20/14) & 144 rushing yds. vs. Arz. (12/28/14)].
- According to the NFL's Next Gen Stats, Breida registered a max speed of 22.09 MPH on a 33-yd. run at TB, the fastest ball carrier in the NFL on the season.

#### HIGHEST RUSHING AVG. IN THE NFL IN 2018

Player	Avg.
1. Aaron Jones, GB	5.5
2t. Kerryon Johnson, Det. Phillip Lindsay, Den.	5.4
4. <b>Matt Breida, SF</b>	<b>5.3</b>
5t. Three Players	5.2

#### FASTEST BALL CARRIER IN THE NFL IN 2018, ACCORDING TO NFL NEXT GEN STATS

Player	MPH
1. <b>Matt Breida, SF</b>	<b>22.09</b>
2. Dalvin Cook, Min.	22.07
3. Devin McCourty, NE	22.05
4. Tyreek Hill, KC	21.95
5. Phillip Lindsay, Den.	21.91



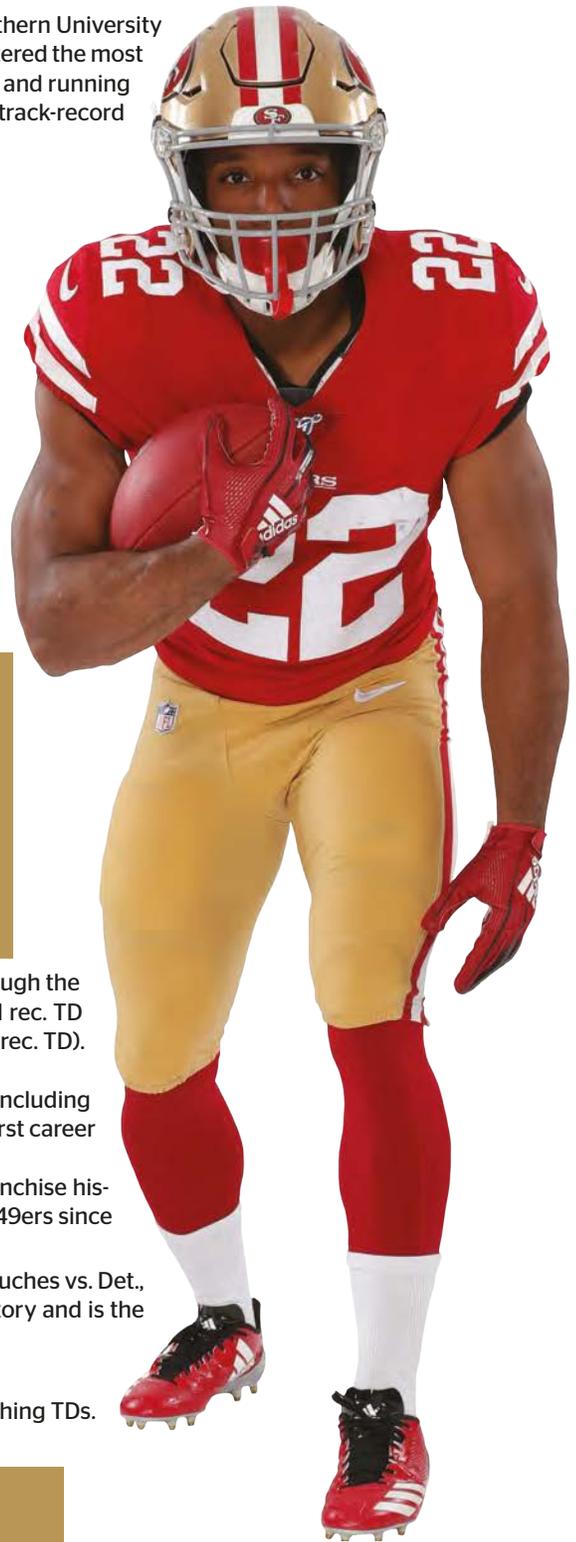
- Finished with a career-high 17 carries for 101 yds. and 1 TD vs. NYG (11/12), marking his 2nd-career 100-yd. game. He also added 3 receipts. for 31 yds. and 1 TD through the air, becoming the first member of the 49ers to register at least 1 rushing TD and 1 rec. TD in the same game since WR Bruce Ellington on 12/20/14 vs. SD (1 rushing TD and 1 rec. TD).
- On the first possession of the game vs. Arz. (10/7).
- Rushed for a career-high 138 yds. and 1 TD on 11 carries (12.5 avg.) vs. Det. (9/16), including a career-long 66-yd. TD run, while also adding 3 receipts. for 21 yds. It marked his first career game with 100-or-more rushing yds.
- His 12.5 avg. (138 yds. on 11 atts.) was the 3rd-best single-game rushing avg. in franchise history (min. 10 atts.). His 66-yd. TD run marked the longest run by a member of the 49ers since QB Colin Kaepernick registered a 90-yd. TD run vs. SD (12/20/14).
- After registering 159 yds. from scrimmage (138 rushing yds. & 21 rec. yds.) on 14 touches vs. Det., his 11.4 yds. per touch ranks 7th among all RBs for a single game in franchise history and is the highest avg. since RB Frank Gore vs. Sea. (9/20/09).

### Career Highlights...

- Finished the 2017 season ranking 2nd on the team with 465 rushing yds. and 2 rushing TDs. He also added 21 receipts. for 180 yds. and 1 TD through the air.

#### MOST RUSHING YDS. BY AN UNDRAFTED ROOKIE FA IN 2017

Player	Atts.	Yds.	Avg.	TDs
1. <b>Matt Breida, SF</b>	<b>105</b>	<b>465</b>	<b>4.43</b>	<b>2</b>
2. Corey Clement, Phi.	74	321	4.34	4
3. Austin Ekeler, LAC	47	260	5.53	2
4. Tion Green, Det.	42	165	3.93	2
5. Trey Edmunds, NO	9	48	5.33	1

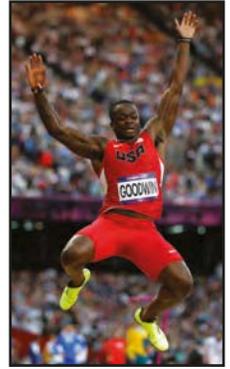


- His 465 rushing yds. on the season led all undrafted rookies in the NFL in 2017, while his 105 rushing atts. were the 9th-most by a rookie in franchise history.

## OLYMPIC SPEED



After signing with the 49ers as a free agent in 2017, **Marquise Goodwin** brought key elements to the organization both on and off the field. In 2012, Goodwin won the long jump title at the 2012 U.S. Olympic Trials (27-4.25) and finished 10th in the London Olympics. By qualifying for the Olympics, he became the first collegian to win both the Olympic Trials and the NCAA Outdoor long-jump competition in the same year since 1960. After racking up career highs in receptions (56) and receiving yards (962) in his first season with the 49ers in 2017, the 49ers rewarded Goodwin with a three-year contract extension through 2021.



### 2018 Highlights...

- Recorded a 55-yd. TD recept. at Arz. (10/28).
- Finished with 4 repts. for single-game career highs in both rec. yds. (126) and rec. TDs (2) TDs at GB (10/15). His 67-yd. TD recept. was his longest recept. of the season while his 2 TD repts. marked the first time a member of the 49ers registered 2-or-more rec. TDs in a single game since TE Garrett Celek registered 2 TD repts. vs. Atl. (11/8/15).
- In the first half at GB (10/15), registered 3 repts. for 114 yds. (38.0 avg.). His 114 rec. yds. were the most in the first half by a member of the 49ers since TE Vernon Davis registered 171 rec. yds. in the first half vs. Arz. (10/13/13).
- Registered his first TD recept. of the season on an 11-yd. pass from QB Jimmy Garoppolo at KC (9/23).

### Career Highlights...

- Since entering the NFL in 2013, Goodwin has registered 128 repts. for 2,137 yds. His 16.7 rec. avg. is the 3rd-highest in the NFL among active receivers (min. 100 repts.).
- In his first season with the 49ers in 2017, Goodwin registered single-season career highs in repts. (56) and rec. yds. (962) in addition to 2 TDs. His 17.3 avg. yds. per recept. on the season ranked 3rd in the NFL.

#### HIGHEST REC. AVG. IN THE NFL AMONG ACTIVE PLAYERS

Player	Avg.
1t. Josh Gordon	17.4
DeSean Jackson	17.4
<b>3. Marquise Goodwin</b>	<b>16.7</b>
4. Tyrell Williams	16.3
5. Kenny Stills	16.0

(minimum 100 repts.)

#### HIGHEST RECEIVING AVERAGE IN THE NFL, 2017

Player	Recepts.	Yds.	Avg.	TDs
1. Marvin Jones Jr., Det.	61	1,101	18.0	9
2. Keelan Cole, Jax.	42	748	17.8	3
<b>3. Marquise Goodwin, SF</b>	<b>56</b>	<b>962</b>	<b>17.2</b>	<b>2</b>
4t. T.Y. Hilton, Ind.	57	966	16.9	4
Tyrell Williams, LAC	43	728	16.9	4

- From Week 13-17 in 2017, Goodwin ranked t-5th in the NFL with 29 repts. and ranked 6th in the NFL in rec. yds. (384).

#### MOST RECEPTS. IN THE NFL, WEEKS 13-17 OF 2017

Player	Recepts.
1t. Larry Fitzgerald, Arz.	37
Jarvis Landry, Mia.	37
3. Keenan Allen, LAC	35
4. Michael Thomas, NO	34
<b>5t. Marquise Goodwin, SF</b>	<b>29</b>
Nelson Agholor, Phi.	29
Golden Tate, Det.	29

- Caught an 83-yd. TD pass from QB C.J. Beathard vs. NYG (11/12/17). It marked his 1st TD recept. of the season and his longest rec. TD since 9/15/16 vs. NYJ, as a member of the Buffalo Bills. His 83-yd. recept. was the longest pass play by a member of the 49ers since 10/13/14 at StL (QB Colin Kaepernick to WR Brandon Lloyd - 83-yd. TD). He also had 1 carry on the day for a career-long 18 yds.
- Registered a single-game career-high 10 repts. for 114 yds. vs. Ten. (12/17/17), going over 100 rec. yds. in consecutive games for the first time in his career. He became the first member of the 49ers with consecutive 100-yd. receiving games since WR Anquan Boldin at NYG (10/11/15 - 107 yds.) & vs. Bal. (10/18/15 - 102 yds.).
- In 2017, became the first member of the 49ers to have at least 6 consecutive games with 50-or-more rec. yds. since WR Anquan Boldin registered 8 consecutive games in 2014 [Weeks 4-12 (Week 8 Bye)].
- As a member of the Buffalo Bills, registered TD repts. of 40, 43 and 59-yds. during the 2013 season, becoming the first member of the Bills to produce 3 TD repts. of 40-or-more yds. in a season since WR Terrell Owens in 2009.

## DANTE'S PEAK



Selected by the 49ers in the second round (44th overall) of this year's NFL Draft out of the University of Washington, **Dante Pettis** brought explosiveness with him to San Francisco. Appearing in 12 games as a rookie, Pettis registered ranked among rookie leaders both in the NFL in 2018 and among 49ers history. Pettis is the son of Gary Pettis, who played Major League Baseball for 11 seasons with the California Angels (1982-87), Detroit Tigers (1988-89 & 1992), Texas Rangers (1990-91) and San Diego Padres (1992). He was a five-time Gold Glove winning center fielder and is the current third base coach for the Houston Astros.

### 2018 Highlights...

- Finished with 5 rec. TDs on the season, including at least 1 TD receipt. in three of the final six games, the most by a member of the 49ers in their rookie season since RB Jimmy Thomas registered 5 TD receipts. in 1969, and are tied for the 2nd-most by a rookie in 49ers franchise history.
- His 5 rec. TDs were tied for the 3rd-most in the NFL among rookies (Calvin Ridley, Atl. - 10; Anthony Miller, Chi. - 7; Antonio Callaway, Cle. - 5; Tre'Quan Smith, NO - 5).
- His 17.3 average yds. per receipt. ranked 2nd in the NFL among rookies with at least 15 receipts. (Robert Foster, Buf. - 20.0).
- Registered 467 rec. yds. on the season, ranking 9th among rookies in franchise history.
- Registered 5 receipts. for a team-high 83 yds. (16.6 avg.) vs. Sea. (12/16).
- Finished with 3 receipts. for 49 yds. and 1 TD vs. Den. (12/9). His 1-yd. TD receipt. made him the first member of the 49ers to register 1-or-more TD receipts. in three-consecutive games since TE Vernon Davis accomplished the feat in Weeks 11-15 of the 2013 season.
- Registered 5 receipts. for 129 yds. (25.8 avg.) and 2 TDs at Sea. (12/2), all career highs. It marked the 11th time in franchise history and first since WR J.J. Stokes vs. StL (11/26/95 - 2 TD receipts.) that a 49ers rookie registered at least 2 TD receipts. in a game.
- His 129 rec. yds. were the 4th-most by a rookie in franchise history in a single game and are the most since WR Jerry Rice registered 241 rec. yds. vs. LAR (12/9/85). His 129 rec. yds. are the most by a member of the 49ers since WR Pierre Garçon registered 142 rec. yds. vs. LAR (9/21/17).
- Hauled in 4 receipts. for 77 yds. and 1 TD at TB (11/25).
- Making his NFL debut at Min. (9/9), hauled in a 22-yd. TD receipt. from QB Jimmy Garoppolo for his 1st career reception and 1st career TD. He finished the game with 2 receipts. for 61 yds. (30.5 avg.) and 1 TD.
- According to the Elias Sports Bureau, his 22-yd. TD receipt. on his first career receipt. marked the first time a member of the 49ers saw their first career receipt. result in a TD since TE Vernon Davis on 9/10/06 at Arz. (31-yd. TD receipt.).

### MOST REC. TDS IN A SINGLE SEASON BY A 49ERS ROOKIE

Player	Year.	TDs
1. WR Dave Parks	1964	8
2t. <b>WR Dante Pettis</b>	<b>2018</b>	<b>5</b>
RB Jimmy Thomas	1969	5
HB R.C. Owens	1957	5
5t. Seven Players	---	4

### HIGHEST REC. AVG. IN THE NFL AMONG ROOKIES

Player	Avg.
1. Robert Foster, Buf.	20.0
2. <b>Dante Pettis, SF</b>	<b>17.3</b>
3. Courtland Sutton, Den.	16.8
4. Mark Andrews, Bal.	16.2
5. Equanimeous St. Brown, GB	15.6

(minimum 15 receipts.)

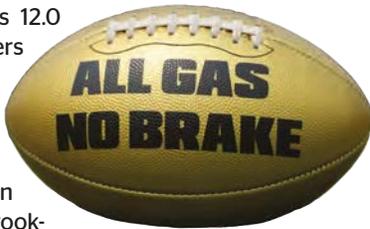
## ALL GAS, NO BRAKE



Robert Saleh (SAH-luh) is in his 15th NFL season and third as the 49ers defensive coordinator.

In 2018, the 49ers defense registered 37.0 sacks, the most by the team in a single-season since 2013 (38.0 sacks). The defense ranked in the top half of the league in rushing yards per play (4.09 - seventh), opponent completion percentage (63.5 - 10th), yards per play allowed (5.42 - 11th), net passing yards per game allowed (233.3 - 11th), yards per game allowed (346.6 - 13th), rushing yards per game allowed (113.4 - 14th) and passing yards per play (6.45 - 14th). San Francisco was one of six teams (Baltimore Ravens, Buffalo Bills, Detroit Lions, Indianapolis Colts & New England Patriots) to allow fewer net yards per game, rushing yards per game and passing yards per game than in 2017.

The 49ers defense was anchored by DL DeForest Buckner who led the team with a career-high 12.0 sacks, ranked second with 67 tackles and was named to the Pro Bowl for the first time in his career. His 12.0 sacks were the most by a 49ers defender since LB Aldon Smith registered 19.5 sacks in 2012. Rookie LB Fred Warner started all 16 games and led the team with 123 tackles, ranking 12th in the NFL and third among all rookies. Warner became the first rookie in the NFL since 2000 to begin his career with four consecutive games with 10-or-more tackles, according to Gamebook Statistics.



In 2017, Saleh led a 49ers defensive unit that allowed 5.28 yards per play, which was a 0.62 yards per play improvement from 2016 and the third-largest improvement in the NFL from 2016-17 (Cle. - 0.76 yards per play; NYJ - 0.72 yards per play). The defense also finished the season holding their opponents under 100 yards rushing seven times. From Weeks 12-16, the 49ers streak of holding each of their five opponents under 100 yards rushing was tied for the longest streak in the NFL over that span (Arizona). It also marked the first time the 49ers held five straight opponents to under 100 yards rushing since Weeks 11-15 of the 2012 season. The 49ers defense was among the league leaders at getting into the opponent's backfield on running plays, finishing ranked tied for fifth in the NFL by forcing 53 rushes for negative yardage.

Saleh's defense continued to improve throughout the season. Over the final eight weeks of the season, San Francisco ranked second in the NFL in rushing yards allowed (640), tied for fourth in yards per carry allowed (3.62), fifth in rushing yards allowed per game (91.4), seventh in net yards allowed per game (314.4) and tied for eight in rushing touchdowns allowed (four).

In 2016, Saleh's linebackers helped the Jacksonville defense rank fifth in passing yards allowed (215.3) and sixth in opponent rushing average (3.82). Team captain LB Paul Posluszny started all 16 games at MLB and led the team in tackles for the second consecutive season. According to Jaguars team statistics, LB Telvin Smith registered 118 tackles while starting all 16 games at outside linebacker for the first time in his career. Smith's 350 career tackles were the most by a Jaguars player in his first three NFL seasons.

In 2015, the Jaguars defense allowed 3.68 yards per rushing attempt, the fifth lowest rushing average allowed in the NFL. Posluszny led the Jaguars and ranked fifth in the league with 133 tackles, according to Gamebook Statistics, while tying with Smith for the team lead with 13 tackles for loss. According to Jaguars team statistics, Smith registered a career-high 128 tackles in 2015.



Under Saleh's guidance, Smith stepped in the starting lineup and ranked third among all rookies with 99 tackles, according to Gamebook Statistics, in 2014. Smith led the team with two fumble recoveries while ranking second with nine tackles for loss. After a season-ending injury to Posluszny midway through the year, LB J.T. Thomas stepped in and set a career high in tackles along with two interceptions, two tackles for loss and five passes defended.

Prior to Jacksonville, Saleh spent three seasons (2011-13) as a defensive quality control coach for the Seattle Seahawks. During his three seasons with the Seahawks, he was responsible for assisting the defensive staff with day-to-day duties with a focus on the linebackers. Working under linebackers coach Ken Norton Jr., Saleh aided in the development of LB K.J. Wright, LB Bobby Wagner and Super Bowl XLVIII MVP LB Malcolm Smith.

Before joining the Seahawks, Saleh spent six seasons with the Houston Texans, serving as a coaching intern (2005), defensive assistant (2006-08) and assistant linebackers coach (2009-10). In Houston, Saleh oversaw the growth of the Texans linebackers, including AP Defensive Rookie of the Year performances by DeMeco Ryans (2006) and Brian Cushing (2009). In 2009, the Pro Bowl duo of Ryans and Cushing were the only teammates to both rank among the league's top 10 tacklers, according to Gamebook Statistics.

Saleh joined the Texans after three seasons working in the collegiate ranks. He began his career as an offensive assistant/tight ends (2002) and defensive assistant/defensive line (2003) at Michigan State University before spending one season (2004) as a defensive assistant/defensive line at Central Michigan University and a brief stint (2005) at the University of Georgia as a defensive assistant/linebackers coach.

A native of Dearborn, MI, Saleh attended Northern Michigan University where he started at tight end for four years. Saleh and his wife, Sanaa, have six children: four sons, Adam, Zane, Michael and Sam, and two daughters, Mila and Ella.

### SALEH'S NFL COACHING BACKGROUND

Years	Coaching Position	Team
2017-current	Defensive Coordinator	San Francisco 49ers
2013-16	Linebackers	Jacksonville Jaguars
2011-12	Defensive Quality Control	Seattle Seahawks
2009-10	Linebackers	Houston Texans
2006-08	Defensive Assistant	Houston Texans
2005	Coaching Intern	Houston Texans

## NOWHERE TO RUN

- San Francisco held opponents to 4.09 yds. per carry in 2018, ranking 7th in the NFL.
- The 49ers defense also held opponents to an avg. of 346.6 yds. per game, ranking 13th in the NFL (Bal. - 292.9; Buf. - 294.1; Chi. - 299.7; Min. - 309.7; Jax. - 311.4; Pit. - 327.2; Dal. - 329.3; Ten. - 333.4; LAC - 333.7; Det. - 335.0; Ind. - 339.4; Hou. - 343.1).

### RUSHING YDS. PER CARRY ALLOWED IN THE NFL, 2018

Team	Avg.
1. Houston Texans	3.44
2. New Orleans Saints	3.60
3. Baltimore Ravens	3.75
4t. Chicago Bears	3.78
Dallas Cowboys	3.78
6. Indianapolis Colts	3.92
<b>7. San Francisco 49ers</b>	<b>4.09</b>
8. Minnesota Vikings	4.13
9. Pittsburgh Steelers	4.17
10. Buffalo Bills	4.18

## TIGHTEN UP ON 3RD & SHORT

- The **49ers defense** held opponents to a conversion percentage of 51.4% on 3rd-and-short situations (1-2 yds.) ranking 1st in the NFL in 2018. Opponents converted just 19 of 37 chances on 3rd-and-short.

### LOWEST OPP. 3RD-AND-SHORT (1-2 YDS.) CONV. PCT. IN 2018

Team	3RD %
1. Seattle Seahawks	48.6
<b>2. San Francisco 49ers</b>	<b>51.4</b>
3. Green Bay Packers	54.3
4. New York Jets	54.8
5. Baltimore Ravens	56.3

## RE-D-FINED

Since the final eight weeks of the 2017 season, the **49ers defense** has ranked among the league leaders in several rushing defensive categories.

### Since Week 10 of 2017...

- The Niners rank 10th in the NFL, allowing **106.7 rushing yds. per game** (Bal. - 85.8; NO - 89.2; Chi. - 90.6; Hou. - 95.9; Phi. - 96.5; Dal. - 98.6; Pit. - 99.1; Min. - 104.2; Ten. - 104.5).
- San Francisco opponents have rushed for **2,454 yds.**, ranking 8th in the NFL (Bal. - 1,974; NO - 2,141; Chi. - 2,175; Phi. - 2,220; Hou. - 2,302; Dal. - 2,367; Pit. - 2,378).
- The 49ers rank 7th in the NFL and 4th in the NFC, allowing an average of **3.95 yds. per carry** (Hou. - 3.73; NO - 3.79; Bal. - 3.82; Dal. - 3.82; Ind. - 3.85; Chi. - 3.91).

### RUSHING YDS. PER GAME ALLOWED IN THE NFL SINCE WEEK 10 OF 2017

Team	YPG
1. Baltimore Ravens	85.8
2. New Orleans Saints	89.2
3. Chicago Bears	90.6
4. Houston Texans	95.9
5. Philadelphia Eagles	96.5
6. Dallas Cowboys	98.6
7. Pittsburgh Steelers	99.1
8. Minnesota Vikings	104.2
9. Tennessee Titans	104.5
<b>10. San Francisco 49ers</b>	<b>106.7</b>

### RUSHING YDS. PER CARRY ALLOWED IN THE NFC SINCE WEEK 10 OF 2017

Team	Avg.
1. New Orleans Saints	3.79
2. Dallas Cowboys	3.82
3. Chicago Bears	3.91
<b>4. San Francisco 49ers</b>	<b>3.95</b>
5. Minnesota Vikings	4.06

## LIMIT THE BIG PLAY

- Despite facing each of the top four teams (LAR - 133; KC - 130; Sea. - 124; LAC - 122) and six of the top 10 offenses with the most big plays (rushes of 10-or-more yds. and receptions of 20-or-more yds.) on offense in 2018, the 49ers allowed just 97 big plays on the season, tied for the 12th-fewest in the NFL and the 6th fewest in the NFC.

### FEWEST BIG PLAYS (RUSHES OF 10+ YDS. & PASSES OF 20+ YDS.) ALLOWED IN THE NFC, 2018

Team	Big Plays
1. Chicago Bears	67
2. Dallas Cowboys	82
3t. Minnesota Vikings	87
New Orleans Saints	87
5. Detroit Lions	88
<b>6. San Francisco 49ers</b>	<b>97</b>

## COMPLETE PICTURE

- San Francisco held opposing QBs to a completion percentage of 63.5% in 2018, ranking 10th in the NFL and 3rd in the NFC (Bal. - 58.4%; NE - 61.2%; Chi. - 61.3%; Oak. - 62.3%; Jax. - 62.5%; Min. - 62.6%; Cle. - 62.8%; NYJ - 63.1%; Ten. - 63.2%).

### LOWEST OPP. COMPLETION PERCENTAGE IN THE NFC, 2018

Team	Comp. %
1. Chicago Bears	61.3
2. Minnesota Vikings	62.6
<b>3. San Francisco 49ers</b>	<b>63.5</b>
4. Green Bay Packers	63.8
5. New York Giants	64.6

## YOU'VE GOT A FRED IN ME

LB **Fred Warner** was selected by the 49ers in the 3rd round (70th overall) of the 2018 NFL Draft out of the Brigham Young University.

- Warner** was the only NFL defender in Week 1 to register at least 10 tackles (12), 1 FF and 1 PD, according to Gamebook Statistics.
- In 2018, Warner racked up 123 tackles, ranking 12th in the NFL, 7th in the NFC and 3rd among all rookies.

### MOST TACKLES BY A ROOKIE IN THE NFL IN 2018, ACCORDING TO GAMEBOOK STATISTICS

Player	Tackles
1. Darius Leonard, Ind.	163
2. Leighton Vander Esch, Dal.	138
<b>3. Fred Warner, SF</b>	<b>123</b>
4t. Roquan Smith, Chi.	121
Tremaine Edmunds, Buf.	121



- With 10-or-more tackles in each of the first 4 games of his career, Warner is the first rookie since 2000 to begin his career with 4 consecutive games of at least 10 tackles.

## A TREE IN DeFOREST

Selected with the 7th overall pick in the 2016 NFL Draft out of the University of Oregon, **DeForest Buckner** has anchored the 49ers defensive line over the past three seasons, starting in each of his 47 games played in his career. Buckner finished among the league's best in key defensive categories throughout his career and is turning into one of the most disruptive players in the NFL after three seasons.



### 2018 Highlights...

- Registered a career-high 12.0 sacks, ranking t-8th in the NFC and t-14th in the NFL and was named an alternate for the 2019 Pro Bowl.
- His 12.0 sacks on the season ranked 2nd in the NFL among DTs (Aaron Donald, LAR - 20.5).
- From Weeks 9-17, Buckner was the only player in the NFL with at least 7.0 sacks (7.5), 40 tackles (40) and 1 FR (1).

#### MOST SACKS IN THE NFL AMONG DTs, 2018

Player	Sacks
1. Aaron Donald, LAR	20.5
2. <b>DeForest Buckner, SF</b>	<b>12.0</b>
3t. Fletcher Cox, Phi.	10.5
Jarran Reed, Sea.	10.5
5. Geno Atkins, Cin.	10.0

- His 12.0 sacks were the most by a member of the 49ers in a single season since LB Aldon Smith (19.5 sacks in 2012) and the 4th-most in a single season by a 49ers defender since 2000.

#### MOST SACKS IN A SINGLE SEASON BY A 49ERS DEFENDER, SINCE 2000

Player	Year	Sacks
1. LB Aldon Smith	2012	19.5
2. LB Aldon Smith	2011	14.0
3. DE Andre Carter	2002	12.5
4. <b>DT DeForest Buckner</b>	<b>2018</b>	<b>12.0</b>
5. DE Bryant Young	2000	9.5

- Registered 3 tackles and 1.0 sack vs. Chi. (12/23) along with the 3rd FR of his career.
- Finished with a career-high 11 tackles and 2.0 sacks vs. Sea. (12/16). He became the first member of the 49ers to register double-digit sacks since LB Aldon Smith finished with 19.5 sacks in 2012.
- Registered 2.0 sacks at Sea. (12/2), bringing down Seahawks QB Russell Wilson for losses of 1 and 5 yds.
- In Weeks 10-13, Buckner registered at least 0.5 sack in four-consecutive games, the longest streak of his career. He is the first member of the 49ers to register at least 0.5 sack in four-consecutive games since LB Aldon Smith accomplished the feat in Weeks 7-14 of the 2012 season.
- Registered 1.0 sack of Lions QB Matthew Stafford vs. Det. (9/16). Along with his 2.5 sacks from Week 1 at Min. (9/9), Buckner had 3.5 sacks through the first two weeks of the season, which ranks tied for the 3rd-most sacks by a 49ers player through the first two week since sacks first became an official statistic in 1982.
- Registered 2.5 sacks at Min. (9/9), setting a single-game career-high. His 2.5 sacks were the 3rd-most in the NFL in Week 1.
- His 2.5 sacks at Min. were the most by a member of the 49ers in a single game since LB Aldon Smith registered 5.5 sacks on 11/19/12 vs. Chi., were tied for the 3rd-most by a Niner since 2010 and were the most by a 49ers defender in Week 1 since DE Bryant Young registered 3.0 sacks on 9/11/05 vs. StL and LB Julian Peterson registered 2.5 in the same game.

### Career Highlights...

- Buckner was 1 of 9 players that registered 6.0-or-more sacks and 2-or-more FRs in 2016.
- According to Gamebook Statistics, in 2016 he ranked 2nd in the NFL among DTs with 73 tackles on the season (Linval Joseph, Min. - 77).
- With 6.0 sacks as a rookie, Buckner finished with the 4th-most sacks among rookies in the NFL in 2016 (Joey Bosa, SD - 10.5; Yannick Ngakoue, Jax. - 8.0; Leonard Floyd, Chi. - 7.0).
- Registered 8 tackles, 1.0 sack and 1 FR at Arz. (11/13/16), his third sack of the season and second career FR.
- Recorded the first two sacks of his career and his first career FR at Buf. (10/16/16), twice taking down Bills QB Tyrod Taylor. He is the first member of the 49ers to register 2.0 sacks and 1 FR in a single game since LB Aldon Smith accomplished the feat in 2011 [vs. StL (12/4/11) - 2.0 sacks and 1 FR].

#### MOST SACKS BY A ROOKIE, 49ERS FRANCHISE HISTORY

Player	Sacks	Year
1. LB Aldon Smith	14.0	2011
2. LB Charles Haley	12.0	1986
3. DT Dana Stubblefield	10.5	1993
4. DE Andre Carter	6.5	2001
5t. <b>DL DeForest Buckner</b>	<b>6.0</b>	<b>2016</b>
LB Aaron Lynch	6.0	2014

## BUILT FORD TOUGH

In March of 2019, the 49ers acquired DL **Dee Ford** in a trade with the Kansas City Chiefs and signed him to a five-year deal. Entering his sixth NFL season, and first with San Francisco, Ford has registered 137 tackles and 30.5 sacks. In 2018, Ford ranked tied for first in the NFL with seven forced fumbles and seventh in the NFL with 13.0 sacks, earning his first trip to the Pro Bowl.



### 2018 Highlights...

- Started all 16 games with the Chiefs and set single-season career highs in games started (16), tackles (55), sacks (13.0) and FFs (7).
- Also made 2 starts in the postseason where he added 4 tackles, 1.0 sack and 1 FF.
- Registered 1.0 sack in Weeks 3-5, marking the 2nd time in his career to have at least 1.0 sack in 3-consecutive weeks.
- Earned AFC Defensive Player of the Week honors after registering 5 tackles, 3.0 sacks and 2 FFs vs. Den. (10/28).
- Won AFC Defensive Player of the Month in October after finishing with 16 tackles, 6.0 sacks and 4 FFs.
- Registered 4 tackles and brought down Colts QB Andrew Luck for a 9-yd. loss and FF vs. Ind. (1/12/19 - NFC-D).

### MOST SACKS IN THE NFL, 2018

	<b>Player</b>	<b>Sacks</b>
1.	Aaron Donald, LAR	20.5
2.	J.J. Watt, Hou.	16.0
3.	Chris Jones, KC	15.5
4t.	Danielle Hunter, Min.	14.5
	Von Miller, Den.	14.5
3.	Myles Garrett, Cle.	13.5
<b>7t.</b>	<b>Dee Ford, KC</b>	<b>13.0</b>
	Frank Clark, Sea.	13.0
	Chandler Jones, Arz.	13.0
	Ryan Kerrigan, Was.	13.0
	T.J. Watt, Pit.	13.0

### Career Highlights...

- As a member of the Kansas City Chiefs in 2018, registered a career-high 7 FFs, tied for the most in the NFL. His 7 FFs ranked t-2nd in a single season in Chiefs history (Derrick Thomas - 8 FFs in 1992 & Jared Allen - 7 FFs in 2005).
- Finished the 2018 season with a career-high 13.0 sacks, ranking t-7th in the NFL and t-5th in the AFC and was named to the 2019 Pro Bowl.

### MOST FFs IN THE NFL, 2018

	<b>Player</b>	<b>FFs</b>
<b>1t.</b>	<b>Dee Ford, KC</b>	<b>7</b>
	J.J. Watt, Hou.	7
3t.	Khalil Mack, Chi.	6
	T.J. Watt, Pit.	6
5.	Justin Houston, KC	5

## UNCLE SHERM



A four-time Associated Press All-Pro (First Team - 2012-14; Second Team - 2015) and four-time Pro Bowl selection (2014-17), **Richard Sherman** joined the 49ers in 2018 after signing with the team as a free agent on March 11, 2018. Prior to joining the 49ers, he spent each of the previous seven seasons (2011-17) with the Seattle Seahawks after the team selected him in the fifth round (154th overall) of the 2011 NFL Draft. He currently ranks first in the NFL among active players in interceptions (32) and second in passes defended (103) since 2011.

### 2018 Highlights...

- Finished with 7 tackles, 1 PD and the 2nd sack of his career, bringing down Cardinals QB Josh Rosen for a 7-yd. loss at Arz. (10/28).
- Registered 2 tackles, the 6th FR of his career and his 100th career PD at Min. (9/9). He recovered a Vikings RB Dalvin Cook fumble that was forced by LB Fred Warner.

### Career Highlights...

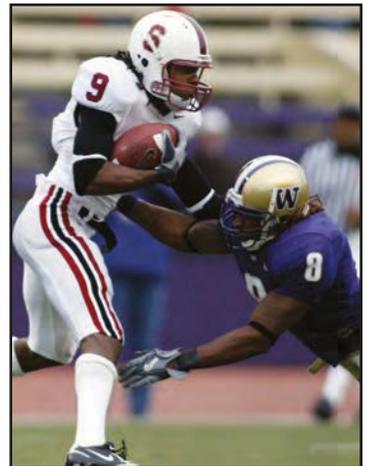
- Since entering the NFL in 2011, Sherman has registered 32 INTs and 103 PDs, which rank 1st and 2nd respectively in the NFL among all active players.

MOST INTs AMONG ALL ACTIVE PLAYERS SINCE 2011			MOST PDs AMONG ALL ACTIVE PLAYERS SINCE 2011		
Player		INTs	Player		PDs
1. Richard Sherman, SF		32	1. Johnathan Joseph, Hou.		105
2. Reggie Nelson, Oak.		29	2. Richard Sherman, SF		103
3t. Patrick Peterson, Arz.		23	3. Joe Haden, Pit.		102
Eric Weddle, Bal.		23	4. Brent Grimes, TB		95
Earl Thomas, Sea.		23	5. Tramon Williams, GB		91

- Finished the 2013 season with a league-leading 8 INTs. It marked the second-consecutive season Sherman recorded 8 INTs, and again ranked as the third-most by a member of the Seahawks in a single season. Capped off the season with a 43-8 victory over Denver in Super Bowl XLVIII.
- As a rookie with Seattle in 2011, his 4 INTs in just 10 starts tied for the second most by a rookie in franchise history.

## BACK IN THE BAY

Sherman returned to the Bay Area in 2018, a place where he spent five years at nearby Stanford University. He saw action in 52 games (37 starts), playing his first three seasons at WR where he totaled 81 receipts. for 1,340 yds. and 7 TDs. He later transitioned to CB for his final two seasons and recorded 112 tackles, 17 PDs and 6 INTs. As a redshirt senior, he appeared in 12 games (10 starts) and earned Honorable Mention All-Pac-10 honors after totaling 50 tackles, 9 PDs, 4 INT and 2 FFs.



## TAE-KWON-DO

LB **Kwon Alexander** signed with the 49ers as a free agent in 2019 from the Tampa Bay Buccaneers. As a rookie in 2015, Alexander earned PFWA All-Rookie honors after registering 93 tackles, nine passes defensed, 3.0 sacks, two interceptions, two forced fumbles and one fumble recovery. In 2017, Alexander earned Pro Bowl honors after notching 97 tackles, four passes defensed, three interceptions and one forced fumble. Since 2015, he is one of four players in the NFL to register at least 300 tackles, 6.0 sacks and six interceptions (Thomas Davis, Luke Kuechly and Harrison Smith).

### Career Highlights...

- Since entering the NFL in 2015, is 1 of 4 players in the NFL to register at least 300 tackles, 6.0 sacks and six interceptions (Thomas Davis, Luke Kuechly and Harrison Smith).

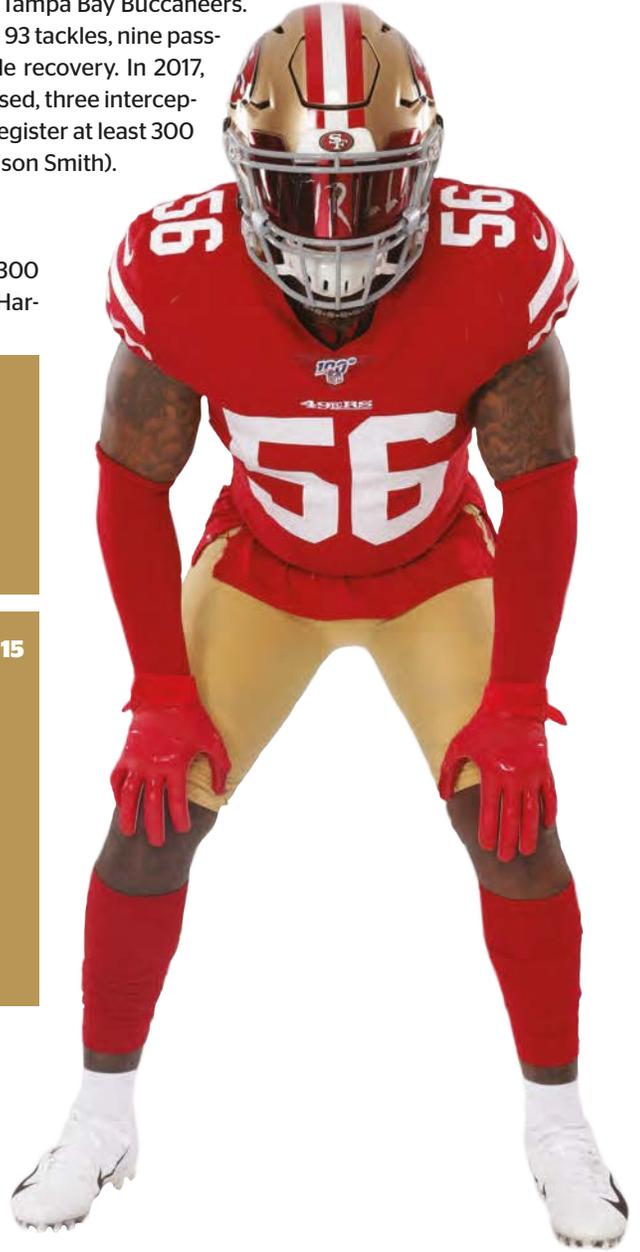
#### PLAYERS WITH 300-OR-MORE TACKLES, 6-OR-MORE SACKS AND 6-OR-MORE INTs, SINCE 2015

Player	Tackles	Sacks	INTs
<b>Kwon Alexander</b>	<b>380</b>	<b>7.0</b>	<b>6</b>
Thomas Davis	366	10.5	7
Luke Kuechly	475	6.5	9
Harrison Smith	319	8.0	10

- Alexander's 6 INTs since 2015 are tied for the 9th-most in the NFL among LBs over that span.
- In 2017, earned Pro Bowl honors after notching 97 tackles, 4 PDs, 3 INTs and 1 FF.
- As a rookie in 2015, earned PFWA All-Rookie honors after registering 93 tackles, 9 PDs, 3.0 sacks, 2 INTs, 2 FFs and 1 FR.
- After losing his brother, Broderick, Alexander played against the Atlanta Falcons and registered 11 tackles, 1 INT, 1 FF and 1 FR, earning NFC Defensive Player of the Week honors.

#### MOST INTs AMONG LBs, SINCE 2015

Player	INTs
1. Luke Kuechly	9
2t. Deion Jones	8
Alec Ogletree	8
Telvin Smith	8
5t. Thomas Davis	7
Jordan Hicks	7
C.J. Mosley	7
Ryan Shazier	7
<b>9t. Kwon Alexander</b>	<b>6</b>
Kiko Alonso	6



## HIGHTOWER OF TERROR



Richard Hightower is in his 13th season in the NFL and third as the 49ers special teams coordinator. He returned to San Francisco in 2017 after previously serving as assistant special teams coach with the team in 2015.

From 2017-18, the 49ers kicking unit ranked first in the NFL in field goal percentage (96.0) and second with 72 made field goals (LAR - 74). In addition, San Francisco's punt coverage ranked second over that timespan, holding opponent punt returns to an average of 5.7 yards per return (Ind. - 4.3).

Under Hightower's tutelage in 2018, San Francisco's special teams units flourished. K Robbie Gould set the 49ers single-season franchise record for field goal percentage (97.1) as he connected on 33 of 34 field goal attempts and finished the season with 126 points. He also set the franchise record for most consecutive field goals made (33) and finished the season connecting on each of his final 23 attempts. Gould was named NFC Special Teams Player of the Month for December and was a two-time recipient of the NFC Special Teams Player of the Week Award (Week 2 & 15). Rookie WR Richie James Jr. was named All-NFC kick returner by the PFWA as he averaged 25.2 yards per kickoff return, which ranked seventh in the NFL. James Jr. also registered the team's first kickoff return for a touchdown (97 yards) since 2011.

In 2017, the 49ers special teams units excelled under Hightower's guidance. In his first season with the 49ers, veteran K Robbie Gould had a career year, leading the NFL with a career-high 39 made field goals and finishing third in the NFL with a career-high 145 points. Gould's 39 made field goals were the second-most in a single-season in franchise history (K David Akers - 44 made field goals in 2011) and tied for the third-most in a single-season in NFL history. P Bradley Pinion set a career high with a 41.3 net punting average and the punt coverage unit ranked second in the NFL, allowing 4.2 yards per return. The 4.2 opponent punt return average was the eighth-best in the NFL since 2001.

As an assistant special teams coach with Chicago in 2016, the Bears kickoff coverage team finished seventh in the NFL in opponent drive start average. Deonte Thompson led the NFL in kickoff returns with 35 and ranked second with 810 yards. Punt returner Eddie Royal scored on a 65-yard touchdown on Monday Night Football against the Philadelphia Eagles while Sherrick McManis led the Bears in special teams tackles and finished top 10 in the NFL, recording 13 stops.

In 2015, Hightower first joined San Francisco as an assistant special teams coach. That season, Hightower helped the 49ers punt coverage unit rank eighth in the NFL allowing just 6.4 yards per return, while working with rookie punter Bradley Pinion. Kicker Phil Dawson was 10th in the NFL with an 88.9 field goal percentage (tied for the fourth highest percentage of his 17-year career at the time).

Hightower spent the 2014 season working on offense in Cleveland assisting the wide receivers after working as an assistant special teams coach for four seasons in Washington (2010-13). With Washington, he worked under longtime special teams coordinator Danny Smith. Hightower also spent two seasons (2012-13) as the assistant defensive backs coach with the Redskins. Over his four seasons in Washington, the Redskins were third in the NFL in kickoff coverage, allowing just 21.2 yards per return, including leading the league in 2010 and 2011. Hightower's coaching on special teams helped Lorenzo Alexander lead the NFL with 21 special teams tackles en route to being named the NFC's special teams player in the Pro Bowl, in 2012. Hightower was also instrumental in the development of first-year kicker Kai Forbath, who broke an NFL record by hitting his first 17 field goal attempts and led the NFL with a 94.4 field goal percentage.



As assistant defensive back coach, Hightower helped the unit rank sixth in the NFL in interceptions (37) and tied for second in the NFL in interception returns for touchdowns (seven) over the two-year span. DeAngelo Hall led the NFL in defensive touchdowns (three). In 2012, the Redskins were first in the NFC in passes defended and had four returned touchdowns.

From 2006-08, Hightower was on Houston's coaching staff as a coaching assistant (2006-07) before being elevated to special teams assistant (2008). In Houston, he served under widely respected then-special teams coordinator Joe Marciano, who had more than 30 years of experience coaching special teams at the time. In 2008, Houston was 11th in the NFL in kickoff coverage (22.3 yards per return). Punt returner Jacoby Jones finished fifth in the NFL and second in Texans single-season annals with a 12.1 average, including a franchise single-season record two punt return touchdowns. Kicker Kris Brown set franchise records for points (124), field goals made (29) and field goal percentage (87.9). In 2007, the kickoff return unit featuring Jerome Mathis and Andre Davis became only the fourth team in NFL history to score four touchdowns on kickoff returns in a single season.

In between his time in Houston and Washington, Hightower spent the 2009 season as wide receivers coach at the University of Minnesota. Under his tutelage, Eric Decker was named a First-Team All-Big Ten selection that season before being selected by the Denver Broncos in the third round (87th overall) of the 2010 NFL Draft.

A native of Houston, TX, Hightower earned his BA in marketing from the University of Texas where he was a three-year letterman and special teams standout for the Longhorns. He went to Austin as an academic scholar and later earned an athletic scholarship after walking on. Following his senior season, then head coach Mack Brown and his staff voted Hightower the D. Harold Byrd Leadership Award.

Hightower and his wife, Lanet, have two sons Jaxson and Kaden and a daughter, Reagan.

### HIGHTOWER'S NFL COACHING BACKGROUND

Years	Coaching Position	Team
2017-current	Special Teams Coordinator	San Francisco 49ers
2016	Assistant Special Teams	Chicago Bears
2015	Assistant Special Teams	San Francisco 49ers
2014	Offensive Quality Control	Cleveland Browns
2012-13	Assistant Special Teams/Assistant DBs	Washington Redskins
2010-11	Assistant Special Teams	Washington Redskins
2008	Assistant Special Teams	Houston Texans
2006-07	Coaching Assistant	Houston Texans

## GOULDEN BOOT



**Robbie Gould** continued to climb the NFL leaderboard in his first season with the 49ers in 2017 and did just that in 2018. One of the most accurate kickers in NFL history, Gould currently ranks second in field goal percentage (minimum 100 field goals made), making 358 of his 408 career field goal attempts. Gould, the team nominee for the 2018 Walter Payton NFL Man of the Year, signed a four-year contract extension with the 49ers this past offseason.

### 2018 Highlights...

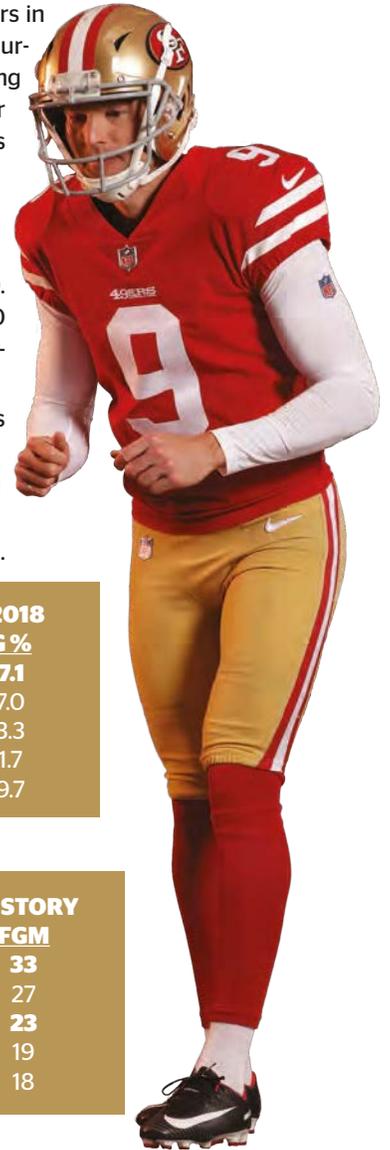
- Connected on all 4 FGAs and 2 PATs, including the game-winning 36-yd. FG in OT vs. Sea. (12/16). With 14 points on the day, Gould became the 23rd kicker in NFL history to register at least 1,500 points in their career (1,528). Earned NFC Special Teams Player of the Week honors for his performance.
- Earned NFC Special Teams Player of the Month for December after making each of his 11 FGAs and 8 PATs. He was the only player in the NFL to make 100% of his kicks in December (minimum 11 FGAs). His 41 points scored ranked fifth in the NFL in December as he finished the season making 23 consecutive field goal attempts.
- Is 1 of 2 kickers (Justin Tucker, Bal.) to make at least 30 FGs in each of the past 2 seasons (2017-18).
- Gould finished the season ranked 1st in FG percentage (97.1%) and 3rd in FGM (33). His 97.1 made FG percentage (minimum 16 FGAs) was the highest in a single season since Bal. K Justin Tucker in 2016 (97.4%) and the third-highest since 2000 [Mike Vanderjagt, Ind. - 100.0% (2003) & Jeff Wilkins, StL - 100.0% (2000)].
- Connected on FGs from 21 and 33 yds. at LAC (9/30). He made a franchise-record 33 consecutive FGAs from 10/29/17-9/30/18. Has an active streak, connecting on 23 consecutive FGAs, which is the 3rd-longest streak in franchise history.
- From 12/11/16-9/30/18, set his personal streak of consecutive games with 1-or-more FGM by making at least 1 FG in 24 straight games.

#### HIGHEST MADE FG % IN THE NFL WITH 30+ FGAs IN 2018

	Player	FGM	FGA	FG %
1.	<b>Robbie Gould, SF</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>97.1</b>
2.	Aldrick Rosas, NYG	32	33	97.0
3.	Wil Lutz, NO	28	30	93.3
4.	Jason Myers, NYJ	33	36	91.7
5.	Justin Tucker, Bal.	35	39	89.7

#### MOST CONSECUTIVE FGM, 49ERS HISTORY

	Player	Range	FGM
1.	<b>Robbie Gould</b>	<b>10/29/17-9/30/18</b>	<b>33</b>
2.	Phil Dawson	10/6/13-12/29/13	27
3.	<b>Robbie Gould</b>	<b>10/15/18-present</b>	<b>23</b>
4.	Phil Dawson	9/14/15-12/13/15	19
5.	Joe Nedney	11/26/06-9/30/07	18



## DIGGING FOR GOULD

### Career Highlights...

- Over the past two seasons with the 49ers (2017-18), Gould has made 72 of 75 FGAs (96.0%). His 96.0 FG percentage, along with his 96.1% from 2016-17, are the two highest percentages in NFL history over a two-year span (minimum 32 FGAs).
- In his first season with the 49ers in 2017, led the NFL with 39 made FGs, setting a new single-season career high. His previous career high was 33 made FGs in 2015. His 39 made FGs also ranked 2nd in franchise history for most made FGs in a season (K David Akers - 44 made FGs in 2011).

#### MOST FGM IN A SEASON IN GOULD'S CAREER

	Year	FGM
1.	2017	39
2t.	2018	33
	2015	33
4.	2006	32
5.	2007	31

#### HIGHEST FG % IN A SEASON IN GOULD'S CAREER (min. 16 FGM)

	Year	FG %
1.	2018	97.1
2.	2017	95.1
3t.	2013	89.7
	2008	89.7
5.	2006	88.9

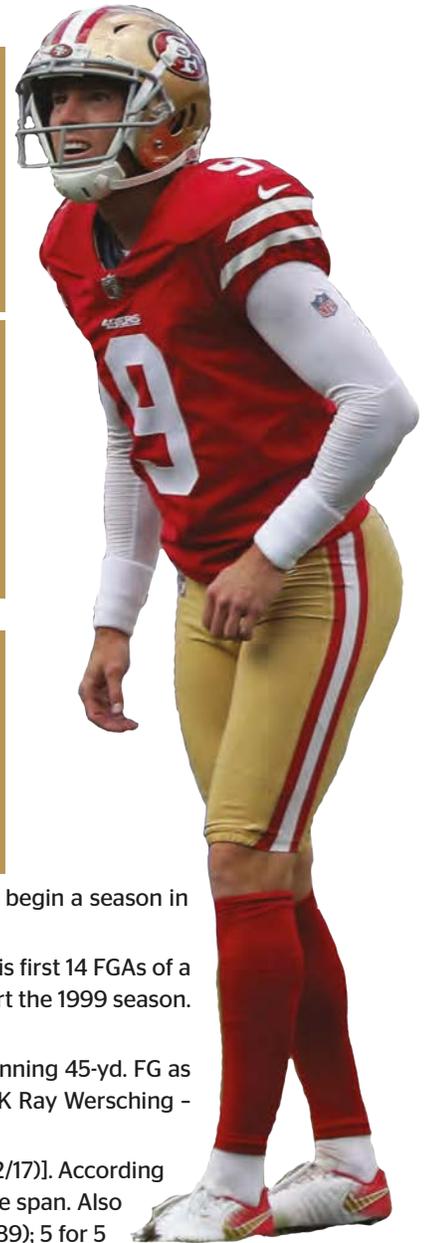
#### MOST FGM IN A SINGLE SEASON, NFL HISTORY

	Player	Year	FGM
1.	David Akers, SF	2011	44
2.	Neil Rackers, Arz.	2005	40
3t.	<b>Robbie Gould, SF</b>	<b>2017</b>	<b>39</b>
	Olindo Mare, Mia.	1999	39
	Jeff Wilkins, StL	2003	39

- Finished the 2017 season with 145 pts., setting a new single-season career high, while his 39 made FGs tied for the 3rd-most in a single season in NFL history.
- Including the beginning of the 2017 season, and dating back to 2015, Gould made 32 consecutive FGs, the longest streak of consecutive made FGs of his career. During that streak, he made his first 15 FGs to begin the season, setting the longest streak of FGM to begin a season in 49ers history.
- Made FGs from 28, 43 and 40 yds. at Ind. (10/8), becoming the first 49ers kicker to make each of his first 14 FGAs of a season, with the previous record being set by K Wade Richey, who connected on 13 straight to start the 1999 season. He also became the 31st kicker in NFL history to make at least 300 FGs.
- Set a career high with 6 made FGs vs. Ten. (12/17) (38, 48, 28, 50, 48 & 45), including the game-winning 45-yd. FG as time expired. His 6 made FGs tied the franchise record for the most made FGs in a single game [K Ray Wersching - 10/16/83 at NO (6 for 6); K Jeff Wilkins - 9/29/96 vs. Atl. (6 for 6)].
- In Weeks 13-15 of 2017, made 15 FGs [5 for 5 at Chi. (12/3); 4 for 4 at Houston (12/10); 6 for 6 vs. Ten. (12/17)]. According to the Elias Sports Bureau, Gould is the first player in NFL history to make 15 FGs in the three-game span. Also according to the Elias Sports Bureau, in 2017, Gould joined Min. K Rich Karlis [7 for 7 vs. LAN (11/5/89); 5 for 5 vs. Atl. (12/10/89); 5 for 6 vs. Cin. (12/25/89)] and KC K Harrison Butker [5 for 5 at Hou. (10/8/17); 5 for 5 vs. Den. (10/30/17); 5 for 6 vs. Mia. (12/24/17)] as the only players in NFL history to make 5-or-more FGs in three different games in a single season.
- Among those with 100-or-more career made FGs, Gould ranks 2nd in made FG percentage at 87.7%.
- Ranks 1st in NFL history in FG pct. (78.4%) on FGAs of 50-or-more yds. (min. 20 FGM).
- Ranks as the Bears franchise leader in scoring (1,207 points), made FGs (276), 50-or-more yd. made FGs (23), consecutive made FGs (26) and FG pct. (85.4 pct.).
- Converted a 58-yd. FG vs. Cin. (9/8/13), the longest made FG in Bears franchise history. He previously set the record for longest made FG at Den. (12/11/11 - 57-yds.).

#### HIGHEST FG % IN A 2-YEAR SPAN, NFL HISTORY (min. 32 ATTs)

	Player	Years	FG%
1.	<b>Robbie Gould</b>	<b>2016-17</b>	<b>96.1</b>
2.	<b>Robbie Gould</b>	<b>2017-18</b>	<b>96.0</b>
3.	Eddie Murray	1988-89	95.2
4.	Adam Vinatieri	2014-15	94.8
5.	Justin Tucker	2016-17	94.7



#### HIGHEST FG PCT. AMONG KICKERS WITH 100+ FGM, NFL HISTORY

	Player	Pct.
1.	Justin Tucker	90.1
2.	<b>Robbie Gould</b>	<b>87.7</b>
3.	Stephen Gostkowski	87.4
4.	Dan Bailey	86.6
5.	Mike Vanderjagt	86.5

## KNOW YOUR OPPONENT

The 49ers 2019 regular season schedule includes facing the NFC South and AFC North in cross-divisional play while continuing to battle their NFC West opponents twice a year. Entering the team's sixth season at Levi's Stadium, San Francisco will host the Cleveland Browns and Pittsburgh Steelers for the first time in the venue.

The Niners open the regular season on the road by traveling to Tampa to take on the Buccaneers at Raymond James Stadium. The team is scheduled to play in three prime time games during the regular season in 2019, with two on ESPN's *Monday Night Football* (Week 5 vs. Cleveland & Week 10 vs. Seattle) and one on FOX/NFL Network/Amazon's *Thursday Night Football* (Week 9 at Arizona).



### **WEEK 1 - SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 8 AT TAMPA BAY - 1:25 P.M.**



- The 49ers are 17-7 overall vs. Tampa Bay, including a 5-4 record on the road.
- San Francisco faces Tampa Bay for the second-consecutive season and in back-to-back seasons for the first time since 2010-11.
- The Niners have won four of the past seven meetings between the two teams.
- San Francisco opens the season at Tampa Bay for the first time since 1997. This marks the first time the 49ers visit an NFC South team in Week 1 since the division was formed in 2002.



### **WEEK 2 - SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 15 AT CINCINNATI - 10:00 A.M.**



- San Francisco owns the overall series record vs. Cincinnati, 11-4, including a 4-2 record versus the Bengals on the road.
- The 49ers will travel to Cincinnati for the first time since 2011, when they defeated the Bengals, 13-8.



### **WEEK 3 - SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 22 VS. PITTSBURGH - 1:25 P.M.**



- San Francisco owns the overall series record vs. Pittsburgh 11-10, and is 5-5 at home in the series.
- This marks the first time San Francisco hosts Pittsburgh since defeating the Steelers, 20-3, in 2011.



### **WEEK 4 - SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 29 - BYE**



- This marks the first time since 2002 that the 49ers have had their BYE in Week 4.
- Since the NFL re-introduced the BYE in 1990, this marks only the fifth time the 49ers have had their BYE in Week 4 or earlier (1990, 1996, 1998, 2002).



### **WEEK 5 - MONDAY, OCTOBER 7 VS. CLEVELAND - 5:15 P.M.**



- San Francisco is 7-12 overall vs. Cleveland and 5-5 at home.
- The 49ers are hosting the Browns for the first time since defeating Cleveland 20-10 in 2011.
- The Niners own a 48-27 record on *Monday Night Football*.
- San Francisco hosts Cleveland on *MNF* for the first time in the series history.
- The two teams faced each other on *Monday Night Football* in Cleveland on September 13, 1993 (L, 13-23).
- The 49ers are facing an AFC opponent in primetime for the first time since playing the Denver Broncos on the road in 2014.

\*All times are in PT



### **WEEK 6 - SUNDAY, OCTOBER 13 AT LOS ANGELES RAMS - 1:05 P.M.**



- The 49ers have won two of three matchups at the LA Memorial Coliseum since the Rams returned to Los Angeles in 2016.
- The 49ers hold a 35-33-1 edge against the Rams on the road in the all-time series.



### **WEEK 7 - SUNDAY, OCTOBER 20 AT WASHINGTON - 10:00 A.M.**



- The Niners lead the overall series vs. Washington, 20-11-1.
- The 49ers have won four of the last five matchups against Washington.
- San Francisco heads to FedExField for the second time in the past three seasons.



### **WEEK 8 - SUNDAY, OCTOBER 27 VS. CAROLINA - 1:05 P.M.**



- The 49ers are 8-13 in the all-time series vs. Carolina and 3-7 at home.
- San Francisco looks for their first home win against Carolina since defeating the Panthers, 24-14, on October 7, 2001.
- The 49ers are hosting the Panthers for the first time since opening the 2017 season at Levi's Stadium against Carolina, head coach Kyle Shanahan's first game with the team.



### **WEEK 9 - THURSDAY, OCTOBER 31 AT ARIZONA - 5:20 P.M.**



- San Francisco owns the overall series record vs. Arizona, 29-26.
- This marks the first time since 2013 that San Francisco has their *Thursday Night Football* game on the road [W, 35-11 at StL (9/26/13)].
- The two teams square off on *Thursday Night Football* for the second time in three years, with San Francisco hosting Arizona on *TNF* in 2016.



### **WEEK 10 - MONDAY, NOVEMBER 11 VS. SEATTLE - 5:15 P.M.**



- San Francisco is 16-25 in the all-time series vs. Seattle and 9-10 at home.
- The Niners have won six out of the last 10 home games against the Seahawks, including a 26-23 overtime victory over Seattle at Levi's Stadium in 2018.
- San Francisco faces Seattle on *Monday Night Football* for the fourth time in the history between the two franchises and the first time since 2007.
- The two teams play in primetime for the first time since 2015.



### **WEEK 11 - SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 17 VS. ARIZONA - 1:05 P.M.**



- The 49ers are 17-12 at home vs. the Cardinals and have won six out of their last 10 home games vs. Arizona.
- Since divisional realignment in 2002, this marks the first time the 49ers and Cardinals will meet two times in three weeks.

# KNOW YOUR OPPONENT



## WEEK 12 - SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 24 VS. GREEN BAY - 1:25 P.M.



- The 49ers have won four out of the last six overall games against the Packers.
- San Francisco is 30-36-1 in the all-time series vs. Green Bay and 18-12-1 at home.
- The Niners and Packers squared off in 2018 on ESPN's *Monday Night Football*, and take on Green Bay in consecutive regular seasons for the first time since 2012-13.



## WEEK 13 - SUNDAY, DECEMBER 1 AT BALTIMORE - 10:00 A.M.



- The 49ers are 2-4 overall vs. Baltimore.
- San Francisco is looking for their first road win against the Ravens, as the team travels to Baltimore for the first time since a 2011 matchup on Thanksgiving night.
- The 49ers look for their first win in the city of Baltimore since defeating the Baltimore Colts, 24-21, in 1969.



## WEEK 14 - SUNDAY, DECEMBER 8 AT NEW ORLEANS - 10:00 A.M.



- San Francisco is 48-26-2 all-time vs. New Orleans and 25-14 on the road.
- The 49ers travel to New Orleans for the first time since their 27-24 overtime victory over the Saints in 2014.
- The Niners have won two of the past three meetings against the Saints at the Mercedes-Benz Superdome.



## WEEK 15 - SUNDAY, DECEMBER 15 VS. ATLANTA - 1:25 P.M.



- San Francisco owns the overall series record vs. Atlanta, 47-31-1, and is 28-11 at home.
- The 49ers look to go 2-0 against the Falcons at Levi's Stadium, as San Francisco defeated Atlanta, 17-16, in their last home matchup in 2015.



## WEEK 16 - SAT/SUN, DECEMBER 21/22 VS. LOS ANGELES RAMS - TBD



- The dates and start times for Week 16 will be announced no later than following Week 8 contests.
- San Francisco leads the all-time series against the Rams, 69-67-3.
- San Francisco is 6-3-1 in their last 10 meetings at home against the Rams.
- The overall home series against the Rams is tied at 34-34-2.



## WEEK 17 - SUNDAY, DECEMBER 29 AT SEATTLE - 1:25 P.M.



- The 49ers are 7-15 overall on the road at Seattle.
- San Francisco is looking to win at Seattle for the first time since 2011.
- The Niners finish the regular season in Seattle for the first time since the 1997 season.

## 2019 SEASON SCHEDULE

Week	Date	Time	Opponent	Location	Broadcast
PRESEASON 1	SAT, AUG 10	6:00 PM	at Dallas Cowboys	STADIUM	KPIX
PRESEASON 2	MON, AUG 19	5:00 PM	at Denver Broncos	STADIUM	KPIX
PRESEASON 3	SAT, AUG 24	5:00 PM	at Kansas City Chiefs	STADIUM	KPIX
PRESEASON 4	THU, AUG 29	7:00 PM	vs. Jacksonville Jaguars	STADIUM	KPIX
WEEK 1	SUN, SEP 8	1:25 PM	at Tampa Bay Buccaneers	STADIUM	FOX
WEEK 2	SUN, SEP 15	10:00 AM	at Cincinnati Bengals	STADIUM	FOX
WEEK 3	SUN, SEP 22	1:25 PM	vs. Pittsburgh Steelers	STADIUM	CBS
WEEK 4	BYE WEEK				
WEEK 5	MON, OCT 7	5:15 PM	vs. Houston Texans	STADIUM	ESPN
WEEK 6	SUN, OCT 13	1:05 PM	at Denver Broncos	STADIUM	FOX
WEEK 7	SUN, OCT 20	10:00 AM	at Minnesota Vikings	STADIUM	FOX
WEEK 8	SUN, OCT 27	1:05 PM	vs. Carolina Panthers	STADIUM	FOX
WEEK 9	THU, OCT 31	5:20 PM	at Arizona Cardinals	STADIUM	FOX
WEEK 10	MON, NOV 11	5:15 PM	vs. Seattle Seahawks	STADIUM	ESPN
WEEK 11	SUN, NOV 17	1:05 PM	vs. Arizona Cardinals	STADIUM	FOX
WEEK 12	SUN, NOV 24	1:25 PM	vs. Green Bay Packers	STADIUM	FOX
WEEK 13	SUN, DEC 1	10:00 AM	at Baltimore Ravens	STADIUM	FOX
WEEK 14	SUN, DEC 8	10:00 AM	at New Orleans Saints	STADIUM	FOX
WEEK 15	SUN, DEC 15	1:25 PM	vs. Atlanta Falcons	STADIUM	FOX
WEEK 16	DEC 21 OR 22	TBD	vs. Los Angeles Rams	STADIUM	TBD
WEEK 17	SUN, DEC 29	1:25 PM	at Seattle Seahawks	STADIUM	FOX

BYE WEEK 4  
ALL TIMES IN PT.

## 2019 DRAFT CLASS

The San Francisco 49ers added eight players this offseason through the 2019 NFL Draft. The team also signed 11 undrafted rookie free agents to the roster.

### **DL NICK BOSA - 1ST ROUND (2ND OVERALL)**

- Originally a 1st-round (2nd overall) draft choice by SF in 2019.
- Appeared in 30 games (10 starts) in three seasons at Ohio State (2016-18) and registered 77 tackles, 17.5 sacks, 29 TFLs, 2 PDs, 2 FFs and 2 FRs.
- As a junior in 2018, started all 3 games in which he appeared and finished the season with 14 tackles, 6 TFLs, 4.0 sacks, 2 FRs and 1 FF, earning All-Big Ten Honorable Mention honors.
- In 2017, was named Big Ten Smith-Brown Defensive Lineman of the Year and an All-American by the American Football Coaches Association after appearing in 14 games (7 starts) and registering 34 tackles, 16 TFLs, a team-high 8.5 sacks and 1 FF.
- As a freshman in 2016, earned Freshman All-American honors by ESPN after appearing in 13 games for the Buckeyes and finishing with 29 tackles, 7 TFLs and 5.0 sacks.



### **WR DEEBO SAMUEL - 2ND ROUND (36TH OVERALL)**

- Originally a 2nd-round (36th overall) draft choice by SF in 2019.
- Appeared in 30 games (27 starts) in five years at South Carolina (2014-18) and registered 148 receptions for 2,076 yds. and 16 TDs. As a kick returner, recorded 42 returns for 1,219 yds. (29.0 avg.) and 4 TDs. Also, notched 25 rushing attempts for 154 yds. and 7 rushing TDs and converted both passing attempts in his career for TDs.
- As a senior in 2018, earned First-Team All-SEC honors after hauling in 62 receptions for 882 yds. and 11 TDs in 12 games (11 starts). Also added 23 KORs for 570 yds. (24.8 avg.) and 1 TD, earning Second-Team All-America honors by the Football Writers Association of America.
- Started all 3 games he appeared in 2017 and recorded 15 receptions for 250 yds. and 3 TDs.
- As a sophomore in 2016, started all 10 games in which he appeared in and tallied 59 receptions for 783 yds. and 1 TD, while adding 15 carries for 98 yds. and 6 TDs.
- Appeared in 5 games (3 starts) as a redshirt freshman and had 12 receptions for 161 yds. and 1 TD.
- Redshirted as a freshman in 2014.



### **WR JALEN HURD - 3RD ROUND (67TH OVERALL)**

- Originally a 3rd-round (67th overall) draft choice by SF in 2019.
- Played one season (2018) with Baylor after transferring from Tennessee, where he played from 2014-16.
- At Baylor in 2018, named Big 12 Offensive Newcomer of the Year after appearing in 12 games (11 starts) and registering 69 receptions for 946 yds. and 4 TDs. Also registered 48 rushing atts. for 209 yds. and 3 TDs.
- Started all 7 games in which he appeared in at RB as a junior at Tennessee in 2016, registering 122 carries for 451 yds. and 3 TDs. Added 10 receptions for 81 yds.
- As a sophomore in 2015, started all 13 games and rushed for 1,288 yds. and 12 TDs on 277 atts., while adding 22 receptions for 190 yds. and 2 TDs.
- In 2014, appeared in 13 games (9 starts) and rushed 190 times for a team-high 899 rushing yds. and 5 TDs.



### **PMITCH WISHNOWSKY - 4TH ROUND (110TH OVERALL)**

- Originally a 4th-round (110th overall) draft choice by SF in 2019.
- Played three seasons (2016-18) at Utah after transferring from Santa Barbara (CA) City College in 2014.
- In three seasons at Utah, appeared in 40 games and registered 175 punts for 8,004 yds. (45.7 avg.), while pinning 74 of his punts inside the 20-yd. line. Also handled kickoff duties, kicking off 68 times for 45 touchbacks.
- As a senior in 2018, earned AP Second-Team All-America honors and was a finalist for the Ray Guy Award, presented to the nation's best collegiate punter, after appearing in 14 games and notching 59 punts for 2,669 yds. (45.2 avg.), with 24 punts inside the 20-yd. line. He also forced 25 fair catches while registering 20 punts of 50-or-more yds.
- Was named a Ray Guy Award finalist as a junior after appearing in 13 games, recording 52 punts for 2,282 yds. (43.9 avg.).
- Earned consensus All-America honors, as well as the Ray Guy Award, in his first season with Utah as a sophomore in 2016 after registering 64 punts for 3,053 yds. (47.7 avg.) in 13 games. Ranked 2nd in the nation in punting avg. (47.7) and punts of 50-or-more yds. (30), while also leading the nation in punts within the 10-yd. line (17).
- In 2014 at Santa Barbara (CA) City College, played in 11 games and registered 63 punts for 2,509 yds. (39.8 avg.).



## 2019 DRAFT CLASS

### **LB DRE GREENLAW - 5TH ROUND (148TH OVERALL)**

- Originally a 5th-round (148th overall) draft choice by SF in 2019.
- Appeared in 42 games (39 starts) in his four-year career (2015-18) at Arkansas, recording 299 tackles, 13 TFLs, 4.0 sacks, 3 INTs, 3 FFs and 3 FRs.
- As a senior in 2018, appeared in 10 games (9 starts) and finished with 80 tackles, 6.5 TFLs, 2.0 sacks, 2 INTs, 1 FF and 1 FR.
- Started all 12 games in which he appeared as a junior in 2017, registering 84 tackles, 1.5 TFLs and 1.0 sack.
- Made 7 starts as a sophomore in 2016 and notched 42 tackles, 2 FRs, 1.5 TFLs and 1 INT.
- In 2015, named SEC All-Freshman, as voted on by coaches after registering 93 tackles, 3.5 TFLs, 2 FFs and 1 .0 sack in 13 games played (11 starts).



### **TE KADEN SMITH - 6TH ROUND (176TH OVERALL)**

- Originally the first of three 6th-round (176th overall) draft choices by SF in 2019.
- Appeared in 25 games (12 starts) in a three-year career (2016-18) at Stanford, where he registered 70 receipts. for 1,049 yds. and 7 TDs.
- In 2018, earned Second-Team All-Pac-12 honors and was named Pac-12 All-Academic Honorable Mention. Played in all 11 games (10 starts) and registered 47 receipts. for 635 yds. and 2 TDs.
- As a sophomore, earned Pac-12 All Academic Honorable Mention honors. Appeared in 14 games (2 starts) and recorded 23 receipts. for 414 yds. and 5 TDs.
- Did not see action as a freshman in 2016.



### **OL JUSTIN SKULE - 6TH ROUND (183RD OVERALL)**

- Originally the second of three 6th-round (183rd overall) draft choices by SF in 2019.
- Appeared in 45 games (40 starts) in four years at Vanderbilt (2015-18). He finished his collegiate career with a consecutive games started streak of 40 games.
- As a senior in 2018, started all 13 games at LT.
- As a junior, was named to the 2017 SEC Academic Honor Roll. Started all 12 games at LT.
- In 2016, was named to the SEC Academic Honor Roll. Started all 13 games and helped pave the way for RB Ralph Webb, who became the school's all-time leading rusher after registering 1,283 yds. on the ground.
- As a true freshman in 2015, appeared in 7 games (2 starts).



### **CB TIM HARRIS JR. - 6TH ROUND (198TH OVERALL)**

- Originally the third of three 6th-round (198th overall) draft choices by SF in 2019.
- Appeared in 47 games (30 starts) in six years (2013-18) at Virginia and registered 119 tackles, 18 PDs, 6.5 TFLs, 4 INTs with 69 return yds. and 1 FR.
- As a senior in 2018, appeared in 13 games (8 starts) and registered 36 tackles, 4 PDs, 2 INTs and 1.5 TFLs.
- Appeared in 1 game (1 start), finishing with 1 tackle in 2017 before earning a medical hardship after suffering an injury in the season opener.
- Saw action in 2 games and recorded 3 tackles and 2 PDs before earning a medical hardship with an injury in 2016.
- Appeared in 10 games (9 starts) in 2015 and registered 34 tackles, 6 PDs, 3.0 TFLs and 1 INT.
- In 2014, saw action in 10 games (5 starts) and recorded 19 tackles, 4 PDs and 1 INT.
- In his first season at Virginia in 2013, played in 11 games (7 starts) and registered 26 tackles, 2 PDs and 1.0 TFL.



## LYNCH'S IMPRINT

One of the most respected players to ever play the game of football, and a six-time finalist for the Pro Football Hall of Fame, John Lynch is in his third season as the team's General Manager following a 15-year playing career and more than eight seasons as an NFL analyst.

Since coming to San Francisco, Lynch has been vigilant in seeking and acquiring the players that embody the team's culture on the field and in the community. While working hand-in-hand with head coach Kyle Shanahan and the coaching staff, Lynch and his personnel staff continue to add players through all available avenues.

Following the 2018 season, Lynch continued to improve the 49ers roster through trades, free agency and the 2019 NFL Draft. The offseason started with the 49ers acquiring DL Dee Ford via trade and signing him to a five-year contract followed by the signing of free agents such as LB Kwon Alexander, RB Tevin Coleman, and Pro Bowl CB Jason Verrett. The 49ers added eight players to the roster during the 2019 NFL Draft, including DL Nick Bosa with the second overall selection. On June 5, 2019, the organization announced at its annual State of the Franchise that it had signed All-Pro T Joe Staley to a two-year contract extension through the 2021 season, ensuring he would finish his career in red and gold.

In 2018, Lynch bolstered the 49ers offensive line with the additions of C Weston Richburg through free agency and T Mike McGlinchey in the first round of the 2018 NFL Draft. Richburg went on to start 15 games at center while McGlinchey started all 16 games at right tackle and earned All-Rookie Team honors from the Pro Football Writers of America and ESPN.

In his first season with San Francisco, Lynch brought in several key players through free agency, including WR Marquise Goodwin, K Robbie Gould and FB Kyle Juszczyk, who impacted the team immediately. Goodwin set career highs in receptions (56) and receiving yards (962), Gould led the NFL with a career-high 39 made field goals and a career-high 145 points and Juszczyk was selected to the Pro Bowl.

Lynch was also responsible for acquiring G Laken Tomlinson and QB Jimmy Garoppolo in trades. Tomlinson was acquired on August 31, 2017 and started the final 15 games of the season at left guard. He was rewarded with a three-year contract extension through the 2021 season on June 22, 2018. Garoppolo, who was traded to San Francisco on October 30, 2017, started the final five games of the season and posted a 5-0 record while setting the franchise record for most passing yards in the first five starts with the team (1,542 yards). On February 8, 2018, Garoppolo signed a five-year contract extension through the 2022 season.



Lynch joined the 49ers in February of 2017 after serving as a color analyst for FOX Sports from 2009-16. In his final season of 2016 with FOX, he manned the number two broadcast crew alongside play-by-play announcer Kevin Burkhardt.

Prior to his time at FOX, Lynch constructed one of the all-time great NFL careers while with the Tampa Bay Buccaneers (1993-2003) and the Denver Broncos (2004-07). A four-time All-Pro and nine-time Pro Bowl selection, he played in 224 games (191 starts) and registered 1,277 tackles, 13.0 sacks, 26 interceptions, 16 forced fumbles, eight fumble recoveries and 100 passes defended. Lynch also started all 12 playoff games in which he appeared and tallied 71 tackles, two interceptions and 12 passes defended. He was a Buccaneers team captain as the squad achieved the crown jewel of team sports, a victory in Super Bowl XXXVII, and has been inducted into the Ring of Honor in both Tampa Bay and Denver.

Lynch attended Stanford University where he excelled in both football and baseball. On the football field, he earned Second-Team All-American and First-Team All-Pac-10 Conference honors as a senior, while playing for Hall of Fame head coach Bill Walsh. Lynch was later selected in the third round (82nd overall) of the 1993 NFL Draft by Tampa Bay. Following his career on the diamond for the Cardinal, he was selected in the second round (66th overall) of the 1992 Major League Baseball Draft by the Florida Marlins.

In addition to his stellar play on the field, Lynch is also a pillar of the community. He and his wife, Linda, formed the John Lynch Foundation, which is committed to inspiring young people to become leaders through scholarship, sport participation and community involvement. The Foundation is committed to developing leaders by encouraging dreams, providing programs that assist and motivate, and recognizing achievement and excellence.

Lynch was the recipient of the 2006 Bart Starr Award, which is voted upon by players throughout the NFL and recognizes a player who shows outstanding character and leadership in the home, on the field and in the community. He was also presented with The Byron "Whizzer" White Award, which is given annually to the NFL player who serves his team, community and country in the spirit of Bryon Raymond White. In 2019, Lynch received the prestigious Wender Weis Change Maker Award, which is given annually to a current or former professional athlete who has used their sports platform to improve the lives of underserved youth. Lynch was also the 2019 recipient of the Excellence in Leadership Award from the Positive Coaching Alliance.

John and his wife, Linda, have four children - Jake, Lindsay, Lily and Leah.

## LYNCH'S GOLDEN NUGGETS

- Lynch is a member of the Tampa Bay Buccaneers Ring of Honor (2016) and the Denver Broncos Ring of Fame (2016).
- One of seven players in NFL history to make at least four Pro Bowls with multiple teams (Tampa Bay - 5; Denver - 4).
- His nine Pro Bowl selections rank t-2nd in NFL history among safeties, behind Pro Football Hall of Fame S Ken Houston (10).
- A four-time AP All-Pro selection (1999-2002), Lynch also won Super Bowl XXXVII as a member of the Buccaneers.
- Attended Stanford University (1989-92) where he played both football and baseball. He earned Second-Team All-American and First-Team All-Pac-10 Conference honors as a senior while playing for Hall of Famer and former 49ers head coach Bill Walsh.
- Selected in the second round (66th overall) of the 1992 Major League Baseball Draft by the Florida Marlins.



# JOHN LYNCH'S ACCOLADES

GENERAL MANAGER

18TH NFL SEASON (15 PLAYING / 3 FRONT OFFICE) || 3RD WITH 49ERS

## A CASE FOR CANTON

In each of the past six seasons, semifinalists for the Pro Football Hall of Fame have been trimmed to 15 finalists, with John Lynch being one of those 15 finalists all six years.

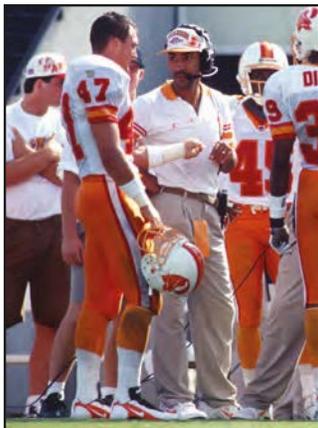


**6X PRO FOOTBALL HALL OF FAME FINALIST (2014-19)**

## HIGH PRAISE

"I am very excited for John and the opportunity he has with the San Francisco 49ers. He has all the traits you would want in a person to lead your football team. He knows the game and knows what it takes to win. John was instrumental in the turnaround of our Bucs team and he has a vision of how to do that with the 49ers. He's a great communicator and will be able to get his vision across to everyone in the organization. I have no doubt he will do an outstanding job."

**- Pro Football Hall of Famer Tony Dungy**



## EVERYWHERE HE GOES

Throughout each of John Lynch's stops in the NFL, success seems to follow him. In 2016, Lynch was inducted into the Tampa Bay Buccaneers Ring of Honor, having spent 11 seasons with the team (1993-2003) after being selected in the third round (82nd overall) of the 1993 NFL Draft. He was also enshrined into the Denver Broncos Ring of Fame after playing four seasons (2004-07), becoming one of just a few individuals to receive such an honor from multiple teams.



## PRO-BOWL CREDENTIALS

In 15 NFL seasons, Lynch earned nine trips to the Pro Bowl, tied for the second-most in NFL history among safeties.

### 9 Pro Bowl Selections



## MOST PRO BOWL SELECTIONS AT SAFETY IN NFL HISTORY

Rank	Player	Pro Bowls	Years
1.	Ken Houston	10	1971-80
2t.	<b>John Lynch</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>1998, 2000-02, 2005-08</b>
	Ed Reed	9	2004-05, 2007-13
3t.	Steve Atwater	8	1991-97, 1999
	Troy Polamalu	8	2005-09, 2011-12, 2014

## 4X ASSOCIATED PRESS ALL-PRO SELECTION

**1999 FIRST-TEAM 2000 FIRST-TEAM**

**2001 SECOND-TEAM 2002 SECOND-TEAM**

## OTHER NOTEABLE AWARDS & HONORS

### 1996

• NFC Defensive Player of the Week (Week 13)

### 1999

- Football Digest All-Pro
- Pro Football Weekly All-Pro
- Sports Illustrated All-Pro
- The Sporting News All-Pro
- USA Today All-Pro

### 2000

- NFL Defensive Back of the Year (NFL Alumni)
- NFLPA's Unsung Hero Award
- College and Pro Football Newsweekly All-Pro
- Football Digest All-Pro
- Pro Football Weekly All-Pro
- Sports Illustrated All-Pro
- The Sporting News All-Pro

### 2001

- NFL Insider's All-Interview Team
- Ed Block Courage Award
- College and Pro Football Newsweekly All-Pro
- Pro Football Weekly All-Pro

### 2002

- Walter Payton NFL Man of the Year Award Finalist
- Football Digest Second-Team All-Pro
- Leadership Excellence Award from Don Shula
- Tampa Tribune's People's Champion Award (along with wife, Linda)
- Florida Sports Hometown Heroes Award
- Irish America Magazine Top-100 Most Influential Irish Americans

### 2003

- Walter Payton NFL Man of the Year Award Finalist
- The Sporting News 100 Best Players List
- NFL.com All-Interview Team

### 2005

- Walter Payton NFL Man of the Year Award Finalist
- AFC Defensive Player of the Week (Week 17)

### 2006

- NFL Bart Starr Award
- Byron "Whizzer" White Award
- Wooden Cup Award

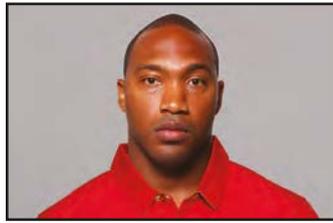
### 2007

- Darrent Williams Good Guy Award

**2019 SAN FRANCISCO 49ERS COACHING STAFF**



**Kyle Shanahan**  
Head Coach



**Richard Hightower**  
Special Teams Coordinator



**Mike LaFleur**  
Passing Game Coordinator



**Mike McDaniel**  
Run Game Coordinator



**Robert Saleh**  
Defensive Coordinator



**Joe Woods**  
Defensive Backs/  
Passing Game Coordinator



**Jon Embree**  
Asst. Head Coach/Tight Ends



**Miles Austin**  
Offensive Quality Control



**John Benton**  
Offensive Line



**Daniel Bullocks**  
Safeties



**Michael Clay**  
Assistant Special Teams



**Shane Day**  
Quarterbacks



**Taylor Embree**  
Offensive Quality Control



**Brian Fleury**  
Defensive Quality Control



**Johnny Holland**  
Run Game Specialist/  
Outside Linebackers



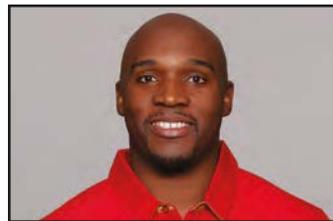
**Chris Kiffin**  
Pass Rush Specialist



**Kris Kocurek**  
Defensive Line



**Stan Kwan**  
Assistant Special Teams



**DeMeco Ryans**  
Inside Linebackers



**Bobby Slowik**  
Offensive Assistant



**Katie Sowers**  
Offensive Assistant



**Robert Turner Jr.**  
Running Backs



**Wes Welker**  
Wide Receivers



**Zach Yenser**  
Assistant Offensive Line

# 2019 SAN FRANCISCO 49ERS UNOFFICIAL DEPTH CHART

Compiled by the 49ers Football Communications staff

AS OF AUGUST 20, 2019

## OFFENSE

WR	18	Dante Pettis	84	Kendrick Bourne	81	Jordan Matthews	1	<u>Shawn Poindexter</u>	
					19	<u>Deebo Samuel</u>			
LT	74	Joe Staley	60	Daniel Brunskill	62	Sam Young			
LG	75	Laken Tomlinson	66	Najee Toran	76	<u>Ross Reynolds</u>			
C	63	Ben Garland	61	Wesley Johnson	77	Dillon Day	58	[Weston Richburg]	
RG	68	Mike Person	65	Joshua Garnett	64	Christian DiLauro			
RT	69	Mike McGlinchey	67	<u>Justin Skule</u>	71	Willie Beavers			
TE	85	George Kittle	82	Ross Dwelley	89	Kaden Smith	43	Daniel Helm	
			83	Levine Toilolo	48	<u>Tyree Mayfield</u>	88	[Garrett Celek]	
WR	11	Marquise Goodwin	13	Richie James Jr.	17	<u>Jalen Hurd</u>	7	<u>Malik Henry</u>	
							15	[Trent Taylor]	
RB	22	Matt Breida	26	Tevin Coleman	31	Raheem Mostert	33	<u>Austin Walter</u>	
			28	[Jerick McKinnon]	41	Jeff Wilson Jr.	35	Brandon Wilds	
FB	44	Kyle Juszczyk							
QB	10	Jimmy Garoppolo	3	C.J. Beathard	—or—	4	Nick Mullens	5	<u>Wilton Speight</u>

## DEFENSE

LDE	55	Dee Ford	97	<u>Nick Bosa</u>	98	Ronald Blair III	92	Damontre Moore
LDT	96	Sheldon Day	93	D.J. Jones	60	<u>Kevin Givens</u>	76	<u>Jordan Thompson</u>
RDT	99	DeForest Buckner	77	Jullian Taylor	90	Jay Bromley		
RDE	91	Arik Armstead	94	Solomon Thomas	95	Kentavious Street	71	<u>Jamell Garcia-Williams</u>
							78	Jeremiah Valoaga
							45	Demetrius Flannigan-Fowles
SAM	51	Malcolm Smith	47	Elijah Lee	53	Mark Nzeocha		
MIKE	54	Fred Warner	59	David Mayo	46	<u>Azeez Al-Shaair</u>		
WILL	56	Kwon Alexander	57	<u>Dre Greenlaw</u>	50	LaRoy Reynolds		
LCB	25	Richard Sherman	48	Dontae Johnson	35	<u>Tim Harris Jr.</u>		
RCB	23	Ahkello Witherspoon	2	Jason Verrett	30	Quinten Rollins		
NB	24	K'Waun Williams	32	D.J. Reed Jr.	41	Emmanuel Moseley		
FS	27	Adrian Colbert	33	Tarvarius Moore	38	Antone Exum Jr.	20	[Jimmie Ward]
SS	29	Jaquiski Tartt	36	Marcell Harris				

## SPECIAL TEAMS

P	6	<u>Mitch Wishnowsky</u>						
K	9	Robbie Gould						
H	6	<u>Mitch Wishnowsky</u>						
PR	18	Dante Pettis	13	Richie James Jr.				
			15	[Trent Taylor]				
KOR	13	Richie James Jr.	32	D.J. Reed Jr.				
			22	Matt Breida				
LS	40	Colin Holba	86	Kyle Nelson				

PUP/Active – TE Garrett Celek, C/G Weston Richburg

Injured Reserve List – T Shon Coleman, CB Greg Mabin

Underline – rookies

Injured – [brackets]

## PRONUNCIATION GUIDE

Kwon Alexander.....	KWAUGHN	Tarvarius Moore.....	tarr-VEAR-ee-us
Azeez Al-Shaair.....	uh-ZEEZ, all-SHY-urr	Raheem Mostert.....	MOZE-tert
C.J. Beathard.....	BETH-urd	Mark Nzeocha.....	neh-ZAH-chuh
Kendrick Bourne.....	BORN	Justin Skule.....	SKOOL
Matt Breida.....	BREE-duh	Joe Staley.....	STAY-lee
DeForest Buckner.....	duh-FORE-ist	Kentavious Street.....	ken-TAY-vee-us
Garrett Celek.....	SELL-ick	Jaquiski Tartt.....	juh-KWAH-skee
Tevin Coleman.....	TEV-en	Levine Toilolo.....	luh-VEEN, toy-LOW-low
Christian DiLauro.....	dih-LAW-roh	Najee Toran.....	NAH-gee
Robbie Gould.....	GOLD	Jeremiah Valoaga.....	VAH-low-AH-guh
Colin Holba.....	HOLE-buh	K'Waun Williams.....	KAY-wahn
Jalen Hurd.....	JAY-len	Mitch Wishnowsky.....	wish-NOW-ski
Kyle Juszczyk.....	YOOZ-check	Ahkello Witherspoon.....	uh-KELL-oh

## COACHING STAFF

Kyle Shanahan.....	Head Coach
Richard Hightower.....	Special Teams Coordinator
Mike LaFleur.....	Passing Game Coordinator
Mike McDaniel.....	Run Game Coordinator
Robert Saleh.....	Defensive Coordinator
Joe Woods.....	Defensive Backs/Run Game Coordinator
Jon Embree.....	Assistant Head Coach/Tight Ends
Miles Austin.....	Offensive Quality Control
John Benton.....	Offensive Line
Daniel Bullocks.....	Safeties
Michael Clay.....	Assistant Special Teams
Shane Day.....	Quarterbacks
Taylor Embree.....	Offensive Quality Control
Brian Fleury.....	Defensive Quality Control
Johnny Holland.....	Run Game Specialist/Outside Linebackers
Chris Kiffin.....	Pass Rush Specialist
Kris Kocurek.....	Defensive Line
Stan Kwan.....	Assistant Special Teams
DeMeco Ryans.....	Inside Linebackers
Bobby Slowik.....	Offensive Assistant
Katie Sowers.....	Offensive Assistant
Robert Turner Jr.....	Running Backs
Wes Welker.....	Wide Receivers
Zach Yenser.....	Assistant Offensive Line

# 2019 SAN FRANCISCO 49ERS NUMERICAL ROSTER

AS OF AUGUST 20, 2019								
NO	PLAYER	POS	HT	WT	Age	EXP	COLLEGE	ACQUIRED
1	Shawn Poindexter	WR	6-5	213	23	R	Arizona	FA in '19
2	Jason Verrett	CB	5-10	188	28	6	Texas Christian	FA in '19
3	C.J. Beathard	QB	6-2	215	25	3	Iowa	D-3B in '17
4	Nick Mullens	QB	6-1	210	24	2	Southern Mississippi	FA in '17
5	Wilton Speight	QB	6-6	235	24	R	UCLA	FA in '19
6	Mitch Wishnowsky	P	6-2	220	27	R	Utah	D-4 in '19
7	Malik Henry	WR	6-0	190	22	R	West Georgia	FA in '19
9	Robbie Gould	K	6-0	190	36	15	Penn State	FA in '17
10	Jimmy Garoppolo	QB	6-2	225	27	6	Eastern Illinois	TR in '17 (NE)
11	Marquise Goodwin	WR	5-9	185	28	7	Texas	FA in '17
13	Richie James Jr.	WR	5-9	185	23	2	Middle Tennessee State	D-7B in '18
15	Trent Taylor	WR	5-8	180	25	3	Louisiana Tech	D-5B in '17
17	Jalen Hurd	WR	6-4	230	23	R	Baylor	D-3 in '19
18	Dante Pettis	WR	6-1	195	23	2	Washington	D-2 in '18
19	Deebo Samuel	WR	6-0	215	23	R	South Carolina	D-2 in '19
20	Jimmie Ward	DB	5-11	195	28	6	Northern Illinois	D-1 in '14
22	Matt Breida	RB	5-11	195	24	3	Georgia Southern	FA in '17
23	Ahkello Witherspoon	CB	6-3	195	24	3	Colorado	D-3A in '17
24	K'Waun Williams	CB	5-9	185	28	5	Pittsburgh	FA in '17
25	Richard Sherman	CB	6-3	205	31	9	Stanford	FA in '18
26	Tevin Coleman	RB	6-1	210	26	5	Indiana	FA in '19
27	Adrian Colbert	DB	6-2	210	25	3	Miami (FL)	D-7 in '17
28	Jerick McKinnon	RB	5-9	205	27	6	Georgia Southern	FA in '18
29	Jaquiski Tartt	S	6-1	215	27	5	Samford	D-2 in '15
30	Quinten Rollins	CB	5-11	195	27	4	Miami (OH)	FA in '19
31	Raheem Mostert	RB	5-10	205	27	5	Purdue	FA in '16
32	D.J. Reed Jr.	DB	5-9	193	22	2	Kansas State	D-5 in '18
33	Tarvarius Moore	DB	6-2	200	23	2	Southern Mississippi	D-3B in '18
33	Austin Walter	RB	5-8	190	23	R	Rice	FA in '19
35	Tim Harris Jr.	CB	6-1	205	24	R	Virginia	D-6C in '19
35	Brandon Wilds	RB	6-0	220	26	1	South Carolina	FA in '19
36	Marcell Harris	S	6-0	215	25	2	Florida	D-6 in '18
38	Antone Exum Jr.	DB	6-0	215	28	6	Virginia Tech	FA in '17
40	Colin Holba	LS	6-4	255	25	3	Louisville	FA in '18
41	Emmanuel Moseley	CB	5-11	190	23	2	Tennessee	FA in '18
41	Jeff Wilson Jr.	RB	6-0	213	23	2	North Texas	FA in '18
43	Daniel Helm	TE	6-4	255	24	R	Duke	W in '19 (LAC)
44	Kyle Juszczyk	FB	6-1	235	28	7	Harvard	FA in '17
45	Demetrius Flannigan-Fowles	LB	6-2	210	22	R	Arizona	FA in '19
46	Azeez Al-Shaair	LB	6-2	228	22	R	Florida Atlantic	FA in '19
47	Elijah Lee	LB	6-2	230	23	3	Kansas State	FA in '17
48	Dontae Johnson	CB	6-2	200	27	6	North Carolina State	FA in '19
48	Tyree Mayfield	TE	6-3	245	23	R	Wyoming	FA in '19
50	LaRoy Reynolds	LB	6-1	228	28	7	Virginia	FA in '19
51	Malcolm Smith	LB	6-0	229	30	9	Southern California	FA in '17
53	Mark Nzeocha	LB	6-3	235	29	5	Wyoming	FA in '17
54	Fred Warner	LB	6-3	230	22	2	Brigham Young	D-3A in '18
55	Dee Ford	DL	6-2	252	28	6	Auburn	TR in '19 (KC)
56	Kwon Alexander	LB	6-1	227	25	5	Louisiana State	FA in '19
57	Dre Greenlaw	LB	6-0	230	22	R	Arkansas	D-5 in '19
59	David Mayo	LB	6-2	240	26	5	Texas State	FA in '19
60	Daniel Brunskill	OL	6-5	300	25	1	San Diego State	FA in '19
60	Kevin Givens	DL	6-1	285	22	R	Penn State	FA in '19
61	Wesley Johnson	OL	6-5	305	28	6	Vanderbilt	FA in '19
62	Sam Young	T	6-8	302	32	10	Notre Dame	FA in '19
63	Ben Garland	OL	6-5	304	31	6	Air Force	FA in '19
64	Christian DiLauro	OL	6-6	300	24	1	Illinois	FA in '18
65	Joshua Garnett	G	6-5	305	25	4	Stanford	D-1B in '16
66	Najee Toran	OL	6-2	305	23	1	UCLA	FA in '18
67	Justin Skule	OL	6-6	315	22	R	Vanderbilt	D-6B in '19
68	Mike Person	OL	6-4	305	31	9	Montana State	FA in '18
69	Mike McGlinchey	T	6-8	310	24	2	Notre Dame	D-1 in '18
71	Willie Beavers	OL	6-5	324	25	2	Western Michigan	W in '19 (Chi.)
71	Jamell Garcia-Williams	DL	6-8	260	22	R	UAB	FA in '19
74	Joe Staley	T	6-5	300	34	13	Central Michigan	D-1B in '07
75	Laken Tomlinson	OL	6-3	315	27	5	Duke	TR in '17 (Det.)
76	Ross Reynolds	G	6-4	300	23	R	Iowa	FA in '19
76	Jordan Thompson	DL	6-3	292	22	R	Northwestern	FA in '19
77	Dillon Day	C/G	6-4	296	27	1	Mississippi State	FA in '19
77	Julian Taylor	DL	6-5	305	24	2	Temple	D-7A in '18
78	Jeremiah Valoaga	DL	6-6	275	24	2	UNLV	FA in '19
81	Jordan Matthews	WR	6-3	215	27	6	Vanderbilt	FA in '19
82	Ross Dwelley	TE	6-5	235	24	2	San Diego	FA in '18
83	Levine Toilolo	TE	6-8	268	28	7	Stanford	FA in '19
84	Kendrick Bourne	WR	6-1	190	24	3	Eastern Washington	FA in '17
85	George Kittle	TE	6-4	250	25	3	Iowa	D-5A in '17
86	Kyle Nelson	LS	6-2	240	32	8	New Mexico State	FA in '14
89	Kaden Smith	TE	6-5	249	22	R	Stanford	D-6A in '19
90	Jay Bromley	DL	6-3	314	27	6	Syracuse	FA in '19
91	Arik Armstead	DL	6-7	290	25	5	Oregon	D-1 in '15
92	Damontre Moore	DL	6-4	260	26	6	Texas A&M	FA in '19
93	D.J. Jones	DL	6-0	305	24	3	Mississippi	D-6A in '17
94	Solomon Thomas	DL	6-3	280	23	3	Stanford	D-1A in '17
95	Kentavius Street	DL	6-2	287	23	1	North Carolina State	D-4 in '18
96	Sheldon Day	DL	6-1	285	25	4	Notre Dame	W in '17 (Jax.)
97	Nick Bosa	DL	6-4	266	21	R	Ohio State	D-1 in '19
98	Ronald Blair III	DL	6-4	270	26	4	Appalachian State	D-5A in '16
99	DeForest Buckner	DL	6-7	295	25	4	Oregon	D-1A in '16
<b>Active/Physically Unable to Perform List</b>								
58	Weston Richburg	C/G	6-4	295	28	6	Colorado State	FA in '18
88	Garrett Celek	TE	6-5	252	31	8	Michigan State	FA in '12
<b>Injured Reserve List</b>								
30	Greg Mabin	DB	6-2	195	25	3	Iowa	FA in '17
78	Shon Coleman	T	6-5	310	27	4	Auburn	TR in '18 (Cle.)

# 2019 SAN FRANCISCO 49ERS ALPHABETICAL ROSTER

AS OF AUGUST 20, 2019								
NO	PLAYER	POS	HT	WT	Birthdate	EXP	COLLEGE	HOMETOWN
46	Al-Shaair, Azeez	LB	6-2	228	8-4-97	R	Florida Atlantic	Tampa, FL
56	Alexander, Kwon	LB	6-1	227	8-3-94	5	Louisiana State	Oxford, AL
91	Armstead, Arik	DL	6-7	290	11-15-93	5	Oregon	Elk Grove, CA
3	Beathard, C.J.	QB	6-2	215	11-16-93	3	Iowa	Franklin, TN
71	Beavers, Willie	OL	6-5	324	10-2-93	2	Western Michigan	Southfield, MI
98	Blair III, Ronald	DL	6-4	270	1-21-93	4	Appalachian State	Greensboro, GA
97	Bosa, Nick	DL	6-4	266	10-23-97	R	Ohio State	Fort Lauderdale, FL
84	Bourne, Kendrick	WR	6-1	190	8-4-95	3	Eastern Washington	Portland, OR
22	Breida, Matt	RB	5-11	195	2-28-95	3	Georgia Southern	Brandon, FL
90	Bromley, Jay	DL	6-3	314	5-28-92	6	Syracuse	Flushing, NY
60	Brunskill, Daniel	OL	6-5	300	1-27-94	1	San Diego State	Valley Center, CA
99	Buckner, DeForest	DL	6-7	295	3-17-94	4	Oregon	Honolulu, HI
27	Colbert, Adrian	DB	6-2	210	10-6-93	3	Miami (FL)	Mineral Wells, TX
26	Coleman, Tevin	RB	6-1	210	4-16-93	5	Indiana	Oak Forest, IL
77	Day, Dillon	C/G	6-4	296	10-17-91	1	Mississippi State	West Monroe, LA
96	Day, Sheldon	DL	6-1	285	7-1-94	4	Notre Dame	Indianapolis, IN
64	DiLauro, Christian	OL	6-6	300	11-11-94	1	Illinois	Uniontown, OH
82	Dwelle, Ross	TE	6-5	235	1-26-95	2	San Diego	El Dorado Hills, CA
38	Exum Jr., Antone	DB	6-0	215	2-27-91	6	Virginia Tech	Glen Allen, VA
45	Flannigan-Fowles, Demetrius	LB	6-2	210	9-4-96	R	Arizona	Tucson, AZ
55	Ford, Dee	DL	6-2	252	3-19-91	6	Auburn	Odenville, AL
71	Garcia-Williams, Jamell	DL	6-8	260	1-24-97	R	UAB	Las Vegas, NV
63	Garland, Ben	OL	6-5	304	4-6-88	6	Air Force	Grand Junction, CO
65	Garnett, Joshua	QB	6-5	305	2-21-94	4	Stanford	Puyallup, WA
10	Garoppolo, Jimmy	G	6-2	225	11-2-91	6	Eastern Illinois	Rolling Meadows, IL
60	Givens, Kevin	DL	6-1	285	3-1-97	R	Penn State	Newark, NJ
11	Goodwin, Marquise	WR	5-9	185	11-19-90	7	Texas	Rowlett, TX
9	Gould, Robbie	K	6-0	190	12-6-82	15	Penn State	Jersey Shore, PA
57	Greenlaw, Dre	LB	6-0	230	5-25-97	R	Arkansas	Fayetteville, AR
36	Harris, Marcell	S	6-0	215	6-9-94	2	Florida	Orlando, FL
35	Harris Jr., Tim	CB	6-1	205	7-31-95	R	Virginia	Richmond, VA
43	Helm, Daniel	TE	6-4	255	4-20-95	R	Duke	Chatham, IL
7	Henry, Malik	WR	6-0	190	4-16-97	R	West Georgia	Tifton, GA
40	Holba, Colin	LS	6-4	255	7-8-94	3	Louisville	Louisville, KY
17	Hurd, Jalen	WR	6-4	230	1-23-96	R	Baylor	Hendersonville, TN
13	James Jr., Richie	WR	5-9	185	9-5-95	2	Middle Tennessee State	Sarasota, FL
48	Johnson, Dontae	CB	6-2	200	12-1-91	6	North Carolina State	Pennington, NJ
61	Johnson, Wesley	OL	6-5	305	1-9-91	6	Vanderbilt	Nashville, TN
93	Jones, D.J.	DL	6-0	305	1-19-95	3	Mississippi	Piedmont, SC
44	Juszczyk, Kyle	FB	6-1	235	4-23-91	7	Harvard	Lodi, OH
85	Kittle, George	TE	6-4	250	10-9-93	3	Iowa	Norman, OK
47	Lee, Elijah	LB	6-2	230	2-8-96	3	Kansas State	Blue Springs, MO
81	Matthews, Jordan	WR	6-3	215	7-16-92	6	Vanderbilt	Madison, AL
48	Mayfield, Tyree	TE	6-3	245	10-23-95	R	Wyoming	St. Joseph, MO
59	Mayo, David	LB	6-2	240	8-18-93	5	Texas State	Scappoose, OR
69	McGlinchey, Mike	T	6-8	310	1-12-95	2	Notre Dame	Philadelphia, PA
28	McKinnon, Jerick	RB	5-9	205	5-3-92	6	Georgia Southern	Marietta, GA
92	Moore, Damontre	DL	6-4	260	9-11-92	6	Texas A&M	Rowlett, TX
33	Moore, Tarvarius	DB	6-2	200	8-16-96	2	Southern Mississippi	Quitman, MS
41	Moseley, Emmanuel	CB	5-11	190	3-25-96	2	Tennessee	Greensboro, NC
31	Mostert, Raheem	RB	5-10	205	4-9-92	5	Purdue	New Smyrna Beach, FL
4	Mullens, Nick	QB	6-1	210	3-21-95	2	Southern Mississippi	Birmingham, AL
86	Nelson, Kyle	LS	6-2	240	10-3-86	8	New Mexico State	China Springs, TX
53	Nzeocha, Mark	LB	6-3	235	1-19-90	5	Wyoming	Bavaria, Germany
68	Person, Mike	OL	6-4	305	5-17-88	9	Montana State	Glendive, MT
18	Pettis, Dante	WR	6-1	195	10-23-95	2	Washington	San Clemente, CA
1	Poindexter, Shawn	WR	6-5	213	12-13-95	R	Arizona	Glendale, AZ
32	Reed Jr., D.J.	DB	5-9	193	11-11-96	2	Kansas State	Bakersfield, CA
50	Reynolds, LaRoy	LB	6-1	228	11-3-90	7	Virginia	Norfolk, VA
76	Reynolds, Ross	G	6-4	300	9-14-95	R	Iowa	Waukee, IA
30	Rollins, Quinten	CB	5-11	195	7-15-92	4	Miami (OH)	Wilmington, OH
19	Samuel, Deebo	WR	6-0	215	1-15-96	R	South Carolina	Inman, SC
25	Sherman, Richard	CB	6-3	205	3-30-88	9	Stanford	Compton, CA
67	Skule, Justin	OL	6-6	315	11-23-96	R	Vanderbilt	Clifton, VA
89	Smith, Kaden	TE	6-5	249	4-24-97	R	Stanford	Flower Mound, TX
51	Smith, Malcolm	LB	6-0	229	7-5-89	9	Southern California	Northridge, CA
5	Speight, Wilton	QB	6-6	235	12-6-94	R	UCLA	Richmond, VA
74	Staley, Joe	T	6-5	300	8-30-84	13	Central Michigan	Rockford, MI
95	Street, Kentavious	DL	6-2	287	5-8-96	1	North Carolina State	Greenville, NC
29	Tart, Jaquiski	S	6-1	215	2-18-92	5	Samford	Mobile, AL
77	Taylor, Jullian	DL	6-5	305	1-30-95	2	Temple	Williamstown, NJ
15	Taylor, Trent	WR	5-8	180	4-30-94	3	Louisiana Tech	Shreveport, LA
94	Thomas, Solomon	DL	6-3	280	8-26-95	3	Stanford	Coppell, TX
76	Thompson, Jordan	DL	6-3	292	1-10-97	R	Northwestern	Cincinnati, OH
83	Toilolo, Levine	TE	6-8	268	7-30-91	7	Stanford	La Mesa, CA
75	Tomlinson, Laken	OL	6-3	315	2-9-92	5	Duke	Chicago, IL
66	Toran, Najee	OL	6-2	305	11-15-95	1	UCLA	Houston, TX
78	Valoaga, Jeremiah	DL	6-6	275	11-15-94	2	UNLV	Oxnard, CA
2	Verrett, Jason	CB	5-10	188	6-18-91	6	Texas Christian	Fairfield, CA
33	Walter, Austin	RB	5-8	190	8-17-96	R	Rice	Crosby, TX
20	Ward, Jimmie	DB	5-11	195	7-18-91	6	Northern Illinois	Mobile, AL
54	Warner, Fred	LB	6-3	230	11-19-96	2	Brigham Young	San Marcos, CA
35	Wilds, Brandon	RB	6-0	220	7-22-93	1	South Carolina	Blythewood, SC
24	Williams, K'Waun	CB	5-9	185	7-12-91	5	Pittsburgh	Montvale, NJ
41	Wilson Jr., Jeff	RB	6-0	213	11-16-95	2	North Texas	Elkhart, TX
6	Wisnowsky, Mitch	P	6-2	220	3-3-92	R	Utah	Perth, Australia
23	Witherspoon, Ahkello	CB	6-3	195	3-21-95	3	Colorado	Sacramento, CA
62	Young, Sam	T	6-8	302	6-24-87	10	Notre Dame	Fort Lauderdale, FL
<b>Active/Physically Unable to Perform List</b>								
88	Cefek, Garrett	TE	6-5	252	5-29-88	8	Michigan State	Cincinnati, OH
58	Richburg, Weston	C/G	6-4	295	7-9-91	6	Colorado State	Bushland, TX
<b>Injured Reserve List</b>								
78	Coleman, Shon	T	6-5	310	11-25-91	4	Auburn	Olive Branch, MS
30	Mabin, Greg	DB	6-2	195	6-25-94	3	Iowa	Fort Lauderdale, FL

# 2019 SAN FRANCISCO 49ERS POSITIONAL ROSTER

AS OF AUGUST 20, 2019

NO	PLAYER	POS	HT	WT	DOB	EXP	COLLEGE	HOMETOWN	ACQUIRED
<b>Quarterbacks (4)</b>									
3	Beathard, C.J.	QB	6-2	215	11-16-93	3	Iowa	Franklin, TN	D-3B in '17
4	Mullens, Nick	QB	6-1	210	3-21-95	2	Southern Mississippi	Birmingham, AL	FA in '17
5	Speight, Wilton	QB	6-6	235	12-6-94	R	UCLA	Richmond, VA	FA in '19
10	Garoppolo, Jimmy	QB	6-2	225	11-2-91	6	Eastern Illinois	Rolling Meadows, IL	TR in '17 (NE)
<b>Running Backs/Fullbacks (8)</b>									
22	Breida, Matt	RB	5-11	195	2-28-95	3	Georgia Southern	Brandon, FL	FA in '17
26	Coleman, Tevin	RB	6-1	210	4-16-93	5	Indiana	Oak Forest, IL	FA in '19
28	McKinnon, Jerick	RB	5-9	205	5-3-92	6	Georgia Southern	Marietta, GA	FA in '18
31	Mostert, Raheem	RB	5-10	205	4-9-92	5	Purdue	New Smyrna Beach, FL	FA in '16
33	Walter, Austin	RB	5-8	200	8-17-96	R	Rice	Crosby, TX	FA in '19
35	Wilds, Brandon	RB	6-0	220	7-22-93	1	South Carolina	Blythewood, SC	FA in '19
41	Wilson Jr., Jeff	RB	6-0	213	11-16-95	2	North Texas	Elkhart, TX	FA in '18
44	Juszczyk, Kyle	FB	6-1	235	4-23-91	7	Harvard	Lodi, OH	FA in '17
<b>Wide Receivers (10)</b>									
1	Poindexter, Shawn	WR	6-5	213	12-13-95	R	Arizona	Glendale, AZ	FA in '19
7	Henry, Malik	WR	6-0	190	4-16-97	R	West Georgia	Tifton, GA	FA in '19
11	Goodwin, Marquise	WR	5-9	185	11-19-90	7	Texas	Rowlett, TX	FA in '17
13	James Jr., Richie	WR	5-9	185	9-5-95	2	Middle Tennessee State	Sarasota, FL	D-7B in '18
15	Taylor, Trent	WR	5-8	180	4-23-94	3	Louisiana Tech	Shreveport, LA	D-5B in '17
17	Hurd, Jalen	WR	6-4	230	1-23-96	R	Baylor	Hendersonville, TX	D-3 in '19
18	Pettis, Dante	WR	6-1	195	10-23-95	2	Washington	San Clemente, CA	D-2 in '18
19	Samuel, Deebo	WR	6-0	215	1-15-96	R	South Carolina	Inman, SC	D-2 in '19
81	Matthews, Jordan	WR	6-3	215	7-16-92	6	Vanderbilt	Madison, AL	FA in '19
84	Bourne, Kendrick	WR	6-1	190	8-4-95	3	Eastern Washington	Portland, OR	FA in '17
<b>Tight Ends (6)</b>									
43	Helm, Daniel	TE	6-4	255	4-20-95	R	Duke	Chatham, IL	W in '19 (LAC)
48	Mayfield, Tyree	TE	6-3	245	10-23-95	R	Wyoming	St. Joseph, MO	FA in '19
82	Dwelle, Ross	TE	6-3	235	1-26-95	2	San Diego	El Dorado Hills, CA	FA in '18
83	Toilolo, Levine	TE	6-8	268	7-30-91	7	Stanford	La Mesa, CA	FA in '19
85	Kittle, George	TE	6-4	250	10-9-93	3	Iowa	Norman, OK	D-5A in '17
89	Smith, Kaden	TE	6-5	249	4-24-97	R	Stanford	Flower Mound, TX	D-6A in '19
<b>Offensive Line (15)</b>									
60	Brunskill, Daniel	OL	6-5	300	1-27-94	1	San Diego State	Valley Center, CA	FA in '19
61	Johnson, Wesley	OL	6-5	305	1-9-91	6	Vanderbilt	Nashville, TN	FA in '19
62	Young, Sam	T	6-8	302	6-24-87	10	Notre Dame	Fort Lauderdale, FL	FA in '19
63	Garland, Ben	OL	6-5	304	4-6-88	6	Air Force	Grand Junction, CO	FA in '19
64	DiLauro, Christian	OL	6-6	300	11-11-94	1	Illinois	Uniontown, OH	FA in '18
65	Garnett, Joshua	G	6-5	305	2-21-94	4	Stanford	Puyallup, WA	D-1B in '16
66	Toran, Najee	G	6-2	305	11-15-95	1	UCLA	Houston, TX	FA in '18
67	Skule, Justin	OL	6-6	315	11-23-96	R	Vanderbilt	Clifton, VA	D-6B in '19
68	Person, Mike	OL	6-4	305	5-17-88	9	Montana State	Glendive, MT	FA in '18
69	McGlinchey, Mike	T	6-8	310	1-12-95	2	Notre Dame	Philadelphia, PA	D-1 in '18
71	Beavers, Willie	OL	6-5	324	10-2-93	2	Western Michigan	Southfield, MI	W in '19 (Chi.)
74	Staley, Joe	T	6-5	300	8-30-84	13	Central Michigan	Rockford, MI	D-1B in '07
75	Tomlinson, Laken	OL	6-3	315	2-9-92	5	Duke	Chicago, IL	TR in '17 (Det.)
76	Reynolds, Ross	G	6-4	300	9-14-95	R	Iowa	Waukegan, IA	FA in '19
77	Day, Dillon	C/G	6-4	296	10-17-91	1	Mississippi State	West Monroe, LA	FA in '19
<b>Specialists (4)</b>									
6	Wishnowsky, Mitch	P	6-2	220	3-3-92	R	Utah	Perth, Australia	D-4 in '19
9	Gould, Robbie	K	6-0	190	12-6-82	15	Penn State	Jersey Shore, PA	FA in '17
40	Holba, Colin	LS	6-4	255	7-8-94	3	Louisville	Louisville, KY	FA in '18
86	Nelson, Kyle	LS	6-2	240	10-3-86	8	New Mexico State	Norman, OK	FA in '14
<b>Defensive Line (16)</b>									
55	Ford, Dee	DL	6-2	252	3-19-91	6	Auburn	Odenville, AL	TR in '19 (KC)
60	Givens, Kevin	DL	6-1	285	3-1-97	R	Penn State	Newark, NJ	FA in '19
71	Garcia-Williams, Jamell	DL	6-8	260	1-24-97	R	UAB	Las Vegas, NV	FA in '19
76	Thompson, Jordan	DL	6-3	292	1-10-97	R	Northwestern	Cincinnati, OH	FA in '19
77	Taylor, Jullian	DL	6-5	305	1-30-95	2	Temple	Williamstown, NJ	D-7A in '18
78	Valoaga, Jeremiah	DL	6-6	275	11-15-94	2	UNLV	Oxnard, CA	FA in '19
90	Bromley, Jay	DL	6-3	314	5-28-92	6	Syracuse	Flushing, NY	FA in '19
91	Armstead, Arik	DL	6-7	290	11-15-93	5	Oregon	Elk Grove, CA	D-1 in '15
92	Moore, Damontre	DL	6-4	260	9-11-92	6	Texas A&M	Rowlett, TX	FA in '19
93	Jones, D.J.	DL	6-0	305	1-19-95	3	Mississippi	Piedmont, SC	D-6A in '17
94	Thomas, Solomon	DL	6-3	280	8-26-95	3	Stanford	Coppell, TX	D-1A in '17
95	Street, Kentavious	DL	6-2	287	5-8-96	4	North Carolina State	Greenville, NC	D-4 in '18
96	Day, Sheldon	DL	6-1	285	7-1-94	1	Notre Dame	Indianapolis, IN	W in '17 (Jax.)
97	Bosa, Nick	DL	6-4	266	10-23-97	R	Ohio State	Fort Lauderdale, FL	D-1 in '19
98	Blair III, Ronald	DL	6-4	270	1-21-93	4	Appalachian State	Greensboro, GA	D-5A in '16
99	Buckner, DeForest	DL	6-7	295	3-17-94	4	Oregon	Honolulu, HI	D-1A in '16
<b>Linebackers (10)</b>									
45	Flannigan-Fowles, Demetrios	LB	6-2	210	9-4-96	R	Arizona	Tucson, AZ	FA in '19
46	Al-Shaair, Azeez	LB	6-2	228	8-4-97	R	Florida Atlantic	Tampa, FL	FA in '19
47	Lee, Elijah	LB	6-2	230	2-8-96	3	Kansas State	Blue Springs, MO	FA in '17
50	Reynolds, LaRoy	LB	6-1	228	11-3-90	7	Virginia	Norfolk, VA	FA in '19
51	Smith, Malcolm	LB	6-0	229	7-5-89	9	Southern California	Northridge, CA	FA in '17
53	Nzeocha, Mark	LB	6-3	235	1-19-90	5	Wyoming	Bavaria, Germany	FA in '17
54	Warner, Fred	LB	6-3	230	11-19-96	2	Brigham Young	San Marcos, CA	D-3A in '18
56	Alexander, Kwon	LB	6-1	227	8-3-94	5	Louisiana State	Oxford, AL	FA in '19
57	Greenlaw, Dre	LB	6-0	230	5-25-97	R	Arkansas	Fayetteville, AR	D-5 in '19
59	Mayo, David	LB	6-2	240	8-18-93	5	Texas State	Scappoose, OR	FA in '19
<b>Defensive Backs (15)</b>									
2	Verrett, Jason	CB	5-10	188	6-18-91	6	Texas Christian	Fairfield, CA	FA in '19
20	Ward, Jimmie	DB	5-11	195	7-18-91	6	Northern Illinois	Mobile, AL	D-1 in '14
23	Witherspoon, Ahkello	CB	6-3	195	3-21-95	3	Colorado	Sacramento, CA	D-3A in '17
24	Williams, K'Waun	CB	5-9	185	7-12-91	5	Pittsburgh	Montvale, NJ	FA in '17
25	Sherman, Richard	CB	6-3	205	3-30-88	9	Stanford	Compton, CA	FA in '18
27	Colbert, Adrian	DB	6-2	210	10-6-93	3	Miami (FL)	Mineral Wells, TX	D-7 in '17
29	Tariff, Jaquiski	S	6-1	215	2-18-92	5	Samford	Mobile, AL	D-2 in '15
30	Rollins, Quinten	CB	5-11	195	7-15-92	4	Miami (OH)	Wilmington, OH	FA in '19
32	Reed Jr., D.J.	DB	5-9	193	11-11-96	2	Kansas State	Bakersfield, CA	D-5 in '18
33	Moore, Taryarius	DB	6-2	200	8-16-96	2	Southern Mississippi	Quitman, MS	D-3B in '18
35	Harris Jr., Tim	CB	6-1	205	7-31-95	R	Virginia	Richmond, VA	D-6C in '19
36	Harris, Marcell	S	6-0	215	6-9-94	2	Florida	Orlando, FL	D-6 in '18
38	Exum Jr., Antone	DB	6-0	215	2-27-91	6	Virginia Tech	Glen Allen, VA	FA in '17
41	Moseley, Emmanuel	CB	5-11	190	3-25-96	2	Tennessee	Greensboro, NC	FA in '18
48	Johnson, Dontae	CB	6-2	200	12-1-91	6	North Carolina State	Pennington, NJ	FA in '19
<b>Active/Physically Unable to Perform List (2)</b>									
58	Richburg, Weston	C/G	6-4	295	7-9-91	6	Colorado State	Bushland, TX	FA in '18
88	Celek, Garrett	TE	6-5	252	5-29-88	8	Michigan State	Cincinnati, OH	FA in '12
<b>Injured Reserve List (2)</b>									
30	Mabin, Greg	DB	6-2	195	6-25-94	3	Iowa	Fort Lauderdale, FL	FA in '17
78	Coleman, Shon	T	6-5	310	11-25-91	4	Auburn	Olive Branch, MS	TR in '18 (Cle.)

# 2019 SAN FRANCISCO 49ERS TRANSACTIONS

- 1-2 Signed OL Christian DiLauro, TE Marcus Lucas, CB Tarvarus McFadden, WR Jordan Smallwood, OL Najee Toran and S Terrell Williams Jr. to Reserve/Future contracts.
- 1-4 Signed DL Kapron Lewis-Moore to a Reserve/Future contract.
- 1-15 Named Kris Kocurek defensive line coach.
- 1-17 Named Joe Woods defensive backs coach/passing game coordinator.
- 2-13 Released OL Garry Gilliam.
- 2-26 Placed franchise tag on K Robbie Gould.
- 2-27 Announced staff updates: Daniel Bullocks (safeties); Shane Day (quarterbacks); Wes Welker (wide receivers); Zach Yenser (assistant offensive line); Bobby Slowik (offensive assistant); Miles Austin (offensive quality control); Brian Fleury (defensive quality control); Ben Peterson (head of player health & performance); Dustin Perry (head strength & conditioning); Shea Thompson (director of performance monitoring/assistant strength & conditioning); Aaron Hill (assistant strength & conditioning); Mike Nicolini (assistant strength & conditioning).
- 3-4 Signed OL Mike Person to a three-year contract extension through the 2021 season.
- 3-7 Tendered one-year contracts to restricted free agent RB Raheem Mostert and exclusive rights free agents LB Elijah Lee and DB Greg Mabin. Exercised the 2019 contract options for FB Kyle Juszczyk, DL Cassius Marsh, LB Dekoda Watson and CB K'Waun Williams, and declined the contract option for WR Pierre Garçon.
- 3-8 Signed K Jonathan Brown to a two-year deal.
- 3-13 Acquired DL Dee Ford from the Kansas City Chiefs in exchange for an undisclosed draft choice.  
Signed LB Kwon Alexander and LS Kyle Nelson to four-year deals and declined the 2019 contract option for DL Earl Mitchell.
- 3-14 Signed RB Tevin Coleman and LB David Mayo to two-year deals and WR Jordan Matthews and CB Jason Verrett to one-year deals.  
LB Elijah Lee signed his one-year exclusive rights tender.  
Released LB Brock Coyle.
- 3-15 Re-signed LB Mark Nzeocha to a three-year deal, DB Antone Exum Jr. and DB Jimmie Ward to one-year deals and released DL Cassius Marsh.
- 3-19 Re-signed restricted free agent RB Raheem Mostert to a three-year deal and signed P Justin Vogel to a one-year deal.
- 4-5 Signed DL Damontre Moore to a one-year deal.
- 4-12 Signed OL Daniel Brunskill to a one-year deal.
- 4-15 DL Cedric Thornton was reinstated by the National Football League from the Reserve/Retired List, and subsequently added to the team's 90-man roster.  
DB Greg Mabin signed his one-year exclusive rights tender.
- 4-23 Signed OL Ben Garland to a one-year deal.
- 4-24 Exercised the fifth-year contract option on Pro Bowl DL DeForest Buckner for the 2020 season.
- 4-25 Selected DL Nick Bosa in the first round (2nd overall) of the 2019 NFL Draft.
- 4-26 Selected WR Deebo Samuel in the second round (36th overall) and WR Jalen Hurd (67th overall) in the third round of the 2019 NFL Draft.
- 4-27 Traded LB Dekoda Watson and the fourth of the 49ers four 2019 sixth-round (212th overall) draft choices to the Denver Broncos in exchange for the Broncos 2019 fifth-round (148th overall) draft choice.  
Traded the 49ers 2019 fourth-round (104th overall) draft choice to the Cincinnati Bengals in exchange for the Bengals 2019 fourth round pick (110th overall) and two sixth-round picks (183rd overall and 198th overall).  
Selected P Mitch Wishnowsky in the fourth round (110th overall), LB Dre Greenlaw in the fifth round (148th overall), TE Kaden Smith (176th overall), OL Justin Skule (183rd overall) and CB Tim Harris (198th overall) in the sixth round of the 2019 NFL Draft.
- 4-29 Waived the following seven players: WR Steven Dunbar Jr., DB Godwin Igwebuike, CB Tarvarus McFadden, LB James Onwualu, WR Jordan Smallwood, P Justin Vogel and S Terrell Williams Jr.
- 4-30 Signed P Mitch Wishnowsky to a four-year deal.
- 5-3 Signed the following 10 undrafted rookie free agents to three-year deals: LB Azeez Al-Shaair, S Demetrius Flannigan-Fowles, DL Jamell Garcia-Williams, DL Kevin Givens, S Cameron Glenn, WR Malik Henry, TE Tyree Mayfield, WR Shawn Poindexter, G Ross Reynolds and QB Wilton Speight.  
Signed 2019 Draft Picks CB Tim Harris Jr., WR Jalen Hurd, LB Dre Greenlaw, OL Justin Skule and TE Kaden Smith to four-year deals.
- 5-6 Signed LB LaRoy Reynolds to a one-year deal and RB Austin Walter to a three-year deal. Claimed OL Willie Beavers off waivers from the Chicago Bears.  
Waived RB Matthew Dayes and DL Ryan Delaire.
- 5-7 Signed OL Wesley Johnson to a one-year deal and waived TE Marcus Lucas.
- 5-15 Signed TE Levine Toilolo to a one-year deal and waived S Cameron Glenn.
- 5-16 Signed DB Alex Brown to a three-year deal and waived DL Damontre Moore.
- 5-28 Signed CB Dontae Johnson to a one-year deal and waived LB Pita Taumoepeu.  
Released OL Anthony Davis.
- 6-5 Signed T Joe Staley to a two-year contract extension through the 2021 season.
- 7-15 Signed K Robbie Gould to a four-year contract through the 2022 season.
- 7-23 Waived K Jonathan Brown.
- 7-24 Signed DL Damontre Moore to a one-year deal.
- 7-25 Waived DB Alex Brown.  
Waived/Injured OL Erik Magnuson.  
Signed 2019 Draft Picks DL Nick Bosa and WR Deebo Samuel to four-year deals.
- 7-26 Signed OL Dillon Day and TE Niles Paul to one-year deals.  
Released DL Cedric Thornton.  
Placed TE Garrett Celek, RB Jerick McKinnon, C/G Weston Richburg and DB Jimmie Ward on the Active/Physically Unable to Perform List.
- 7-27 Signed DL Jordan Thompson to a one-year deal.
- 7-30 Activated DB Jimmie Ward from the Active/Physically Unable to Perform List.
- 8-2 Claimed TE Daniel Helm off waivers from the Los Angeles Chargers and released TE Niles Paul.
- 8-3 Signed DL Jay Bromley and WR Chris Thompson to one-year deals.  
Placed DL Kapron Lewis-Moore on the Injured Reserve List and waived WR Max McCaffrey.
- 8-6 Activated RB Jerick McKinnon from the Active/Physically Unable to Perform List.
- 8-8 Signed DL Jeremiah Valoaga to a one-year deal.  
Waived WR Chris Thompson.
- 8-10 Signed RB Brandon Wilds to a one-year deal.  
Waived S Tyree Robinson.
- 8-12 Signed T Sam Young to a one-year deal.  
Placed T Shon Coleman on the Injured Reserve List.
- 8-16 Signed CB Quinten Rollins to a one-year deal.  
Waived/Injured CB Greg Mabin.

# 2019 SAN FRANCISCO 49ERS PRESEASON STATISTICS

Date	W/L	Score	Opponent	Attendance	Rushing	No	Yds	Avg	Long	TD
8/10	W	17-9	Dallas	67,052	R. Mostert	9	66	7.3	30t	1
8/19	W	24-15	at Denver	72,679	A. Walter	19	60	3.2	10	0
8/24			at Kansas City		D. Samuel	2	59	29.5	45	0
8/29			Los Angeles Chargers		J. Wilson Jr.	9	33	3.7	7	1
					B. Wilds	8	32	4.0	15	0
					T. Coleman	3	21	7.0	12	0
					M. Breida	1	4	4.0	4	0
					N. Mullens	1	0	0.0	0	0
					W. Speight	2	-2	-1.0	-1	0
					<b>49ers</b>	<b>54</b>	<b>273</b>	<b>5.1</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>2</b>
					<b>Opponents</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>168</b>	<b>3.7</b>	<b>24t</b>	<b>1</b>

Team Statistics		49ers	Opponents
<b>Total First Downs</b>		<b>33</b>	<b>38</b>
Rushing		14	9
Passing		16	17
Penalty		3	12
3rd Down: Made/Att		6/23	12/34
3rd Down Pct.		26.1%	35.3%
4th Down: Made/Att		0/0	0/3
4th Down Pct.		0.0%	0.0%
<b>Possession Avg.</b>		<b>29:20</b>	<b>30:41</b>
<b>Total Net Yards</b>		<b>617</b>	<b>509</b>
Avg. Per Game		308.5	254.5
Total Plays		115	142
Avg. Per Play		5.4	3.6
<b>Net Yards Rushing</b>		<b>273</b>	<b>168</b>
Avg. Per Game		136.5	84.0
Total Rushes		54	45
<b>Net Yards Passing</b>		<b>344</b>	<b>341</b>
Avg. Per Game		172.0	170.5
Sacked/Yards Lost		4/20	9/50
Gross Yards		364	391
Attempts/Completions		57/34	88/48
Completion Pct.		59.6%	54.5%
Had Intercepted		3	1
<b>Punts/Average</b>		<b>12/48.8</b>	<b>12/48.7</b>
<b>Net Punting Avg.</b>		<b>40.7</b>	<b>41.3</b>
<b>Penalties/Yards</b>		<b>31/317</b>	<b>14/127</b>
<b>Fumbles/Ball Lost</b>		<b>3/1</b>	<b>2/1</b>
<b>Touchdowns</b>		<b>5</b>	<b>1</b>
Rushing		2	1
Passing		3	0
Returns		0	0

Score By Periods	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	OT	Pts
49ers	0	10	14	17	0	41
Opponents	9	9	0	6	0	24

Scoring	TD	Ru	Pa	Rt	PAT	FG	2Pt	Pts
J. Hurd	2	0	2	0	0/0	0/0	0	12
R. Gould	0	0	0	0	5/5	2/2	0	11
R. Mostert	1	1	0	0	0/0	0/0	0	6
K. Bourne	1	0	1	0	0/0	0/0	0	6
J. Wilson Jr.	1	1	0	0	0/0	0/0	0	6
<b>49ers</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>5/5</b>	<b>2/2</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>41</b>
<b>Opponents</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0/0</b>	<b>6/7</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>24</b>

**2-Pt. Conversions:** 49ers 0/0, Opponents 0/1

**Sacks:** J. Valoaga 2.5, J. Bromley 2.0, K. Street 1.5, M. Harris 1.0, M. Nzeocha 1.0, L. Reynolds 1.0 **Total: 9.0, Opponents: 4.0**

**Fumbles Lost:** W. Speight 1 **Total: 1**  
**Opponent Fumble Recoveries:** A. Al-Shaair 1 **Total: 1**

Rushing	No	Yds	Avg	Long	TD
R. Mostert	9	66	7.3	30t	1
A. Walter	19	60	3.2	10	0
D. Samuel	2	59	29.5	45	0
J. Wilson Jr.	9	33	3.7	7	1
B. Wilds	8	32	4.0	15	0
T. Coleman	3	21	7.0	12	0
M. Breida	1	4	4.0	4	0
N. Mullens	1	0	0.0	0	0
W. Speight	2	-2	-1.0	-1	0
<b>49ers</b>	<b>54</b>	<b>273</b>	<b>5.1</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>Opponents</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>168</b>	<b>3.7</b>	<b>24t</b>	<b>1</b>

Receiving	No	Yds	Avg	Long	TD
R. James Jr.	7	45	6.4	14	0
A. Walter	5	32	6.4	9	0
K. Bourne	3	41	13.7	26	1
J. Hurd	3	31	10.3	20t	2
D. Samuel	2	61	30.5	45	0
R. Mostert	2	42	21.0	38	0
K. Smith	2	34	17.0	17	0
T. Mayfield	2	12	6.0	7	0
S. Poindexter	2	12	6.0	6	0
R. Dwelley	1	21	21.0	21	0
J. Matthews	1	12	12.0	12	0
L. Toilolo	1	9	9.0	9	0
J. Wilson Jr.	1	8	8.0	8	0
B. Wilds	1	4	4.0	4	0
M. Breida	1	0	0.0	0	0
<b>49ers</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>364</b>	<b>10.7</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>Opponents</b>	<b>48</b>	<b>391</b>	<b>8.1</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>0</b>

Interceptions	No	Yds	Avg	Long	TD
D. Johnson	1	0	0.0	0	0
<b>49ers</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Opponents</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>4.7</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>0</b>

Punting	No	Yds	Avg	Net	TB	In	Lg	B
M. Wishnowsky	12	585	48.8	40.7	3	5	64	0
<b>49ers</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>585</b>	<b>48.8</b>	<b>40.7</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>64</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Opponents</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>584</b>	<b>48.7</b>	<b>41.3</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>62</b>	<b>0</b>

Punt Returns	Ret	FC	Yds	Avg	Long	TD
R. James Jr.	4	2	29	7.3	10	0
D. Pettis	1	2	0	0.0	0	0
<b>49ers</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>5.8</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Opponents</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>37</b>	<b>6.2</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>0</b>

Kickoff Returns	No	Yds	Avg	Long	TD
R. James Jr.	3	105	35.0	48	0
<b>49ers</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>105</b>	<b>35.0</b>	<b>48</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Opponents</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>82</b>	<b>20.5</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>0</b>

Field Goals	1-19	20-29	30-39	40-49	50+
R. Gould	0/0	0/0	0/0	1/1	1/1
<b>49ers</b>	<b>0/0</b>	<b>0/0</b>	<b>0/0</b>	<b>1/1</b>	<b>1/1</b>
<b>Opponents</b>	<b>0/0</b>	<b>1/1</b>	<b>3/4</b>	<b>1/1</b>	<b>1/1</b>

**Gould:** (53G) (42G)  
**Opponents:** (25G, 40G, 35N, 31G) (31G, 33G, 52G)

Passing	Att	Cmp	Yds	Cmp%	Yds/Att	TD	TD%	Int	Int%	Long	Sack/Lost	Rating
C. Beathard	28	18	222	64.3%	7.9	1	3.6%	1	3.6%	45	2/11	85.7
N. Mullens	20	13	132	65.0%	6.6	2	10.0%	1	5.0%	26	1/5	96.3
W. Speight	3	2	10	66.7%	3.3	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	6	1/4	71.5
J. Garoppolo	6	1	0	16.7%	0.0	0	0.0%	1	16.7%	0	0/0	0.0
<b>49ers</b>	<b>57</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>364</b>	<b>59.6%</b>	<b>6.4</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>5.3%</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>5.3%</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>4/20</b>	<b>74.0</b>
<b>Opponents</b>	<b>88</b>	<b>48</b>	<b>391</b>	<b>54.5%</b>	<b>4.4</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0.0%</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1.1%</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>9/50</b>	<b>61.3</b>

# PRESEASON GAME 1

## DALLAS 9, SAN FRANCISCO 17

	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	Pts
Dallas	6	3	0	0	9
San Francisco	0	7	0	10	17

**DAL** – B. Maher, 25 FG (9–65, 4:30)  
**DAL** – B. Maher, 40 FG (9–64, 3:42)  
**SF** – J. Hurd, 20 pass from N. Mullens (R. Gould) (7–75, 3:20)  
**DAL** – B. Maher, 31 FG (12–59, 1:41)  
**SF** – J. Hurd, 4 pass from C. Beathard (R. Gould) (6–80, 3:09)  
**SF** – R. Gould, 53 FG (4–2, 2:38)

TEAM STATISTICS	DAL	SF
First Downs	20	18
Net Yards Gained	294	339
Rushes/Yards	18/55	25/88
Net Yards Passing	239	251
Att/Comp/INT	50/29/0	37/26/2
Sacked/Yards Lost	3/13	1/5
Punts/Average	5/47.0	6/49.5
Fumbles/Lost	1/1	0/0
Penalties/Yards	5/59	18/216
Time of Possession	26:26	33:34
3rd Down Efficiency	4/15 (27%)	4/12 (33%)

**RUSHING: COWBOYS** – M. Weber 6–18, D. Jackson 6–16, T. Pollard 4–16, J. Chunn 2–5 ... **49ERS** – A. Walter 13–38, B. Wilds 7–29, D. Samuel 1–14, R. Mostert 3–8, W. Speight 1–(–1).

**RECEIVING: COWBOYS** – B. Jarwin 4–51, D. Smith 3–54, C. Wilson 3–36, J. Johnson 3–30, J. Chunn 3–7, C. McElroy 2–24, M. Gallup 2–19, J. Guyton 2–14, D. Shultz 2–13, M. Weber 2–(–5), D. Jackson 1–5, T. Austin 1–5, D. Prescott 1–(–1) ... **49ERS** – R. James Jr. 6–31, A. Walter 5–32, J. Hurd 3–31–2 TDs, D. Samuel 2–61, S. Poindexter 2–12, T. Mayfield 2–12, R. Dwelley 1–21, K. Smith 1–17, K. Bourne 1–14, J. Matthews 1–12, L. Toilolo 1–9, B. Wilds 1–4.

**PASSING: COWBOYS** – C. Rush 26–16–142–0–0 TDs, M. White 20–9–87–0–0 TDs, D. Prescott 4–4–23–0–0 TDs ... **49ERS** – C. Beathard 17–13–141–1–1 TD, N. Mullens 17–11–105–1–1 TD, W. Speight 3–2–10–0–0 TDs.

**INTs: COWBOYS** – L. Gifford 1–13, D. Wilson 1–0 ... **49ERS** – None.

**SACKS: COWBOYS** – J. Jelks 1–5 ... **49ERS** – J. Valoaga 2–11, L. Reynolds 1–2.

**49ERS TURNOVER RATIO: –1 (DAL: 1 fumble, 0 INTs/SF: 0 fumbles, 2 INTs).**

**Weather:** Sunny  
**Temperature:** 75 degrees  
**Wind:** Northwest 20 mph  
**Playing Surface:** Grass  
**Time:** 3:13  
**Attendance:** 67,052

### Game Highlights:

- Rookie WR Jalen Hurd registered 3 repts. for 31 yds. and 2 TDs, one from QB Nick Mullens and one from QB C.J. Beathard.
- The 49ers defense held the Cowboys to 55 yds. rushing on 18 carries (3.1 avg.). DL Jeremiah Valoaga registered 2.0 sacks and LB LaRoy Reynolds added 1.0 sack and 1 FF.

# PRESEASON GAME 2

## SAN FRANCISCO 24, DENVER 15

	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	Pts
San Francisco	0	3	14	7	24
Denver	3	6	0	6	15

**DEN** – B. McManus, 31 FG (8–34, 3:16)  
**DEN** – B. McManus, 33 FG (13–57, 8:05)  
**SF** – R. Gould, 42 FG (5–42, 2:48)  
**DEN** – B. McManus, 52 FG (11–41, 2:31)  
**SF** – R. Mostert, 30 run (R. Gould) (7–70, 2:43)  
**SF** – J. Wilson Jr., 1 run (R. Gould) (6–67, 3:22)  
**SF** – K. Bourne, 1 pass from N. Mullens (R. Gould) (3–11, 1:33)  
**DEN** – K. Hogan, 24 run (run failed) (1–24, 0:08)

TEAM STATISTICS	SF	DEN
First Downs	15	18
Net Yards Gained	278	215
Rushes/Yards	29/185	27/113
Net Yards Passing	93	102
Att/Comp/INT	20/8/1	38/19/1
Sacked/Yards Lost	3/15	6/37
Punts/Average	6/48.0	7/49.9
Fumbles/Lost	3/1	1/0
Penalties/Yards	13/101	9/68
Time of Possession	25:05	34:55
3rd Down Efficiency	2/11 (18%)	8/19 (42%)

**RUSHING: 49ERS** – R. Mostert 6–58–1 TD, D. Samuel 1–45, J. Wilson Jr. 9–33–1 TD, A. Walter 6–22, T. Coleman 3–21, M. Breida 1–4, B. Wilds 1–3, N. Mullens 1–0, W. Speight 1–(–1) ... **BRONCOS** – K. Hogan 2–26–1 TD, E. Sanders 1–19, D. Booker 4–15, P. Lindsay 5–14, Da. Williams 4–12, D. Lock 2–11, T. Patrick 1–10, D. Jackson 3–6, R. Freeman 5–0.

**RECEIVING: 49ERS** – R. Mostert 2–42, K. Bourne 2–27–1 TD, K. Smith 1–17, R. James Jr. 1–14, J. Wilson Jr. 1–8, M. Breida 1–0 ... **BRONCOS** – K. McKnight 3–21, C. Sutton 2–28, J. Winfree 2–24, D. Hamilton 2–21, D. Booker 2–8, N. Fant 2–7, T. Patrick 1–12, R. Freeman 1–6, E. Sanders 1–5, T. Fumagalli 1–4, N. Williams 1–3, G. Aston 1–0.

**PASSING: 49ERS** – C. Beathard 11–5–81–0–0 TDs, J. Garoppolo 6–1–0–1–0 TDs, N. Mullens 3–2–27–0–1 TD, W. Speight 0–0–0–0–0 TDs ... **BRONCOS** – K. Hogan 15–5–40–1–0 TDs, D. Lock 12–7–40–0–0 TDs, J. Flacco 11–7–59–0–0 TDs.

**INTs: 49ERS** – D. Johnson 1–0 ... **BRONCOS** – I. Yidom 1–1.

**SACKS: 49ERS** – J. Bromley 2–12, K. Street 1.5–5, M. Harris 1–9, M. Nzeocha 1–6, J. Valoaga 0.5–5 ... **BRONCOS** – B. Chubb 1–6, D. Watson 1–5.

**49ERS TURNOVER RATIO: –1 (SF: 1 fumble, 1 INT/DEN: 0 fumbles, 1 INT).**

**Weather:** Partly Cloudy  
**Temperature:** 95 degrees  
**Wind:** North 3 mph  
**Playing Surface:** Grass  
**Time:** 3:09  
**Attendance:** 72,679

### Game Highlights:

- The 49ers defense registered 6.0 sacks and held the Broncos to 215 total net yds.
- The 49ers offense rushed for 185 yds. and 2 TDs on 29 carries (6.4 avg.). RB Raheem Mostert led the way with 6 carries for 58 yds. and 1 TD.

# 2018 SAN FRANCISCO 49ERS REGULAR SEASON STATISTICS

Date	W/L	Score	Opponent	Attendance	Rushing	No	Yds	Avg	Long	TD
9/9	L	16-24	at Minnesota	66,673	M. Breida	153	814	5.3	66t	3
9/16	W	30-27	Detroit	70,164	A. Morris	111	428	3.9	51	2
9/23	L	27-38	at Kansas City	76,023	J. Wilson Jr.	66	266	4.0	18	0
9/30	L	27-29	at Los Angeles Chargers	25,397	R. Mostert	34	261	7.7	52t	1
10/7	L	18-28	Arizona	68,337	C. Beathard	19	69	3.6	13	1
10/15	L	30-33	at Green Bay	77,642	J. Garoppolo	8	33	4.1	13	0
10/21	L	10-39	Los Angeles Rams	66,597	K. Juszczyk	8	30	3.8	12	0
10/28	L	15-18	at Arizona	61,923	G. Kittle	1	10	10.0	10	0
11/1	W	34-3	Oakland	69,592	M. Goodwin	4	9	2.3	5	0
11/12	L	23-27	New York Giants	69,409	B. Pinion	0	0	0	0	0
11/25	L	9-27	at Tampa Bay	50,436	D. Pettis	1	-2	-2.0	-2	0
12/2	L	16-43	at Seattle	69,009	N. Mullens	18	-16	-0.9	2	0
12/9	W	20-14	Denver	69,449	<b>49ers</b>	<b>423</b>	<b>1,902</b>	<b>4.5</b>	<b>66t</b>	<b>7</b>
12/16	W	26-23 (OT)	Seattle	68,836	<b>Opponents</b>	<b>444</b>	<b>1,814</b>	<b>4.1</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>13</b>
12/23	L	9-14	Chicago	70,806						
12/30	L	32-48	at Los Angeles Rams	72,161						

Team Statistics	49ers	Opponents
<b>Total First Downs</b>	<b>344</b>	<b>337</b>
Rushing	98	104
Passing	201	195
Penalty	45	38
3rd Down: Made/Att	73/193	87/216
3rd Down Pct.	37.8%	40.3%
4th Down: Made/Att	5/10	10/17
4th Down Pct.	50.0%	58.8%
<b>Possession Avg.</b>	<b>29:42</b>	<b>30:18</b>
<b>Total Net Yards</b>	<b>5,769</b>	<b>5,546</b>
Avg. Per Game	360.6	346.6
Total Plays	1,003	1,023
Avg. Per Play	5.8	5.4
<b>Net Yards Rushing</b>	<b>1,902</b>	<b>1,814</b>
Avg. Per Game	118.9	113.4
Total Rushes	423	444
<b>Net Yards Passing</b>	<b>3,867</b>	<b>3,732</b>
Avg. Per Game	241.7	233.3
Sacked/Yards Lost	48/380	37/227
Gross Yards	4,247	3,959
Attempts/Completions	532/331	542/344
Completion Pct.	62.2%	63.5%
Had Intercepted	20	2
<b>Punts/Average</b>	<b>69/43.1</b>	<b>78/43.3</b>
<b>Net Punting Avg.</b>	<b>39.1</b>	<b>39.7</b>
<b>Penalties/Yards</b>	<b>112/982</b>	<b>117/1011</b>
<b>Fumbles/Ball Lost</b>	<b>31/12</b>	<b>21/5</b>
<b>Touchdowns</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>52</b>
Rushing	7	13
Passing	26	35
Returns	2	4

Score By Periods	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	OT	Pts
49ers	62	118	99	60	3	342
Opponents	100	128	91	116	0	435

Scoring	TD	Ru	Pa	Rt	PAT	FG	2Pt	Pts
R. Gould	0	0	0	0	27/29	33/34	0	126
G. Kittle	5	0	5	0	0/0	0/0	1	32
M. Breida	5	3	2	0	0/0	0/0	0	30
D. Pettis	5	0	5	0	0/0	0/0	0	30
K. Bourne	4	0	4	0	0/0	0/0	0	24
M. Goodwin	4	0	4	0	0/0	0/0	0	24
G. Celek	2	0	2	0	0/0	0/0	0	12
A. Morris	2	2	0	0	0/0	0/0	0	12
R. James Jr.	2	0	1	1	0/0	0/0	0	12
T. Taylor	1	0	1	0	0/0	0/0	1	8
A. Exum Jr.	1	0	0	1	0/0	0/0	0	6
R. Mostert	1	1	0	0	0/0	0/0	0	6
K. Juszczyk	1	0	1	0	0/0	0/0	0	6
P. Garçon	1	0	1	0	0/0	0/0	0	6
C. Beathard	1	1	0	0	0/0	0/0	0	6
<b>49ers</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>27/29</b>	<b>33/34</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>342</b>
<b>Opponents</b>	<b>52</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>45/50</b>	<b>24/27</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>435</b>

**2-Pt. Conversions:** 49ers 2/6, Opponents 2/2

**Sacks:** 49ers: D. Buckner 12.0, R. Blair III 5.5, C. Marsh 5.5, A. Armstead 3.0, S. Day 2.0, D. Watson 2.0, A. Exum Jr. 1.0, E. Lee 1.0, M. Nzeocha 1.0, D. Reed Jr. 1.0, R. Sherman 1.0, S. Thomas 1.0, Team Sacks 1.0 **Total: 37.0 Opponents: 48.0**

Passing	Att	Cmp	Yds	Cmp%	Yds/Att	TD	TD%	Int	Int%	Long	Sack/Lost	Rating
N. Mullens	274	176	2,277	64.2%	8.3	13	4.7%	10	3.6%	85t	17/127	90.9
C. Beathard	169	102	1,252	60.4%	7.4	8	4.7%	7	4.1%	82t	18/156	81.8
J. Garoppolo	89	53	718	59.6%	8.1	5	5.6%	3	3.4%	56	13/97	90.0
<b>49ers</b>	<b>532</b>	<b>331</b>	<b>4,247</b>	<b>62.2%</b>	<b>8.0</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>4.9%</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>3.8%</b>	<b>85t</b>	<b>48/380</b>	<b>87.8</b>
<b>Opponents</b>	<b>542</b>	<b>344</b>	<b>3,959</b>	<b>63.5%</b>	<b>7.3</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>6.5%</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>0.4%</b>	<b>75t</b>	<b>37/227</b>	<b>105.4</b>

Receiving	No	Yds	Avg	Long	TD
G. Kittle	88	1,377	15.6	85t	5
K. Bourne	42	487	11.6	33	4
K. Juszczyk	30	324	10.8	56	1
D. Pettis	27	467	17.3	75t	5
M. Breida	27	261	9.7	26	2
T. Taylor	26	215	8.3	23	1
P. Garçon	24	286	11.9	25	1
M. Goodwin	23	395	17.2	67t	4
J. Wilson Jr.	12	98	8.2	24	0
R. James Jr.	9	130	14.4	53	1
A. Morris	8	73	9.1	16	0
R. Mostert	6	25	4.2	23	0
G. Celek	5	90	18.0	41t	2
R. Dwelley	2	14	7.0	8	0
V. Bolden Jr.	1	10	10.0	10	0
J. Staley	1	-5	-5.0	-5	0
<b>49ers</b>	<b>331</b>	<b>4,247</b>	<b>12.8</b>	<b>85t</b>	<b>26</b>
<b>Opponents</b>	<b>344</b>	<b>3,959</b>	<b>11.5</b>	<b>75t</b>	<b>35</b>

Interceptions	No	Yds	Avg	Long	TD
A. Exum Jr.	1	32	32.0	32t	1
J. Tartt	1	23	23.0	23	0
<b>49ers</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>55</b>	<b>27.5</b>	<b>32t</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Opponents</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>336</b>	<b>16.8</b>	<b>98t</b>	<b>3</b>

Punting	No	Yds	Avg	Net	TB	In	Lg	B
B. Pinion	68	2,973	43.7	39.1	4	22	64	1
<b>49ers</b>	<b>69</b>	<b>2,973</b>	<b>43.1</b>	<b>39.1</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>64</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Opponents</b>	<b>78</b>	<b>3,379</b>	<b>43.3</b>	<b>39.7</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>65</b>	<b>0</b>

Punt Returns	Ret	FC	Yds	Avg	Long	TD
R. James Jr.	12	10	75	6.3	23	0
T. Taylor	10	6	78	7.8	18	0
D. Pettis	9	2	27	3.0	14	0
<b>49ers</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>180</b>	<b>5.8</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Opponents</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>195</b>	<b>7.8</b>	<b>56</b>	<b>0</b>

Kickoff Returns	No	Yds	Avg	Long	TD
R. James Jr.	23	580	25.2	97t	1
D. Reed Jr.	11	332	30.2	90	0
M. Dayes	1	17	17.0	17	0
T. Taylor	1	15	15.0	15	0
<b>49ers</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>944</b>	<b>26.2</b>	<b>97t</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Opponents</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>662</b>	<b>24.5</b>	<b>84</b>	<b>0</b>

Field Goals	1-19	20-29	30-39	40-49	50+
R. Gould	0/0	9/9	13/13	9/10	2/2
<b>49ers</b>	<b>0/0</b>	<b>9/9</b>	<b>13/13</b>	<b>9/10</b>	<b>2/2</b>
<b>Opponents</b>	<b>0/0</b>	<b>7/7</b>	<b>9/10</b>	<b>6/7</b>	<b>2/3</b>

**Gould:** (42G, 33G, 22G) (45G, 42G, 36G) (39G, 35G) (21G, 33G) (45N) (46G, 44G, 43G) (51G) (27G, 20G) (39G, 25G) (53G, 36G, 30G) (23G) (45G) (40G, 29G) (28G, 33G, 45G, 36G) (33G, 30G, 23G) (30G) **Opponents:** (48G) (27G, 43G) (37G) (54N, 48G, 25G, 21G) () (29G, 39G, 51G, 27G) (35G, 37G, 37G) (31G) (37G, 45N) (20G, 31G) (41G, 39G) (40G) () (48G) (37N) (28G, 51G)

**Fumbles Lost:** C. Beathard 3, K. Juszczyk 2, J. Wilson Jr. 2, M. Breida 1, R. James Jr. 1, A. Morris 1, R. Mostert 1, D. Reed Jr. 1 **Total: 12**  
**Opponent Fumble Recoveries:** D. Buckner 1, G. Mabin 1, C. Marsh 1, R. Sherman 1, F. Warner 1 **Total: 5**

# 2018 DEFENSIVE & SPECIAL TEAMS STATISTICS

## DEFENSIVE STATISTICS

PLAYER	TACKLES			For Loss	Quarterback				FF	FR
	Total	Solo	Ast		Sacks	INT	PD	FF		
F. Warner	123	84	39	3	0.0	0	6	1	1	
D. Buckner	67	44	23	17	12.0	0	3	0	1	
E. Lee	62	51	11	3	1.0	0	2	1	0	
A. Armstead	48	33	15	6	3.0	0	0	0	0	
K. Williams	45	40	5	3	0.0	0	2	0	0	
J. Tartt	41	31	10	4	0.0	1	2	0	0	
A. Witherspoon	37	30	7	0	0.0	0	4	0	0	
R. Sherman	37	30	7	3	1.0	0	4	0	1	
D. Reed Jr.	37	28	9	3	1.0	0	0	1	0	
A. Exum Jr.	37	32	5	2	1.0	1	7	1	0	
C. Marsh	37	26	11	7	5.5	0	0	0	1	
R. Blair III	36	24	12	10	5.5	0	0	0	0	
M. Smith	35	22	13	3	0.0	0	1	0	0	
S. Thomas	31	24	7	3	1.0	0	0	0	0	
M. Harris	31	22	9	4	0.0	0	0	0	0	
R. Foster	29	25	4	3	0.0	0	1	0	0	
E. Mitchell	28	17	11	2	0.0	0	0	0	0	
J. Ward	23	18	5	0	0.0	0	0	0	0	
A. Colbert	20	14	6	0	0.0	0	1	0	0	
T. Moore	19	16	3	0	0.0	0	2	1	0	
M. Nzeocha	17	12	5	1	1.0	0	1	1	0	
D. Jones	17	11	6	1	0.0	0	0	0	0	
S. Day	11	9	2	2	2.0	0	2	0	0	
G. Mabin	11	9	2	0	0.0	0	1	1	1	
J. Taylor	7	4	3	0	0.0	0	0	0	0	
B. Coyle	6	4	2	0	0.0	0	0	0	0	
D. Watson	6	4	2	1	2.0	0	0	1	0	
T. Powell	5	5	0	0	0.0	0	0	1	0	
P. Taumoepeanu	1	1	0	0	0.0	0	0	0	0	
Team Sacks	0	0	0	0	1.0	0	0	0	0	
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>904</b>	<b>670</b>	<b>234</b>	<b>81</b>	<b>37.0</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>39</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>5</b>	

## SACKS (37.0)

**D. Buckner (12.0)** – 2.5 at Min., 1.0 vs. Det., 1.0 at GB, 1.0 vs. Oak., 0.5 vs. NYG, 1.0 at TB, 2.0 at Sea., 2.0 vs. Sea., 1.0 vs. Chi.

**R. Blair III (5.5)** – 0.5 at Min., 1.0 at GB, 1.0 at Arz., 1.0 vs. Oak., 1.0 at Sea., 1.0 vs. Den.

**C. Marsh (5.5)** – 1.0 vs. Arz., 2.5 vs. Oak., 2.0 vs. Chi.

**A. Armstead (3.0)** – 1.0 at KC, 1.0 vs. LAR, 1.0 at Arz.

**S. Day (2.0)** – 1.0 at LAC, 1.0 at GB

**D. Watson (2.0)** – 1.5 vs. Oak., 0.5 vs. NYG

**A. Exum Jr. (1.0)** – 1.0 at KC

**E. Lee (1.0)** – 1.0 vs. Det.

**M. Nzeocha (1.0)** – 1.0 vs. Sea.

**D. Reed Jr. (1.0)** – 1.0 vs. Den.

**R. Sherman (1.0)** – 1.0 at Arz.

**S. Thomas (1.0)** – 1.0 vs. Oak.

**Team Sacks (1.0)** – 1.0 vs. Oak.

## INTERCEPTIONS (2)

**A. Exum Jr. (1)** – 1–32t at LAC

**J. Tartt (1)** – 1–23 at Arz.

## SINGLE-GAME BESTS

**Tackles:** 14 by Fred Warner at LAR

**Tackles For Loss:** 4.0 by DeForest Buckner vs. Sea.

**Sacks:** 2.5, two times, last by Cassius Marsh vs. Oak.

**Interceptions:** 1, two times, last by Jaquiski Tartt at Arz.

**Passes Defensed:** 3 by Antone Exum Jr. at LAC

**Forced Fumbles:** 1, nine times, last by Tarvarius Moore vs. Chi.

**Fumble Recoveries:** 1, four times, last by DeForest Buckner & Greg Mabin vs. Chi.

**Special Teams Tackles:** 4 by Raheem Mostert vs. Det.

## SPECIAL TEAMS

PLAYER	Tot	Solo	Ast	FF	FR
R. Mostert	7	6	1	0	0
M. Nzeocha	7	6	1	0	0
G. Mabin	6	4	2	0	0
T. Moore	5	4	1	0	0
G. Celek	5	5	0	0	0
M. Harris	5	2	3	0	0
A. Exum Jr.	3	3	0	0	0
D. Reed Jr.	3	3	0	0	0
E. Lee	2	2	0	0	1
M. Dayes	2	2	0	0	0
P. Taumoepeanu	2	2	0	0	0
R. Dwelley	2	1	1	0	0
J. Onwualu	2	2	0	1	0
F. Warner	2	2	0	0	0
C. Marsh	1	1	0	0	0
K. Juszczyk	1	0	1	0	0
T. Garvin	1	0	1	0	0
C. Wick	1	1	0	0	0
B. Pinion	1	1	0	0	0
T. Powell	1	1	0	0	0
A. Colbert	1	1	0	0	0
J. Ward	1	1	0	1	0
E. Moseley	1	1	0	0	0
J. Tartt	1	1	0	0	0
R. James Jr.	1	1	0	0	1
J. Wilson Jr.	1	1	0	0	0
G. Igwebuike	1	1	0	0	0
T. Taylor	0	0	0	0	1
A. Witherspoon	0	0	0	0	1
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>66</b>	<b>55</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>4</b>

## TOUCHDOWNS (1)

**R. James Jr. (1)** – 97-yd. KOR vs. Sea.

# 2018 49ERS OFFENSIVE GAME-BY-GAME TEAM STATISTICS

	@Min	Det	@KC	@LAC	Arz	@GB	LAR	@Arz	Oak	NYG	@TB	@Sea	Den	Sea	Chi	@LAR	Totals
<b>First Downs</b>																	
Total	20	23	26	22	33	18	16	16	18	24	23	24	24	20	15	22	<b>344</b>
Rushing	6	6	11	5	9	9	8	5	6	6	9	4	3	2	4	5	<b>98</b>
Passing	10	13	12	13	22	8	8	9	10	14	12	18	15	13	11	13	<b>201</b>
Penalty	4	4	3	4	2	1	0	2	2	4	2	2	6	5	0	4	<b>45</b>

<b>Third Down</b>																	
Conversions	5	3	2	5	10	2	3	5	5	8	1	7	4	3	7	3	<b>73</b>
Attempts	13	11	9	12	17	9	11	14	12	13	8	16	13	10	14	11	<b>193</b>
Percentage	38.5	27.3	22.2	41.7	58.8	22.2	27.3	35.7	41.7	61.5	12.5	43.8	30.8	30.0	50.0	27.3	<b>37.8</b>

<b>4th Down</b>																	
Conversions	0	0	2	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	<b>5</b>
Attempts	0	0	2	0	2	0	1	0	0	0	0	2	1	0	1	1	<b>10</b>

<b>Time of Possession</b>																	
49ers	28:51	29:34	29:59	27:34	40:12	28:52	27:09	32:19	28:34	34:14	25:51	32:30	30:41	29:40	24:30	28:10	<b>29:42</b>

<b>Total Net Yards</b>																	
Plays	61	60	63	59	92	55	58	63	54	68	60	74	66	58	54	58	<b>1,003</b>
Yards	327	346	406	364	447	401	228	267	405	374	342	452	389	351	279	391	<b>5,769</b>
Average	5.4	5.8	6.4	6.2	4.9	7.3	3.9	4.2	7.5	5.5	5.7	6.1	5.9	6.1	5.2	6.7	<b>5.8</b>

<b>Rushing</b>																	
Attempts	25	28	29	21	34	30	24	31	32	29	24	23	30	26	15	22	<b>423</b>
Yards	90	190	178	76	147	174	107	107	143	124	148	66	84	94	47	127	<b>1,902</b>
Average	3.6	6.8	6.1	3.6	4.3	5.8	4.5	3.5	4.5	4.3	6.2	2.9	2.8	3.6	3.1	5.8	<b>4.5</b>

<b>Passing</b>																	
Net	237	156	228	288	300	227	121	160	262	250	194	386	305	257	232	264	<b>3,867</b>
Sacks	3	6	4	1	4	2	7	4	0	0	4	3	3	3	1	3	<b>48</b>
Yards	24	50	23	10	49	18	49	30	0	0	27	28	27	18	9	18	<b>380</b>
Gross	261	206	251	298	349	245	170	190	262	250	221	414	332	275	241	282	<b>4,247</b>
Attempts	33	26	30	37	54	23	27	28	22	39	32	48	33	29	38	33	<b>532</b>
Completions	15	18	20	23	34	16	15	14	16	27	18	30	20	20	22	23	<b>331</b>
Percentage	45.5	69.2	66.7	62.2	63.0	69.6	55.6	50.0	72.7	69.2	56.3	62.5	60.6	69.0	57.9	69.7	<b>62.2</b>
Interceptions	3	0	0	2	2	1	2	0	0	2	2	1	1	0	1	3	<b>20</b>

<b>Punting</b>																	
Number	4	5	4	5	4	3	5	7	3	3	6	5	5	4	4	2	<b>69</b>
Average	43.5	45.4	37.0	47.0	44.3	42.0	32.0	40.7	54.7	44.3	43.3	40.4	42.0	48.0	45.3	49.5	<b>43.1</b>
Net	41.8	43.2	35.8	30.6	39.3	40.0	24.8	40.7	48.0	42.0	42.3	41.2	34.0	41.0	45.3	44.0	<b>39.1</b>

<b>Penalties</b>																	
Number	3	9	14	4	9	2	2	5	3	10	8	13	11	8	6	5	<b>112</b>
Yards	21	86	147	29	65	10	10	59	23	97	68	128	87	66	45	41	<b>982</b>

<b>Fumbles</b>																	
Number	3	1	3	2	4	2	3	2	1	0	1	3	3	1	0	1	<b>30</b>
Lost	1	0	0	0	3	2	2	0	0	0	0	2	0	1	0	1	<b>12</b>

<b>Red Zone</b>																	
Number	4	5	3	4	3	1	2	2	4	4	2	4	2	3	3	5	<b>51</b>
Touchdowns	1	2	2	1	3	1	1	0	2	2	1	1	1	0	0	3	<b>21</b>
Field Goals	2	3	1	2	0	0	0	2	2	2	1	0	1	3	3	1	<b>23</b>

<b>Touchdowns</b>																	
Rushing	0	1	1	0	1	1	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	<b>7</b>
Passing	1	2	2	2	2	2	1	1	3	1	1	2	2	1	0	3	<b>26</b>
Returns	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	<b>2</b>

# 2018 49ERS DEFENSIVE GAME-BY-GAME TEAM STATISTICS

	@Min	Det	@KC	@LAC	Arz	@GB	LAR	@Arz	Oak	NYG	@TB	@Sea	Den	Sea	Chi	@LAR	Totals
<b>First Downs</b>																	
Total	19	25	31	21	10	26	20	20	14	17	25	21	22	18	20	28	<b>337</b>
Rushing	3	5	9	6	4	8	10	3	5	3	9	8	8	5	6	12	<b>104</b>
Passing	15	17	15	14	5	17	10	15	9	10	15	7	9	12	12	13	<b>195</b>
Penalty	1	3	7	1	1	1	0	2	0	4	1	6	5	1	2	3	<b>38</b>

<b>Third Down</b>																	
Conversions	7	7	7	4	2	4	5	6	3	5	7	4	2	9	5	10	<b>87</b>
Attempts	17	16	11	14	12	13	12	14	12	12	13	9	15	19	11	16	<b>216</b>
Percentage	41.2	43.8	63.6	28.6	16.7	30.8	41.7	42.9	25.0	41.7	53.8	44.4	13.3	47.4	45.5	62.5	<b>40.3</b>

<b>4th Down</b>																	
Conversions	0	0	1	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	5	1	1	0	<b>10</b>
Attempts	1	1	1	1	0	2	0	0	1	0	0	0	7	1	1	1	<b>17</b>

<b>Time of Possession</b>																	
Opponents	31:09	30:26	30:01	32:26	19:48	31:08	32:51	27:41	31:26	25:46	34:09	27:30	29:19	37:14	35:30	31:50	<b>30:18</b>

<b>Total Net Yards</b>																	
Plays	71	73	68	67	49	70	61	64	55	55	70	49	71	69	60	71	<b>1,023</b>
Yards	343	427	384	368	220	521	331	321	242	277	412	331	274	385	325	377	<b>5,538</b>
Average	4.8	5.8	5.6	5.5	4.5	7.4	5.4	5.0	4.4	5.0	5.9	6.8	3.9	5.6	5.4	5.3	<b>5.4</b>

<b>Rushing</b>																	
Attempts	32	18	28	27	23	21	35	21	23	23	31	29	27	35	28	42	<b>443</b>
Yards	116	98	77	126	56	116	146	88	102	97	108	168	103	168	90	155	<b>1,814</b>
Average	3.6	5.4	2.8	4.7	2.4	5.5	4.2	4.2	4.4	4.2	3.5	5.8	3.8	4.8	3.2	3.7	<b>4.1</b>

<b>Passing</b>																	
Net	227	329	307	242	164	405	193	233	140	180	304	163	171	217	235	222	<b>3,732</b>
Sacks	3	2	2	1	1	3	1	3	8	1	1	3	2	3	3	0	<b>37</b>
Yards	17	18	7	8	6	20	9	19	39	8	8	22	15	20	11	0	<b>227</b>
Gross	244	347	314	250	170	425	202	252	179	188	312	185	186	237	246	222	<b>3,959</b>
Attempts	36	53	38	39	25	46	24	40	24	31	38	17	42	31	29	29	<b>542</b>
Completions	20	34	24	25	10	25	18	23	17	19	29	11	24	23	25	17	<b>344</b>
Percentage	55.6	64.2	63.2	64.1	40.0	54.3	75.0	57.5	70.8	61.3	76.3	64.7	57.1	74.2	86.2	58.6	<b>63.5</b>
Interceptions	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	<b>2</b>

<b>Punting</b>																	
Number	6	5	2	4	8	4	4	5	6	5	5	4	6	8	3	3	<b>78</b>
Average	38.3	42.2	43.5	43.5	39.6	38.8	30.5	45.8	37.5	47.6	46.0	49.8	47.8	53.3	39.7	43.3	<b>43.3</b>
Net	36.0	39.4	43.0	42.3	39.3	33.8	29.0	39.4	36.5	42.8	44.8	46.5	40.2	44.5	33.0	43.3	<b>39.7</b>

<b>Penalties</b>																	
Number	7	10	6	5	5	6	1	9	6	8	9	10	11	14	4	6	<b>117</b>
Yards	52	105	48	49	46	54	10	62	40	78	70	100	62	148	30	57	<b>1,011</b>

<b>Fumbles</b>																	
Number	1	1	2	1	1	0	1	1	4	0	0	0	4	1	2	2	<b>21</b>
Lost	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	<b>5</b>

<b>Red Zone</b>																	
Number	2	4	6	5	2	6	7	3	1	4	2	4	2	2	3	5	<b>58</b>
Touchdowns	1	2	5	2	2	3	4	2	0	2	2	3	2	2	2	4	<b>38</b>
Field Goals	0	2	1	2	0	2	3	1	1	2	0	1	0	0	0	1	<b>16</b>

<b>Touchdowns</b>																	
Rushing	0	0	2	0	2	1	2	0	0	0	1	1	1	1	1	1	<b>13</b>
Passing	2	3	3	3	1	2	2	2	0	3	2	4	1	2	1	4	<b>35</b>
Returns	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	<b>4</b>

# 2018 SAN FRANCISCO 49ERS TEAM HIGHS & LOWS

## SAN FRANCISCO 49ERS

	<b>Bests/Highs</b>	<b>Opponent</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Worsts/Lows</b>	<b>Opponent</b>	<b>Date</b>
First Downs	33	vs. Arizona	10/7/18	15	vs. Chicago	12/23/18
Third-Down %	8-13-62%	vs. New York Giants	11/12/18	1-8-13%	at Tampa Bay	11/25/18
Total Net Yards	452	at Seattle	12/2/18	228	vs. Los Angeles Rams	10/21/18
Offensive Plays	92	vs. Arizona	10/7/18	54	2 times, last vs. Chi.	12/23/18
Avg. Per Play	7.5	vs. Oakland	11/1/18	3.9	vs. Los Angeles Rams	10/21/18
Rushing Yards	190	vs. Detroit	9/16/18	47	vs. Chicago	12/23/18
Rushes	34	vs. Arizona	10/7/18	15	vs. Chicago	12/23/18
Rushing Avg.	6.8	vs. Detroit	9/16/18	2.8	vs. Denver	12/9/18
Net Passing Yards	386	at Seattle	12/2/18	121	vs. Los Angeles Rams	10/21/18
Completions	34	vs. Arizona	10/7/18	14	at Arizona	10/28/18
Attempts	54	vs. Arizona	10/7/18	22	vs. Oakland	11/1/18
Completions %	72.7	vs. Oakland	11/1/18	45.5	at Minnesota	9/9/18
Avg. Gain Per Passing Play	11.9	vs. Oakland	11/1/18	3.6	vs. Los Angeles Rams	10/21/18
Interceptions Thrown	0	5 times, last vs. Sea.	12/16/18	3	2 times, last at LAR	12/30/18
Fumbles Lost	0	9 times, last vs. Chi.	12/23/18	3	vs. Arizona	10/7/18
Turnovers	0	4 times, last vs. Oak.	11/1/18	5	vs. Arizona	10/7/18
Penalties	2	2 times, last vs. LAR	10/21/18	14	at Kansas City	9/23/18
Penalty Yards	10	2 times, last vs. LAR	10/21/18	147	at Kansas City	9/23/18
Gross Punting Avg.	54.7	vs. Oakland	11/1/18	32.0	vs. Los Angeles Rams	10/21/18
Net Punting Avg.	48.0	vs. Oakland	11/1/18	24.8	vs. Los Angeles Rams	10/21/18
Time of Poss.	40:12	vs. Arizona	10/7/18	24:30	vs. Chicago	12/23/18

## OPPONENTS

	<b>Worsts/Lows</b>	<b>Opponent</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Bests/Highs</b>	<b>Opponent</b>	<b>Date</b>
First Downs	10	vs. Arizona	10/7/18	31	at Kansas City	9/23/18
Third-Down %	2-15-13%	vs. Denver	12/9/18	7-11-64%	at Kansas City	9/23/18
Total Net Yards	220	vs. Arizona	10/7/18	521	at Green Bay	10/15/18
Offensive Plays	49	2 times, last at Sea.	12/2/18	73	vs. Detroit	9/16/18
Avg. Per Play	3.9	vs. Denver	12/9/18	7.4	at Green Bay	10/15/18
Rushing Yards	56	vs. Arizona	10/7/18	168	2 times, last vs. Sea.	12/16/18
Rushes	18	vs. Detroit	9/16/18	42	at Los Angeles Rams	12/30/18
Rushing Avg.	2.4	vs. Arizona	10/7/18	5.8	at Seattle	12/2/18
Net Passing Yards	140	vs. Oakland	11/1/18	405	at Green Bay	10/15/18
Completions	10	vs. Arizona	10/7/18	34	vs. Detroit	9/16/18
Attempts	17	at Seattle	12/2/18	53	vs. Detroit	9/16/18
Completions %	40.0	vs. Arizona	10/7/18	86.2	vs. Chicago	12/23/18
Avg. Gain Per Passing Play	3.9	vs. Denver	12/9/18	8.3	at Green Bay	10/15/18
Interceptions Thrown	1	2 times, last at Arz.	10/28/18	0	14 times, last at LAR	12/30/18
Fumbles Lost	2	vs. Chicago	12/23/18	0	12 times, last at LAR	12/30/18
Turnovers	2	2 times, last vs. Chi.	12/23/18	0	11 times, last at LAR	12/30/18
Penalties	14	vs. Seattle	12/16/18	1	vs. Los Angeles Rams	10/21/18
Penalty Yards	148	vs. Seattle	12/16/18	10	vs. Los Angeles Rams	10/21/18
Gross Punting Avg.	30.5	vs. Los Angeles Rams	10/21/18	53.3	vs. Seattle	12/16/18
Net Punting Avg.	29.0	vs. Los Angeles Rams	10/21/18	46.5	at Seattle	12/2/18
Time of Poss.	19:48	vs. Arizona	10/7/18	37:14	vs. Seattle	12/16/18

# 2018 SAN FRANCISCO 49ERS INDIVIDUAL HIGHS

Long Plays		Player	Opponent	Date
Longest Run (yards)	66t	Matt Breida	vs. Detroit	9/16/18
Longest TD Run (yards)	66t	Matt Breida	vs. Detroit	9/16/18
Longest Pass Completion (yards)	85t	Nick Mullens—George Kittle	vs. Denver	12/9/18
Longest TD Pass (yards)	85t	Nick Mullens—George Kittle	vs. Denver	12/9/18
Longest Punt Return (yards)	23	Richie James Jr.	vs. New York Giants	11/12/18
Longest Kickoff Return (yards)	97t	Richie James Jr.	vs. Seattle	12/16/18
Longest Interception Return (yards)	32t	Antone Exum Jr.	at Los Angeles Chargers	9/30/18
Longest Punt (yards)	64	Bradley Pinion	vs. Oakland	11/1/18
Longest Field Goal (yards)	53	Robbie Gould	vs. New York Giants	11/12/18

Single-Game Highs		Player	Opponent	Date
Most Points Scored	14	Robbie Gould	vs. Seattle	12/16/18
Most Touchdowns	2	Three times, most recently Dante Pettis	at Seattle	12/2/18
Most Field Goals Attempted	4	Robbie Gould	vs. Seattle	12/16/18
Most Field Goals Made	4	Robbie Gould	vs. Seattle	12/16/18
Most Rushing Yards	138	Matt Breida	vs. Detroit	9/16/18
Most Rushing Attempts	23	Jeff Wilson Jr.	vs. Denver	12/9/18
Highest Rushing Avg. (Min. 10 att.)	12.5	Matt Breida	vs. Detroit	9/16/18
Most Pass Completions	34	C.J. Beathard	vs. Arizona	10/7/18
Most Pass Attempts	54	C.J. Beathard	vs. Arizona	10/7/18
Most Gross Passing Yards	414	Nick Mullens	at Seattle	12/2/18
Highest Avg. Yards/Per Att. (Min. 10 att.)	11.9	Nick Mullens	vs. Oakland	11/1/18
Fewest Interceptions Thrown (Min. 10 att.)	0	Five times, most recently Nick Mullens	vs. Seattle	12/16/18
Fewest Times Sacked (Min. 10 att.)	0	Two times, most recently Nick Mullens	vs. New York Giants	11/12/18
Most Receptions	9	Two times, most recently George Kittle	at Los Angeles Rams	12/30/18
Most Receiving Yards	210	George Kittle	vs. Denver	12/9/18
Most Punt Returns	3	Three times, most recently Trent Taylor	vs. Seattle	12/16/18
Most Punt Return Yardage	32	Richie James Jr.	at Arizona	10/28/18
Most Kickoff Returns	4	Four times, most recently Richie James Jr.	at Seattle	12/2/18
Most Kickoff Return Yardage	159	D.J. Reed Jr.	vs. Detroit	9/16/18
Most Interceptions	1	Two times, most recently Jaquiski Tartt	at Arizona	10/28/18
Most Interception Return Yardage	32	Antone Exum Jr.	at Los Angeles Chargers	9/30/18
Most Tackles	14	Fred Warner	at Los Angeles Rams	12/30/18
Most Sacks	2.5	Two times, most recently Cassius Marsh	vs. Oakland	11/1/18

# 2018 SAN FRANCISCO 49ERS TURNOVER BREAKDOWN

## TAKEAWAYS

Date	Opponent	Turnover	Starting L.O.S.	Point of Turnover	Resulting L.O.S.	Qtr.	Result (pts)
9/9	at Min.	F. Warner FF (R. Sherman FR)	MIN 48	SF 37	SF 29	2	Fumble (0)
9/16	vs. Det.	E. Lee FF (C. Marsh FR)	DET 26	DET 18	DET 16	2	Field Goal (3)
9/23	at KC	None					
9/30	at LAC	A. Exum Jr. INT (P. Rivers)	LAC 25	LAC 32	End zone	1	Touchdown (7)
10/7	vs. Arz.	None					
10/15	at GB	None					
10/21	vs. LAR	None					
10/28	at Arz.	J. Tartt INT (J. Rosen)	ARZ 25	ARZ 35	ARZ 12	2	Field Goal (3)
		T. Powell FF (F. Warner FR)	ARZ 40	SF 47	SF 39	4	Punt (0)
11/1	vs. Oak.	None					
11/12	vs. NYG	None					
11/25	at TB	None					
12/2	at Sea.	None					
12/9	vs. Den.	None					
12/16	vs. Sea.	None					
12/23	vs. Chi.	D. Buckner FR	CHI 34	CHI 30	CHI 26	2	Field Goal (3)
		T. Moore FF (G. Mabin FR)	SF 44	SF 34	SF 24	4	Downs (0)
12/30	at LAR	None					

**Regular Season Totals:** 7 takeaways resulted in 16 points

L.O.S. – Line of scrimmage

\* – Red zone play

ST – Special teams play

(TB) – Touchback

# 2018 SAN FRANCISCO 49ERS TURNOVER BREAKDOWN

## GIVEAWAYS

Date	Opponent	Turnover	Starting L.O.S.	Point of Turnover	Resulting L.O.S.	Qtr.	Result (pts)
9/9	at Min.	A. Morris FUMBLE (L. Joseph FF)	MIN 1*	MIN 1	MIN 2	2	Halftime (0)
		J. Garoppolo INT (M. Hughes)	SF 20	SF 28	End zone	3	Touchdown (7)
		J. Garoppolo INT (X. Rhodes)	SF 31	SF 41	SF 38	4	Punt (0)
		J. Garoppolo INT (H. Smith)	SF 11	SF 29	SF 15	4	Downs (0)
9/16	vs. Det.	None					
9/23	at KC	None					
9/30	at LAC	C. Beathard INT (T. Williams)	LAC 8*	LAC 2	SF 12	3	Field Goal (3)
		C. Beathard INT (I. Rochell)	SF 31	SF 23	SF 19	4	End of Game (0)
10/7	vs. Arz.	C. Beathard INT (T. Boston)	SF 30	ARZ 48	SF 43	1	Punt (0)
		R. Mostert FUMBLE (R. Gunter FF)	ARZ 40	ARZ 39	SF 18	2	Touchdown (7)
		C. Beathard FUMBLE (C. Jones FF)	ARZ 39	ARZ 46	ARZ 46	3	Punt (0)
		C. Beathard FUMBLE (H. Reddick FF)	SF 41	SF 33	End zone	4	Touchdown (7)
		C. Beathard INT (B. Benwikere)	SF 27	SF 47	SF 26	4	Touchdown (7)
10/15	at GB	D. Reed Jr. FUMBLE (R. Greene FF) (ST)	GB 35	SF 33	SF 34	1	Field Goal (3)
		K. Juszczyk FUMBLE (H. Clinton-Dix FF)	SF 20	SF 41	SF 44	2	Field Goal (3)
		C. Beathard INT (K. King)	GB 46	GB 10	GB 10	4	Field Goal (3)
10/21	vs. LAR	C. Beathard FUMBLE (S. Ebukam FF)	SF 45	SF 42	SF 44	1	Field Goal (3)
		M. Breida FUMBLE (A. Donald FF)	SF 20	SF 21	SF 21	1	Touchdown (7)
		C. Beathard INT (T. Hill)	SF 49	LAR 33	LAR 40	2	Touchdown (7)
		C. Beathard INT (J. Johnson)	SF 34	SF 38	SF 27	3	Touchdown (7)
10/28	at Arz.	None					
11/1	vs. Oak.	None					
11/12	vs. NYG	N. Mullens INT (B. Goodson)	SF 6	SF 17	SF 12	1	Touchdown (7)
		N. Mullens INT (B. Goodson)	NYG 49	NYG 43	NYG 46	4	Punt (0)
11/25	at TB	N. Mullens INT (R. Smith)	TB 26	End zone	TB 20	4	Punt (0)
		N. Mullens INT (I. Johnson)	TB 27	TB 7	TB 14	4	End of Game (0)
12/2	at Sea.	J. Wilson Jr. FUMBLE (B. Wagner FF)	SEA 14*	SEA 5	SEA 14	2	Punt (0)
		R. James Jr. FUMBLE (ST)	SEA 14	SF 30	SF 33	2	Touchdown (7)
		N. Mullens INT (B. Wagner)	SEA 5*	SEA 2	End zone	4	Touchdown (6)
12/9	vs. Den.	N. Mullens INT (D. Stewart)	DEN 45	DEN 41	DEN 41	4	Downs (0)
12/16	vs. Sea.	J. Wilson Jr. FUMBLE (B. McDougald FF)	SF 46	SEA 40	SEA 41	1	Punt (0)
12/23	vs. Chi.	N. Mullens INT (D. Trevathan)	CHI 20	CHI 14	CHI 14	4	Fumble (0)
12/30	at LAR	K. Juszczyk FUMBLE (M. Barron)	LAR 49	LAR 49	SF 7	1	Touchdown (7)
		N. Mullens INT (C. Littleton)	SF 25	SF 35	SF 13	1	Touchdown (7)
		N. Mullens INT (B. Countess)	LAR 16*	End zone	LAR 20	1	Punt (0)
		N. Mullens INT (C. Littleton)	SF 12	SF 19	End zone	2	Touchdown (7)

**Regular Season Totals:** 32 giveaways resulted in 105 points

L.O.S. – Line of scrimmage

\* – Red zone play

ST – Special teams play

(TB) – Touchback

## GAME-BY-GAME TURNOVER DIFFERENTIAL

Date	Opp	Takeaways	Giveaways	Game Total	Total
9/9	at Min.	1	4	-3	-3
9/16	Det.	1	0	+1	-2
9/23	at KC	0	0	0	-2
9/30	at LAC	1	2	-1	-3
10/7	Arz.	0	5	-5	-8
10/15	at GB	0	3	-3	-11
10/21	LAR	0	4	-4	-15
10/28	at Arz.	2	0	+2	-13
11/1	Oak.	0	0	0	-13
11/12	NYG	0	2	-2	-15
11/25	at TB	0	2	-2	-17
12/2	at Sea.	0	3	-3	-20
12/9	Den.	0	1	-1	-21
12/16	Sea.	0	1	-1	-22
12/23	Chi.	2	1	+1	-21
12/30	at LAR	0	4	-4	-25

# 2018 SAN FRANCISCO 49ERS THIRD DOWN EFFICIENCY

## 49ERS THIRD-AND ...

Date	Opp	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11+	Totals
9/9	at Min.	2/2	0/0	1/1	0/1	0/1	1/2	1/2	0/1	0/1	0/0	0/2	5/13
9/16	Det.	2/2	1/2	0/0	0/0	0/0	0/0	0/1	0/2	0/0	0/1	0/3	3/11
9/23	at KC	0/1	1/1	0/0	0/0	0/0	1/1	0/0	0/0	0/0	0/0	0/6	2/9
9/30	at LAC	1/1	0/1	2/4	0/0	0/1	1/1	1/2	0/1	0/0	0/0	0/1	5/12
10/7	Arz.	2/3	0/0	0/0	2/2	3/3	0/1	0/0	0/1	0/1	1/2	2/4	10/17
10/15	at GB	0/0	0/2	0/1	0/1	1/1	0/0	0/0	0/0	1/1	0/2	0/1	2/9
10/21	LAR	1/2	0/0	0/0	0/0	0/1	0/0	0/1	0/0	0/0	2/2	0/5	3/11
10/28	at Arz.	2/2	1/2	0/0	0/1	0/0	1/4	0/1	0/0	0/0	1/1	0/3	5/14
11/1	Oak.	1/3	1/1	0/0	2/2	0/0	1/1	0/1	0/1	0/1	0/0	0/2	5/12
11/12	NYG	2/2	0/0	0/1	1/1	2/2	0/1	0/1	2/2	0/1	0/0	1/2	8/13
11/25	at TB	1/2	0/0	0/0	0/0	0/0	0/0	0/1	0/0	0/0	0/0	0/5	1/8
12/2	at Sea.	1/1	0/0	1/2	1/2	0/1	1/1	2/4	1/2	0/1	0/0	0/2	7/16
12/9	Den.	0/0	1/3	1/2	0/0	0/0	0/1	1/1	0/0	1/3	0/1	0/2	4/13
12/16	Sea.	1/1	0/1	0/0	0/1	0/0	1/1	1/2	0/0	0/0	0/1	0/3	3/10
12/23	Chi.	0/0	2/2	0/0	1/3	1/1	0/0	0/1	1/1	0/1	1/2	1/3	7/14
12/30	at LAR	1/2	2/2	0/0	0/1	0/0	0/1	0/0	0/0	0/1	0/2	0/2	3/11
<b>Regular Season Totals:</b>		<b>17/24</b>	<b>9/17</b>	<b>5/11</b>	<b>7/15</b>	<b>7/11</b>	<b>7/15</b>	<b>6/18</b>	<b>4/11</b>	<b>2/11</b>	<b>5/14</b>	<b>4/46</b>	<b>72/193</b>
		<b>70.8</b>	<b>52.9</b>	<b>45.5</b>	<b>46.7</b>	<b>63.6</b>	<b>46.7</b>	<b>33.3</b>	<b>36.4</b>	<b>18.2</b>	<b>35.7</b>	<b>8.7</b>	<b>37.8</b>

## OPPONENTS THIRD-AND ...

Date	Opp	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11+	Totals
9/9	at Min.	1/1	0/0	2/2	0/0	1/2	1/3	0/0	1/3	0/1	1/1	0/4	7/17
9/16	Det.	0/0	1/3	0/3	1/2	0/0	0/1	2/2	0/1	0/0	1/1	2/3	7/16
9/23	at KC	1/1	0/0	1/2	1/1	1/1	0/1	1/1	1/1	1/1	0/0	0/2	7/11
9/30	at LAC	0/0	1/2	1/2	1/1	1/3	0/1	0/2	0/0	0/0	0/2	0/1	4/14
10/7	Arz.	1/3	0/0	0/1	0/1	0/0	0/0	0/3	0/0	1/2	0/0	0/2	2/12
10/15	at GB	0/0	1/1	0/0	1/1	1/1	1/1	0/0	0/0	0/1	0/4	0/4	4/13
10/21	LAR	2/4	0/2	1/3	1/1	0/0	0/0	0/0	0/0	0/0	0/0	1/2	5/12
10/28	at Arz.	0/0	1/1	1/1	1/1	0/1	0/2	0/1	0/2	1/1	1/2	1/2	6/14
11/1	Oak.	0/1	0/0	0/0	1/1	1/2	1/3	0/0	0/0	0/2	0/0	0/3	3/12
11/12	NYG	0/0	0/0	0/3	1/1	0/1	1/1	1/2	1/2	1/1	0/0	0/1	5/12
11/25	at TB	0/1	1/1	0/0	0/0	2/2	1/1	0/1	2/3	1/1	0/0	0/3	7/13
12/2	at Sea.	3/3	0/1	0/0	1/2	0/0	0/0	0/0	0/0	0/1	0/0	0/2	4/9
12/9	Den.	0/1	0/2	0/1	0/0	1/2	0/2	0/1	0/1	1/2	0/1	0/2	2/15
12/16	Sea.	1/2	0/1	0/0	1/1	4/4	1/2	1/2	1/1	0/1	0/1	0/4	9/19
12/23	Chi.	1/1	1/2	0/1	2/2	1/2	0/0	0/0	0/0	0/0	0/1	0/2	5/11
12/30	at LAR	0/0	3/3	1/2	3/4	0/0	1/1	0/1	0/0	1/1	1/1	0/3	10/16
<b>Regular Season Totals:</b>		<b>10/18</b>	<b>9/19</b>	<b>7/21</b>	<b>15/19</b>	<b>13/21</b>	<b>7/19</b>	<b>5/16</b>	<b>6/14</b>	<b>7/15</b>	<b>4/14</b>	<b>4/40</b>	<b>87/216</b>
		<b>55.6</b>	<b>47.4</b>	<b>33.3</b>	<b>78.9</b>	<b>61.9</b>	<b>36.8</b>	<b>31.3</b>	<b>42.9</b>	<b>46.7</b>	<b>28.6</b>	<b>10.0</b>	<b>40.3</b>

# 2018 SAN FRANCISCO 49ERS RED ZONE PRODUCTION

## SAN FRANCISCO 49ERS

Date	Opp	Poss	TD	PAT	2-Pt.	FG	MFG/ BFG	INT	FUM	DWNS/ Punt	HF	GM	PTS	TD%	SCORE PCT.	PTS/ POSS
9/9	at Min.	4	1	1	0	2	0	0	1	0	0	0	13	25.0%	75.0%	3.3
9/16	Det.	5	2	2	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	23	40.0%	100.0%	4.6
9/23	at KC	3	2	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	17	66.7%	100.0%	5.7
9/30	at LAC	4	1	1	0	2	0	1	0	0	0	0	13	25.0%	75.0%	3.3
10/7	Arz.	3	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	18	100.0%	100.0%	6.0
10/15	at GB	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	7	100.0%	100.0%	7.0
10/21	LAR	2	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	7	50.0%	50.0%	3.5
10/28	at Arz.	2	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	6	0.0%	100.0%	3.0
11/1	Oak.	4	2	2	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	20	50.0%	100.0%	5.0
11/12	NYG	4	2	2	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	20	50.0%	100.0%	5.0
11/25	at TB	2	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	9	50.0%	100.0%	4.5
12/2	at Sea.	4	1	1	0	0	0	1	1	1	0	0	7	25.0%	25.0%	1.8
12/9	Den.	2	1	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	10	50.0%	100.0%	5.0
12/16	Sea.	3	0	0	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	9	0.0%	100.0%	3.0
12/23	Chi.	3	0	0	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	9	0.0%	100.0%	3.0
12/30	at LAR	5	3	3	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	24	60.0%	80.0%	4.8
<b>TOTALS</b>		<b>51</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>212</b>	<b>41.2%</b>	<b>86.3%</b>	<b>4.2</b>

## OPPONENTS

Date	Opp	Poss	TD	PAT	2-Pt.	FG	MFG/ BFG	INT	FUM	DWNS/ Punt	HF	GM	PTS	TD%	SCORE PCT.	PTS/ POSS
9/9	at Min.	2	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	7	50.0%	50.0%	3.5
9/16	Det.	4	2	2	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	20	50.0%	100.0%	5.0
9/23	at KC	6	5	5	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	38	83.3%	100.0%	6.3
9/30	at LAC	5	2	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	1	18	40.0%	80.0%	3.6
10/7	Arz.	2	2	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	14	100.0%	100.0%	7.0
10/15	at GB	6	3	3	0	2	0	0	0	1	0	0	27	50.0%	83.3%	4.5
10/21	LAR	7	4	4	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	37	57.1%	100.0%	5.3
10/28	at Arz.	3	2	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	18	66.7%	100.0%	6.0
11/1	Oak.	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	0.0%	100.0%	3.0
11/12	NYG	4	2	2	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	20	50.0%	100.0%	5.0
11/25	at TB	2	2	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	14	100.0%	100.0%	7.0
12/2	at Sea.	4	3	2	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	23	75.0%	100.0%	5.8
12/9	Den.	2	2	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	14	100.0%	100.0%	7.0
12/16	Sea.	2	2	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	13	100.0%	100.0%	6.5
12/23	Chi.	3	2	2	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	14	66.7%	66.7%	4.7
12/30	at LAR	5	4	4	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	31	80.0%	100.0%	6.2
<b>TOTALS</b>		<b>58</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>311</b>	<b>65.5%</b>	<b>93.1%</b>	<b>5.4</b>

# 2018 SAN FRANCISCO 49ERS BIG PLAYS

Rushes of 10–yards or more; Pass completions of 20–yards or more; Returns of 30–yards or more

## 9/9/18 AT MINNESOTA

### 49ERS

Run	Pass	Ret.	Description
14			Alfred Morris run
11			Alfred Morris run
	56		Jimmy Garoppolo to Kyle Juszczyk
11			Matt Breida run
	36		Jimmy Garoppolo to George Kittle
	22t		Jimmy Garoppolo to Dante Pettis
	39		Jimmy Garoppolo to Dante Pettis
10			Matt Breida run

### VIKINGS

Run	Pass	Ret.	Description
	22t		Kirk Cousins to Stefon Diggs
15			Dalvin Cook run
13			Kirk Cousins run
	34		Kirk Cousins to Adam Thielen

## 9/16/18 VS. DETROIT

### LIONS

Run	Pass	Ret.	Description
12			LeGarrette Blount run
	30t		Matthew Stafford to Kenny Golladay
		45	Jamal Agnew kickoff return
13			LeGarrette Blount run
21			Kerryon Johnson run
	67		Matthew Stafford to Golden Tate III
	21		Matthew Stafford to Kenny Golladay

### 49ERS

Run	Pass	Ret.	Description
28			Matt Breida run
	35		Jimmy Garoppolo to Dante Pettis
		90	D.J. Reed Jr. kickoff return
	20		Jimmy Garoppolo to Pierre Garçon
20			Matt Breida run
66t			Matt Breida run

## 9/23/18 AT KANSAS CITY

### 49ERS

Run	Pass	Ret.	Description
22			Matt Breida run
	35t		Jimmy Garoppolo to Kyle Juszczyk
	27		Jimmy Garoppolo to Kendrick Bourne
21			Matt Breida run
21			Matt Breida run
	23		Jimmy Garoppolo to George Kittle
16			Alfred Morris run
13			Matt Breida run
13			Jimmy Garoppolo run

### CHIEFS

Run	Pass	Ret.	Description
11			Sammy Watkins run
	25		Patrick Mahomes to Travis Kelce
	42		Patrick Mahomes to Tyreek Hill
	21		Patrick Mahomes to Travis Kelce
10			Kareem Hunt run

## 9/30/18 AT LOS ANGELES CHARGERS

### 49ERS

Run	Pass	Ret.	Description
		32t	Antone Exum Jr. INT return
12			Matt Breida run
	20		C.J. Beathard to Marquise Goodwin
23			C.J. Beathard to Pierre Garçon
	82t		C.J. Beathard to George Kittle
12			Matt Breida run
	20		C.J. Beathard to Matt Breida

### CHARGERS

Run	Pass	Ret.	Description
	22		Philip Rivers to Antonio Gates
	22		Philip Rivers to Tyrell Williams
	22t		Philip Rivers to Austin Ekeler
		56	Desmond King II punt return
	24		Philip Rivers to Tyrell Williams
13			Melvin Gordon III run
		86	Trevor Williams INT return
13			Melvin Gordon III run
11			Austin Ekeler run
34			Melvin Gordon III run
15			Melvin Gordon III run

# 2018 SAN FRANCISCO 49ERS BIG PLAYS

Rushes of 10–yards or more; Pass completions of 20–yards or more; Returns of 30–yards or more

## 10/7/18 VS. ARIZONA

### CARDINALS

Run	Pass	Ret.	Description
	75t		Josh Rosen to Christian Kirk
10			David Johnson run
		49	Patrick Peterson fumble return
	20		Josh Rosen to Larry Fitzgerald

### 49ERS

Run	Pass	Ret.	Description
17			Matt Breida run
	25		C.J. Beathard to Kyle Juszczyk
17			Matt Breida run
12			Alfred Morris run
	20		C.J. Beathard to Pierre Garçon
11			Alfred Morris run
12			Raheem Mostert run
	45		C.J. Beathard to George Kittle
		32	Richie James Jr. kickoff return
12			Kyle Juszczyk run

## 10/15/18 AT GREEN BAY

### 49ERS

Run	Pass	Ret.	Description
	22		C.J. Beathard to Kendrick Bourne
		30	D.J. Reed Jr. kickoff return
	67t		C.J. Beathard to Marquise Goodwin
	21		C.J. Beathard to Kyle Juszczyk
26			Raheem Mostert run
	30t		C.J. Beathard to Marquise Goodwin
11			C.J. Beathard run
13			Matt Breida run
10			Raheem Mostert run
17			Raheem Mostert run
		32	Richie James Jr. kickoff return

### PACKERS

Run	Pass	Ret.	Description
	60		Aaron Rodgers to Marquez Valdes–Scantling
16			Aaron Jones run
	22		Aaron Rodgers to Lance Kendricks
	54		Aaron Rodgers to Jimmy Graham
13			Aaron Jones run
	30		Aaron Rodgers to Marquez Valdes–Scantling
	21		Aaron Rodgers to Jimmy Graham
	38		Aaron Rodgers to Davante Adams
14			Ty Montgomery run
21			Aaron Rodgers run

## 10/21/18 VS. LOS ANGELES RAMS

### RAMS

Run	Pass	Ret.	Description
	21		Jared Goff to Robert Woods
	20		Jared Goff to Brandin Cooks
	32		Jared Goff to Robert Woods
18			Todd Gurley II run
	23		Jared Goff to Brandin Cooks
10			Malcolm Brown run
		36	JoJo Natson punt return

### 49ERS

Run	Pass	Ret.	Description
15			Raheem Mostert run
	23		C.J. Beathard to Raheem Mostert
11			Raheem Mostert run
13			C.J. Beathard run
	35		C.J. Beathard to George Kittle
	23		C.J. Beathard to George Kittle
16			Raheem Mostert run
	21		C.J. Beathard to George Kittle

## 10/28/18 AT ARIZONA

### 49ERS

Run	Pass	Ret.	Description
10			Matt Breida run
		31	Richie James Jr. kickoff return
	20		C.J. Beathard to George Kittle
	55t		C.J. Beathard to Marquise Goodwin
14			Raheem Mostert run
26			Alfred Morris run

### CARDINALS

Run	Pass	Ret.	Description
	37		Josh Rosen to Larry Fitzgerald
13			David Johnson run
	20		Josh Rosen to Larry Fitzgerald

# 2018 SAN FRANCISCO 49ERS BIG PLAYS

Rushes of 10–yards or more; Pass completions of 20–yards or more; Returns of 30–yards or more

## 11/1/18 VS. OAKLAND

### RAIDERS

Run	Pass	Ret.	Description
	20		Derek Carr to Doug Martin
17			Martavis Bryant run
10			Doug Martin run
	25		Derek Carr to Jalen Richard
	23		Derek Carr to Martavis Bryant
13			DeAndré Washington run

### 49ERS

Run	Pass	Ret.	Description
18			Matt Breida run
14			Raheem Mostert run
	24t		Nick Mullens to Pierre Garçon
	25		Nick Mullens to Pierre Garçon
	53		Nick Mullens to Richie James Jr.
	71		Nick Mullens to George Kittle
	52t		Raheem Mostert run
10			Raheem Mostert run
12			Matt Breida run
11			Alfred Morris run

## 11/12/18 VS. NEW YORK GIANTS

### GIANTS

Run	Pass	Ret.	Description
18			Saquon Barkley run
		51	Corey Coleman kickoff return
	30		Eli Manning to Odell Beckham Jr.
	20t		Eli Manning to Odell Beckham Jr.
27			Sterling Shepard run
	31		Eli Manning to Evan Engram
	23		Eli Manning to Saquon Barkley

### 49ERS

Run	Pass	Ret.	Description
	22		Nick Mullens to George Kittle
20			Matt Breida run
23			Matt Breida run
	26		Nick Mullens to Marquise Goodwin

## 11/25/18 AT TAMPA BAY

### 49ERS

Run	Pass	Ret.	Description
33			Matt Breida run
10			George Kittle run
11			Matt Breida run
21			Matt Breida run
15			Matt Breida run
11			Matt Breida run
	25		Nick Mullens to Dante Pettis
	24		Nick Mullens to Matt Breida
10			Matt Breida run
	22		Nick Mullens to Dante Pettis
18			Jeff Wilson Jr. run

### BUCCANEERS

Run	Pass	Ret.	Description
11			Peyton Barber run
	42		Jameis Winston to Mike Evans
14			Peyton Barber run
15			Jameis Winston run
	34		Jameis Winston to Mike Evans
	28t		Jameis Winston to Adam Humphries
20			Jacquizz Rodgers run

## 12/2/18 AT SEATTLE

### 49ERS

Run	Pass	Ret.	Description
11			Jeff Wilson Jr. run
11			Jeff Wilson Jr. run
	24		Nick Mullens to Jeff Wilson Jr.
	21		Nick Mullens to Matt Breida
		42	Richie James Jr. kickoff return
	26		Nick Mullens to Matt Breida
	28		Nick Mullens to George Kittle
	75t		Nick Mullens to Dante Pettis
	33		Nick Mullens to Kendrick Bourne

### SEAHAWKS

Run	Pass	Ret.	Description
	45		Russell Wilson to Jaron Brown
15			Rashaad Penny run
15			Chris Carson run
	52t		Russell Wilson to Tyler Lockett
		84	Tyler Lockett kickoff return
			Rashaad Penny run
20t			Rashaad Penny run
	21		Russell Wilson to Doug Baldwin
10			Tyler Lockett run
	27		Russell Wilson to Chris Carson
19			Rashaad Penny run
23			Chris Carson run
	98t		Bobby Wagner INT return

# 2018 SAN FRANCISCO 49ERS BIG PLAYS

Rushes of 10–yards or more; Pass completions of 20–yards or more; Returns of 30–yards or more

## 12/9/18 VS. DENVER

### BRONCOS

Run	Pass	Ret.	Description
11			Tim Patrick run
16			Case Keenum run
23			Royce Freeman run
	21		Case Keenum to Tim Patrick

### 49ERS

Run	Pass	Ret.	Description
	31		Nick Mullens to George Kittle
11			Jeff Wilson Jr. run
	52		Nick Mullens to George Kittle
	85t		Nick Mullens to George Kittle
	31		Nick Mullens to Dante Pettis

## 12/16/18 VS. SEATTLE

### SEAHAWKS

Run	Pass	Ret.	Description
	28		Russell Wilson to Tyler Lockett
10			Chris Carson run
24			Chris Carson run
	35t		Russell Wilson to Doug Baldwin
21			Chris Carson run
26			Chris Carson run
	26		Russell Wilson to Doug Baldwin

### 49ERS

Run	Pass	Ret.	Description
		97t	Richie James Jr. kickoff return
	20		Nick Mullens to George Kittle
14			Jeff Wilson Jr. run
	26		Nick Mullens to Dante Pettis
	41t		Nick Mullens to Garrett Celek
	21		Nick Mullens to George Kittle
	20		Nick Mullens to Garrett Celek
	20		Nick Mullens to Matt Breida
	30		Nick Mullens to Dante Pettis
16			Jeff Wilson Jr. run

## 12/23/18 VS. CHICAGO

### BEARS

Run	Pass	Ret.	Description
		30	Anthony Miller kickoff return
43			Mitchell Trubisky to Allen Robinson II
26			Mitchell Trubisky to Taquan Mizzell Sr.

### 49ERS

Run	Pass	Ret.	Description
11			Matt Breida run
	23		Nick Mullens to Trent Taylor
	35		Nick Mullens to George Kittle
	22		Nick Mullens to Kendrick Bourne
	25		Nick Mullens to Kendrick Bourne

## 12/30/18 AT LOS ANGELES RAMS

### 49ERS

Run	Pass	Ret.	Description
	20		Nick Mullens to Kendrick Bourne
51			Alfred Morris run
	22		Nick Mullens to Richie James Jr.
11			Alfred Morris run
	25		Nick Mullens to George Kittle
20			Alfred Morris run
	25		Nick Mullens to George Kittle
	43t		Nick Mullens to George Kittle

### RAMS

Run	Pass	Ret.	Description
		47	Aqib Talib fumble return
11			C.J. Anderson run
12			C.J. Anderson run
	21		Jared Goff to Brandin Cooks
10			C.J. Anderson run
12			C.J. Anderson run
	36		Jared Goff to Tyler Higbee
	29t		Jared Goff to Josh Reynolds
11			C.J. Anderson run
13			C.J. Anderson run

# THE LAST TIME ...

## TEAM TOTALS

### Won in Overtime

By 49ers:	12/16/18	49ers win vs. Seattle, 26–23
By Opponent:	10/8/17	Colts win at Indianapolis, 26–23
	1/22/12	Giants win vs. New York, 20–17 – NFC–C

### Won by Scoring in the Last Two Minutes of Regulation

By 49ers:	12/17/17	49ers win vs. Tennessee, 25–23 (last score at 0:00)
	1/5/14	49ers win at Green Bay, 23–20 (last score at 0:00) – NFC–WC
By Opponent:	11/12/18	Giants win vs. New York, 27–23 (last score at 0:53)
	1/20/91	Giants win vs. New York, 15–13 (last score at 0:00) – NFC–C

### Tied Game by Scoring in the Last Two Minutes of Regulation

By 49ers:	10/8/17	49ers loss at Indianapolis, 23–26 (OT) (tied game at 0:24)
By Opponent:	10/15/18	Packers win at Green Bay, 33–30 (tied game at 1:55)

### Shutout

By 49ers:	9/12/16	49ers win vs. Los Angeles Rams, 28–0
	12/29/96	49ers win vs. Philadelphia, 14–0 – NFC–WC
By Opponent:	11/21/10	Buccaneers win vs. Tampa Bay, 21–0

### Won by 20-or-More Points

By 49ers:	11/1/18	49ers win vs. Oakland, 34–3
	1/29/95	49ers win at San Diego, 49–26 – SB XXIX
By Opponent:	12/2/18	Seahawks win at Seattle, 43–16
	1/12/03	Buccaneers win at Tampa Bay, 31–6 – NFC–D

### Won After Trailing by 20-or-More Points

By 49ers:	10/2/11	49ers win at Philadelphia, 24–23 (Eagles ahead 23–3 in 3rd Q)
	1/5/03	49ers win vs. New York, 39–38 (Giants ahead 38–14 in 3rd Q) – NFC–WC
By Opponent:	12/20/14	Chargers win vs. San Diego, 38–35 (OT) (49ers ahead 28–7 in 2nd Q)

### Held a 28-or-More Point Lead

By 49ers:	11/1/18	49ers win vs. Oakland, 34–3 (49ers ahead 34–3 in 4th Q)
	1/29/95	49ers win vs. San Diego, 49–26 (49ers ahead 49–18 in 4th Q) – SB XXIX
By Opponent:	12/30/18	Rams win at Los Angeles, 48–32 (Rams ahead 48–17 in 4th Q)
	1/4/87	Giants win at New York, 49–3 (Giants ahead 49–3 in 4th Q) – NFC–D

### Held a 21-or-More Point Lead

By 49ers:	11/1/18	49ers win vs. Oakland, 34–3 (49ers ahead 34–3 in 4th Q)
	1/12/13	49ers win vs. Green Bay, 45–31 (49ers ahead 45–24 in 4th Q) – NFC–D
By Opponent:	12/30/18	Rams win at Los Angeles, 48–32 (Rams ahead 48–24 in 4th Q)
	2/3/13	Ravens win vs. Baltimore, 34–31 (Ravens ahead 28–6 in 3rd Q) – SB XLVII

### Scored 20-or-More Points in a Quarter

By 49ers:	12/24/17	49ers win vs. Jacksonville, 44–33 (21 points, 4th Q)
	1/15/94	49ers win vs. Dallas, 38–28 (21 points, 1st Q) – NFC–D
By Opponent:	9/23/18	Chiefs win at Kansas City, 38–27 (21 points, 2nd Q)
	1/12/03	Buccaneers win at Tampa Bay, 31–6 (21 points, 2nd Q) – NFC–D

### Scored 20-or-More Points in a Half

By 49ers:	12/30/18	49ers loss at Los Angeles Rams, 32–48 (22 points, 2nd half)
	2/3/13	49ers loss vs. Baltimore, 31–34 (25 points, 2nd half) – SB XLVII
By Opponent:	12/30/18	Rams win at Los Angeles, 48–32, (31 points, 1st half)
	1/19/14	Seahawks win at Seattle, 23–17 (20 points, 2nd half) – NFC–C

### Held Opponent without a Touchdown

By 49ers:	11/1/18	49ers win vs. Oakland, 34–3 (1 FG)
	12/29/96	49ers win vs. Philadelphia, 14–0 – NFC–WC
By Opponent:	12/23/18	Bears win vs. Chicago, 14–9 (3 FGs)
	1/12/03	Buccaneers win at Tampa Bay, 31–6 (2 FGs) – NFC–D

### Touchdowns Scored by Offense and Defense

By 49ers:	9/30/18	49ers loss at Los Angeles Chargers, 27–29 (2 offense, 1 defense)
	1/3/98	49ers win vs. Minnesota, 38–22 (4 offense, 1 defense) – NFC–D
By Opponent:	12/30/18	Rams win at Los Angeles, 48–32 (5 offense, 1 defense)
	1/13/12	Packers loss vs. Green Bay, 31–45 (3 offense, 1 defense) – NFC–D

# THE LAST TIME ...

## TEAM TOTALS

### Touchdowns Scored by Offense, Defense and Special Teams

By 49ers: 10/4/09 49ers win vs. St. Louis, 35–0 (2 offense, 2 defense, 1 special teams)  
By Opponent: 9/23/07 Steelers win at Pittsburgh, 37–16 (2 offense, 1 defense, 1 special teams)

### Safety Scored

By 49ers: 10/28/18 Penalty on Josh Rosen enforced in the end zone at Arizona  
2/3/13 *Sam Koch ran out of bounds in end zone, forced by Chris Culliver vs. Baltimore – SB XLVII*  
By Opponent: 10/21/18 Cory Littleton blocked a punt out of bounds in end zone vs. Los Angeles Rams

### Successful Two Point Conversion

By 49ers: 12/30/18 Nick Mullens to Trent Taylor at Los Angeles Rams  
1/5/03 *Jeff Garcia pass to Terrell Owens vs. New York Giants – NFC–WC*  
By Opponent: 10/28/18 Josh Rosen to Larry Fitzgerald at Arizona  
1/14/12 *Drew Brees pass to Darren Sproles vs. New Orleans – NFC–D*

### Failed Two Point Conversion Attempt

By 49ers: 12/2/18 Run failed from Nick Mullens at Seattle  
2/3/13 *Pass failed from Colin Kaepernick to Randy Moss vs. Baltimore – SB XLVII*  
By Opponent: 10/22/17 Pass failed from Dak Prescott to Brice Butler vs. Dallas  
1/13/02 *Pass failed from Brett Favre to Bubba Franks at Green Bay – NFC–WC*

## OFFENSIVE TOTALS

### 500–or–More Total Net Yards of Offense

By 49ers: 10/7/12 49ers win vs. Buffalo, 45–3 (621; 311 rushing, 310 passing)  
1/12/13 *49ers win vs. Green Bay, 45–31 (579; 323 rushing, 256 passing) – NFC–D*  
By Opponent: 10/15/18 Packers win at Green Bay, 33–30 (521; 116 rushing, 405 passing)

### 400–or–More Total Net Yards of Offense

By 49ers: 12/2/18 49ers loss at Seattle, 16–43 (452; 66 rushing, 386 passing)  
2/3/13 *49ers loss vs. Baltimore, 31–34 (468; 182 rushing, 286 passing) – SB XLVII*  
By Opponent: 11/25/18 Buccaneers win at Tampa Bay, 27–9 (412; 108 rushing, 304 passing)  
1/20/13 *Falcons loss at Atlanta, 24–28 (477; 81 rushing, 396 passing) – NFC–C*

### 300–or–More Net Yards Rushing by Team

By 49ers: 12/20/14 49ers loss vs. Chargers, 35–38 (OT) (355)  
1/12/13 *49ers win vs. Green Bay, 45–31 (323) – NFC–D*  
By Opponent: 10/16/16 Bills win at Buffalo, 45–16 (312)

### 200–or–More Net Yards Rushing by Team

By 49ers: 12/11/16 49ers loss vs. New York Jets, 17–23 (OT) (248)  
1/12/13 *49ers win vs. Green Bay, 45–31 (323) – NFC–D*  
By Opponent: 10/22/17 Cowboys win vs. Dallas, 40–10 (265)  
1/4/87 *Giants win at New York, 49–3 (216) – NFC–D*

### Individual 200–Yard Rushing Game

By 49ers: 9/20/09 Frank Gore (16–207–2 TDs) vs. Seattle  
By Opponent: 11/22/15 Thomas Rawls (30–209–1 TD) at Seattle

### Individual 150–Yard Rushing Game

By 49ers: 12/11/16 Carlos Hyde (17–193) vs. New York Jets  
1/12/13 *Colin Kaepernick (16–181–2 TDs) vs. Green Bay – NFC–D*  
By Opponent: 11/5/17 Adrian Peterson (37–159) vs. Arizona  
1/4/87 *Joe Morris (24–159–2 TDs) at New York Giants – NFC–D*

### Individual 100–Yard Rushing Game

By 49ers: 12/30/18 Alfred Morris (16–111–1 TD) at Los Angeles Rams  
1/19/14 *Colin Kaepernick (11–130) at Seattle – NFC–C*  
By Opponent: 12/30/18 C.J. Anderson (23–132–1 TD) at Los Angeles Rams  
1/19/14 *Marshawn Lynch (22–109–1 TD) at Seattle – NFC–C*

### Two 100–Yard Rushers in the Same Game

By 49ers: 12/20/14 Frank Gore (26–158–1 TD) & Colin Kaepernick (7–151–1 TD) vs. San Diego  
1/12/13 *Colin Kaepernick (16–181–2 TDs) and Frank Gore (23–119–1 TD) vs. Green Bay – NFC–D*  
By Opponent: 11/8/53 Skeets Quinlan (11–119) & Tank Younger (12–101–1 TD) at Los Angeles Rams

# THE LAST TIME ...

## OFFENSIVE TOTALS

### Consecutive 100–Yard Rushing Games

By 49ers:	11/12/18–11/25/18	Matt Breida (17–101–1 TD) vs. New York Giants; Matt Breida (14–106) at Tampa Bay
By Opponent:	12/4/16–12/18/16	Jordan Howard (32–117–3 TDs) at Chicago; Bilal Powell (29–145–2 TDs) vs. New York Jets; Devonta Freeman (20–139–3 TDs) at Atlanta
	12/31/83–1/8/84	<i>Billy Sims (20–114–2 TDs) vs. Detroit – NFC–D; John Riggins (36–123–2 TDs) at Washington – NFC–C</i>

### Combined 200–Yard Rushing by Two Players

By 49ers:	12/11/16	225 by Carlos Hyde (17–193) and Shaun Draughn (7–32–1 TD) vs. New York Jets
	1/12/13	300 by Colin Kaepernick (16–181–2 TDs) and Frank Gore (23–119–1 TD) vs. Green Bay – NFC–D
By Opponent:	10/22/17	208 by Ezekiel Elliott (26–147–2 TDs) and Rod Smith (8–61) vs. Dallas

### Individual with 30–or–More Carries

By 49ers:	10/30/11	Frank Gore (31–134) vs. Cleveland
By Opponent:	11/5/17	Adrian Peterson (37–159) vs. Arizona
	1/8/84	<i>John Riggins (36–123) at Washington – NFC–C</i>

### Individual with 25–or–More Carries

By 49ers:	9/21/17	Carlos Hyde (25–84–2 TDs) vs. Los Angeles Rams
	1/3/98	<i>Terry Kirby (25–120) vs. Minnesota – NFC–D</i>
By Opponent:	11/5/17	Adrian Peterson (37–159) vs. Arizona
	1/5/03	<i>Tiki Barber (26–115) vs. New York Giants – NFC–WC</i>

### Rushing Play of 80–or–More Yards

By 49ers:	12/20/14	90t, Colin Kaepernick vs. San Diego
	1/1/89	80t, Roger Craig vs. Minnesota – NFC–D
By Opponent:	12/9/07	84t, Chester Taylor vs. Minnesota

### Rushing Play of 60–or–More Yards

By 49ers:	9/16/18	66t, Matt Breida vs. Detroit
	1/1/89	80t, Roger Craig vs. Minnesota – NFC–D
By Opponent:	11/6/15	75t, Mark Ingram vs. New Orleans

### Rushing Play of 40–or–More Yards

By 49ers:	12/30/18	51, Alfred Morris at Los Angeles Rams
	1/19/14	58, Colin Kaepernick at Seattle – NFC–C
By Opponent:	10/22/17	45, Rod Smith vs. Dallas
	1/19/14	40t, Marshawn Lynch at Seattle – NFC–C

### Individual with Two–or–More Rushing Touchdowns

By 49ers:	12/31/17	Carlos Hyde (15–88–2 TDs) at Los Angeles Rams
	1/20/13	Frank Gore (21–90–2 TDs) at Atlanta – NFC–C
By Opponent:	10/21/18	Todd Gurley II (15–63–2 TDs) vs. Los Angeles Rams
	1/12/03	Mike Alstott (17–60–2 TDs) at Tampa Bay – NFC–D

### 400 Net Yards Passing by Team

By 49ers:	9/8/13	49ers win vs. Green Bay, 34–28 (404)
By Opponent:	10/15/18	Packers win at Green Bay, 33–30 (405)
	1/14/12	<i>Saints loss vs. New Orleans, 32–36 (435) – NFC–D</i>

### 300 Net Yards Passing by Team

By 49ers:	12/9/18	49ers win vs. Denver, 20–14 (305)
	1/5/03	49ers win vs. New York Giants, 39–38 (356) – NFC–WC
By Opponent:	11/25/18	Buccaneers win at Tampa Bay, 27–9 (304)
	1/20/13	<i>Falcons loss at Atlanta, 24–28 (396) – NFC–C</i>

### Individual with 50–or–More Pass Attempts

By 49ers:	10/7/18	C.J. Beathard (54–34–349–2 INTs–2 TDs) vs. Arizona
	1/6/96	Steve Young (65–32–328–2 INTs–0 TDs) vs. Green Bay – NFC–D
By Opponent:	9/16/18	Matthew Stafford (53–34–347–0 INTs–3 TDs) vs. Detroit
	1/22/12	Eli Manning (58–32–316–0 INTs–2 TDs) vs. New York Giants – NFC–C

### Individual with 40–or–More Pass Attempts

By 49ers:	12/2/18	Nick Mullens (48–30–414–1 INT–2 TDs) at Seattle
	1/14/12	Alex Smith (42–24–299–0 INTs–3 TDs) vs. New Orleans – NFC–D
By Opponent:	12/9/18	Case Keenum (42–24–186–0 INTs–1 TD) vs. Denver
	1/20/13	<i>Matt Ryan (42–30–396–1 INT–3 TDs) at Atlanta – NFC–C</i>

# THE LAST TIME ...

## OFFENSIVE TOTALS

### Individual with 30–or–More Pass Completions

By 49ers:	12/2/18	Nick Mullens (48–30–414–1 INT–2 TDs) at Seattle
	1/6/96	Steve Young (65–32–328–2 INTs–0 TD) vs. Green Bay – NFC–D
By Opponent:	9/16/18	Matthew Stafford (53–34–347–0 INTs–3 TDs) vs. Detroit
	1/20/13	Matt Ryan (42–30–396–1 INT–3 TDs) at Atlanta – NFC–C

### Individual with 25–or–More Pass Completions

By 49ers:	12/2/18	Nick Mullens (48–30–414–1 INT–2 TDs) at Seattle
	1/5/03	Jeff Garcia (44–27–331–1 INT–3 TDs) vs. New York Giants – NFC–WC
By Opponent:	12/23/18	Mitchell Trubisky (29–25–246–0 INTs–1 TD) vs. Chicago
	1/20/13	Matt Ryan (42–30–396–1 INT–3 TDs) at Atlanta – NFC–C

### No Sacks Allowed

By 49ers:	11/12/18	49ers loss vs. New York Giants, 23–27 (39 attempts – Nick Mullens)
	1/5/03	49ers win vs. New York Giants, 39–38 (44 attempts – Jeff Garcia) – NFC–WC
By Opponent:	12/30/18	Rams win at Los Angeles, 48–32 (26 attempts – Jared Goff, 3 attempts – Sean Mannion)
	1/7/95	Bears loss vs. Chicago, 15–44 (19 attempts – Steve Walsh) – NFC–D

### Individual 300–Yard Passing Game

By 49ers:	12/9/18	Nick Mullens (33–20–332–1 INT–2 TDs) vs. Denver
	2/3/13	Colin Kaepernick (28–16–302–1 INT–1 TD) vs. Baltimore – SB XLVII
By Opponent:	11/25/18	Jameis Winston (38–29–312–0 INTs–2 TDs) at Tampa Bay
	1/20/13	Matt Ryan (42–30–396–1 INT–3 TDs) at Atlanta – NFC–C

### Consecutive 300–Yard Passing Games

By 49ers:	12/2/18–12/9/18	Nick Mullens (48–30–414–1 INT–2 TDs) at Seattle; Nick Mullens (33–20–332–1 INT–2 TDs) vs. Denver
By Opponent:	9/16/18–9/23/18	Matthew Stafford (53–34–347–0 INTs–3 TDs) vs. Detroit; Patrick Mahomes (38–24–314–0 INTs–3 TDs) at Kansas City
	1/14/12–1/22/12	Drew Brees (63–40–462–2 INTs–4 TDs) vs. New Orleans – NFC–D; Eli Manning (58–32–316–0 INTs–2 TDs) vs. New York Giants – NFC–C

### Individual with Four–or–More Touchdown Passes

By 49ers:	12/16/12	Colin Kaepernick (25–14–216–1 INT–4 TDs) at New England
	1/29/95	Steve Young (36–24–325–0 INTs–6 TDs) at San Diego – SB XXIX
By Opponent:	12/30/18	Jared Goff (26–15–199–0 INTs–4 TDs) at Los Angeles Rams
	1/14/12	Drew Brees (63–40–462–2 INTs–4 TDs) vs. New Orleans – NFC–D

### Individual with Three–or–More Touchdown Passes

By 49ers:	12/30/18	Nick Mullens (33–23–282–3 INTs–3 TDs) at Los Angeles Rams
	1/14/12	Alex Smith (42–24–299–0 INTs–3 TDs) vs. New Orleans – NFC–D
By Opponent:	12/30/18	Jared Goff (26–15–199–0 INTs–4 TDs) at Los Angeles Rams
	2/3/13	Joe Flacco (33–22–287–0 INTs–3 TDs) vs. Baltimore – SB XLVII

### Individual with 10–or–More Receptions

By 49ers:	12/17/17	Marquise Goodwin (10–114) vs. Tennessee
	1/6/96	Jerry Rice (11–117) vs. Green Bay – NFC–D
By Opponent:	10/15/18	Davante Adams (10–132–2 TDs) at Green Bay
	1/20/13	Julio Jones (11–182–2 TDs) at Atlanta – NFC–C

### Individual with 150–Yard Receiving Game

By 49ers:	12/9/18	George Kittle (7–210–1 TD) vs. Denver
	1/14/12	Vernon Davis (7–180–2 TDs) vs. New Orleans – NFC–D
By Opponent:	10/8/17	T.Y. Hilton (7–177) at Indianapolis
	1/20/13	Julio Jones (11–182–2 TDs) at Atlanta – NFC–C

### Individual with 100–Yard Receiving Game

By 49ers:	12/30/18	George Kittle (9–149–1 TD) at Los Angeles Rams
	1/12/14	Anquan Boldin (8–136) at Carolina – NFC–D
By Opponent:	11/25/18	Mike Evans (6–116) at Tampa Bay
	1/19/14	Doug Baldwin (6–106) at Seattle – NFC–C

### Two 100–Yard Receivers in the Same Game

By 49ers:	10/7/12	Michael Crabtree (6–113–1 TD) & Vernon Davis (5–106) vs. Buffalo
	2/3/13	Michael Crabtree (5–109–1 TD) & Vernon Davis (6–104) vs. Baltimore – SB XLVII
By Opponent:	10/15/18	Davante Adams (10–132–2 TDs), Jimmy Graham (5–104) & Marquez Valdes–Scantling (3–103) at Green Bay
	1/20/13	Julio Jones (11–182–2 TDs) & Roddy White (7–100) at Atlanta – NFC–C

# THE LAST TIME ...

## OFFENSIVE TOTALS

### Consecutive 100-Yard Receiving Games

By 49ers:	12/2/18–12/9/18 1/14/12–1/12/14	Dante Pettis (5–129–2 TDs) at Seattle; George Kittle (7–210–1 TD) vs. Denver <i>Vernon Davis (7–180–2 TDs) vs. New Orleans – NFC–D; V. Davis (3–112–2 TDs) vs. New York Giants – NFC–C; Michael Crabtree (9–119–2 TDs) vs. Green Bay – NFC–D; Vernon Davis (5–106–1 TD) at Atlanta – NFC–C; Michael Crabtree (5–109–1 TD) &amp; Vernon Davis (6–104) vs. Baltimore – SB XLVII; Michael Crabtree (8–125) at Green Bay – NFC–WC; Anquan Boldin (8–136) at Carolina – NFC–D</i>
By Opponent:	9/9/18–9/23/18 1/12/14–1/19/14	Adam Thielen (6–102) at Minnesota; Golden Tate (7–109) vs. Detroit; Travis Kelce (8–114) at Kansas City <i>Ted Ginn, Jr. (4–104) at Carolina – NFC–D; Doug Baldwin (6–106) at Seattle – NFC–C</i>

### Pass Play of 80-or-More Yards

By 49ers:	12/9/18	85t, Nick Mullens to George Kittle vs. Denver
By Opponent:	10/11/09	90t, Matt Ryan to Roddy White vs. Atlanta

### Pass Play of 60-or-More Yards

By 49ers:	12/9/18 1/22/12	85t, Nick Mullens to George Kittle vs. Denver <i>73t, Alex Smith to Vernon Davis vs. New York Giants – NFC–C</i>
By Opponent:	10/15/18 1/14/12	60, Aaron Rodgers to Marquez Valdes-Scantling at Green Bay <i>66t, Drew Brees to Jimmy Graham vs. New Orleans – NFC–D</i>

### Pass Play of 40-or-More Yards

By 49ers:	12/30/18 1/12/14	43t, Nick Mullens to George Kittle at Los Angeles Rams <i>45, Colin Kaepernick to Anquan Boldin at Carolina – NFC–D</i>
By Opponent:	12/23/18 1/19/14	43, Mitchell Trubisky to Allen Robinson II vs. Chicago <i>51, Russell Wilson to Doug Baldwin at Seattle – NFC–C</i>

### Individual with Three-or-More Touchdown Receptions

By 49ers:	10/25/09 1/29/95	Vernon Davis (7–93–3 TDs) at Houston <i>Jerry Rice (10–149–3 TDs) at San Diego – SB XXIX</i>
By Opponent:	9/14/14 1/5/03	Brandon Marshall (5–48–3 TDs) vs. Chicago <i>Amani Toomer (8–136–3 TDs) vs. New York Giants – NFC–WC</i>

### Individual with Two-or-More Touchdown Receptions

By 49ers:	12/2/18 1/12/13	Dante Pettis (5–129–2 TDs) at Seattle <i>Michael Crabtree (9–119–2 TDs) vs. Green Bay – NFC–D</i>
By Opponent:	12/30/18 1/20/13	Brandin Cooks (5–62–2 TDs) & Josh Reynolds (4–55–2 TDs) at Los Angeles Rams <i>Julio Jones (11–182–2 TDs) at Atlanta – NFC–C</i>

### Led Team in Both Rushing and Receiving Yards in the Same Game

By 49ers:	11/5/17 1/15/94	Carlos Hyde (12–41 rushing, 9–84 receiving) vs. Arizona <i>Ricky Watters (24–118 rushing, 5–46 receiving) vs. New York Giants – NFC–D</i>
By Opponent:	10/22/17	Ezekiel Elliott (26–147–2 TDs rushing, 1–72–1 TD receiving) vs. Dallas

### 100-Yard Rusher & Receiver in the Same Game

By 49ers:	12/30/18 2/3/13	Alfred Morris (16–111–1 TD) & George Kittle (9–149–1 TD) at Los Angeles Rams <i>Frank Gore (19–110–1 TD), Michael Crabtree (5–109–1 TD) &amp; Vernon Davis (6–104) vs. Baltimore – SB XLVII</i>
By Opponent:	9/21/17 1/19/14	Todd Gurley II (28–113–2 TDs), Robert Woods (6–108) & Sammy Watkins (6–106–2 TDs) vs. Los Angeles Rams <i>Marshawn Lynch (22–109–1 TD) &amp; Doug Baldwin (6–106) at Seattle – NFC–C</i>

### 100-Yard Rusher, 100-Yard Receiver & 300-Yard Passer in the Same Game

By 49ers:	10/7/12 2/3/13	Frank Gore (14–106–1 TD), Michael Crabtree (6–113–1 TD), Vernon Davis (5–106) & Alex Smith (24–18–303–0 INTs–3 TDs) vs. Buffalo <i>Frank Gore (19–110–1 TD), Michael Crabtree (5–109–1 TD), Vernon Davis (6–104) &amp; Colin Kaepernick (28–16–302–1 INT–1 TD) vs. Baltimore – SB XLVII</i>
By Opponent:	9/18/16 1/5/03	Fozzy Whittaker (16–100), Kelvin Benjamin (7–108–2 TDs), Greg Olsen (5–122–1 TD) & Cam Newton (40–24–353–1 INT–4 TDs) at Carolina <i>Tiki Barber (26–115–1 TD), Amani Toomer (8–136–3 TDs) &amp; Kerry Collins (43–29–342–1 INT–4 TDs) vs. New York Giants – NFC–WC</i>

### Individual with at Least One Rushing and One Receiving Touchdown in the Same Game

By 49ers:	11/12/18 1/29/95	Matt Breida (17–101–1 TD rushing, 3–31–1 TD receiving) vs. New York Giants <i>Ricky Watters (15–47–1 TD rushing, 3–61–2 TDs receiving) at San Diego – SB XXIX</i>
By Opponent:	10/21/18 1/23/94	Todd Gurley II (15–63–2 TDs rushing, 4–23–1 TD receiving) vs. Los Angeles Rams <i>Emmitt Smith (23–88–1 TD rushing, 7–85–1 TD receiving) at Dallas – NFC–C</i>

# THE LAST TIME ...

## OFFENSIVE TOTALS

### Individual with at Least One Rushing Touchdown and One Touchdown Pass in the Same Game

By 49ers:	10/7/18	C.J. Beathard (54–34–349–2 INTs–2 TDs passing, 2–7–1 TD rushing) vs. Arizona
	1/12/14	Colin Kaepernick (28–15–196–0 INTs–1 TD passing, 8–15–1 TD rushing) at Carolina – NFC–D
By Opponent:	11/26/17	Russell Wilson (34–20–228 –1 INT–2 TDs passing, 7–25–1 TD rushing)

### No Turnovers

By 49ers:	11/1/18	49ers win vs. Oakland, 34–3
	1/12/14	49ers win at Carolina, 23–10 – NFC–D
By Opponent:	12/30/18	Rams win at Los Angeles, 48–32
	1/5/14	Packers loss at Green Bay, 20–23 – NFC–WC

### Touchdown Scored on First Drive

By 49ers:	11/1/18	49ers win vs. Oakland, 34–3
	1/5/03	49ers win vs. New York Giants, 39–38 – NFC–WC
By Opponent:	12/30/18	Rams win at Los Angeles, 48–32
	2/3/13	Ravens win vs. Baltimore, 34–31 – SB XLVII

## DEFENSIVE TOTALS

### Held Opponent Under 200 Net Yards of Total Offense

By 49ers:	12/3/17	49ers win at Chicago, 15–14 (147; 62 rushing, 85 passing)
	1/15/94	49ers win vs. New York Giants, 44–3 (194; 41 rushing, 153 passing) – NFC–D
By Opponent:	12/4/16	Bears win at Chicago, 26–6 (147; 141 rushing, 6 passing)
	1/4/97	Packers win at Green Bay, 35–14 (196; 68 rushing, 128 passing) – NFC–D

### Held Opponent Under 300 Net Yards of Total Offense

By 49ers:	12/9/18	49ers win vs. Denver, 20–14 (274; 103 rushing, 171 passing)
	1/5/14	49ers win at Green Bay, 23–20 (281; 124 rushing, 157 passing) – NFC–WC
By Opponent:	12/23/18	Bears win vs. Chicago, 14–9 (279; 47 rushing, 232 passing)
	1/12/03	Buccaneers win at Tampa Bay, 31–6 (228; 62 rushing, 166 passing) – NFC–D

### Held Opponent Under 50 Yards Rushing

By 49ers:	11/8/15	49ers win vs. Atlanta, 17–16 (17)
	1/14/12	49ers win vs. New Orleans, 36–32 (37) – NFC–D
By Opponent:	12/23/18	Bears win vs. Chicago, 14–9 (47)
	1/11/98	Packers win vs. Green Bay, 23–10 (33) – NFC–C

### Held Opponent Under 75 Yards Rushing

By 49ers:	10/7/18	49ers loss vs. Arizona, 18–28 (56)
	1/14/12	49ers win vs. New Orleans, 36–32 (37) – NFC–D
By Opponent:	12/23/18	Bears win vs. Chicago, 14–9 (47)
	1/12/03	Buccaneers win vs. Tampa Bay, 31–6 (62) – NFC–D

### Held Opponent Under 100 Yards Rushing

By 49ers:	12/23/18	49ers loss vs. Chicago, 9–14 (90)
	1/12/14	49ers win at Carolina, 23–10 (93) – NFC–D
By Opponent:	12/23/18	Bears win vs. Chicago, 14–9 (47)
	1/12/03	Buccaneers win vs. Tampa Bay, 31–6 (62) – NFC–D

### Held Opponent Under 100 Net Yards Passing

By 49ers:	12/3/17	49ers win at Chicago, 15–14 (85)
	1/4/97	49ers loss at Green Bay, 35–14 (71) – NFC–D
By Opponent:	9/17/17	Seahawks win at Seattle, 12–9 (89)

### Held Opponent Under 150 Net Yards Passing

By 49ers:	11/1/18	49ers win vs. Oakland, 34–3 (140)
	1/4/97	49ers loss at Green Bay, 14–35 (71) – NFC–D
By Opponent:	10/21/18	Rams win vs. Los Angeles Rams, 39–10 (121)
	1/19/14	Seahawks win at Seattle, 23–17 (147) – NFC–C

### Interception Return for a Touchdown

By 49ers:	9/30/18	Antone Exum Jr., 32 (QB Philip Rivers) at Los Angeles Chargers
	1/3/98	Ken Norton, 23 (QB Randall Cunningham) vs. Minnesota – NFC–D
By Opponent:	12/30/18	Cory Littleton, 19 (QB Nick Mullens) at Los Angeles Rams
	1/12/13	Sam Shields, 52 (QB Colin Kaepernick) vs. Green Bay – NFC–D

# THE LAST TIME ...

## DEFENSIVE TOTALS

### Individual with Three-or-More Interceptions

By 49ers: 10/8/06 Walt Harris (1–Andrew Walter, 2–Marcus Tuiasosopo) vs. Oakland  
By Opponent: 11/20/77 Bill Simpson (1–Scott Bull, 2–Jim Plunkett) vs. Los Angeles Rams

### Individual with Two-or-More Interceptions

By 49ers: 11/16/14 Chris Borland (2 – QB Eli Manning) at New York Giants  
1/15/95 Eric Davis (2 – QB Troy Aikman) vs. Dallas – NFC–C  
By Opponent: 12/30/18 Cory Littleton (2 – QB Nick Mullens) at Los Angeles Rams  
1/9/99 William White (2 – QB Steve Young) at Atlanta – NFC–D

### Seven-or-More Sacks by Team

By 49ers: 11/1/18 49ers win vs. Oakland, 34–3 (8)  
1/6/85 49ers win vs. Chicago, 23–0 (9) – NFC–C  
By Opponent: 10/21/18 Rams win vs. Los Angeles Rams, 39–10 (7)

### Six-or-More Sacks by Team

By 49ers: 11/1/18 49ers win vs. Oakland, 34–3 (8)  
1/22/12 49ers loss vs. New York Giants, 17–20 (OT) (6) – NFC–C  
By Opponent: 10/21/18 Rams win vs. Los Angeles Rams, 39–10 (7)

### Five-or-More Sacks by Team

By 49ers: 11/1/18 49ers win vs. Oakland, 34–3 (8)  
1/12/14 49ers win at Carolina, 23–10 (5) – NFC–D  
By Opponent: 10/21/18 Rams win vs. Los Angeles Rams, 39–10 (7)

### Individual with Three-or-More Sacks

By 49ers: 11/19/12 Aldon Smith (5.5 sacks of QB Jason Campbell) vs. Chicago  
1/9/93 Pierce Holt (3.0 of QB Mark Rypien) vs. Washington – NFC–D  
By Opponent: 10/21/18 Aaron Donald (4.0 of QB C.J. Beathard) vs. Los Angeles Rams  
1/17/93 Tony Casillas (3.0 of QB Steve Young) vs. Dallas – NFC–C

### Individual with Two-or-More Sacks

By 49ers: 12/23/18 Cassius Marsh (2.0 of QB Mitchell Trubisky) vs. Chicago  
1/19/14 Aldon Smith (2.0 of QB Russell Wilson) at Seattle – NFC–C  
By Opponent: 12/16/18 Jarran Reed (2.0 of QB Nick Mullens) vs. Seattle  
2/3/13 Paul Kruger (2.0 of QB Colin Kaepernick) vs. Baltimore – SB XLVII

### Fumble Recovered for Touchdown

By 49ers: 9/7/14 Chris Culliver recovered a DeMarco Murray fumble and returned it 35 yards at Dallas  
12/26/71 Bob Hoskins recovered a Bruce Gossett fumble in end zone vs. Washington – NFC–D  
By Opponent: 10/7/18 Josh Bynes recovered a C.J. Beathard fumble and returned it 23 yards vs. Arizona  
1/4/97 Antonio Freeman recovered an Edgar Bennet fumble in end zone at Green Bay – NFC–D

## SPECIAL TEAMS TOTALS

### Kickoff Return for a Touchdown

By 49ers: 12/16/18 Richie James Jr., 97 yards vs. Seattle  
1/11/98 Chuck Levy, 95 yards vs. Green Bay – NFC–C  
By Opponent: 12/12/10 Leon Washington, 92 yards vs. Seattle  
2/3/13 Jacoby Jones, 108 yards vs. Baltimore – SB XLVII

### Kickoff Return for a Touchdown on the Opening Kickoff

By 49ers: 11/10/08 Allen Rossum, 104 yards at Arizona  
12/23/72 Vic Washington, 97 yards vs. Dallas – NFC–D  
By Opponent: (could not find an instance when it occurred)

### Punt Return for a Touchdown

By 49ers: 9/11/11 Ted Ginn Jr., 55 yards vs. Seattle  
12/3/17 Tarik Cohen, 61 yards at Chicago  
1/4/97 Desmond Howard, 71 yards at Green Bay – NFC–D

# THE LAST TIME ...

## SPECIAL TEAMS TOTALS

### Blocked Punt Recovered for Touchdown

By 49ers: 10/3/10 Taylor Mays recovered Michael Koenen's punt (blocked by Dominique Zeigler) in the end zone at Atlanta  
By Opponent: 9/28/14 Brad Smith recovered Andy Lee's punt (blocked by Trey Burton) in the end zone vs. Philadelphia

### Blocked Punt

By 49ers: 9/14/14 Aaron Lynch blocked Patrick O'Donnell's punt vs. Chicago  
1/6/90 *Spencer Tillman blocked Bucky Scribner's punt vs. Minnesota – NFC–D*  
By Opponent: 10/21/18 Cory Littleton blocked Bradley Pinion's punt vs. Los Angeles Rams  
12/16/71 *Jon Jaqua blocked Steve Spurrier's punt vs. Washington – NFC–D*

### Blocked PAT

By 49ers: 1/1/17 Chris Jones blocked a PAT attempt by Steven Hauschka vs. Seattle  
By Opponent: 12/24/17 Jalen Myrick blocked a PAT attempt by Robbie Gould vs. Jacksonville

### Missed (not blocked) PAT

By 49ers: 11/25/18 Robbie Gould at Tampa Bay  
By Opponent: 12/16/18 Sebastian Janikowski vs. Seattle

### Blocked Field Goal

By 49ers: 1/3/16 Dontae Johnson blocked a 48-yard attempt by Greg Zuerlein vs. St. Louis  
By Opponent: 10/29/17 Derek Barnett blocked a 27-yard attempt by Robbie Gould at Philadelphia

### Blocked Field Goal returned for a TD

By 49ers: 9/27/09 Nate Clements, 59-yard return after Ray McDonald blocked a 44-yard attempt by Ryan Longwell at Minnesota  
By Opponent: 12/23/12 Richard Sherman, 90-yard return after Red Bryant blocked a 21-yard attempt by David Akers at Seattle

### Individual with Five–or–More Field Goals

By 49ers: 12/17/17 Robbie Gould (6–6) vs. Tennessee  
By Opponent: 10/2/05 Neil Rackers (6–6) at Arizona  
1/20/91 *Matt Bahr (5–6) vs. New York Giants – NFC–C*

### Individual with Four–or–More Field Goals

By 49ers: 12/16/18 Robbie Gould (4–4) vs. Seattle  
1/24/82 *Ray Wersching (4–4) at Cincinnati – SB XVI*  
By Opponent: 10/15/18 Mason Crosby (4–4) at Green Bay  
1/20/91 *Matt Bahr (5–6) vs. New York Giants – NFC–C*

### Individual with Three–or–More Field Goals

By 49ers: 12/23/18 Robbie Gould (3–3) vs. Chicago  
1/12/14 *Phil Dawson (3–3) at Carolina – NFC–D*  
By Opponent: 10/21/18 Greg Zuerlein (3–3) vs. Los Angeles Rams  
1/19/14 *Steven Hauschka (3–3) at Seattle – NFC–C*

### Successful Onsides Kick

By 49ers: 9/21/17 Robbie Gould kick recovered by Raheem Mostert vs. Los Angeles Rams (4th Q)  
By Opponent: 12/24/17 Josh Lambo kick recovered by Lerentee McCray vs. Jacksonville (4th Q)

### Failed Onsides Kick Attempt

By 49ers: 12/30/18 Robbie Gould kick recovered by Josh Reynolds at Los Angeles Rams (4th Q)  
By Opponent: 12/24/17 Josh Lambo kick out of bounds vs. Jacksonville (4th Q)  
1/12/13 *Mason Crosby kick recovered by Delanie Walker vs. Green Bay (4th Q) – NFC–D*

# Preseason Game #3

## National Football League Game Summary

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Date: Monday, 8/19/2019

**San Francisco 49ers at Denver Broncos**  
at Broncos Stadium at Mile High, Denver, CO

Start Time: 6:10 PM MDT

### Game Day Weather

Game Weather: Partly Cloudy  
Played Outdoor on Turf: Grass

Temp: 95° F (35.0° C) Humidity: 11%, Wind: North 3 mph mph  
Outdoor Weather: Partly Cloudy,

### Officials

Referee: Vinovich, Bill (52)	Umpire: Stritesky, Bruce (102)	Down Judge: McKinnely, Phil (110)
Line Judge: Perlman, Mark (9)	Field Judge: Robinson, Mearl (31)	Side Judge: Cavaletto, Gary (60)
Back Judge: Patrick, Steve (17)	Replay Official: Butterworth, Mark (0)	

### Lineups

San Francisco 49ers				Denver Broncos			
Offense		Defense		Offense		Defense	
WR 18	D.Pettis	LDE 91	A.Armstead	WR 10	E.Sanders	DE 99	A.Gotsis
TE 82	R.Dwelle	LDT 60	K.Givens	LT 72	G.Bolles	NT 96	S.Harris
LT 74	J.Staley	RDT 96	S.Day	LG 66	D.Risner	DE 95	D.Wolfe
LG 75	L.Tomlinson	RDE 94	S.Thomas	C 60	C.McGovern	OLB 55	B.Chubb
C 63	B.Garland	SAM 51	M.Smith	RG 71	A.Schlottmann	ILB 45	A.Johnson
RG 66	N.Toran	MIKE 59	D.Mayo	RT 70	J.James	ILB 47	J.Jewell
RT 69	M.McGlinchey	WILL 57	D.Greenlaw	TE 87	N.Fant	OLB 58	V.Miller
WR 11	M.Goodwin	LCB 25	R.Sherman	WR 14	C.Sutton	RCB 26	I.Yiadam
QB 10	J.Garoppolo	RCB 23	A.Witherspoon	QB 5	J.Flacco	LCB 25	C.Harris
RB 26	T.Coleman	FS 33	T.Moore	RB 30	P.Lindsay	SS 36	T.Marshall
FB 44	K.Juszczyk	SS 29	J.Tartt	TE 84	T.Fumagalli	FS 31	J.Simmons

### Substitutions

WR 1 S.Poindexter, QB 3 C.Beathard, QB 4 N.Mullens, QB 5 W.Speight, P 6 M.Wishnowsky, WR 7 M.Henry, K 9 R.Gould, WR 13 R.James, WR 17 J.Hurd, WR 19 D.Samuel, RB 22 M.Breida, DB 27 A.Colbert, DB 30 Q.Rollins, RB 31 R.Mostert, DB 32 D.Reed, RB 33 A.Walter, DB 35 T.Harris, RB 35 B.Wilds, DB 36 M.Harris, LS 40 C.Holba, DB 41 E.Moseley, RB 41 J.Wilson, TE 43 D.Helm, DB 45 D.Flannigan-Fowles, LB 46 A.Al-Shaair, CB 48 D.Johnson, TE 48 T.Mayfield, LB 50 L.Reynolds, LB 53 M.Nzeocha, T 60 D.Brunskill, T 61 W.Johnson, T 62 S.Young, T 64 C.DiLauro, T 67 J.Skule, DE 71 J.Garcia-Williams, G 71 W.Beavers, DT 76 J.Thompson, G 76 R.Reynolds, C 77 D.Day, DE 78 J.Valoaga, WR 81 J.Matthews, WR 84 K.Bourne, LS 86 K.Nelson, TE 89 K.Smith, DT 90 J.Bromley, DE 92 D.Moore, DE 95 K.Street

### Substitutions

DB 1 R.Causey, WR 2 T.Benson, QB 3 D.Lock, P 6 C.Wadman, K 8 B.McManus, QB 9 K.Hogan, WR 11 R.Cracraft, WR 12 B.Langley, WR 13 S.Dunbar, WR 15 J.Winfree, WR 16 K.McKnight, WR 17 D.Hamilton, WR 19 F.Brown, S 20 J.Carter, RB 23 D.Booker, RB 28 R.Freeman, S 35 D.Thomas, CB 37 L.Stephens, S 38 S.Thomas, CB 39 T.Johnson, FB 39 G.Aston, ILB 40 K.Bierria, CB 41 D.Bausby, LS 42 C.Kreiter, RB 48 D.Jackson, CB 49 A.Holder, RB 49 Da.Williams, OLB 50 A.Wallace, LB 52 J.Hollins, ILB 53 J.Dineen, ILB 54 J.Watson, OLB 56 D.Watson, DE 57 D.Walker, C 63 R.Crozier, OL 64 J.Brendel, G 67 D.Barclay, G/T 68 E.Wilkinson, OL 69 J.Rodgers, T 73 J.Leglue, T 75 Q.Bailey, T 76 A.Bisnowaty, G/C 77 S.Jones, OL 79 C.Green, WR 81 T.Patrick, TE 85 B.Howard, WR 86 N.Williams, TE 88 M.Stephens, DE 92 Z.Kerr, DE 93 D.Jones, OLB 94 A.Gooden, DE 97 D.Williams, DL 98 M.Purcell

### Did Not Play

DB 2 J.Verrett, WR 15 T.Taylor, DB 20 J.Ward, DB 24 K.Williams, RB 28 J.McKinnon, DB 38 A.Exum, LB 47 E.Lee, LB 54 F.Warner, DE 55 D.Ford, LB 56 K.Alexander, G 65 J.Garnett, OL 68 M.Person, DT 77 J.Taylor, TE 83 L.Toilolo, TE 85 G.Kittle, DT 93 D.Jones, DE 97 N.Bosa, DE 98 R.Blair, DE 99 D.Buckner

### Did Not Play

QB 4 B.Rypien, S 21 S.Cravens, DB 22 K.Jackson, CB 27 H.Richardson, RB 27 T.Riddick, CB 29 B.Callahan, FB 32 A.Janovich, RB 33 K.Muhammad, S 34 W.Parks, ILB 43 J.Jones, ILB 51 T.Davis, OLB 59 M.Reed, G 65 R.Leary, DL 78 D.Sizer, TE 80 J.Butt, TE 82 J.Heuerman

### Not Active

### Not Active

### Field Goals (made ( ) & missed)

R.Gould	(42)	B.McManus	(31) (33) (52)			
				<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>
				<b>4</b>	<b>OT</b>	<b>Total</b>
VISITOR:	San Francisco 49ers			0	3	14
HOME:	Denver Broncos			7	0	6
				3	6	0
				0	6	15

### Scoring Plays

Team	Qtr	Time	Play Description (Extra Point) (Drive Info)	Visitor	Home
Broncos	1	10:29	B.McManus 31 yd. Field Goal (8-34, 3:16)	0	3
Broncos	2	5:19	B.McManus 33 yd. Field Goal (13-57, 8:05)	0	6
49ers	2	2:31	R.Gould 42 yd. Field Goal (5-42, 2:48)	3	6

# Preseason Game #3

## National Football League Game Summary

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Broncos	2	0:00	B.McManus 52 yd. Field Goal (11-41, 2:31)	3	9
49ers	3	10:46	R.Mostert 30 yd. run (R.Gould kick) (7-70, 2:43)	10	9
49ers	3	5:17	J.Wilson 1 yd. run (R.Gould kick) (6-67, 3:22)	17	9
49ers	4	5:13	K.Bourne 1 yd. pass from N.Mullens (R.Gould kick) (3-11, 1:33)	24	9
Broncos	4	2:15	K.Hogan 24 yd. run (run failed) (1-24, 0:08)	24	15
Paid Attendance: 72,679				Time: 3:09	

**San Francisco 49ers vs Denver Broncos**  
**8/19/2019 at Broncos Stadium at Mile High**

# Final Individual Statistics

## San Francisco 49ers

## Denver Broncos

RUSHING							RUSHING						
	ATT	YDS	AVG	LG	TD		ATT	YDS	AVG	LG	TD		
R. Mostert	6	58	9.7	30	1	K. Hogan	2	26	13.0	24	1		
D. Samuel	1	45	45.0	45	0	E. Sanders	1	19	19.0	19	0		
J. Wilson	9	33	3.7	7	1	D. Booker	4	15	3.8	7	0		
A. Walter	6	22	3.7	6	0	P. Lindsay	5	14	2.8	5	0		
T. Coleman	3	21	7.0	12	0	Da. Williams	4	12	3.0	14	0		
M. Breida	1	4	4.0	4	0	D. Lock	2	11	5.5	7	0		
B. Wilds	1	3	3.0	3	0	T. Patrick	1	10	10.0	10	0		
N. Mullens	1	0	0.0	0	0	D. Jackson	3	6	2.0	3	0		
W. Speight	1	-1	-1.0	-1	0	R. Freeman	5	0	0.0	5	0		
<b>Total</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>185</b>	<b>6.4</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>113</b>	<b>4.2</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>1</b>		

PASSING									PASSING								
	ATT	CMP	YDS	SK/YD	TD	LG	IN	RT		ATT	CMP	YDS	SK/YD	TD	LG	IN	RT
C. Beathard	11	5	81	1/6	0	38	0	70.6	K. Hogan	15	5	40	5/28	0	21	1	14.6
J. Garoppolo	6	1	0	0/0	0	0	1	0.0	D. Lock	12	7	40	1/9	0	12	0	64.6
N. Mullens	3	2	27	1/5	1	26	0	134.7	J. Flacco	11	7	59	0/0	0	21	0	77.5
W. Speight	0	0	0	1/4	0	0	0	0.0	<b>Total</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>139</b>	<b>6/37</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>48.0</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>108</b>	<b>3/15</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>53.8</b>									

PASS RECEIVING							PASS RECEIVING						
	TAR	REC	YDS	AVG	LG	TD		TAR	REC	YDS	AVG	LG	TD
R. Mostert	2	2	42	21.0	38	0	K. McKnight	4	3	21	7.0	8	0
K. Bourne	3	2	27	13.5	26	1	C. Sutton	2	2	28	14.0	21	0
K. Smith	2	1	17	17.0	17	0	J. Winfree	4	2	24	12.0	21	0
R. James	3	1	14	14.0	14	0	D. Hamilton	3	2	21	10.5	13	0
J. Wilson	1	1	8	8.0	8	0	D. Booker	2	2	8	4.0	8	0
M. Breida	1	1	0	0.0	0	0	N. Fant	3	2	7	3.5	11	0
M. Goodwin	2	0	0	0.0	0	0	T. Patrick	1	1	12	12.0	12	0
J. Matthews	1	0	0	0.0	0	0	R. Freeman	1	1	6	6.0	6	0
J. Hurd	1	0	0	0.0	0	0	E. Sanders	2	1	5	5.0	5	0
D. Helm	1	0	0	0.0	0	0	T. Fumagalli	2	1	4	4.0	4	0
D. Pettis	1	0	0	0.0	0	0	N. Williams	2	1	3	3.0	3	0
							G. Aston	1	1	0	0.0	0	0
							F. Brown	2	0	0	0.0	0	0
							T. Benson	2	0	0	0.0	0	0
							B. Langley	2	0	0	0.0	0	0
							M. Stephens	1	0	0	0.0	0	0
							B. Howard	1	0	0	0.0	0	0
							S. Dunbar	1	0	0	0.0	0	0
							Da. Williams	1	0	0	0.0	0	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>108</b>	<b>13.5</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>37</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>139</b>	<b>7.3</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>0</b>

INTERCEPTIONS						INTERCEPTIONS					
	NO	YDS	AVG	LG	TD		NO	YDS	AVG	LG	TD
D. Johnson	1	0	0.0	0	0	I. Yiadom	1	1	1.0	1	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1.0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>

PUNTING								PUNTING							
	NO	YDS	AVG	NET	TB	IN20	LG		NO	YDS	AVG	NET	TB	IN20	LG
M. Wishnowsky	6	288	48.0	39.3	2	2	54	C. Wadman	7	349	49.9	41.4	2	1	56
<b>Total</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>288</b>	<b>48.0</b>	<b>39.3</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>54</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>349</b>	<b>49.9</b>	<b>41.4</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>56</b>

PUNT RETURNS							PUNT RETURNS						
	NO	YDS	AVG	FC	LG	TD		NO	YDS	AVG	FC	LG	TD
R. James	3	19	6.3	1	7	0	R. Cracraft	2	12	6.0	0	7	0
D. Pettis	0	0	0.0	1	0	0	N. Williams	1	0	0.0	0	0	0
[TOUCHBACK]	2	0	0.0	0	0	0	K. McKnight	1	0	0.0	0	0	0
							[TOUCHBACK]	2	0	0.0	0	0	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>6.3</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>3.0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>0</b>

KICKOFF RETURNS							KICKOFF RETURNS						
	NO	YDS	AVG	FC	LG	TD		NO	YDS	AVG	FC	LG	TD
R. James	2	80	40.0	0	48	0	D. Jackson	1	22	22.0	0	22	0
[TOUCHBACK]	1	0	0.0	0	0	0	[TOUCHBACK]	4	0	0.0	0	0	0

**San Francisco 49ers vs Denver Broncos**  
**8/19/2019 at Broncos Stadium at Mile High**

# Final Individual Statistics

Total 2 80 40.0 0 48 0 Total 1 22 22.0 0 22 0

**San Francisco 49ers**

<b>FUMBLES</b>	<b>FUM</b>	<b>LOST</b>	<b>OWN-REC</b>	<b>YDS</b>	<b>TD</b>	<b>FORCED</b>	<b>OPP-REC</b>	<b>YDS</b>	<b>TD</b>	<b>OUT-BDS</b>
N.Mullens	1	0	1	-2	0	0	0	0	0	0
C.Beathard	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
W.Speight	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
N.Toran	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>-2</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>

**Denver Broncos**

<b>FUMBLES</b>	<b>FUM</b>	<b>LOST</b>	<b>OWN-REC</b>	<b>YDS</b>	<b>TD</b>	<b>FORCED</b>	<b>OPP-REC</b>	<b>YDS</b>	<b>TD</b>	<b>OUT-BDS</b>
N.Williams	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
B.Chubb	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0
D.Williams	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>

**San Francisco 49ers vs Denver Broncos**  
**8/19/2019 at Broncos Stadium at Mile High**

# Final Team Statistics

	<b>Visitor 49ers</b>	<b>Home Broncos</b>
<b>TOTAL FIRST DOWNS</b>	15	18
By Rushing	9	6
By Passing	5	6
By Penalty	1	6
<b>THIRD DOWN EFFICIENCY</b>	2-11-18%	8-19-42%
<b>FOURTH DOWN EFFICIENCY</b>	0-0-0%	0-1-0%
<b>TOTAL NET YARDS</b>	278	215
Total Offensive Plays (inc. times thrown passing)	52	71
Average gain per offensive play	5.3	3.0
<b>NET YARDS RUSHING</b>	185	113
Total Rushing Plays	29	27
Average gain per rushing play	6.4	4.2
Tackles for a loss-number and yards	0-0	6-11
<b>NET YARDS PASSING</b>	93	102
Times thrown - yards lost attempting to pass	3-15	6-37
Gross yards passing	108	139
<b>PASS ATTEMPTS-COMPLETIONS-HAD INTERCEPTED</b>	20-8-1	38-19-1
Avg gain per pass play (inc.# thrown passing)	4.0	2.3
<b>KICKOFFS Number-In End Zone-Touchbacks</b>	5-5-4	4-1-1
<b>PUNTS Number and Average</b>	6-48.0	7-49.9
Had Blocked	0	0
<b>FGs - PATs Had Blocked</b>	0-0	0-0
<b>Net Punting Average</b>	39.3	41.4
<b>TOTAL RETURN YARDAGE (Not Including Kickoffs)</b>	19	13
No. and Yards Punt Returns	3-19	4-12
No. and Yards Kickoff Returns	2-80	1-22
No. and Yards Interception Returns	1-0	1-1
<b>PENALTIES Number and Yards</b>	13-101	9-68
<b>FUMBLES Number and Lost</b>	3-1	1-0
<b>TOUCHDOWNS</b>	3	1
Rushing	2	1
Passing	1	0
<b>EXTRA POINTS Made-Attempts</b>	3-3	0-1
Kicking Made-Attempts	3-3	0-0
Rushing Made-Attempts	0-0	0-1
<b>FIELD GOALS Made-Attempts</b>	1-1	3-3
<b>RED ZONE EFFICIENCY</b>	2-4-50%	0-2-0%
<b>GOAL TO GO EFFICIENCY</b>	2-2-100%	0-0-0%
<b>SAFETIES</b>	0	0
<b>FINAL SCORE</b>	24	15
<b>TIME OF POSSESSION</b>	25:05	34:55

**San Francisco 49ers vs Denver Broncos**  
**8/19/2019 at Broncos Stadium at Mile High**

# Ball Possession And Drive Chart

**San Francisco 49ers**

#	Time Recd	Time Lost	Time Poss	How Ball Obtained	Drive Began	# Play	Yds Gain	Yds Pen	Net Yds	1st Down	Last Scrm	How Given Up
1	15:00	13:45	1:15	Kickoff	SF 25	4	16	0	16	1	SF 41	Interception
2	10:29	9:26	1:03	Kickoff	SF 49	3	4	0	4	0	DEN 47	Punt
3	6:03	4:13	1:50	Punt	SF 12	3	5	-6	-1	0	SF 11	Punt
4	1:19	13:24	2:55	Punt	SF 20	5	7	0	7	1	SF 27	Punt
5	5:19	2:31	2:48	Kickoff	SF 34	5	46	-4	42	2	* DEN 24	Field Goal
6	13:29	10:46	2:43	Punt	SF 30	7	76	-6	70	4	DEN 30	Touchdown
7	8:39	5:17	3:22	Punt	SF 33	6	67	0	67	3	* DEN 1	Touchdown
8	1:30	0:19	1:11	Punt	SF 27	3	4	0	4	0	SF 31	Punt
9	10:43	6:51	3:52	Punt	SF 20	7	30	-5	25	2	SF 45	Punt
10	6:46	5:13	1:33	Interception	DEN 11	3	11	0	11	2	* DEN 1	Touchdown
11	3:52	2:23	1:29	Punt	SF 30	3	4	-10	-6	0	SF 28	Fumble
12	2:15	1:40	0:35	Kickoff	SF 48	3	7	0	7	0	DEN 45	Punt
13	0:29	0:00	0:29	Downs	DEN 19	1	-1	0	-1	0	* DEN 19	End of Game

(498) Average SF 38

**Denver Broncos**

#	Time Recd	Time Lost	Time Poss	How Ball Obtained	Drive Began	# Play	Yds Gain	Yds Pen	Net Yds	1st Down	Last Scrm	How Given Up
1	13:45	10:29	3:16	Interception	SF 47	8	34	0	34	2	* SF 13	Field Goal
2	9:26	6:03	3:23	Punt	DEN 20	6	26	0	26	1	DEN 46	Punt
3	4:13	1:19	2:54	Punt	DEN 42	4	27	-20	7	1	DEN 49	Punt
4	13:24	5:19	8:05	Punt	DEN 28	13	43	14	57	4	* SF 15	Field Goal
5	2:31	0:00	2:31	Kickoff	DEN 25	11	36	5	41	3	SF 34	Field Goal
6	15:00	13:29	1:31	Kickoff	DEN 25	3	-7	0	-7	0	DEN 18	Punt
7	10:46	8:39	2:07	Kickoff	DEN 25	4	-6	5	-1	1	DEN 24	Punt
8	5:17	1:30	3:47	Kickoff	DEN 9	6	31	-5	26	1	DEN 35	Punt
9	0:19	10:43	4:36	Punt	DEN 8	7	16	20	36	3	DEN 44	Punt
10	6:51	6:46	0:05	Punt	DEN 14	1	0	-5	-5	0	DEN 9	Interception
11	5:13	3:52	1:21	Kickoff	DEN 25	3	-3	0	-3	0	DEN 22	Punt
12	2:23	2:15	0:08	Fumble	SF 24	1	24	0	24	1	SF 24	Touchdown
13	1:40	0:29	1:11	Punt	DEN 10	7	-6	15	9	1	DEN 19	Downs

(360) Average DEN 28

\* inside opponent's 20

**Time of Possession by Quarter**

	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	OT	Total
<b>Visitor</b> San Francisco 49ers	5:27	4:24	7:16	7:58		25:05
<b>Home</b> Denver Broncos	9:33	10:36	7:44	7:02		34:55

**Kickoff Drive No.-Start Average**

49ers: 3 - SF 36                      Broncos: 5 - DEN 22

**San Francisco 49ers vs Denver Broncos**  
**8/19/2019 at Broncos Stadium at Mile High**

## Final Defensive Statistics

San Francisco 49ers	Regular Defensive Plays											Special Teams					Misc			
	TKL	AST	COMB	SK	/ YDS	TFL	Q	IN	PD	FF	FR	TKL	AST	FF	FR	BL	TKL	AST	FF	FR
J.Valoaga	3	4	7	0.5	5	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
D.Reed	5	1	6	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
J.Tartt	4	1	5	0	0	2	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
A.Al-Shaair	4	1	5	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
D.Johnson	4	0	4	0	0	0	0	1	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
K.Street	3	1	4	1.5	5	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
S.Thomas	2	2	4	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
D.Greenlaw	1	3	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
J.Bromley	2	1	3	2	12	2	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
D.Mayo	2	1	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
M.Nzeocha	2	0	2	1	6	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
T.Moore	2	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
M.Harris	1	1	2	1	9	1	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
L.Reynolds	1	1	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
E.Moseley	1	1	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
M.Smith	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
A.Witherspoon	1	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
K.Givens	1	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
J.Garcia-Williams	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
J.Thompson	1	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
S.Day	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
D.Moore	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
M.Wishnowsky	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
J.Matthews	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
M.Henry	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
M.Goodwin	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0
W.Speight	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0
N.Toran	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
N.Mullens	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>42</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>60</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>37</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>2</b>

**TKL = Tackle AST = Assist COMB = Combined QH=QB Hit IN = Interception PD = Pass Defense FF = Forced Fumble FR = Fumble Recovery**

**San Francisco 49ers vs Denver Broncos**  
**8/19/2019 at Broncos Stadium at Mile High**

## Final Defensive Statistics

Denver Broncos	Regular Defensive Plays											Special Teams					Misc			
	TKL	AST	COMB	SK	/ YDS	TFL	QH	IN	PD	FF	FR	TKL	AST	FF	FR	BL	TKL	AST	FF	FR
K.Bierria	3	2	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
D.Walker	3	2	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
T.Marshall	3	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
B.Chubb	2	1	3	1	6	0	2	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
J.Watson	2	1	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
D.Williams	0	3	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
D.Watson	2	0	2	1	5	2	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
S.Harris	2	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
C.Harris	2	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
T.Johnson	2	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
A.Holder	2	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
A.Johnson	1	1	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
J.Hollins	0	2	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
A.Gotsis	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
M.Purcell	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
A.Gooden	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
D.Thomas	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Z.Kerr	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
D.Jones	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
D.Bausby	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
I.Yiadam	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
S.Thomas	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
B.Howard	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
N.Williams	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
Da.Williams	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>42</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>

**San Francisco 49ers vs Denver Broncos**  
**8/19/2019 at Broncos Stadium at Mile High**

# First Half Summary

PERIOD SCORES

49ers	0 3 = 3
Broncos	3 6 = 9

TIME OF POSSESSION

49ers	9:51
Broncos	20:09

**Scoring Plays**

Team	Qtr	Time	Play Description (Extra Point) (Drive Info)	Visitor	Home
Broncos	1	10:29	B.McManus 31 yd. Field Goal (8-34, 3:16)	0	3
Broncos	2	5:19	B.McManus 33 yd. Field Goal (13-57, 8:05)	0	6
49ers	2	2:31	R.Gould 42 yd. Field Goal (5-42, 2:48)	3	6
Broncos	2	0:00	B.McManus 52 yd. Field Goal (11-41, 2:31)	3	9

	San Francisco 49ers	Denver Broncos
<b>TOTAL FIRST DOWNS</b>	4	11
First Downs Rushing-Passing-by Penalty	2 - 1 - 1	4 - 4 - 3
<b>THIRD DOWN EFFICIENCY</b>	0-5-0%	6-10-60%
<b>TOTAL NET YARDS</b>	78	166
Total Offensive Plays	19	39
<b>NET YARDS RUSHING</b>	42	67
<b>NET YARDS PASSING</b>	36	99
Gross Yards Passing	42	99
Times thrown-yards lost attempting to pass	1-6	0-0
<b>Pass Attempts-Completions-Had Intercepted</b>	10 - 3 - 1	22 - 14 - 0
<b>Punts-Number and Average</b>	3 - 48.7	2 - 46.5
<b>Penalties-Number and Yards</b>	6 - 40	4 - 31
<b>Fumbles-Number and Lost</b>	1 - 0	1 - 0
<b>Red Zone Efficiency</b>	0-1-0%	0-2-0%
<b>Average Drive Start</b>	SF 28	DEN 34

**San Francisco 49ers**

**Denver Broncos**

RUSHING						RUSHING					
	ATT	YDS	AVG	LG	TD		ATT	YDS	AVG	LG	TD
T.Coleman	3	21	7.0	12	0	E.Sanders	1	19	19.0	19	0
R.Mostert	3	13	4.3	8	0	P.Lindsay	5	14	2.8	5	0
M.Breida	1	4	4.0	4	0	D.Booker	3	13	4.3	7	0
J.Wilson	1	4	4.0	4	0	D.Lock	2	11	5.5	7	0
						T.Patrick	1	10	10.0	10	0
						R.Freeman	5	0	0.0	5	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>42</b>	<b>5.3</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>67</b>	<b>3.9</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>0</b>

PASSING										PASSING									
	ATT	CMP	YDS	SK/YD	TD	LG	IN	RT		ATT	CMP	YDS	SK/YD	TD	LG	IN	RT		
J.Garoppolo	6	1	0	0/0	0	0	1	0.0	J.Flacco	11	7	59	0/0	0	21	0	77.5		
C.Beathard	4	2	42	1/6	0	38	0	87.5	D.Lock	11	7	40	0/0	0	12	0	70.3		
<b>Total</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>42</b>	<b>1/6</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>5.0</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>99</b>	<b>0/0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>73.9</b>		

PASS RECEIVING							PASS RECEIVING						
	TAR	REC	YDS	AVG	LG	TD		TAR	REC	YDS	AVG	LG	TD
R.Mostert	2	2	42	21.0	38	0	C.Sutton	2	2	28	14.0	21	0
M.Breida	1	1	0	0.0	0	0	D.Hamilton	3	2	21	10.5	13	0
M.Goodwin	2	0	0	0.0	0	0	D.Booker	2	2	8	4.0	8	0
J.Hurd	1	0	0	0.0	0	0	N.Fant	3	2	7	3.5	11	0
J.Matthews	1	0	0	0.0	0	0	T.Patrick	1	1	12	12.0	12	0
D.Pettis	1	0	0	0.0	0	0	K.McKnight	2	1	8	8.0	8	0
K.Smith	1	0	0	0.0	0	0	R.Freeman	1	1	6	6.0	6	0
							E.Sanders	2	1	5	5.0	5	0
							T.Fumagalli	2	1	4	4.0	4	0
							G.Aston	1	1	0	0.0	0	0
							F.Brown	1	0	0	0.0	0	0
							J.Winfree	1	0	0	0.0	0	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>42</b>	<b>14.0</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>99</b>	<b>7.1</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>0</b>

**San Francisco 49ers**

**Regular Defensive Plays**

**Special Teams**

**Misc**



## First Quarter

8/19/2019

## Play By Play

SF wins toss, elects to Receive, and DEN elects to defend the North goal.

B.McManus kicks 65 yards from DEN 35 to end zone, Touchback.

## San Francisco 49ers at 15:00

1-10-SF 25 (15:00) T.Coleman right guard to SF 37 for 12 yards (C.Harris). R1  
1-10-SF 37 (14:30) T.Coleman right tackle to SF 41 for 4 yards (A.Gotsis).  
 2-6-SF 41 (13:56) (Shotgun) J.Garoppolo pass incomplete short right to D.Pettis (S.Harris).  
 3-6-SF 41 (13:52) (Shotgun) J.Garoppolo pass short left intended for M.Goodwin INTERCEPTED by I.Yiadam [B.Chubb] at SF 48. I.Yiadam to SF 47 for 1 yard (M.Goodwin).

## Denver Broncos at 13:45

1-10-SF 47 (13:45) (Shotgun) J.Flacco pass short right to E.Sanders to SF 42 for 5 yards (M.Smith).  
 2-5-SF 42 (13:10) P.Lindsay left tackle to SF 43 for -1 yards (J.Tartt).  
 3-6-SF 43 (12:32) (Shotgun) J.Flacco pass short middle to D.Hamilton to SF 30 for 13 yards (J.Tartt) [S.Day]. P1  
1-10-SF 30 (11:54) E.Sanders right end to SF 11 for 19 yards (D.Greenlaw; S.Thomas). R2  
1-10-SF 11 (11:15) R.Freeman right guard to SF 13 for -2 yards (J.Tartt).  
 2-12-SF 13 (10:43) J.Flacco pass incomplete short left to N.Fant (J.Tartt).  
 3-12-SF 13 (10:38) (Shotgun) J.Flacco pass incomplete short right to D.Hamilton.  
 4-12-SF 13 (10:33) **B.McManus 31 yard field goal is GOOD, Center-C.Kreiter, Holder-C.Wadman.**

SF 0 DEN 3, 8 plays, 34 yards, 3:16 drive, 4:31 elapsed
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B.McManus kicks 64 yards from DEN 35 to SF 1. R.James to SF 49 for 48 yards (K.Bierria).

## San Francisco 49ers at 10:29, (1st play from scrimmage 10:20)

1-10-SF 49 (10:20) (Shotgun) J.Garoppolo pass incomplete short middle to M.Goodwin (S.Harris).  
 2-10-SF 49 (10:13) M.Breida left guard to DEN 47 for 4 yards (S.Harris).  
 3-6-DEN 47 (9:40) (Shotgun) J.Garoppolo pass incomplete short right to J.Matthews (D.Bausby).  
 4-6-DEN 47 (9:33) M.Wishnowsky punts 47 yards to end zone, Center-K.Nelson, Touchback.

## Denver Broncos at 9:26

1-10-DEN 20 (9:26) J.Flacco pass short left to N.Fant to DEN 16 for -4 yards (A.Witherspoon).  
 2-14-DEN 16 (8:45) (Shotgun) J.Flacco pass short right to C.Sutton to DEN 23 for 7 yards (D.Mayo).  
 3-7-DEN 23 (8:08) (Shotgun) J.Flacco pass short middle to C.Sutton to DEN 44 for 21 yards (T.Moore) [D.Moore]. P3  
1-10-DEN 44 (7:35) P.Lindsay up the middle to DEN 48 for 4 yards (D.Mayo; S.Thomas).  
 2-6-DEN 48 (7:01) R.Freeman left end to DEN 46 for -2 yards (S.Thomas).  
 3-8-DEN 46 (6:21) (Shotgun) J.Flacco pass incomplete short right.  
 4-8-DEN 46 (6:12) C.Wadman punts 42 yards to SF 12, Center-C.Kreiter, fair catch by D.Pettis.

## San Francisco 49ers at 6:03

1-10-SF 12 (6:03) T.Coleman left tackle to SF 19 for 7 yards (A.Johnson).  
*PENALTY on SF-N.Toran, Offensive Holding, 6 yards, enforced at SF 12 - No Play.*  
 1-16-SF 6 (5:42) (Shotgun) J.Garoppolo pass incomplete short left to K.Smith.  
 2-16-SF 6 (5:38) (Shotgun) J.Garoppolo pass short left to M.Breida to SF 6 for no gain (S.Harris).  
 3-16-SF 6 (5:07) T.Coleman left tackle to SF 11 for 5 yards (D.Thomas; B.Chubb).  
 4-11-SF 11 (4:26) M.Wishnowsky punts 54 yards to DEN 35, Center-C.Holba. R.Cracraft to DEN 42 for 7 yards (L.Reynolds).

## Denver Broncos at 4:13

1-10-DEN 42 (4:13) T.Patrick right end to SF 48 for 10 yards (K.Street). R4  
1-10-SF 48 (3:35) J.Flacco pass incomplete short right to E.Sanders.  
 2-10-SF 48 (3:28) (Shotgun) J.Flacco pass short right to P.Lindsay to SF 48 for no gain (E.Moseley).  
*PENALTY on DEN-J.James, Illegal Block Above the Waist, 10 yards, enforced at SF 48 - No Play.*  
 2-20-DEN 42 (3:07) (Shotgun) J.Flacco pass short right to R.Freeman to DEN 48 for 6 yards (D.Greenlaw).  
 3-14-DEN 48 (2:26) (Shotgun) J.Flacco pass deep left to E.Sanders to SF 7 for 45 yards (D.Reed).  
*PENALTY on DEN-G.Bolles, Offensive Holding, 10 yards, enforced at DEN 48 - No Play.*  
 3-24-DEN 38 (2:02) (Shotgun) J.Flacco pass short right to N.Fant to DEN 49 for 11 yards (A.Al-Shaair).  
 4-13-DEN 49 (1:26) C.Wadman punts 51 yards to end zone, Center-C.Kreiter, Touchback.

## San Francisco 49ers at 1:19

1-10-SF 20 (1:19) R.Mostert left tackle to SF 23 for 3 yards (B.Chubb).

San Francisco 49ers vs Denver Broncos at Broncos Stadium at Mile High

2-7-SF 23

(:45) R.Mostert up the middle to SF 31 for 8 yards (C.Harris).

R2

**END OF QUARTER**

	Score	Time	First Downs				Efficiencies	
		Poss	R	P	X	T	3 Down	4 Down
San Francisco 49ers	0	5:27	2	0	0	2	0/3	0/0
Denver Broncos	3	9:33	2	2	0	4	2/5	0/0

## Second Quarter

8/19/2019

## Play By Play

San Francisco 49ers continued.

- 1-10-SF 31 (15:00) R.Mostert left tackle to SF 33 for 2 yards (T.Marshall).  
 2-8-SF 33 (14:24) (Shotgun) C.Beathard pass incomplete short left.  
 3-8-SF 33 (14:16) (Shotgun) C.Beathard sacked at SF 24 for -9 yards (B.Chubb). FUMBLES (B.Chubb) [B.Chubb], recovered by SF-N.Toran at SF 27.  
 4-14-SF 27 (13:35) M.Wishnowsky punts 45 yards to DEN 28, Center-K.Nelson. N.Williams MUFFS catch, and recovers at DEN 28. N.Williams to DEN 28 for no gain (D.Mayo; M.Henry).

## Denver Broncos at 13:24

- 1-10-DEN 28 (13:24) P.Lindsay up the middle to DEN 33 for 5 yards (A.Al-Shaair).  
 2-5-DEN 33 (12:42) R.Freeman left end to DEN 31 for -2 yards (A.Al-Shaair; D.Greenlaw).  
*PENALTY on SF-J.Bromley, Illegal Use of Hands, 5 yards, enforced at DEN 33 - No Play.* X5  
1-10-DEN 38 (12:14) R.Freeman up the middle to DEN 35 for -3 yards (K.Givens).  
 2-13-DEN 35 (11:33) (Shotgun) D.Lock pass short middle to T.Patrick to DEN 47 for 12 yards (D.Reed).  
 3-1-DEN 47 (10:48) (Shotgun) D.Lock pass short middle to D.Hamilton to SF 45 for 8 yards (D.Reed). P6  
1-10-SF 45 (10:11) P.Lindsay up the middle to SF 41 for 4 yards (A.Al-Shaair).  
 2-6-SF 41 (9:33) R.Freeman left end to SF 36 for 5 yards (J.Valoaga; D.Greenlaw).  
 3-1-SF 36 (8:48) D.Lock pass incomplete short right to F.Brown (D.Reed).  
*PENALTY on SF-D.Reed, Defensive Pass Interference, 9 yards, enforced at SF 36 - No Play.* X7  
1-10-SF 27 (8:41) R.Freeman up the middle to SF 25 for 2 yards (J.Valoaga; D.Greenlaw).  
 2-8-SF 25 (8:01) D.Lock pass short right to T.Fumagalli pushed ob at SF 21 for 4 yards (S.Thomas).  
 3-4-SF 21 (7:27) (Shotgun) D.Lock scrambles left end pushed ob at SF 17 for 4 yards (D.Johnson). R8  
 San Francisco challenged the first down ruling, and the play was Upheld. The ruling on the field stands. (Timeout #1.)  
1-10-SF 17 (6:54) D.Lock pass short right to G.Aston to SF 17 for no gain (J.Tartt).  
 2-10-SF 17 (6:11) P.Lindsay up the middle to SF 15 for 2 yards (J.Valoaga).  
 3-8-SF 15 (5:28) (Shotgun) D.Lock pass incomplete short right to J.Winfree. SF-J.Tartt was injured during the play.  
 4-8-SF 15 (5:23) **B.McManus 33 yard field goal is GOOD, Center-C.Kreiter, Holder-C.Wadman.**

SF 0 DEN 6, 13 plays, 57 yards, 2 penalties, 8:05 drive, 9:41 elapsed

B.McManus kicks 63 yards from DEN 35 to SF 2. R.James to SF 34 for 32 yards (D.Bausby).

## San Francisco 49ers at 5:19, (1st play from scrimmage 5:13)

- 1-10-SF 34 (5:13) (Shotgun) C.Beathard pass short right to R.Mostert to DEN 28 for 38 yards (J.Watson; D.Walker). P3  
1-10-DEN 28 (4:35) C.Beathard pass short left to K.Smith to DEN 21 for 7 yards (S.Thomas).  
*PENALTY on DEN-D.Walker, Defensive Holding, 6 yards, enforced at DEN 28 - No Play.* X4  
1-10-DEN 22 (4:15) J.Wilson right tackle to DEN 18 for 4 yards (D.Walker; Z.Kerr).  
 2-6-DEN 18 (3:42) J.Wilson right end to DEN 16 for 2 yards (D.Watson).  
*PENALTY on SF-N.Toran, Offensive Holding, 10 yards, enforced at DEN 18 - No Play.*  
 2-16-DEN 28 (3:24) (Shotgun) C.Beathard pass short left to R.Mostert to DEN 24 for 4 yards (J.Watson).  
 3-12-DEN 24 (2:39) (Shotgun) C.Beathard pass incomplete short right to J.Hurd.  
 4-12-DEN 24 (2:36) **R.Gould 42 yard field goal is GOOD, Center-C.Holba, Holder-M.Wishnowsky.**

SF 3 DEN 6, 5 plays, 42 yards, 1 penalty, 2:48 drive, 12:29 elapsed

M.Wishnowsky kicks 65 yards from SF 35 to end zone, Touchback.

## Denver Broncos at 2:31

- 1-10-DEN 25 (2:31) (Shotgun) D.Lock scrambles left end pushed ob at DEN 32 for 7 yards (D.Johnson).

## Two-Minute Warning

- 2-3-DEN 32 (2:00) *PENALTY on DEN-E.Wilkinson, False Start, 5 yards, enforced at DEN 32 - No Play.*  
 2-8-DEN 27 (2:00) (Shotgun) D.Booker up the middle to DEN 34 for 7 yards (D.Reed).  
 3-1-DEN 34 (1:23) D.Booker up the middle to DEN 36 for 2 yards (J.Tartt; D.Reed). R9  
 Timeout #1 by DEN at 01:17.  
1-10-DEN 36 (1:17) (Shotgun) D.Lock pass short left to D.Booker to DEN 36 for no gain (D.Mayo).  
 2-10-DEN 36 (:54) (No Huddle, Shotgun) D.Lock pass short middle to D.Booker to DEN 44 for 8 yards (J.Garcia-Williams) [D.Reed].  
 3-2-DEN 44 (:35) (No Huddle, Shotgun) D.Lock pass short middle to K.McKnight to SF 48 for 8 yards (D.Reed). P10  
 Timeout #2 by DEN at 00:30.  
1-10-SF 48 (:30) (Shotgun) D.Lock pass incomplete short left to T.Fumagalli.  
 2-10-SF 48 (:26) (Shotgun) D.Lock pass incomplete short right to K.McKnight (D.Reed).

**San Francisco 49ers vs Denver Broncos at Broncos Stadium at Mile High**

- 3-10-SF 48 (:21) (Shotgun) PENALTY on SF-K.Street, Neutral Zone Infraction, 5 yards, enforced at SF 48 - No Play.
- 3-5-SF 43 (:21) (Shotgun) D.Lock pass incomplete short left to J.Winfree [D.Mayo].  
 PENALTY on SF-L.Reynolds, Defensive Holding, 5 yards, enforced at SF 43 - No Play.
- 1-10-SF 38 (:18) (Shotgun) D.Lock pass incomplete deep left to F.Brown.
- 2-10-SF 38 (:13) (Shotgun) D.Booker up the middle to SF 34 for 4 yards (K.Street).  
 Timeout #3 by DEN at 00:02.
- 3-6-SF 34 (:02) **B.McManus 52 yard field goal is GOOD, Center-C.Kreiter, Holder-C.Wadman.**

X11

SF 3 DEN 9, 11 plays, 41 yards, 2 penalties, 2:31 drive, 15:00 elapsed
--

**END OF QUARTER**

	Score	Time Poss	First Downs				Efficiencies	
			R	P	X	T	3 Down	4 Down
<b>San Francisco 49ers</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4:24</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>0/2</b>	<b>0/0</b>
<b>Denver Broncos</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>10:36</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>4/5</b>	<b>0/0</b>

## Third Quarter

8/19/2019

## Play By Play

DEN elects to Receive, and SF elects to defend the goal.

M.Wishnowsky kicks 65 yards from SF 35 to end zone, Touchback.

## Denver Broncos at 15:00

1-10-DEN 25 (15:00) D.Booker up the middle to DEN 27 for 2 yards (M.Harris; J.Bromley).

2-8-DEN 27 (14:23) D.Lock sacked at DEN 18 for -9 yards (M.Harris).

3-17-DEN 18 (13:43) (Shotgun) D.Lock pass incomplete deep left to T.Benson.

4-17-DEN 18 (13:38) C.Wadman punts 52 yards to SF 30, Center-C.Kreiter, fair catch by R.James.

## San Francisco 49ers at 13:29

1-10-SF 30 (13:29) C.Beathard pass incomplete short right to D.Helm.

2-10-SF 30 (13:25) R.Mostert left end to SF 32 for 2 yards (M.Purcell).

3-8-SF 32 (12:47) (Shotgun) PENALTY on SF-J.Skule, False Start, 6 yards, enforced at SF 32 - No Play.

Timeout #1 by SF at 12:30.

3-14-SF 26 (12:30) (Shotgun) C.Beathard pass short left to K.Smith ran ob at SF 43 for 17 yards. P5

1-10-SF 43 (11:58) (Shotgun) R.Mostert right guard to DEN 44 for 13 yards (T.Marshall). R6

1-10-DEN 44 (11:26) (Shotgun) C.Beathard pass short left to R.James pushed ob at DEN 30 for 14 yards (T.Johnson). P7

1-10-DEN 30 (11:01) C.Beathard pass incomplete deep left.

2-10-DEN 30 (10:54) **R.Mostert up the middle for 30 yards, TOUCHDOWN.** R8

R.Gould extra point is GOOD, Center-K.Nelson, Holder-M.Wishnowsky.

**SF 10 DEN 9, 7 plays, 70 yards, 2:43 drive, 4:14 elapsed**

M.Wishnowsky kicks 65 yards from SF 35 to end zone, Touchback.

## Denver Broncos at 10:46

1-10-DEN 25 (10:46) D.Jackson right end to DEN 26 for 1 yard (T.Moore). SF-T.Moore was injured during the play.

2-9-DEN 26 (10:17) K.Hogan pass incomplete deep right to T.Benson.

PENALTY on SF-D.Johnson, Defensive Holding, 5 yards, enforced at DEN 26 - No Play. X12

1-10-DEN 31 (10:12) Da.Williams right tackle to DEN 30 for -1 yards (J.Thompson).

2-11-DEN 30 (9:35) K.Hogan pass incomplete short right to S.Dunbar (D.Johnson).

3-11-DEN 30 (9:30) (Shotgun) K.Hogan sacked at DEN 24 for -6 yards (M.Nzeocha).

4-17-DEN 24 (8:51) C.Wadman punts 50 yards to SF 26, Center-C.Kreiter. R.James to SF 33 for 7 yards (A.Gooden; J.Watson).

## San Francisco 49ers at 8:39

1-10-SF 33 (8:39) C.Beathard pass short left to J.Wilson pushed ob at SF 41 for 8 yards (A.Johnson).

2-2-SF 41 (8:03) (Shotgun) J.Wilson up the middle to SF 42 for 1 yard (K.Bierria).

3-1-SF 42 (7:20) (Shotgun) J.Wilson left end pushed ob at SF 49 for 7 yards (T.Johnson). R9

1-10-SF 49 (6:49) J.Wilson left tackle to DEN 46 for 5 yards (D.Jones; K.Bierria).

2-5-DEN 46 (6:09) D.Samuel left end pushed ob at DEN 1 for 45 yards (T.Marshall). R10

1-1-DEN 1 (5:22) (Shotgun) **J.Wilson up the middle for 1 yard, TOUCHDOWN.** R11

R.Gould extra point is GOOD, Center-C.Holba, Holder-M.Wishnowsky.

**SF 17 DEN 9, 6 plays, 67 yards, 3:22 drive, 9:43 elapsed**

M.Wishnowsky kicks 69 yards from SF 35 to DEN -4. D.Jackson to DEN 22 for 26 yards (M.Wishnowsky).

PENALTY on DEN-A.Johnson, Offensive Holding, 9 yards, enforced at DEN 18.

## Denver Broncos at 5:17, (1st play from scrimmage 5:11)

1-10-DEN 9 (5:11) K.Hogan pass incomplete deep right to J.Winfree.

2-10-DEN 9 (5:05) (Shotgun) K.Hogan pass short right to K.McKnight to DEN 14 for 5 yards (A.Al-Shaair).

3-5-DEN 14 (4:28) (Shotgun) K.Hogan pass short middle to J.Winfree to DEN 35 for 21 yards (D.Johnson). P13

1-10-DEN 35 (3:47) PENALTY on DEN-B.Langley, False Start, 5 yards, enforced at DEN 35 - No Play.

1-15-DEN 30 (3:32) D.Jackson up the middle to DEN 33 for 3 yards (J.Valoaga; L.Reynolds).

2-12-DEN 33 (2:51) (Shotgun) D.Jackson up the middle to DEN 35 for 2 yards (E.Moseley).

Penalty on DEN-J.Brendel, Offensive Holding, declined.

3-10-DEN 35 (2:24) (Shotgun) K.Hogan sacked at DEN 35 for 0 yards (K.Street).

4-10-DEN 35 (1:41) C.Wadman punts 43 yards to SF 22, Center-C.Kreiter. R.James to SF 27 for 5 yards (A.Gooden).

## San Francisco 49ers at 1:30

**San Francisco 49ers vs Denver Broncos at Broncos Stadium at Mile High**

- 1-10-SF 27 (1:30) C.Beathard pass incomplete deep right to R.James.
- 2-10-SF 27 (1:24) J.Wilson up the middle to SF 31 for 4 yards (D.Williams; K.Bierria).
- 3-6-SF 31 (:39) (Shotgun) C.Beathard pass incomplete deep left to K.Bourne.
- 4-6-SF 31 (:30) M.Wishnowsky punts 51 yards to DEN 18, Center-C.Holba. K.McKnight to DEN 16 for -2 yards (J.Matthews).

*PENALTY on DEN-J.Winfree, Illegal Block Above the Waist, 8 yards, enforced at DEN 16.  
 Penalty on DEN-B.Howard, Illegal Block Above the Waist, declined.*

**Denver Broncos at 0:19**

- 1-10-DEN 8 (:19) Da.Williams left end to DEN 22 for 14 yards (D.Reed).

R14

**END OF QUARTER**

	Score	Time Poss	First Downs				Efficiencies	
			R	P	X	T	3 Down	4 Down
<b>San Francisco 49ers</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>7:16</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>2/3</b>	<b>0/0</b>
<b>Denver Broncos</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>7:44</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>1/4</b>	<b>0/0</b>

## Fourth Quarter

8/19/2019

## Play By Play

Denver Broncos continued.

- 1-10-DEN 22 (15:00) K.Hogan pass incomplete deep right to S.Dunbar.  
*PENALTY on SF-J.Valoaga, Defensive Offside, 5 yards, enforced at DEN 22 - No Play.*
- 1-5-DEN 27 (14:55) K.Hogan scrambles up the middle to DEN 29 for 2 yards (J.Valoaga).
- 2-3-DEN 29 (14:15) Da.Williams up the middle to DEN 30 for 1 yard (M.Nzeocha).
- 3-2-DEN 30 (13:36) (Shotgun) K.Hogan pass short right to K.McKnight to DEN 38 for 8 yards (A.Al-Shaair; E.Moseley). P15  
*PENALTY on SF-E.Moseley, Lowering the Head to Initiate Contact, 15 yards, enforced at DEN 38.* X16
- 1-10-SF 47 (13:06) Da.Williams left tackle to SF 49 for -2 yards (J.Valoaga).
- 2-12-SF 49 (12:24) K.Hogan pass short right to N.Williams pushed ob at SF 46 for 3 yards (D.Johnson).
- 3-9-SF 46 (11:36) (Shotgun) K.Hogan sacked at DEN 44 for -10 yards (sack split by J.Valoaga and K.Street).
- 4-19-DEN 44 (10:51) C.Wadman punts 56 yards to end zone, Center-C.Kreiter, Touchback.

## San Francisco 49ers at 10:43

- 1-10-SF 20 (10:43) J.Wilson left tackle to SF 20 for no gain (D.Walker).
- 2-10-SF 20 (10:14) N.Mullens pass short right to K.Bourne pushed ob at SF 46 for 26 yards (A.Holder). P12
- 1-10-SF 46 (9:43) J.Wilson right tackle to DEN 48 for 6 yards (K.Bierria).
- 2-4-DEN 48 (9:08) J.Wilson up the middle to DEN 43 for 5 yards (A.Holder). R13
- 1-10-DEN 43 (8:26) N.Mullens FUMBLES (Aborted) at DEN 43, and recovers at DEN 45. N.Mullens to DEN 45 for no gain (D.Watson).
- 2-12-DEN 45 (7:48) N.Mullens sacked at 50 for -5 yards (D.Watson).
- 3-17-50 (7:07) (Shotgun) N.Mullens pass incomplete deep middle to R.James (S.Thomas) [D.Watson].
- 4-17-50 (7:02) (Punt formation) *PENALTY on SF-K.Nelson, False Start, 5 yards, enforced at 50 - No Play.*
- 4-22-SF 45 (6:59) M.Wishnowsky punts 46 yards to DEN 9, Center-K.Nelson. R.Cracraft pushed ob at DEN 14 for 5 yards (D.Greenlaw).

## Denver Broncos at 6:51

- 1-10-DEN 14 (6:51) *PENALTY on DEN-S.Dunbar, False Start, 5 yards, enforced at DEN 14 - No Play.*
- 1-15-DEN 9 (6:51) (Shotgun) K.Hogan pass short right intended for Da.Williams INTERCEPTED by D.Johnson at DEN 11. D.Johnson to DEN 11 for no gain (Da.Williams).

## San Francisco 49ers at 6:46

- 1-10-DEN 11 (6:46) A.Walter left guard to DEN 5 for 6 yards (A.Gooden; A.Johnson).
- 2-4-DEN 5 (6:05) A.Walter up the middle to DEN 1 for 4 yards (J.Hollins; D.Williams). R14
- 1-1-DEN 1 (5:18) **N.Mullens pass short right to K.Bourne for 1 yard, TOUCHDOWN.** P15  
R.Gould extra point is GOOD, Center-K.Nelson, Holder-M.Wishnowsky.

SF 24 DEN 9, 3 plays, 11 yards, 1:33 drive, 9:47 elapsed

M.Wishnowsky kicks 65 yards from SF 35 to end zone, Touchback.

## Denver Broncos at 5:13

- 1-10-DEN 25 (5:13) (Shotgun) K.Hogan sacked at DEN 19 for -6 yards (J.Bromley).
- 2-16-DEN 19 (4:35) (Shotgun) K.Hogan pass short right to J.Winfrey to DEN 22 for 3 yards (L.Reynolds).
- 3-13-DEN 22 (4:08) (Shotgun) K.Hogan pass incomplete short right to B.Langley.
- 4-13-DEN 22 (4:02) C.Wadman punts 55 yards to SF 23, Center-C.Kreiter. R.James ran ob at SF 30 for 7 yards (B.Howard).

## San Francisco 49ers at 3:52

- 1-10-SF 30 (3:52) A.Walter up the middle to SF 35 for 5 yards (J.Watson).
- 2-5-SF 35 (3:16) A.Walter left tackle to DEN 35 for 30 yards (R.Causey).  
*PENALTY on SF-D.Helm, Offensive Holding, 10 yards, enforced at SF 35 - No Play.*
- 2-15-SF 25 (3:08) B.Wilds left guard to SF 28 for 3 yards (J.Hollins; D.Williams).
- 3-12-SF 28 (2:28) (Shotgun) W.Speight sacked at SF 23 for -5 yards. FUMBLES, RECOVERED by DEN-D.Williams at SF 24. D.Williams to SF 24 for no gain (W.Speight).

## Denver Broncos at 2:23

- 1-10-SF 24 (2:23) (Shotgun) **K.Hogan scrambles up the middle for 24 yards, TOUCHDOWN. SF-D.Flannigan-Fowles was injured during the play.** R17  
(Run formation) TWO-POINT CONVERSION ATTEMPT. D.Jackson rushes up the middle. ATTEMPT FAILS.

SF 24 DEN 15, 1 plays, 24 yards, 0:08 drive, 12:45 elapsed

(Onside Kick formation) B.McManus kicks onside 17 yards from DEN 35 to SF 48. K.Bourne (didn't try to advance) to SF 48 for no gain.

## San Francisco 49ers at 2:15, (1st play from scrimmage 2:14)

- 1-10-SF 48 (2:14) A.Walter left guard to SF 49 for 1 yard (D.Walker).

Two-Minute Warning

**San Francisco 49ers vs Denver Broncos at Broncos Stadium at Mile High**

- 2-9-SF 49 (2:00) A.Walter up the middle to 50 for 1 yard (D.Walker).  
 Timeout #1 by DEN at 01:55.
- 3-8-50 (1:55) A.Walter left end to DEN 45 for 5 yards (K.Bierria).  
 Timeout #2 by DEN at 01:48.
- 4-3-DEN 45 (1:48) M.Wishnowsky punts 45 yards to end zone, Center-C.Holba, Touchback.  
*PENALTY on DEN-T.Marshall, Offensive Holding, 10 yards, enforced at DEN 20.*

**Denver Broncos at 1:40**

- 1-10-DEN 10 (1:40) (Shotgun) K.Hogan pass incomplete short middle to M.Stephens (A.Al-Shaair).  
 2-10-DEN 10 (1:35) (Shotgun) K.Hogan pass incomplete short left to F.Brown.  
 3-10-DEN 10 (1:30) (Shotgun) K.Hogan pass incomplete deep right to N.Williams.  
 4-10-DEN 10 (1:26) (Shotgun) K.Hogan pass incomplete deep right to R.Cracraft [J.Thompson].  
*PENALTY on SF-J.Thompson, Roughing the Passer, 15 yards, enforced at DEN 10 - No Play.*
- 1-10-DEN 25 (1:21) (Shotgun) K.Hogan pass incomplete deep left to B.Langley.  
 2-10-DEN 25 (1:13) (Shotgun) K.Hogan sacked at DEN 19 for -6 yards (J.Bromley).  
 3-16-DEN 19 (:44) (No Huddle, Shotgun) K.Hogan pass incomplete short middle to B.Howard (M.Harris).  
 4-16-DEN 19 (:37) (Shotgun) K.Hogan pass incomplete deep right to T.Benson.

X18

**San Francisco 49ers at 0:29**

- 1-10-DEN 19 (:29) W.Speight kneels to DEN 20 for -1 yards.

**END OF QUARTER**

		<b>Time Poss</b>	<b>First Downs</b>				<b>Efficiencies</b>	
	<b>Score</b>		<b>R</b>	<b>P</b>	<b>X</b>	<b>T</b>	<b>3 Down</b>	<b>4 Down</b>
<b>San Francisco 49ers</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>7:58</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>0/3</b>	<b>0/0</b>
<b>Denver Broncos</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>7:02</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>1/5</b>	<b>0/1</b>

# Miscellaneous Statistics Report

San Francisco 49ers vs Denver Broncos  
8/19/2019 at Broncos Stadium at Mile High

## Ten Longest Plays for San Francisco 49ers

Yards	Qtr	Play Start	Play Description
45	3	2-5-DEN 46	(6:09) D.Samuel left end pushed ob at DEN 1 for 45 yards (T.Marshall).
38	2	1-10-SF 34	(5:13) (Shotgun) C.Beathard pass short right to R.Mostert to DEN 28 for 38 yards (J.Watson; D.Walker).
30	3	2-10-DEN 30	(10:54) R.Mostert up the middle for 30 yards, TOUCHDOWN.
26	4	2-10-SF 20	(10:14) N.Mullens pass short right to K.Bourne pushed ob at SF 46 for 26 yards (A.Holder).
17	3	3-14-SF 26	(12:30) (Shotgun) C.Beathard pass short left to K.Smith ran ob at SF 43 for 17 yards.
14	3	1-10-DEN 44	(11:26) (Shotgun) C.Beathard pass short left to R.James pushed ob at DEN 30 for 14 yards (T.Johnson).
13	3	1-10-SF 43	(11:58) (Shotgun) R.Mostert right guard to DEN 44 for 13 yards (T.Marshall).
12	1	1-10-SF 25	(15:00) T.Coleman right guard to SF 37 for 12 yards (C.Harris).
8	1	2-7-SF 23	(:45) R.Mostert up the middle to SF 31 for 8 yards (C.Harris).
8	3	1-10-SF 33	(8:39) C.Beathard pass short left to J.Wilson pushed ob at SF 41 for 8 yards (A.Johnson).

## Ten Longest Plays for Denver Broncos

Yards	Qtr	Play Start	Play Description
24	4	1-10-SF 24	(2:23) (Shotgun) K.Hogan scrambles up the middle for 24 yards, TOUCHDOWN. SF-D.Flannigan-Fowles was injured during
23	4	3-2-DEN 30	(13:36) (Shotgun) K.Hogan pass short right to K.McKnight to DEN 38 for 8 yards (A.Al-Shaair; E.Moseley).
21	1	3-7-DEN 23	(8:08) (Shotgun) J.Flacco pass short middle to C.Sutton to DEN 44 for 21 yards (T.Moore) [D.Moore].
21	3	3-5-DEN 14	(4:28) (Shotgun) K.Hogan pass short middle to J.Winfree to DEN 35 for 21 yards (D.Johnson).
19	1	1-10-SF 30	(11:54) E.Sanders right end to SF 11 for 19 yards (D.Greenlaw; S.Thomas).
14	3	1-10-DEN 8	(:19) Da.Williams left end to DEN 22 for 14 yards (D.Reed).
13	1	3-6-SF 43	(12:32) (Shotgun) J.Flacco pass short middle to D.Hamilton to SF 30 for 13 yards (J.Tartt) [S.Day].
12	2	2-13-DEN 35	(11:33) (Shotgun) D.Lock pass short middle to T.Patrick to DEN 47 for 12 yards (D.Reed).
11	1	3-24-DEN 38	(2:02) (Shotgun) J.Flacco pass short right to N.Fant to DEN 49 for 11 yards (A.Al-Shaair).
10	1	1-10-DEN 42	(4:13) T.Patrick right end to SF 48 for 10 yards (K.Street).

## Touchdown Scoring Information

		Offense	Defense	Special Teams
<b>VISITOR</b>	San Francisco 49ers	3	0	0
<b>HOME</b>	Denver Broncos	1	0	0

## Player Scoring Information

Club	Player	TD	Rush TD	Rec TD	KO TD	Punt TD	Int TD	Fum TD	Misc TD	FG	XP	2Pt Rush	2Pt Rec	Sfty	Points
SF	J.Wilson	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	6
SF	R.Mostert	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	6
SF	K.Bourne	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	6
SF	R.Gould	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	3	0	0	0	6
DEN	B.McManus	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	0	0	0	0	9
DEN	K.Hogan	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	6

## Possession Detail

	First Half		Second Half		Game	
	Visitor	Home	Visitor	Home	Visitor	Home
Largest Lead	0	6	15	0	15	6
Drives Leading	0	4	7	1	7	5
Time of Possession Leading	0:00	16:53	12:31	1:31	12:31	18:24
Largest Deficit	-6	0	0	-15	-6	-15
Drives Trailing	4	0	1	7	5	7
Time of Possession Trailing	8:36	0:00	2:43	13:15	11:19	13:15
Times Score Tied Up		0		0		0
Lead Changes		1		1		2



S Thomas	DE	39	46%	3	10%	J Watson	LB	29	51%	15	50%
M Harris	SS	38	45%	10	33%	T Johnson	CB	27	47%	9	30%
M Nzeocha	LB	37	44%	14	47%	K Bierria	LB	25	44%	14	47%
L Reynolds	LB	37	44%	12	40%	D Walker	DE	24	42%	5	17%
K Givens	DT	37	44%	2	7%	D Watson	LB	23	40%	10	33%
J Bromley	DT	35	42%			M Purcell	NT	23	40%	4	13%
D Mayo	LB	34	40%	14	47%	D Williams	DT	23	40%	2	7%
Q Rollins	CB	33	39%	9	30%	I Yiadom	CB	22	39%	7	23%
T Harris	DB	33	39%	4	13%	D Jones	DT	22	39%	5	17%
J Thompson	DT	31	37%			Z Kerr	DE	22	39%	5	17%
S Day	DT	30	36%	2	7%	A Holder	DB	21	37%	9	30%
E Moseley	CB	29	35%	14	47%	A Johnson	LB	20	35%	12	40%
D Greenlaw	LB	27	32%	12	40%	S Thomas	SS	16	28%	8	27%
D Flannigan-Fowles	DB	21	25%	11	37%	V Miller	LB	16	28%		
D Moore	DE	15	18%	2	7%	C Harris	CB	16	28%		
M Smith	LB	13	15%	4	13%	D Wolfe	DE	16	28%		
A Witherspoon	CB	13	15%	2	7%	J Simmons	FS	16	28%		
A Armstead	DE	13	15%	1	3%	J Jewell	LB	16	28%		
R Sherman	CB	13	15%	1	3%	B Chubb	LB	16	28%		
M Wishnowsky	P			16	53%	D Bausby	CB	15	26%	4	13%
A Colbert	FS			7	23%	S Harris	NT	13	23%		
K Nelson	LS			6	20%	A Gooden	DE	11	19%	10	33%
C Holba	LS			5	17%	A Gotsis	DE	11	19%		
R Gould	K			4	13%	J Carter	SS	10	18%	19	63%
						R Causey	DB	8	14%	3	10%
						A Wallace	LB	7	12%		
						C Wadman	P			10	33%
						C Kreiter	LS			10	33%
						B McManus	K			7	23%
						J Dineen	LB			3	10%

# 49ERS

*2019 Feature Clips*



**Preseason Week 3  
San Francisco at Kansas City**



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### John Lynch

#### **49ers' GM John Lynch will be the one to watch in 2019**

By Eric Branch  
San Francisco Chronicle  
December 23, 2018

Last year, after he was hired despite having zero executive experience, 49ers general manager John Lynch was asked about his nontraditional path from a Fox broadcast booth to a front office.

In response, Lynch noted his entire football career had been unique.

At Stanford, where he finished as an All-America safety, he spent his first two seasons as a never-used quarterback. In the NFL, where he finished with nine Pro Bowl selections, he didn't become a full-time starter until his fourth season.

"So," Lynch said, "there's a lot of things in my life that haven't been conventional."

Two seasons into his latest football job, Lynch's history should be comforting for restless 49ers fans: The Stanford graduate, Pro Football Hall of Fame finalist and well-respected broadcaster has enjoyed gobs of success, but it hasn't come overnight.

Now, after an early GM tenure featuring mixed results, this coming offseason would be an opportune time for Lynch to kick-start his career in the same way he did at Stanford and Tampa Bay.

The 49ers will enter year three of their down-to-the-studs rebuild with two straight seasons of at least 10 losses and significant roster holes remaining at edge rusher, cornerback, wide receiver and inside linebacker. They have just five draft picks, having traded a 2019 fifth-round selection and a seventh-rounder, but have the NFL's third-highest amount of salary-cap space.

To be clear, this pivotal offseason isn't all on Lynch: He has a joint partnership with head coach Kyle Shanahan on personnel decisions, but it's the GM who is most closely associated with their roster moves. This season, it's been Lynch's Twitter handle to which fans have directed complaints about the regime's 2017 draft.

That 10-man group began with five picks that range from disastrous to shaky: defensive tackle Solomon Thomas (first round), inside linebacker Reuben Foster (first), cornerback Ahkello Witherspoon (third), quarterback C.J. Beathard (third) and running back Joe Williams (fourth).

Foster, who slipped in the draft because of character concerns, was released in November after his third arrest and Williams was released in August without playing a regular-season snap. Meanwhile, Thomas, a No. 3 pick, has four career sacks, Witherspoon was benched twice this season and Beathard, who took over for the injured Jimmy Garoppolo, lost his job to third-stringer Nick Mullens.

Making those five selections uglier: The 49ers gave up fourth-, fifth- and seventh-round picks to trade up for Foster, Williams and Beathard, respectively.

Despite that start, however, no one is linking Lynch to Matt Millen, another successful player and broadcaster who flopped after becoming the Lions' GM with no front-office experience.

And that's because there have been finds mixed in with the flops. Most notable among those is Pro Bowl tight end George Kittle, a 2017 fifth-round pick who turned out to be one of the best selections in his draft. In addition, the 2018 haul, headlined by right tackle Mike McGlinchey (first round), wide receiver Dante Pettis (second) and inside linebacker Fred Warner (third), is encouraging.



And his second draft suggests Lynch has done a better job of trusting his instincts in his new job.

Last year, Lynch, among the hardest-hitting safeties in NFL history, initially had strong misgivings about Witherspoon, who often shied away from contact at Colorado. He became convinced Witherspoon would change in the NFL based partly on a conversation with his college coach, but Witherspoon's finesse tackling has been an issue in his second season.

Similarly, Lynch didn't have Williams on the 49ers' draft board because he questioned his love for football after the running back "retired" before returning to Utah during his final season. However, Shanahan thought Williams was an ideal fit for his offense. And Lynch reversed course after a phone conversation with Williams hours before the 49ers drafted him.

After his first season, Shanahan said Williams needed to have more "urgency." The player hasn't resurfaced in the NFL since he was released Aug. 31.

The back-and-forth between Lynch and Shanahan regarding Williams is known because Lynch shared the story with reporters during last year's draft.

It's an example of Lynch's transparency. And it's in stark contrast to his tight-lipped predecessor, Trent Baalke, who once said of the 49ers: "When are we ever transparent?"

Lynch has generally hit the right notes when speaking publicly, but there have been exceptions. In November, for example, Lynch said in a radio interview he thought the 49ers had enjoyed "two good drafts" since he'd been hired.

Perhaps it was a momentary slip. After all, Lynch knows about genuine achievement. And in 2019, and beyond, he'll have a chance to replicate the type of success he, eventually, enjoyed in his playing career.



## John Lynch adjusting to football life away from family

By Conor Orr  
NFL.com  
February 21, 2017

New San Francisco 49ers general manager John Lynch clearly missed the competitive drive that comes with working for an NFL team.

But he will also miss the stability a life on football's periphery provided him.

Speaking to reporters after his introductory news conference, Lynch offered a glimpse into his family life. His four kids are still in school at home in San Diego and, according to ESPN, Lynch's oldest son could remain there to round out high school.

"My wife keeps saying, 'Are you sure?'" Lynch said, via ESPN.com. "I said, 'Well, this has already started. We're in.' I've never been apart from my family, so it's been gut-wrenching already but -- sorry -- that's been tough."

He added: "As soon as we started having conversations, I knew that this was going to be a possibility, so the biggest thing was, 'Can I get my family on board?' Ultimately, we got there. At first my wife said, 'You go make this decision,' and I said, 'No, no, no, we have to make this decision.' I got them to the point where they were as excited as I was and pulled the trigger."

It's hard to imagine anyone having a crazier offseason than the new members of the 49ers thus far. Head coach Kyle Shanahan goes from watching the biggest collapse in Super Bowl history straight into a new head coaching job. In addition, he has the No. 2 pick in the draft and the challenge of breaking in a first-time general manager. Lynch goes from a broadcaster's schedule to one where he might not be able to come home at times -- ask any tenured general manager about the air mattress in their office.

While all new regimes are fascinating in their own right, nothing will be worth watching as closely as the 49ers this offseason. For Lynch, nothing will be as simultaneously exciting and difficult.



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## Why is John Lynch doing this? Inside new 49ers GM's crash course

By Eric Branch  
San Francisco Chronicle  
February 17, 2017

Former NFL safety John Lynch recently detonated his idyllic life as though it was a wide receiver crossing the middle. The impact sent him to Santa Clara while his wife and four children stayed in San Diego.

The separation is temporary. His family will join the new 49ers general manager at the end of the school year. But the months apart will be arduous.

That became clear earlier this month. Lynch, 45, in a suit and tie after his introductory news conference, was asked, as he leaned against a counter in the media room at Levi's Stadium, why he'd swapped serenity for stress. All GM jobs are demanding, but Lynch's could be particularly grueling, at least initially: He has no executive experience and is in the midst of a front-office crash course.

Before joining the 49ers, the 15-year NFL veteran spent eight years as a well-respected Fox broadcaster, and his work-half-the-year gig let him stay close to family as well as football. So why accept an all-consuming job he didn't need? The GM suggested Linda Lynch had posed the same question.

"My wife keeps on saying, 'Are you sure?'" Lynch said. "I said, 'Well, this has already started. We're in.'"

His response inspired laughter. Lynch was smiling, too, but then the grin faded and his eyes pooled with tears.

"I tell you, I've never been apart from my family," said Lynch, his voice cracking with emotion he didn't anticipate. "So it's been gut-wrenching already."

His tears, of course, make his recent decision even more perplexing.

Why is John Lynch doing this?

The answer involves the craving for competition that fuels countless athletes and often can't be satisfied after the final whistle.

As a Fox analyst, Lynch quickly ascended to the No. 2 broadcast team, but he found success without a scoreboard unsatisfying. At the end of a telecast, the nine-time Pro Bowl player and four-time Hall of Fame finalist often fist-bumped his play-by-play partner and then ... nothing. No anguish or elation.

"He really missed someone winning and losing at the end of a game," 49ers head coach Kyle Shanahan said. "He enjoyed doing the announcing and being a part of the NFL. But the fight to go through something with a group of guys and what we go through together — it's not easy, and it's a grind for everybody, but it's worth it."

Indeed, the grind-loving competitor that lurks within the charismatic and composed Lynch has re-emerged after spending the past decade in post-playing limbo.

It's fitting that Lynch rejoined the NFL by signing his contract with the 49ers on a Sunday. During his playing career, that was typically when he transformed from mild-mannered to maniacal.

For his first five NFL seasons, cornerback Champ Bailey knew Lynch only from afar as a bone-rattling enforcer who punctuated hits with screams. In 2004, however, they became teammates with the Broncos and Bailey saw there was far more to the madman than met the eye.



Lynch is the Stanford-educated, San-Diego-bred son of a successful businessman. His father, John Lynch Sr., is the president and CEO of the Broadcast Company of the Americas, which owns three radio stations, and was the CEO of the San Diego Union-Tribune. In 2006, Lynch won the Bart Starr Award, which is given to the NFL player who best exemplifies outstanding leadership and character.

Bailey was shocked: He didn't expect the thumper to be so thoughtful.

"Man, that's what fools you about him," Bailey said. "If you meet him before you see him play, you'd never think he'd play the way he does. But, for me, I saw him play before I met him and immediately it was like, 'Dang, this is not what I expected.' I expected some nut case wanting to run through every brick wall he sees. But he wasn't. Calm, collected, he had great values, focused."

Bailey gives Lynch, who is seven years older, much of the credit for his longevity. The 12-time Pro Bowl pick also played 15 seasons — partly because he noticed how Lynch cared for his body and how his obsessive film study compensated for declining late-career skills.

"I don't really know anyone personally that would be better suited to run a team than John Lynch," Bailey said. "I believe he could be the general manager and the head coach. That's how competitive he is and how much he prepares before he does anything."

Before becoming a GM, Lynch prepared for the job by learning from his close friend, Broncos general manager John Elway. With the Hall of Fame quarterback, Lynch discussed front-office intricacies and the emptiness that was prompting him to consider an executive role.

The ultra-competitive Elway returned to the NFL in 2011 when he joined Denver's front office. During Elway's tenure, he has asked Lynch to evaluate college prospects, asked him to attend draft meetings and asked him this: Why stay in TV if you can get back in the trenches?

"I think one thing that was a common denominator (between us) was what fills up your balloon?" Elway said. "Obviously, John did a tremendous job with TV. But I think — that's what I told him — I don't know how much TV fills up your balloon, but being in this position to where you're putting a football team together, a football staff together, is very satisfying. And, obviously, it's a great challenge. The next thing to playing is being in that position."

Lynch's challenge is daunting: He's a novice who has inherited a 2-14 team with serious quarterback issues.

However, the man ranked the 10th-hardest hitter in league history by NFL Network specialized in obliterating obstacles during his football career.

At Stanford, he spent his first two seasons as a never-used quarterback, transitioned to a hybrid linebacker role as a junior and didn't start until he moved to safety his final season. The result: He left Palo Alto as a second-team All-American.

"What it really comes down to is he's extraordinarily competitive," said Tom Holmoe, a former 49ers safety who was Lynch's position coach during his senior season. "It was real early in his transition to free safety that you said, 'Oh boy, he's going to take it to the limit.'"

In the NFL, Lynch was a third-round pick of the Buccaneers whose inexperience at safety partly explained why he didn't start more than six games in any of his first three seasons.

Tampa Bay head coach Sam Wyche had been encouraged to draft Lynch by Stanford's Bill Walsh, under whom Wyche had served as an assistant with the 49ers. Lynch was a project, but Wyche was wowed by the rookie's off-the-chart intangibles, which forecast future success.



“There are players that come in and you notice their competitive spirit right away,” Wyche said. “Well, with John, it just oozed out of him. He couldn’t hide it. The really great players only know one speed.”

Lynch earned his first Pro Bowl berth in 1997, his fifth season, and was a captain of the 2002 Buccaneers, who won a Super Bowl on the strength of one of the best defenses in NFL history. However, Tampa Bay released Lynch in a salary-cap move after the 2003 season, and the then-32-year-old underwent surgery to remove bone spurs in his neck.

It was his last significant challenge. And Lynch responded by morphing from injured and unemployed to seemingly indomitable. He signed with the Broncos and immediately had an I’m-back hit on Chiefs wide receiver Dante Hall, who was impaled by Lynch in the 2004 season opener. It set the tone for a career-ending, four-year run with Denver that featured four Pro Bowl berths.

“He absolutely came in (in 2004) with something to prove,” Bailey said. “He didn’t talk about it a lot, but you could see the fire in his eyes. ... The guy was a presence. He knew it. He just had to prove it over again that he could play.”

Now, Lynch hopes to conquer perhaps his greatest challenge.

With the 49ers, he’ll attempt to resurrect a franchise while maintaining a normal life with a family that includes a 17-year-old son and daughters Lindsay, 16, Lilly, 14, and Leah, 9.

Lynch said his children and Linda, his wife of 23 years, eventually reached the point where they shared his excitement over his new job. But it will take some adjustment.

His son, Jake, might stay in San Diego and live with Lynch’s parents in the fall to play his senior season of high school football. In addition, the complications of their temporary separation were clear when plane-grounding fog in San Diego prevented his family from surprising him at his introductory news conference.

Lynch, who said he’s been getting little sleep, joked that he’s still trying to locate his new work-life balance when asked about contacting quarterback Colin Kaepernick.

“I got chewed out for not calling my daughter before she went to bed last night,” he said. “So I’m trying to get a lot of things in.”

Moments later, the former NFL tough guy was fighting back tears and the moment illustrated the anguish involved in his latest task.

So, again, why is John Lynch doing this? He clearly agrees with Shanahan: It won’t be easy, but it will be worth it.



## The Unconventional Career Path of 49ers GM John Lynch

By Albert Breer  
The MMQB  
February 16, 2017

Behind John Lynch's desk in Santa Clara, there are a number of bottles of wine, each one wishing him luck in his new venture as the 49ers general manager. That he got them from agents is one surprise from his first three weeks on the job.

"I'm telling you, I didn't think agents were this nice," he said over the phone on Wednesday afternoon, laughing before conceding, "They're buttering me up."

The haul of reds hasn't been the only things to catch Lynch a little off guard with this move that set the football world back on its heels at the outset of Super Bowl week. There's the breadth of the work, which goes well beyond scouting. And related to that, there's how a GM gets pulled in so many different directions during a given day.

But there's good news here, too. With a couple weeks to spare before the Niners staff packs up for Indianapolis and the scouting combine, this very much feels to Lynch—the former player and broadcaster—like what he's supposed to be doing.

"It does," he said. "I'd caution you, one thing Monte Kiffin always said to us was that the worst three words any football player can say are, 'I got it.' I'm right at the beginning stages. We're right at the beginning stages. We're taking on challenges every day. But I can tell you, I'm not overwhelmed, each day I come in and there's a routine."

"A priest once said to me, 'Think about eating a huge steak, you can't eat it all in one bite. You gotta take one bite at a time.' And that's the way we're going through it. You can get overwhelmed in this job, particularly coming in late. I got all this to do, how do I do it? Instead, we're just going about our business each day and taking things as they come. It does feel very natural."

In this week's Game Plan, we'll look at how the 2018 quarterback crop could affect the Mitch Trubiskys and Deshaun Watsons of this year, the Redskins' Kirk Cousins quandary, how the use of the franchise tag has changed dramatically over the past five years and a lot more.

But we start with the Niners' new GM, his first few weeks on the job, and why he hardly feels like a fish out of water—despite the fact that he landed in his new role without taking the traditional path to it.

Lynch's precursor to one of 32 jobs running the personnel side of an NFL franchise is comprised of 16 years as a player and some eight-and-a-half seasons working his way up in the world of football broadcasting. He, in fact, never left pro football, having been involved for the past 24 years running. And this is where, in these stories about him, you point out where he was never a scout.

That's where we'll take our left-hand turn. Let's explain why, through his words, his start has proven Lynch to be more prepared than most of the skeptics expected, and how he already has a pretty evolved vision.

His playing experience. That's beyond just having played for Denny Green, Bill Walsh, Sam Wyche, Tony Dungy, Jon Gruden, Mike Shanahan and, briefly, Bill Belichick. It also goes past figuring, between the lines and through endless film study, what makes a great NFL player. And it goes to his first experience in the pros, and being part of the 1990s Bucs' transition from doormat to dominant force.



“There’s a lot of parallels,” he says, comparing those Bucs with these 49ers. “There’d been constant change, so the thought process as a rookie was ‘don’t get close to the guy next to you, because he may not be here in a couple weeks. Don’t let your wives make friends, because they’re not gonna be here.’ That was the culture. Everybody talks about Tony [Dungy], and Tony was certainly integral.

“But before that, Rich McKay came in and brought some stability—we’re gonna draft good winning players that have certain traits, and football character. Then Tony came in and gave it more stability—these are the schemes we’re gonna play. We’re not deviating in Week 1 or Week 2 if it’s not working. We’re sticking to them.”

His TV experience. Lynch settled in Denver after his playing career and grew close to John Elway. So when Elway took the Broncos’ job in 2011, he’d get after Lynch about leaving broadcasting to work for a team. To that end, in 2012, Elway had him write reports on safeties in the draft. In 2013, Lynch sat in Denver’s draft meetings for a month.

Now, Lynch maintains that he followed advice he got from Mike Tomlin in Tampa: Be where you’re at. He was focused on his job with Fox, and was moving up in the ranks there. Still, he knew, as he puts it, “What was missing was a scoreboard.” And so Elway’s poking, plus working to be prepared as a broadcaster, opened the door to Lynch subconsciously developing team-building beliefs in the course of his work.

“I wasn’t out there soaking up information from organizations as I went in their buildings, I was trying to be the best broadcaster I could be,” he explains. “But you’re meeting with the quarterback, you’re meeting with the head coach, the GM usually comes and finds you, you’re meeting with coordinators on both sides, you’re meeting with finest players in the league. ... So it challenges your mind.”

His Broncos experience. At one point, Elway discussed hiring Lynch before deciding he didn’t have the right role for him. In the end, the Broncos GM may have given him something more valuable than a job—an open-door to his own experiences growing into the role without the traditional career path behind him. Two pieces of advice stuck with Lynch. First, Elway said “hire some good people around you,” which Lynch now jokes was to Elway’s detriment, since Lynch’s first hire was one of Elway’s best people—new 49ers VP of player personnel Adam Peters. Second, Elway told Lynch that he had to learn to close his door, which seems simple, but relates to time management as a boss.

“Day 1, all I wanted to do was turn on the tape of the San Francisco 49ers to see what we have,” Lynch says. “And it wasn’t until 4:30 that I finally turned the tape on, because I was meeting people, meeting the trainer, going through the office. But that was very important too. That’s how it is. ... You also have to learn to close your door. You need your quiet time to yourself where you can just get stuff done.”

His life experience. Lynch says that, at the end of his playing career, “You’re always saying, ‘I haven’t come close to knowing it all, there’s always something I can improve on.’” He took that thirst to learn into broadcasting, and he plans to take that humility into his new job, too. “I think that’ll be the case 15 years from now,” he says.

Early on, it’s been small stuff. At the Super Bowl, both college and NFL players would approach him, and he’d wonder, Is this tampering? He’s leaned on Peters and fellow new hire, and former Lions GM Martin Mayhew, for help in those areas. And he knows he has a lot to learn elsewhere. So yes, he’ll delegate some. But what’s as important is that he maintains that quest for knowledge in all areas.

“Part of the interview process was, 10 characteristics of a GM, go 1-10 on what you’d be strongest at,” he says. “And I just followed my heart. Setting the tone and vision for a building, that was 1. Negotiating salary cap and contracts, right off the bat, I had that as 10, because I haven’t done it. So listen, I’m gonna have to rely on some people. But I will learn that, because I think to be good at it, you can’t just say, ‘that’s my guy over there.’ You gotta learn it and be a part of it.”



So why will this work? I don't know if it will, because these are hard things to forecast. But I do think that Lynch and head coach Kyle Shanahan have a chance, and not just because both are competitive, smart and driven football junkies. My feeling is it's more because Shanahan has a very defined vision for a football team, and Lynch has a clear-headed idea of how to build that, and they share a lot of ideals.

Getting that alignment was a stated goal of CEO Jed York's during the GM/coach search, and it looks like San Francisco has that at this early juncture. On Tuesday, Shanahan gave a lengthy, detailed presentation for the scouts on what his staff would be looking for at each position. And that adds detail to the character traits Lynch has talked to his scouts about seeking.

One that Lynch calls "critical" is football character. "You gotta live it and breathe it," he says.

The 49ers GM certainly does, and he's gotten to work in surrounding himself with others that do, too. Which is probably why none of this feels unnatural to him at all.



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

By Joe Fann  
49ers.com  
February 1, 2017

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.”



## Paraag Marathe

### **Paraag Marathe and his back story are a slice of 49ers intrigue**

By Mark Purdy  
San Jose Mercury News  
August 7, 2017

Do you know Paraag Marathe? You don't know Paraag Marathe.

"Hey, it's the same oven!" he exclaimed.

We had just entered the front door of Mountain Mike's pizza parlor. Marathe grew up blocks away. But this was far more than Marathe's old stomping ground. This was much more.

"I don't know how long it's been since I was here," Marathe said, gazing around. "I helped my dad set up this place. I hired the first employees, I picked out this furniture. I picked this color scheme."

Yes, it turns out there is a lot that all of us don't know about Paraag Marathe. I used to think that was exactly how he and the 49ers wanted it. But as we sat down for a nearly two-hour lunch at the restaurant that this family once owned, a lot of insightful doors opened up into the team's mystery man.

Marathe's official title with the 49ers is "Chief Strategy Officer And Executive Vice-President of Football Operations." His unofficial title is "Senior Associate Lightning Rod." As basically the right-hand man of owner Jed York, Marathe has been given credit for helping the Levi's Stadium project come together and blamed for . . . well, just about everything else. Fans and various media voices have accused him of meddling in the college draft, lurking in the coaching booth on Sundays, spying on behalf of York and/or undermining the operation in just about any conspiracy theory you want to offer.

Do you know Paraag Marathe? You don't know Paraag Marathe. Through all the lightning bolts, the man himself has been polite whenever encountered but mostly silent, very rarely granting interviews. But he agreed to sit down with me when I suggested that we do the interview at one of the pizza places that his immigrant father and mother operated on Saratoga Sunnyvale Road throughout his childhood. We talked about his family's back story, one that may go against the image many 49ers fans have of him as a privileged intellectual with degrees from Cal and Stanford.

Marathe does indeed own those degrees. But his upbringing was hardly one of privilege. His parents immigrated from India and pursued the American dream from the ground up. They endured disappointment and tragedy as their two children pitched in to help the family succeed. It provides good insight into what makes Marathe tick and propelled him to the second most powerful executive on the business side of the 49ers organization—though he might argue that point, as we'll see in a few paragraphs.

Actually, Mountain Mike's was the second restaurant owned by Vijay and Seema Marathe. The first was a Round Table Pizza just up the street, in a building that's now a savings and loan. At the Round Table, Paraag would often stand behind the counter and work the cash register. Nothing unusual about that — except that he was only 12 years old at the time and slightly under five feet tall.

"I could barely see above the register," Marathe said. "It was almost like a gimmick for customers at first because I looked really young back then. It was a like a little kid was running the restaurant. But we would churn out 200 or 250 pizzas on a Friday evening and there were times I really would run the whole operation. It's crazy now when I think about it."

Marathe worked long hours at the pizza businesses while attending Lynbrook High School. That way, his father could keep his other job as an electronics engineer—a job that Vijay ultimately had to quit, anyway, because the pizza business was so labor intensive and many of the teenagers they employed didn't always show up. Marathe's dad needed to be there just in case.



“Which is why all my guilt came in,” Marathe said. “It was like, why would I be with my buddies in the evening when I should be working to give my dad a break?”

It’s the story of hundreds of immigrant Silicon Valley families. But this one had a new twist. After Vijay and Seema pushed themselves so hard to send their children through college, they wondered why in the heck Paraag wanted to pursue a career with a NFL team. It was a dream he’d had since he was ringing up those pepperoni specials while the 49ers games played on the projection big screen TV.

“In Indian American culture,” Marathe said, “everyone’s got to be a doctor or engineer . . . or maybe a lawyer. Like, working in sports, my whole family, the ones who are in India and everywhere else, they just thought this was a hobby.”

Reading between the lines, you can see that Marathe was out to prove a point—both to those folks who chuckled at the kid behind the register and to the family members who were mystified why such a bright young man was so obsessed with . . . a football salary cap?

Do you know Paraag Marathe? You don’t know Paraag Marathe. He’s a competitive guy who, while pitching for his high school baseball team, sparked a brawl in a game when he followed his coach’s orders to throw at an opposing batter. But it was Marathe’s obsession with front office NFL matters that fueled his rapid rise in the 49ers organization after he joined it 17 years ago as a jack-of-all-trades numbers guy who knew finances and statistics and how the NFL dealt with both. He became expert in negotiating contract terms. Marathe eventually became Chief Operating Officer and finally team president. He and York were considered hotshot young wizards when the 49ers went to the Super Bowl following the 2012 season.

Then came 2014. A clumsy offload of coach Jim Harbaugh led to the 49ers losing 25 of their next 32 games. And the two young wizards conjured up only loathing among the fan base. Marathe lost his president’s title—but is still a major front office presence.

So what does Marathe do, exactly? If you ask around the league, the people who deal with him tend to respect him and his intelligence. Yet some of those people ask the same question. So could he please enlighten us? He could.

“The lion’s share of my job,” Marathe said, “is what it’s been for a long period of time — chief negotiator, monitoring the salary cap and figuring out our Collective Bargaining Agreement compliance with the league. The other part of my job has evolved over time. In the beginning, I was a troubleshooter looking at things where we could make things more efficient and better. And then I was finding a location for a new stadium and doing the stuff for the Levi’s project.”

With Levi’s complete, Marathe dipped into other branches of the 49ers multi-tentacled operation, including a stadium-technology startup and a piece of Sacramento’s pro soccer team. So why do 49ers fans think he’s to blame for so much of the team’s recent misery? Probably because he has participated in the coaching searches that resulted in Jim Tomsula and Chip Kelly’s miserable seasons — and remains involved in day to day elements of the operation under new general manager John Lynch and new head coach Kyle Shanahan.

“I’d say 75 of my job is football related,” Marathe said, “because the cap goes up and up and up and now we’re at \$165 million and accounting for every dollar and penny takes a lot of time.”

Is criticism of him fair when the team does a faceplant?

“Yes, absolutely,” Marathe said. “We’re measured by wins and losses . . . We haven’t won and we have to get that straightened out . . . (but) I’m not the spokesperson for football. That’s John and Kyle’s job and they’re really good at it. And that’s not my job. My job is to do my job and do it so I can be useful and a utility player for them.”

Which is where things get foggy. How, exactly, does Marathe define the term “utility player?” He says it



means that he takes orders from Lynch and Shanahan if they need him to research a potential player's expected compensation and whether it fits into the 49ers template—or anything else they might ask.

"I support those guys in everything football," Marathe said. "I'm our chief contract negotiator and manage our salary cap and help them in all our player personnel decisions. And you'd better have your 'A' game because they're going to challenge you. It's their show and I'm here to support them . . . The only time I do something with football is because someone wants me to do it. There are certain things within game management that I've done, but only at the request of the head coach."

Out of respect for the York family and coaches, Marathe also keeps his mouth shut in public. The practical effect, however, is that Marathe becomes an empty vessel for fans and media to fill up with castigation for things that he might or might not have actually done. At some point, he surely must want to speak up and clarify whether that's true.

"Is it frustrating?" Marathe said. "That's one of the things I learned from Round Table when I was 12 years old. People were counting me out because they thought I couldn't do that job. I learned how to just focus on doing the best I can. I can't sit here and tell you that it doesn't hurt. My wife and my daughter, my in-laws and my parents do live a stone's throw away from where we are right now. They hear and read things. That hurts. I'm still human. But all I can do is know that the sun rises and sun sets— and focus on doing the best job I can."

Do you know Paraag Marathe? You don't know Paraag Marathe. He gained the best perspective, sadly, when his sister died in 2005 after years in the grip of anorexia. That was the Marathe family tragedy. As the condition of Shilpa Marathe progressed, Paraag had difficulty dealing with her situation. He considered it grim irony that his family was in the food service business while at home, Shilpa had an eating disorder that made her so thin and weak, Vijay had to carry her upstairs to bed every night.

"Because I was really into my job at the time," Paraag said, "I became good at blocking it out of my mind, compartmentalizing. I probably didn't get at peace with it until 2012, 2013, 2014 . . . and then I kind of had that moment where I felt like I had this voice because I'm in this industry where . . . no one talks about mental illness that often. And being in an immigrant family, there's no such thing as mental anxiety or mental issues. You should just do or not do. There's nothing else. And being a male, to be able to talk about anorexia . . . I felt I had a really good platform to be heard. So I started to get involved and there's a couple of boards that I joined."

The two organizations, Andrea's Voice and Project Heal, have websites to consult for those dealing with anorexia in their own families. But Marathe says the first step is "to talk about it because I kept it inside for many years."

By now, the lunch was almost over. Marathe kibitzed a bit with the restaurant's current owner, Eil Abbasi, who bought the Mountain Mike's outlet place from Marathe's parents a while ago. Looking back on it, Marathe said, his pizza experience was exhausting but invaluable.

"I honestly felt like my third parent was Round Table Pizza," Marathe said. "It was more influential in my life than anything I can think of, including school and graduate school . . . You know, I was interviewing prospective employees when I was 13 or 14 years old, hiring delivery drivers . . . Knowing I was being counted out but knowing if you keep your head down and focused on what's doing right and not listen to the noise, that's what you need."

As we wrapped up our interview, he asked: "How'd you like the pizza?"

Marathe then told one final story. Both his family's pizza places were not far from Saratoga High School, so the football team often showed up for postgame meals. One of the Saratoga High players that Marathe served was a frosh-soph wide receiver named Kyle Shanahan.

Shanahan is the new 49ers' head coach. Does he know Paraag Marathe? Shanahan didn't then. He does now. After lunch at Mountain Mike's, maybe we all do.



## Kyle Shanahan

### **What 49ers head coach Kyle Shanahan learned from his first football job**

By Ali Thanawalla  
NBC Sports Bay  
July 21, 2019

Kyle Shanahan is the son of two-time Super Bowl-winning head coach Mike Shanahan and widely is considered one of the brightest young minds in football.

But before the younger Shanahan could help build some of the best offenses at the NFL, he got his start in coaching at UCLA as a graduate assistant at the ripe age of 23.

"Back then, I was right out of college, so everything I wanted to show, I would put cleats on and try to demonstrate it," Shanahan told ESPN's Nick Wagoner. "You are still wanting to play, and it's neat because you are close in age to all those guys, so you can relate with them a lot more. But you're learning so much more, so you can help bring stuff to the table to them that you don't always have that connection as you get a lot older."

During the 2003 season, Shanahan spent time around running back Maurice Jones-Drew, tight end Mercedes Lewis and quarterback Drew Olson.

But Shanahan only spent one season with the Bruins before being hired by Jon Gruden to be the Tampa Bay Buccaneers' offensive quality control coach in 2004.

"But I also didn't know as much then," Shanahan told Wagoner. "I was a GA and just getting into it. But I think you start to realize when you can help people and teach them stuff, and you can answer questions that help people, it doesn't matter whether you're a GA, a head coach, a quality control, a coordinator or whether you're talking to a walk-on or Maurice Jones-Drew or Mercedes Lewis. If you can say something that helps people and makes sense to them, they will respect you and listen to you.

"That's why I don't think appearance or age or whatever matters. It's if you know what you're talking about. That's why I don't think you have to be a guy who MFs people if you know what you're talking about. And I feel like I've always taken that from a young age and tried to be consistent with it."

Before taking the 49ers head coaching job in 2017, Shanahan spent two seasons in Atlanta and built the Falcons into an offensive juggernaut. He hasn't been able to replicate that success in Santa Clara just yet, but the 49ers are trending upwards.

At just 39 years old, Shanahan has plenty of time left to leave his mark on the game of football.



## 49ers' Kyle Shanahan rebuilding with time on his side

By Eric Branch  
San Francisco Chronicle  
September 2, 2018

Last year, in the first 29 minutes of his first regular-season game as an NFL head coach, the 49ers' Kyle Shanahan twice decided to go for it in fourth-down situations, and both times it backfired.

He is not a patient man. Just ask him.

Shanahan recently discussed harnessing his ultra-aggressive tendencies when queried about his team's patient rebuilding process.

"I think it's hard to fight against your natural personality," Shanahan said, smiling. "And I'm not patient. If I'm a gambler, I'm either going to win or lose very fast when I'm in Vegas. It's going to be one or the other: I'm not going home even. That's my personality, but that's why I wanted to come here."

Shanahan came to the 49ers because he and general manager John Lynch were given six-year contracts and a pledge from CEO Jed York upon inheriting a 2-14 team 19 months ago: You will be given the necessary time to fix this mess.

Time, of course, is a luxury rarely afforded in the NFL. Consider: More than half the league's head coaches (17 of 32) have been in their position less than three full seasons.

And Shanahan thinks the lack of job security on the sideline and in front offices often leads to errors. That is, decisions are made that can keep coaches and GMs employed another year, but can damage their franchises in the years to come.

"I didn't want to come somewhere where we had to gamble a ton just so we could try to prove to (ownership): 'Hey, look at what we're doing, trust us, we're good and keep us around,'" Shanahan said. "I think that's a lot of the NFL. And I think that's why people are scared to go to a place that doesn't have a quarterback just sitting there ready to go. That does have a loaded roster.

"Those are hard things because perception can take over. I think that leads people to make a lot of bad decisions. And I felt if got an opportunity to make those (calls) I just really wanted to work with people to try to make the best decision possible. Not the one that will buy us more time."

The latest evidence of the new regime's patient approach was provided last week. The 49ers, a trendy playoff pick who have a gaping hole at edge rusher, one of the NFL's most important positions, pursued Raiders' All-Pro edge rusher Khalil Mack ... to a point.

On Saturday, Lynch said the 49ers "aggressively" looked into adding Mack, whose 10.5 sacks last year are more than any player on the 49ers has collected in his career. But the 49ers also established "some parameters." The Bears acquired Mack, 27, in a trade in which they surrendered two first-round picks and then signed him to a six-year, \$141 million contract, making him the highest-paid defensive player in league history.

It was too much for the 49ers, who plan to keep strengthening their work-in-progress roster through the draft and by using what is currently the NFL's second-most salary-cap space (\$41.9 million), according to the NFL Players Association.



“We’re trying to build this thing such that when we get there, we want it to be sustainable,” Lynch said Aug. 23. “We don’t want to make it a one-year thing and (it’s over). I think with the cap money we had available (this offseason), you could have gone and potentially built this as much as you could. But is that lasting? Is that sustainable? We wanted to build this such that we could get there and stay there.”

The 49ers’ recent draft highlighted their long-term approach.

They used the No. 9 pick on rookie right tackle Mike McGlinchey, despite already having a capable right tackle in Trent Brown. However, Brown was in the final year of his contract, and questions about his passion made the 49ers leery of giving him a big-money extension.

During the draft, the 49ers traded Brown and a fifth-round pick to the Patriots for a third-round pick. The deal allowed them to trade their other third-round pick to move up 15 spots in the second round and select Dante Pettis, the wide receiver Shanahan coveted. Pettis won’t start this season, but he’s the heir apparent to Pierre Garcon, 32, and McGlinchey is in line to eventually replace left tackle Joe Staley, 34.

The picks, which might negligibly improve the 49ers in 2018, reflect how Shanahan and Lynch can make decisions with time on their side.

“We have both things in mind: Who’s going to help us now, and who is going to be here long term?” Lynch said. “You draft a kid like McGlinchey because you know you’re going to have a player on the line that’s a cornerstone for years to come. I think we’re mindful of both those things in how we’re operating.”

Shanahan and Lynch aren’t without urgency. Their 53-man roster includes only 11 players they inherited last year, including just four on offense. This offseason, they handed out big-money contracts to three players, all of whom are 27 or younger: running back Jerick McKinnon, who tore his ACL on Saturday, center Weston Richburg and quarterback Jimmy Garoppolo.

The unexpected addition of Garoppolo, a potential franchise quarterback they acquired last year for a second-round pick, is the major reason Shanahan says he feels “we’re further along than I anticipated when we got here.”

However, the 49ers probably aren’t there yet. The offensive weapons around Garoppolo aren’t overwhelming, the team has depth issues, most notably in the secondary, and the 49ers have no proven edge rushers.

Those shortcomings probably can’t be addressed until 2019, meaning Shanahan must keep harnessing his aggressive tendencies.

And he sounds prepared to do just that. He doesn’t have much patience, but he knows he has the time to do this right.

“We can be aggressive if it’s the right decision, but we don’t have to do it for the wrong reasons,” Shanahan said. “And that’s what made me so excited to come here.”



## Of Will Ferrell, Jerry Rice and Drake: How Kyle Shanahan is rebuilding 49ers culture

By Nick Wagoner  
ESPN  
September 5, 2017

To find the ultimate answer for creating a successful culture on a NFL team, why not go to a guy with an economics degree from the Ivy League?

Luckily, the San Francisco 49ers have fullback Kyle Juszczyk (Harvard, '13).

"You didn't know that Will Ferrell is the key to building a football franchise?" Juszczyk said with a grin creeping across his face. "I thought everyone knew that."

Juszczyk, of course, was joking. Well, sort of. The real answer to building a culture that can lead to sustained success in a league full of parity is far more complicated. It's an answer the 49ers are currently seeking under first-time head coach Kyle Shanahan and general manager John Lynch.

Believe it or not, Ferrell is part of the equation, and so are Jerry Rice and Drake. In San Francisco, it requires striking a balance between pulling from a rich tradition and finding ways to evolve.

For Shanahan, it also means mixing in various things he picked up during his years around his father, Mike, when Mike was the head coach of the Denver Broncos. Those are things Kyle carried through a collegiate playing career at Texas and through 13 seasons as an NFL assistant.

"I think the most important thing is getting the right people," Shanahan said. "Everyone can talk about the culture and what you're trying to build, but you have to get the right people who are capable of being a part of the culture that you want because it's got to be natural. It's got to be real. It can't be fake, so what we try so hard to do is get people in here where football means everything to them. It means just as much to them as it does to me and it does to everyone in this building, to where our No. 1 priority in everything we do is to win on Sunday."

### Majoring in football

Sitting in his spacious office at the SAP training facility on a recent afternoon, Shanahan has his shoes off and feet up on the desk as he ponders the origins of his culture-building philosophy. It's clearly something he has thought about a lot.

When Shanahan says he wants people who care as much as he does, he offers examples. For instance, when he was playing at Cherry Creek (Colorado) High, anytime he suffered an injury, he ditched class so he could go to the Broncos training facility for treatment so he could play in the next game.

"I obviously grew up in a football house, and it's not like my dad told me to be that way," Shanahan said. "It's just playing high school football was the most important thing in my life, and when I got to college, playing college was, and then when I got into coaching the pros, being successful as a coach was the most important thing. Every decision I made was that way."

Take when Shanahan sat out his redshirt season at Texas after transferring from Duke. In December 2000, the Longhorns held a scrimmage for the redshirt players in the midst of bowl practices. In one of Shanahan's classes, the final was scheduled for the day of the scrimmage.

A seemingly meaningless practice or an important final? The decision for the seven teammates Shanahan had in the class was easy: take the final.

"I was the only guy who showed up to the scrimmage," Shanahan said. "They were like, 'Don't you have a final?' I was like, 'Yeah, I'll just take an F. I'm here for football, and there's no way I'm missing a



scrimmage to go to this class.' I had a B in the class, and I ended up getting a D-minus because I skipped a final. They thought I was crazy. I wasn't doing it to show off to the coaches. I was doing it because I came to Texas to play football. I'll be all right with my grades, but I came here because that was how my mindset was. That's how it is in coaching, and that's how I expect players to be."

Shanahan and Lynch have driven that message home from the day they arrived in the Bay Area in January. When the Niners approached free agency armed with nearly \$100 million in salary-cap space, they didn't intend to spend money for the sake of spending. Shanahan wanted players who wouldn't be changed by big paydays. He wanted players who would set examples for younger players about what is required of them if they want to get a big payday.

Much of that money was spent on players such as Pierre Garcon, who Shanahan already knew would be the same guy, regardless of the extra zeros on his check. Lynch dug deep to make sure players he had never coached had his same ethos, which they found in Juszczuk.

Niners CEO Jed York immediately was on the same page in that regard.

"I go back to something that Bill Parcels told me a long time ago. He said, 'Jed, this is kind of a cheat sheet for owners. If your coach can't explain how they're going to use a player, don't sign the check,'" York said. "I think that's so true. You look at some of the guys we brought in, and either they have a connection directly or indirectly in the past, and Kyle knows how he wants to use people. He knows what they do well. And when you have that mentality, it helps set that tone from the beginning. Right now we're trying to build a foundation, and that doesn't mean we're not trying to win, but you can't consistently win unless you have a strong foundation. If we can get that done, the sky is the limit. Whether it's this year or in the future, we want to make sure that we have that foundation built, and I think Kyle and John have done an unbelievable job of identifying, 'This is what we want 49ers football to be about, and we're going to find people to fit that mold.'"

'There's not a bear in the building'

Early in the Niners' first preseason game against Kansas City, Shanahan's first game as a head coach, cornerback Rashard Robinson was on the wrong end of a long completion to Chiefs receiver Tyreek Hill. Soon after, he missed a tackle that would have forced Kansas City to kick a field goal. Robinson was upset as he returned to the sideline, until he heard a familiar bit of 49ers' jargon.

"There's not a bear in the building," Juszczuk said. "It's an obscure reference, but it makes sense when it comes to football. Just summing it up, there's no need to panic out there. There's not a bear in the building. Jump offsides, you have a bad play, whatever happens out there, there's no need to panic. Nothing is worse than a bear actually being in the building. That's not what we're dealing with."

Even for the most fervent fans of Will Ferrell movies, the bear in the building might not immediately jump to mind. It's a reference to the 2008 movie "Semi-Pro," in which Ferrell plays an ABA basketball owner/coach/player named Jackie Moon. During one scene, Moon is forced to wrestle a bear, which eventually escapes into an arena full of people. Once the bear breaks free, Moon shouts into a microphone, "EVERYBODY PANIC!"

Early in his tenure as coach, Shanahan showed the clip to his team. It's one he picked up from Atlanta coach Dan Quinn when he was the Falcons' offensive coordinator. Quinn, whom Shanahan notes is a big proponent of culture, likes to find ways to keep it light while offering an important message.

Shanahan has also been known to make frequent references to the Catalina Wine Mixer, a fictional helicopter leasing event in the movie "Stepbrothers," again with a lesson for his players to not let a moment get the better of them.

"Some things you have to realize it's just not that big of a deal," defensive tackle Earl Mitchell said. "It's



not the Catalina Wine Mixer. Those are the two big messages: There's not a bear in the building, and it's not like we're at the Catalina Wine Mixer."

When the Niners turned the ball over five times in a preseason loss to Denver, both of those phrases were tossed around liberally on the Niners' sideline.

"You start fumbling, and guys are coming to the sideline, and everyone is freaking out," Shanahan said. "Everyone wants to freak out after the game, and like, 'We suck. We can't do anything,' and it's like, guys, there's not a f---ing bear in the building. We had five turnovers. They had zero. Go look at the stats. It's probably 0 percent win percentage. Let's not reinvent the wheel. Let's not panic. Let's learn how to not have five turnovers, and then we'll talk about how to play football after that. It kind of brings perspective to everybody."

'If Jerry Rice wants to practice, go ahead and practice'

For four straight years, Shanahan has made it a point to find a young running back and ask him if he knows who Marcus Allen is. He has yet to get a positive ID. As a lifelong student of the game, it drives Shanahan crazy.

So when Shanahan and Lynch took over the Niners, one of their top priorities was to make sure that every player on the roster knows about the franchise's storied past.

"I think of San Francisco like people think of the Yankees," Shanahan said. "Just me growing up, that's what the Niners were just throughout the '80s and early '90s. They were the team, and I know my generation saw them that way. I don't know how all the players now feel. Half these guys don't know a lot of players that would surprise the hell out of you if you ask them. You want people to understand the expectations of something like that and the standard that they set.

"You want players to understand that and respect it and grow from it. But that's about where it ends. You have to do everything else on your own. You just want people to understand the importance of where you're at."

Lest any of the Niners forget, Shanahan and Lynch have made sure that there are visual cues almost everywhere you look. Levi's Stadium now has banners of current and former stars, with other pieces recognizing great moments in team history. On the walk into the locker room, the wall to the right is adorned with a mural featuring Joe Montana, Ronnie Lott, Patrick Willis, Roger Craig and Steve Young, with the words "It won't be easy, but it will be worth it" underneath it. Shanahan also changed how the lockers are arranged, eschewing the usual position group formation and mixing players from all facets of the team.

Along with that, any time there's an opportunity to bring one of the franchise's legends into the building, the Niners haven't hesitated. Before one training camp practice, Young and Rice spoke to the team. During that day's workout, the 54-year-old Rice appeared in shorts, a T-shirt, cleats and receiver gloves and went through individual drills with the receivers. When team drills started, Rice lined up about 5 yards behind the play and ran through every rep, offering an example of what went into making him the most prolific receiver in league history.

"It's almost like a cheat sheet," Lynch said. "This is the way it should be. And these guys know when we walk by those Super Bowl trophies that they don't come free. You've got to go earn them, but why not take advantage of guys like that, and why not invite them? And if Jerry Rice wants to practice, go ahead and practice. That's good for us. And Steve Young up here, I've always respected Steve. The stories they told, I think, better than we ever could, they told them what the 49er way is, and it was awesome."

To be sure, Shanahan and Lynch are well-aware that they can't use the past as a crutch.

"Our past is something that we want to celebrate, but we can't rest on what people did in the past," York said. "We have to build our own present and make our own future, and I think that's what Kyle and John



understand. I think it's really important that those guys know this is what Bill Walsh was about, this is what the great 49er teams were about, and that's part of their fabric, but they've also made it their own. I think that's the thing that's important. You can't be Bill Walsh. You can't be George Seifert, you can't be somebody else, but that's a part of their fabric, and I think it makes it a lot easier for me to communicate with those guys because the 49ers run in their blood."

#### Age as an advantage

In addition to his duties as Shanahan's administrative assistant, Nick Kray is known as DJ Kray Kray, the man responsible for the practice music. Kray has his own pop-up tent near the practice field where he spins a variety of cuts -- mostly hip hop -- during every workout. Behind closed doors, Kray handles plenty of other daily tasks, including putting together the aforementioned video clips.

Kray's musical stylings aren't limited to the practice field, either. Before every team meeting, music is playing. The artist most often heard? Drake. More often than not, that comes at the request of Shanahan, not because he's actively trying to relate to his players but because he genuinely likes it.

"I play Drake because I like Drake," Shanahan said. "That's still what I listen to. I'm still close with the music. Now it's starting to be different, but I still know the main guys. I don't know some of the weird stuff. But Drake is what I would be playing because that's what I like."

At 37, Shanahan is older than every player on the Niners' roster, but he's close enough in age that it's not that difficult for him to relate to his team. Veterans such as Mitchell and center Daniel Kilgore emphasize that Shanahan sets a standard of what is expected of each player, and so long as those players meet that standard, there is time for fun.

But Shanahan has long viewed his relative youth as an advantage when it comes to connecting with players of all backgrounds. He is quick to point out that none of that matters unless he can first earn every player's respect as the coach. That's why he emphasized being able to provide answers to any and all questions. If not, players will pick up on it right away.

"I think that's been one of the first things that kind of jumped out to me is just, like, he understands the younger culture and the lingo," Juszcyk said. "I think he can use it to his advantage to be able to get the point across. It's not just the same old banter that you have earned from older coaches your whole career. He kind of puts it into our perspective and understands it a little bit better."

#### Plenty to prove

The idea of measuring culture is nearly impossible. For now, Shanahan will only allow that he is happy with his team's work ethic. The real tests will come after the Niners go through a losing streak. Shanahan knows that such tests are on the way.

For a team that was 2-14 a year ago, fixing everything in one offseason is almost impossible. These Niners still have plenty of holes, but there seems to be a genuine belief that things are headed in the right direction, especially once they get the right people in place.

"We want 53 guys who realize this is what I do to support my family, this is what I do for a living, and this will come over everything -- except, obviously, your family and life-and-death decisions," Shanahan said. "But [otherwise] this is the No. 1 important thing in my life."

In other words, 53 players who are willing to skip the final.



## **'I could feel the pole coming out of my leg': Freak injury sped up Shanahan's career**

By Matt Barrows  
Sacramento Bee  
August 25, 2017

Kyle Shanahan's dog needed to go to the bathroom. It altered the trajectory of his career.

It was about 5 p.m. on a summer day in 2001. Shanahan was a 21-year-old receiver at the time, one day from joining his University of Texas teammates for the upcoming season. He was at his parents' house in Denver when he took his dog out in the backyard and went to jump over a four-foot-high fence with decorative, iron prongs at the top.

Shanahan, 6-3 and 185 pounds, had been training furiously all year and was in prime physical condition. He'd leaped the fence hundreds of times. But this time, his hand slipped as he went to propel himself and he came crashing down.

"I thought I was going to hit my head on the ground and I just stopped," Shanahan recalled.

He found himself dangling upside down, his left thigh impaled on one of the fence's spear points. His father, Mike, was the Denver Broncos' head coach at the time and already was at the team's training camp in Greeley, Colo. His mother wasn't home.

"No one was out there," he said. "So I had to reach to the ground and push myself off it. It was nasty. I could feel the pole coming out of my leg. And I was so upset because I knew right then, 'Man, I've just messed this up for myself.' Because I was going to training camp the next day."

In 2008, Shanahan became the youngest coordinator in the NFL at age 28 when he was picked to run the Houston Texans' offense. In February, at age 37, the 49ers made him the NFL's second-youngest head coach behind the Los Angeles Rams' Sean McVay. Everything about him and San Francisco's new regime smacks of energy and youth.

But he never would have gotten such a quick start at coaching if his hand hadn't slipped that summer afternoon.

Shanahan's dream at the time was to play in the NFL and it was realistic. A strong spring earned Shanahan the role of No. 3 receiver on a loaded Texas squad that featured Roy Williams and B.J. Johnson at receiver, Major Applewhite and Chris Simms at quarterback and Cedric Benson at tailback.

"I've never seen a guy work as hard as he did to prepare himself," said Darryl Drake, Texas' wide receivers coach at the time who now has the same job with the Arizona Cardinals.

"He wasn't the fastest guy in the world, he wasn't the most gifted guy, but he understood the game," Drake said. "He had a great feel for the position. He was a guy that I was counting on – and we were counting on – to have a big-time role."

Shanahan said when he removed himself from the fence he found he couldn't walk. So he crawled to the back door.

"And I promise, it didn't hurt that bad," he said. "It was like the worst deep thigh bruise you could ever have. There wasn't a lot of blood, but I could see my muscle. And I could see it twitch."

He got a friend to drive him to the hospital. His initial instinct was to have it stitched up and to play through any pain. But it quickly became clear that the wound was too deep, too ripe for an infection – there were paint chips from the fence inside – and that he needed to have surgery.



He called the Broncos' team doctors and soon underwent a two-hour procedure that required three layers of 21 staples to close. Shanahan has a white, nine-inch scar to remind him of the event.

Today he freely talks about the incident and even offers to reenact how it happened using a chair in a Levi's Stadium office as a prop. When it's suggested to him that he has the same proud wound an ancient Greek warrior might have picked up in battle, he frowns.

"It's not really bad-ass," he said. "I was walking my dog. But it was gruesome."

At the time, he was crushed.

Doctors told Shanahan he wouldn't play that season. They were wrong. He missed only one game and was back on the field in 18 days. But he lost his prime spot in the rotation, never regained his former speed or quickness and finished the year with seven catches.

Drake says he doesn't know where Shanahan ultimately would have been drafted but that he had the ability to play in the NFL.

"It was devastating," he said. "Not only for him but for me personally because he's a guy that I loved dearly and wanted to see him go out and show what I knew he was capable he was doing."

Shanahan had an invitation to the scouting combine after his senior season but didn't go. He stopped lifting weights. His NFL aspirations slipped away.

"I went through depression for a while over it," he admits. "My whole life, my whole world was playing (football). It was tough on me. It took me a long time to get over it."

A few months into 2003, he got a job on UCLA's coaching staff. Six months later, he was hired by the Tampa Bay Buccaneers. He's been in the NFL since.

"I always knew I would eventually coach," he said. "But the work I put into the scholarship to Texas – I lived and died for playing at the time. I had aspirations to try to play in the NFL. I knew when it was all done and I'd made my run – whenever that was – that I would coach. But I always joke with players; I say it sarcastically: 'If I never had this injury I'd probably taking one of your guys' job.' Then they all laugh at me. Because obviously I wouldn't have."



## Lifetime focus on football put 49ers' Shanahan on fast track

By Matt Kawahara  
Sacramento Bee  
February 11, 2017

Kyle Shanahan's initiation into the 49ers family began years ago.

While his father, Mike, was running the 49ers' offense from 1992 to 1994, Kyle tagged along as a ballboy. And of course, players tried to make the kid feel included.

"We forced him to sit on Santa Claus' lap at the team Christmas party," recalled former 49ers tight end Brent Jones. "I think (Santa) was actually Bill Walsh. And we told him that was part of the deal – if you were a child of one of the coaches or players, you had to sit on Santa's lap.

"He was probably 14 or 15. I've got pictures somewhere."

Shanahan is now 37, an accomplished coach himself. And Monday, the 49ers placed at least a share of their future in his lap, making him the 20th head coach in franchise history.

"He's not only a smart football man, but he's a leader who sets the tone through his work ethic," new general manager John Lynch said Thursday in a news conference introducing the two. "I like what Kyle represents because he's (dedicated). He knows what he wants, and he's going to find a way to make that happen."

While the move had been expected for days – the 49ers had to wait until after the Atlanta Falcons, with Shanahan as offensive coordinator, lost the Super Bowl in gut-wrenching fashion to the New England Patriots – one could argue that for Shanahan it was part of a natural progression going back much further.

They could point to the childhood spent around football, the father who won three Super Bowl rings as a coach and the swift ascension through the NFL's coaching ranks, capped by orchestrating the league's top-ranked offense last season in Atlanta.

Indeed, Shanahan said in his introductory 49ers news conference Thursday that becoming an NFL head coach had been a goal "my whole life." He added, though, that he would not have accepted just any job. And in a way, his hiring marks a return of sorts, to a place that helped dictate his path.

Shanahan said his early experience with the 49ers has "always been a special part of my heart." He recalled summers spent at the team's training camp in Rocklin, sleeping on a rollout bed in his father's room with former offensive-line coach Bobb McKittrick as his connecting roommate, playing pingpong nightly with wide receiver John Taylor.

"It took me two years to beat him," Shanahan said, "and then after I did, he finally told me he was going to start using his right hand.

"But guys like Harris Barton, Tom Rathman, Steve Young, Jerry Rice, all these guys have really been a big part of my life, even though I was only with those guys for three years," he said. "It's just, those are the guys I looked up to and guys I wanted to be."

### HARD WORKER CLIMBS COACHING LADDER

He would not reach their level in pads. A wide receiver in college, Shanahan played his final two seasons at Texas, totaling a modest 14 catches for 127 yards. He then landed a job as a graduate assistant at UCLA in 2003 under then-head coach Karl Dorrell.



“He had a knack for just loving the game and understanding the process of seeing what defenses do and reacting to it and trying to make plays for the offense,” Dorrell, now a receivers coach for the New York Jets, said by phone. “It was kind of in his DNA, so to speak. He was already in that mode of a coach prior to him landing his first job.”

Dorrell had met the younger Shanahan while coaching receivers in Denver under his father. But the decision to hire Shanahan, he said, arose not out of loyalty to the family but because he recognized in Kyle “somebody who wanted to plant his own roots.”

“He put in the work – there’s no question about that,” Dorrell said. “By no means did he think he was entitled to anything. He was trying to work his way up the ladder.”

He did so quickly, spending two years as a quality control assistant in Tampa Bay under Jon Gruden, then two more as a position coach in Houston under Gary Kubiak. In 2008, the Texans made him the youngest coordinator in the NFL at age 28, giving him the reins to an offense that finished in the top five in total yardage in each of the next two seasons.

What followed was far less smooth. In 2010, Shanahan left Houston to be the offensive coordinator in Washington under his father. But his first season was marked by tension with veteran quarterback Donovan McNabb, a six-time Pro Bowl player who ultimately was benched late in the season as the team went 6-10.

Recalling his season with Shanahan to the East Bay Times recently, McNabb said: “We both had our egos. There was no sitting down and discussing what we were going to do to make it easier for every party going forward.”

Shanahan worked with three primary quarterbacks in four seasons in Washington. His offense tailored around Robert Griffin III thrived in Griffin’s rookie season in 2012 but stalled the following year, which Washington finished 3-13, leading to the Shanahans being fired.

Thursday, Shanahan recalled his time in Washington as “a great learning experience. I wouldn’t take it back for the world. It wasn’t the most fun place to be at. There was a lot of ups and downs. But I think it was a pivotal point in my career. I think I got a lot better from it.”

Those years likely contributed to a perception, which hasn’t dimmed much, of Shanahan being cocky – something he took exception to when asked about it Thursday.

“You get humbled every single day,” he said. “As soon as you feel good about yourself, you’re going to get humbled very quickly. So I never really feel that good. I don’t think it’s fair to say I’m cocky and arrogant. But I also don’t know a lot of people, either.”

His self-assessment led to one of the lighter moments of Thursday’s news conference.

“There’s really two things that are important to me, and that’s my family and football, and that’s really all the things I think about,” Shanahan said. “As sad as that is, it’s true.”

Still, the 49ers could perhaps use an edge as they attempt to rebound from a 2-14 season under the recently fired Chip Kelly. Broadcasting a Falcons game weeks ago, before either was hired by the 49ers, Lynch made a prophetic observation about Shanahan.

“Kyle, I think he goes in these (head-coaching) interviews and maybe comes off a little confident, a little arrogant,” Lynch said. “I don’t care. I want an arrogant coach. I want a confident coach. I’d be hiring that guy in a second.”

TRIUMPH, HEARTBREAK IN ATLANTA



It wasn't only Shanahan's attitude that convinced the 49ers to give him a six-year deal, an extraordinary show of faith in a man with no head-coaching experience. Atlanta's offense last season led the NFL in points per game (33.8), ranked second in yards (415.8) and produced the MVP in quarterback Matt Ryan, earning Shanahan the Assistant Coach of the Year honor from the Pro Football Writers Association and The Associated Press.

His tenure there ended painfully. The Falcons blew a 28-3 third-quarter lead in a 34-28 overtime loss to the Patriots in the Super Bowl, after which Shanahan was pilloried for his play-calling late in the game – namely, to continue throwing when a more conservative approach might have helped Atlanta salt away a championship.

Thursday, days removed from the loss, Shanahan said he was still “definitely grieving on it, and I probably will for a while.” Ryan, though, said after the game he did not blame his coordinator.

“Too aggressive? No. I thought Kyle did a good job,” he said. “I thought we played the way that we play. We always play aggressive, and play to win, and we had opportunities as players.”

Already, the 49ers had begun to envision that style for their own. Not 24 hours passed between the Super Bowl's dramatic ending and the 49ers officially naming Shanahan their new head coach. Linebacker NaVorro Bowman attended the news conference, observing his fourth head coach in as many seasons.

“I can say for myself, standing on the sideline (last season while injured) watching the Falcons just move the ball up and down the field, with my intellect, he had me (confused),” Bowman said. “So I'm glad to have him on our side.”

His rise from 49ers ballboy to their head coach complete, Shanahan now faces a much larger challenge: Restore the luster to a faded franchise.

“I think he's one of the brightest minds in the game,” Lynch said. “He's proven that, I think, every step of his career.”

“He had a big challenge because his dad was kind of a big deal in this league. But Kyle, I think to me, he's a guy who soaked in all the knowledge and experience of being a coach's son, but then went out and did it on his own, and has become his own man.”



## Robert Saleh

### **Finance to Football: Robert Saleh's Story of Pursuing His Passion**

By Joe Fann  
49ers.com  
July 2, 2018

Robert Saleh stared down a four-foot putt. He took a few extra seconds to make sure he had the read just right.

“Just putt it already,” Kyle Shanahan groaned.

“No, man,” Saleh fired back. “This is worth a dollar.”

There was always something on the line when those two hit the links during their time on the Houston Texans coaching staff in the mid-2000's. Saleh was keen to note that the matchups were largely one-sided.

“I took all his money,” Saleh joked. “He paid my rent for a couple months. He lost a lot of money to me on the golf course.”

Their friendship began long before Saleh and Shanahan reunited with the San Francisco 49ers in 2017. Shanahan, who had just been hired as the 49ers new head coach, brought in Saleh to be his defensive coordinator. The reunion was Saleh's latest stop on what had been a 15-year journey through the collegiate and professional coaching ranks.

But before Saleh took the plunge into the coaching world, he first had to quit his desk job. Flash back to 2001 when Saleh had recently finished his four years at Northern Michigan. He played tight end on the football team and graduated with a degree in finance. The former – although Saleh had always been bright and good with numbers – carried more influence.

Still, Saleh couldn't turn down an offer from Comerica Bank World Headquarters right out of college. He returned home to Dearborn, Mich., where most of his large family resides. Many of Saleh's relatives are in the real estate industry. So what happened when their clients needed a loan? They sent them to Saleh.

“I had connections afforded to me,” Saleh said point blank. “If you needed a loan, you would have come to me.”

Saleh knew he wasn't being fulfilled, though. The money was great, sure, but life as a corporate lender didn't provide much else for a 22-year-old fresh into the workforce. Saleh recalled how his father, Sam, faced a similar conundrum back in his youth. Sam played college football at Eastern Michigan and received an offer to join the school's coaching staff following graduation. Instead, Sam went back to Dearborn to join the family business. It's a decision that paid off financially, but Saleh shared that his father always felt a degree of regret for not pursuing coaching as a career.

Saleh felt the urges, but it wasn't until two planes brought down the World Trade Center that he decided to forgo the sure thing and take a leap of faith to pursue his passion. Saleh's brother was in the second tower on Sept. 11, 2001. Fortunately he made it to safety before the building collapsed. Even so, one of the darkest days in American history provided a stark reminder that life can be fleeting. Saleh ditched finance for football just a few months later.

He spent two seasons from 2002-03 at Michigan State as a graduate assistant while getting his masters in kinesiology. Saleh then made the 66-mile drive north from East Lansing, Mich., to Mt. Pleasant, Mich. He sat outside the Central Michigan football offices for an hour and a half until head coach Brian Kelly arrived.



The two had crossed paths before. Kelly recruited Saleh out of high school to come play at Grand Valley State. That familiarity helped Saleh land a graduate assistant role under Kelly in 2004. Saleh made a few valuable connections during his time with the Chippewas. The first was current 49ers left tackle Joe Staley, who was in the middle of a transition from tight end to tackle. The second, and more important at the time, was Tony Oden. Oden was only at CMU for a month before jettisoning off to the NFL with the Houston Texans. But he and Saleh became fast friends and kept in touch.

Saleh's next move, albeit a brief one, was to Georgia in 2005. That's because a month into his time in Athens, Ga., Oden came calling with an opportunity in Houston. Saleh broke into the NFL with the Texans in the summer of 2005. He joined Houston's coaching staff as a coaching intern and made a whopping \$5 an hour. That was beaucoup bucks as far as Saleh was concerned, because \$5 an hour turned into \$7.50 an hour with overtime. And at 110 hours per week? That came out to around \$25,000 annually (\$2,083 per month). That's Bill Gates-type dough compared to the \$600 a month he made at Michigan State, \$800 a month at Central Michigan and \$900 a month at Georgia.

"I thought I was loaded," Saleh joked. "I was rolling in it."

The benefit to Saleh was that Houston hired him to a year-long internship shortly before training camp. So when Dom Capers got fired following a 2-14 season in 2006, Saleh was able to stick around for a few months through OTAs. Then Texans general manager Charley Casserly had taken a liking to Saleh and suggested to new head coach Gary Kubiak that he retain the young coach. Kubiak obliged and hired Saleh as a defensive quality control coach.

He spent three years in that role before being promoted to assistant linebackers coach in 2009. In 2010, Saleh got his first taste of the often-harsh reality of professional football. Kubiak decided to fire defensive coordinator Frank Bush, which meant the rest of the defensive coaching staff went with him.

All of a sudden, Saleh was unemployed with his first-born son just three months old. Saleh had no income to sit on while he looked for work since QC coaches aren't given multi-year contracts. Some doubt crept in when a trip to the 2011 Senior Bowl in Mobile, Ala., presented zero leads.

Money, while a concern, wasn't Saleh's main stressor. He could always return to Dearborn and get back into the finance industry. But Saleh wanted to remain in football – something that seemed less likely with each passing week. He told himself back in 2002 that if he ever found himself jobless at 30 then he'd call it a day. He was 31 when the Texans let him go.

"Nobody gave me the time of day at the Senior Bowl," Saleh said. "I thought it was over. I thought that was it."

Then Saleh caught wind that the Seattle Seahawks were in the market for a quality control coach. Problem was, Seattle's entire coaching staff went on vacation shortly thereafter. Saleh anticipated that at some point during those 14 days, someone would call in a favor for their son/nephew/friend/friend of a friend/etc., and the job would be filled before he even had a chance.

"That was the longest two weeks of my life," Saleh said. "My wife was panicking. I was trying to hold my composure."

But Saleh did get the job, and he spent the next three seasons (2011-13) in Seattle as a defensive quality control coach. Defensive coordinator Gus Bradley and linebackers coach Ken Norton Jr. took Saleh under their wings immediately. They were the first individuals to take a sincere interest in Saleh's development as a coach.

"I realized I didn't know anything," Saleh said.

Seahawks head coach Pete Carroll urged everyone on his staff to really understand themselves and what they wanted to be about – both as a human being and as a football coach. It's vital to carve out your own



style rather than regurgitate someone else's philosophy. That's the only way to make an authentic connection with your players.

"The thing I learned in Seattle is that if you try to be someone else, if you try to steal from someone else and that's the way you live, then you're really not helping players," Saleh explained. "It's all fake. Therefore, you cannot be your best as a coach. You can teach so much greater when you're in tune with yourself."

Saleh had his trial run as a position coach in 2013. Norton Jr. took a two-week leave of absence after his father passed away midseason. Norton Jr. returned on gameday, but it was Saleh's job to get the linebackers prepared during the week. That experience gave him the confidence that he was ready for the next rung up the coaching ladder.

Bradley, who departed to be the head coach of the Jacksonville Jaguars in 2013, provided Saleh with that opportunity in 2014. He spent three seasons as the Jaguars linebackers coach until he came to another crossroad in 2017. Bradley had just been fired following Jacksonville's 3-13 record in 2016. Saleh got the axe as well.

Shanahan called and inquired about Saleh's interest in becoming the 49ers linebackers coach. Meanwhile, Bradley, who became the Los Angeles Chargers defensive coordinator, urged Saleh to join him in Southern California. Saleh went back to Shanahan and floated the idea of interviewing for defensive coordinator, a job that San Francisco was yet to fill. Although the two had kept in touch since their time together in Houston, Shanahan still didn't know much about Saleh as a coach. He'd heard good things, but was his former colleague ready to be an NFL coordinator?

The 49ers head coach told Saleh that he needed to lock him in as linebackers coach before entertaining a discussion about the DC role. Saleh slept on it. He'd always been one to trust his intuition. Saleh also thought back to Carroll's wisdom of creating his own path as a coach. The next day, he accepted San Francisco's offer and informed Bradley that he wouldn't be joining the Chargers staff.

"You want to talk about one of the harder things I've had to do – it was separating from (Bradley)," Saleh said. "His teaching ability and all that he's done for my family – that part was hard. I also felt like it was something that I had to do in order to see if I could do it on my own."

Saleh continued to prod Shanahan for a crack at being his defensive coordinator. Shanahan had long admired Bradley's defensive scheme, so much so that Bradley was one of his top choices for DC. But if Bradley was Mr. Miyagi, then Saleh was the Karate Kid. Saleh was confident that he knew the scheme better than anyone bar Bradley.

"Why don't you just interview me? I'm not asking you to hire me, but just interview me," Saleh remembers stating his case to Shanahan. "I was a good QC. I was a good linebackers coach. I'll be a good defensive coordinator."

Shanahan finally agreed to an interview. The two spent four hours poring over game film. Shanahan hammered Saleh with questions regarding the intricacies of the scheme. He quickly realized that he'd underestimated Saleh's expertise.

Bradley originally built the system back in 2011 during the lockout. He was the architect. Saleh was the scribe, taking meticulous notes as if he were witnessing Thomas Edison construct the first light bulb.

"I was able to answer every question that Kyle had," Saleh said. "I was able to explain what we can do differently – what we could add to the scheme without disrupting the three-deep aspect."

Shanahan was convinced and made the relatively unknown Saleh his defensive coordinator. Saleh explained that his subtle tweaks to the system can only be discerned when taking a deep dive into the film. When pressed on the specifics of those nuances, he opted to keep those close to the vest. Saleh did



publicize his two mantras: "All gas no brake" and "Extreme violence." Players latched on to both and even sported rubber wristbands with the slogans written on them.

The 49ers new regime took their lumps in the first half of Year 1, though. San Francisco opened up 2017 with an 0-9 record and endured a streak of five-straight losses by five points or less. Injuries mounted and rookies were thrust into prominent roles. But Shanahan and Saleh stayed firm to their philosophy. They saw progress. So did the players. That made it even sweeter when things clicked down the stretch.

Jimmy Garoppolo stole the headlines during San Francisco's five-game winning streak to close the year, but it was evident that the 49ers young talent had taken a step forward as well. Third-overall pick Solomon Thomas flashed more consistently. Ahkello Witherspoon, the third-round pick who took constant flack for his perceived lack of physicality, looked like a starting-caliber corner. Adrian Colbert, a seventh-round pick, emerged as a hard-hitting force at free safety.

"When it started showing up in the game," Saleh paused, then cracked a smile, "that was awesome."

The 49ers late-season surge was highlighted by a 44-33 home victory against the AFC South Champion Jaguars. Unsurprisingly, that win carried serious weight for Saleh.

"I'm not going to lie to you, I really wanted to get after Jacksonville, and I feel like we did," he said. "You always want to beat your former teams. You love them, but you also want to kick their a--. That's just the nature of the beast."

All that is irrelevant now as the table resets for 2018. Saleh has shown Shanahan, the players and the 49ers fan base that the job isn't too big for him. But now comes the challenge of developing his defense chock full of young talent. First comes competency. Competency evolves into proficiency. If all goes to plan, proficiency ultimately leads to dominance. The 49ers defense is currently somewhere in the middle of that spectrum.

Saleh is eager for the challenge. He's got faith in his players, but more importantly, he has faith in himself. That self-confidence has gotten him this far. This is merely Saleh's latest – and most prominent – opportunity since leaving the finance world behind 16 years ago. Everyone knows the sarcastic saying, "you better not quit your day job." Saleh is assuredly glad he did.



## 49ers coordinator Robert Saleh paves way for Arab Americans in the NFL

By Eric Branch  
San Francisco Chronicle  
September 15, 2017

Before he was the 49ers' defensive coordinator, Robert Saleh was a credit analyst at Comerica Bank's world headquarters in Detroit.

Then 23 years old, Saleh was poised to follow in the lucrative footsteps of his older brother, a financial adviser, and his father, a business owner.

He was set.

And he was sobbing uncontrollably.

In February 2002, less than five months into his job analyzing multimillion-dollar loans, Robert called his brother, David, and told him he wanted to ditch financial security to pursue a dream. At least, that's what the hulking former college tight end said when he could finally form the words.

"I was trying to get him to get a grip and talk to me," David said. "I couldn't understand a word he was saying. Have you ever cried so hard where you can't even speak or breathe?"

Said Robert: "It was the kind of crying when you get the hiccups."

Fifteen years after that call, Robert, 38, was making calls last week as the NFL's third-youngest defensive coordinator in the 49ers' season opener.

For the rookie, who is believed to be the league's first Arab American coordinator, it was a strong debut: The 49ers allowed just 287 yards — their fifth-fewest in their past 38 games — in a 23-3 loss to the Carolina Panthers.

Now, he returns Sunday to Seattle, where he won a Super Bowl in 2014 while working under Seahawks head coach Pete Carroll, his most influential mentor.

For David, 41, who was at Levi's Stadium for the season opener, the game was a reminder of the sometimes penniless path his brother traveled, and the courage it required to begin the journey. Instead of earning a six-figure salary, Robert didn't pocket more than \$800 a month until his fifth year in coaching. He spent his first two seasons living for free in the home of family friends.

He didn't start with much, but he also began without regrets.

How many people bemoan late in life the decision to work at a job instead of pursuing a passion?

"God bless him," David said. "There's something to be said about someone who knows at that age that he didn't want to be doing that. He had to travel the unknown, work pretty much for free and slave at it."

Football was a passion for the Saleh family and their hometown of Dearborn, Mich.

Their father, Sam, was a linebacker at Eastern Michigan who spent a training camp with the Chicago Bears. Their late uncle, Ossum, was a guard at Michigan State. Robert and David also played at Fordson High, and David, who has remained in finance, is an assistant coach at Dearborn Heights Crestwood High.



When he was 5, Robert began filling his falls with football as a water boy for David's pee-wee team. But Robert figured his 17-year relationship with the sport was finished after he was a four-year starter in college at Division II Northern Michigan.

And that's what was expected in his community. In Dearborn, which has the highest concentration of Arab Americans in the United States, stability and proximity are prized. Robert, the son of Lebanese parents, was working less than 30 miles away from home at Comerica.

"We come from a very close-knit community," said Brian Mosallam, a Dearborn native and close friend of the Salehs who helped Robert get into coaching. "It's a very insular community where we are always around family. So what Robert did was very different. Our kids don't go away and live in eight cities in six years."

Robert missed football. And he might have lived with his emptiness, if not for his father's experience. Sam still regrets declining an offer to be graduate-assistant coach at Eastern Michigan because, as Robert says, he chose to "chase money." Robert decided to chase the sport he felt rudderless without.

"I'd be in my cubicle and think, 'I'm not supposed to be here,'" he said. "And I finally reached a breaking point. I knew if I went into coaching, I'd lose my girlfriend, I'd have to leave home and I wouldn't have any money. I just reached a point where I didn't care. I wasn't going to live with the regret."

The problem: How to get a coaching job.

Robert and David enlisted the help of their coach at Fordson, Jeff Stergalas, and a group of former Michigan State football players that included their uncle and Mosallam. The ex-players made calls to their alma mater on Robert's behalf, while wondering: What was the kid thinking?

"He could have done very well (financially) and I just thought he was wasting his time, quite frankly," said Mosallam, 43, a financial adviser who is on Michigan State's board of trustees. "I just thought it was a crazy decision."

Robert Saleh knew many thought he was foolish. Before he landed a job as a graduate assistant at Michigan State, he was discouraged from taking the job during his interviews. Mike Vollmer, who played at Fordson and worked in MSU's football personnel department, was briefed on Saleh by their high school coach.

"He told me, 'Stergalas told me you'd be overly prepared,'" Saleh said, laughing. "'You don't want to do this. You can make so much money in banking.'"

Instead, Saleh made \$650 a month during his two seasons in East Lansing and lived with his uncle's former MSU teammate, John Shinsky, 65, and his wife, Cindy.

Saleh repeatedly says it took a "village" for him to beat long odds. The Shinskys took him in ("You talk about a godsend," he says), his parents gave him their blessing and financial support and his first door opened because of a flood of calls on his behalf.

At some point, though, he had to prove he could coach. And he slowly rose through the ranks with a blend of creativity and ability. In 2004, he drove to Central Michigan and showed up unannounced at head coach Brian Kelly's office to ask for a job. He hoped Kelly would remember recruiting him seven years earlier. Kelly did, but he had bad news: He could only offer him a defensive graduate assistant position that paid \$700 a month.



Saleh's reaction: A raise?

"I said, 'OK, that's great. I'll take it!'" Saleh said, laughing.

His decision quickly paid off. A year later, Saleh landed in the NFL based on the recommendation of Texans defensive backs coach Tony Oden, a former assistant at Central Michigan.

Saleh's position: defensive intern. His salary: \$5.25 an hour.

It was the start of a six-year stint in Houston during which he was promoted to quality control coach (2006-08) and assistant linebackers coach (2009-10). He went to Seattle as a defensive quality control coach (2011-13) before serving as Jacksonville's linebackers coach from 2014-16.

During his formative years in Houston, Saleh impressed defensive coordinator Richard Smith, whose strong recommendation landed him in Seattle, and then-Texans offensive coordinator Kyle Shanahan. The 49ers' head coach hired Saleh in February after Saleh presented him with a bulging binder that painstakingly detailed his plan for his first nine months on the job.

"I had this coordinator book," Saleh said. "And Kyle grabbed it and was like 'Geez.'"

Saleh also made an impression years ago on 49ers linebackers coach Johnny Holland, a former NFL player who spent five seasons with Saleh in Houston. Holland isn't surprised the former intern is now his boss.

"Back then, I knew he was special — such a smart and detailed guy," Holland said. "Robert will be a great defensive coordinator in this league. And there's no doubt he'll be a head coach in this league."

About his smarts: Despite no formal training, Saleh has a near-expert chess rating, and he also taught himself Vizio, the computer program NFL teams had starting using for their playbooks when he entered the league.

As a low-level assistant, he stood out because of his ability to produce mountains of work in a relatively short time. And Saleh's tech savviness gave Shinsky, who initially questioned Saleh's career choice, the first inkling that Michigan State's new graduate assistant coach might have a future.

"Robert would come home every night from work and get on his computer to get plays set up," Shinsky said. "He was so good with technology and that really enhanced his opportunity because he presented everything in an organized and detailed way."

Saleh is a long way from living in the Shinskys' upstairs bedroom. And he's even further removed from the day he called his brother crying hysterically.

"It just came down to: I could make money," Saleh said, "or coach football."

Fifteen years later, it was noted that he's currently doing both.

"Knock on wood," he said. "It's been good so far."



## Robert Saleh: The Road from 9/11 to the 49ers

By Robert Klemko  
The MMQB  
June 6, 2017

The Seahawks were in the pupal stages of what would become five consecutive playoff appearances and a Super Bowl victory. It was early in 2011, the lockout year, and Pete Carroll was entering his second season on the job. Marshawn Lynch had been acquired in a trade with the Bills; second-year safety Earl Thomas held steadfast to his fast-receding dreadlocks; the world hadn't yet met Richard Sherman, an outspoken rookie cornerback who'd mostly played wide receiver at Stanford; Russell Wilson was negotiating a release from N.C. State to play his final year of college ball at Wisconsin.

Carroll, ever the motivator, asked his coaches to create mission statements. Among them was a newcomer, Robert Saleh, a quality control assistant who had come highly recommended to then-defensive coordinator Gus Bradley. "Carroll gave the coaches the task and the challenge of finding out what was very important to us as individuals," Saleh says, "to identify who we were as coaches ... what defined us."

Saleh, 32 at the time, was not simply a man with an entry-level job in the NFL, but someone who was on a path to daily betterment. As summer morphed into fall, he would become an integral cog in a burgeoning NFL powerhouse. But first, he had to explain his personal philosophy in no more than 20 words.

In short, what do you stand for?

Robert Saleh's journey to the NFL began on Sept. 11, 2001. His oldest brother, David, was beginning his second day of intensive training as a financial advisor with his new employer, Morgan Stanley. During a work break, David looked down from the 61st floor of 2 World Trade Center, the South Tower, and gazed upon a monstrous yacht in the Hudson River that had two helicopters resting on helipads. It wasn't a sight often seen in his hometown of Dearborn, Mich.

"I could not believe how big this yacht was, based on how big it looked from being so high up," David says.

Suddenly, a fireball obscured his view. He didn't know it at the time, but it was American Airlines Flight 11 crashing into the North Tower at 8:46 a.m. David took a step back, stunned by the blast. His colleagues sprinted to the window, and his supervisor rushed into the room and asked, "What's going on?"

"I think the building next door just blew up," David told him.

The supervisor looked through the windows and saw charred debris falling to the ground. He instructed all employees to go back to their offices. Many trainees, including David, ignored him. David grabbed his suit coat, wallet, cell phone and briefcase and started moving down the packed staircase in what he describes as "a very intense and orderly flight."

"It wasn't any chaos or anything like that," David says. "On the 40th floor, I remember the intercom guy saying everything was good, it was an accident, everybody could go back to their offices and continue working."

Some people turned back, fighting against the flow to return to their offices. As David reached the 24th floor, 19 minutes after the first attack, United Airlines Flight 175 struck the South Tower, the building he was in, between the 77th and 85th floors. The stairwell shook, lights flickered. "Initially I had thought that the [first] building tipped over on top of us," David says. "Never in my wildest imagination did I think it would've been a plane."



The pace of the escape picked up. By the time David reached the 11th floor he saw firefighters ascending the doomed tower. “There was one firefighter,” David says, “he was a kid, maybe like 19, 20, somewhere around there. His face looked like a white T-shirt.”

By the time David reached ground level, evacuees were being diverted to a back exit, because victims trapped above the impact zone were jumping out of windows, with some impacts clustering around the other doors. When David got outside, he kept running for about seven blocks. When his adrenaline wore off, he slumped down on the ground and tried calling his parents. No signal. So he ducked into a party supply store and asked to use the store phone.

His father, Sam, answered the phone. David told him he was OK. His father replied, “OK, good. You’re OK. Can you believe what’s going on?”

“I have no idea what’s happening,” David said.

“You don’t know what’s going on? It was these son of a guns. They flew planes into the building!”

“What do you mean they flew planes into the building? You know what? Let me call you when I get back to the room.”

David hung up and kept walking back to the hotel where he was supposed to be staying for the next month while in training. Then, like the scene in “Independence Day” during the alien invasion, cars came to abrupt halts and onlookers stood slack-jawed in the streets.

“Everybody was stopped dead-smack in the streets, just watching everything,” David says. “I want to say it was a cab driver, he had his radio on. Then some lady comes on, ‘The Pentagon was just hit. A plane just crashed into the Pentagon. Ladies and gentlemen, we are under attack!’ I was like, ‘What the f--- is going on?’ It was nuts.”

He kept walking, but the sprint down 61 floors and across Manhattan finally caught up to the former high school football player. Exhaustion took over. Just as he took a seat, at 9:59 am, the South Tower began to collapse. David sat on the sidewalk, watching in disbelief as the world changed.

Back home in Dearborn, his dad fielded phone calls from family and friends. Sam had heard from David, but that was before the towers collapsed and blanketed lower Manhattan in debris and dust. Robert Saleh, 22, had just been hired at Comerica Bank in Detroit. He came home after staying out with friends the night before to find his parents sitting on the couch, crying in front of the TV. “David’s in one of those buildings,” his mom said.

“That was the start of a very long day,” Robert says. “We watched the news. Every minute that passed by became more and more anxious. I can’t begin to describe the stress level for the house. Especially when I looked at my mom. It was not an easy day, not a great day to reflect on.”

At about 4 p.m., David called from his hotel room to confirm he’d made it out alive. Early the next morning he called home again to say he needed a ride home, because all air traffic was suspended in the U.S. His dad contacted a family friend who was returning from Chicago to White Plains, N.Y., in a rental car. David found his way to White Plains, took the rental car and arrived in Dearborn around 5 a.m. on Sept. 13.

“There must’ve been 100 people waiting for me, family and friends,” David says, “and I just wanted to go to sleep.”

Robert went back to work at Comerica the next day, stunned. He’d almost lost his brother, and as he went through the motions as a first-year credit analyst for a commercial lending department, his mind



raced. He contemplated the fragility of his brother's life, of his own. He began thinking about his purpose, about what he wanted to do with his life.

It was football.

Robert Saleh was a four-year starter and all-conference tight end at Division II Northern Michigan. He followed in the footsteps of his father, who starred at Fordson High in Dearborn, played at Eastern Michigan and saw his pro career cut short by a major knee injury in his first training camp with the Bears.

Robert and his friends always joked that his father resembled Bald Bull, the bug-eyed, bald-headed Turkish boxer from Mike Tyson's Punch-Out!! But Robert's dad and his mom are Lebanese (Sam was born in Michigan but spent some of his childhood in Lebanon, and Fatin was born abroad and emigrated as a teenager). Today they're retired after running a furniture store in Dearborn, where Lebanese immigrants began settling in the 1930s to fill new automotive jobs in the city's Ford headquarters.

Over the years, the city attracted immigrants and refugees from all over the Middle East. By 2000, 30 percent of the community was of Arab ancestry; in 2010 that number has risen to about 42 percent. The football team at Fordson, where most Arab-American students clustered in Dearborn, remained a consistent Michigan powerhouse, with the sport becoming a favorite of the Arab-American community. From 1961 until the time Robert graduated, in 1997, there had been a Saleh at Fordson High.

When David was a senior, coach Jeff Stergalas (an alum of the school) created a highlight reel of all the Fordson greats throughout the years. Before a game against top-ranked Lincoln Park, Stergalas gathered the team, dimmed the lights and showed the compendium of big hits and touchdown plays. In one grainy clip, a linebacker bulldozed through the line of scrimmage, tipped the quarterback's pass into the air, snagged it and returned the interception for a touchdown. As the students clamored, Stergalas paused the tape, turned on the lights and told David Saleh, "That's your dad."

Sam had earned a scholarship to play linebacker at Eastern Michigan, despite requiring reconstructive knee surgery during his senior season—the same knee that would later end his short stint with the Bears. Sam never got to realize his NFL dream, and in the wake of 9/11, Robert started to believe he was throwing away his own.

At the end of the 2001 NFL season, Tom Brady and Bill Belichick launched a dynasty, with Brady marching the Patriots into field goal range and Adam Vinatieri nailing a 48-yard field goal to beat St. Louis 20-17 as time expired in Super Bowl 36. As Brady celebrated the first of his five Lombardi trophies, and as Robert financed golf courses at his desk in Detroit, the latter reached a breaking point. He called his brother, David, in tears.

"The Super Bowl was just done, and he calls me up in my office. He's crying profusely, he can't even speak," David says. "I'm like, 'What? What's going on? What's happening?' I told him, 'Just call me back. Call me back when you catch your breath,' and I hang up. I'm calling people to see what's going on, if anything bad is going on. Nobody's answering."

"He calls me back and he says, 'I can't stand this s---. I have to be on the football field,' and I'm like, 'What? Buddy, you didn't go to the combine, you didn't enter any of the drafts,' He's still in that crying voice telling me he doesn't want to play—it hurts, it hurts too much, he's sick of icing everything. I'm like, 'Well, what do you want to do?' He says, 'I'd rather coach.'"

David suggested that he drive over to the high school to see Coach Stergalas, whom Robert describes as a "second father."



“He was on his way to being very successful in the business world,” Stergalas says. “I said, ‘Well, if you want to get into coaching, you have to become a graduate assistant. That’s not a very glamorous life. You better learn how to make coffee and make copies.’”

Stergalas had always envisioned a coaching career for his former team captain. “After doing this for so long, you can always tell early on those special kids,” he says. “They have an intangible about them. They carry themselves a little bit differently.”

Stergalas connected Saleh with another former Fordson player, Mike Vollmer, who was in the football personnel department at Michigan State. “Vollmer said he had a student assistant job, and I had to enroll in grad school, pay my own way, and he might be able to hire me as a student assistant,” Robert says. “I don’t know if I called his bluff. He tried to talk me out of it, but I was hell-bent.”

What followed was a short but wild odyssey that ought to inspire any young budding coach looking for a light at the end of the tunnel: Michigan State coach Bobby Williams was fired after the 2002 season, and though Saleh remained on staff, he saw no future on John L. Smith’s staff. David urged him to drive to Central Michigan after the 2003 season to ask for a meeting with Brian Kelly, who had just been hired in Mount Pleasant. Kelly, who had recruited Robert out of high school, remembered him and offered a GA job on the spot. A year later, feeling passed over by the hiring of a grad assistant from Georgia to be a position coach at CMU, Robert called Stergalas, who called Brian VanGorder, the former Wayne State coach who was now the defensive coordinator at Georgia. Then, just a few weeks into his new GA job at Georgia, Robert got a call from Tony Oden, a coach who had left Central Michigan for the Houston Texans. They needed a defensive intern.

Saleh asked Georgia coach Mark Richt for his blessing to abandon a weeks-old GA job for a shot at the NFL.

Are you crazy? Richt told him. You’re thinking about that? Get your stuff and get outta here. Don’t worry about us, buddy. Everybody dreams about going to that.

The following year Houston hired Richard Smith as its defensive coordinator, and Saleh spent the next three seasons as his quality control coach. He was promoted to assistant linebackers coach under new coordinator Frank Bush in 2009, then let go with the rest of the defensive staff after the 2010 season, when Gary Kubiak replaced Bush with Wade Phillips. At the 2011 Senior Bowl, Pete Carroll and defensive coordinator Gus Bradley asked Smith to recommend a quality control coach, and Smith didn’t hesitate to name Saleh, newly a free agent.

“Smith said, I’ve got a guy, one of the best QC coaches I’ve ever been around,” Bradley says. “He was fast and detailed.”

Three years later the Seahawks trounced the Broncos in Super Bowl 48. Saleh called Stergalas from the winning locker room to thank him for everything. Says Stergalas: “I said, ‘Well Robert, you better pack your bags.’”

Bradley, who had taken the head-coaching job in Jacksonville a year before Seattle won the title, had passed on Saleh for his linebacker coach slot, choosing to keep longtime position coach Mark Duffner on staff—a move that shook Saleh’s belief in loyalty. But now the position was open, and Bradley wanted Saleh.

Over the next three seasons Saleh helped mold fifth-round rookie Telvin Smith into a top-20 standout linebacker, and he helped the Jags’ defense improve from 26th in yards allowed in 2014 to sixth in 2016, despite last season’s 3-13 finish under new head coach Doug Marrone.



Saleh believes what sustained him through his rise through the coaching ranks was an ability to fill a new niche on football coaching staffs at the turn of the century.

“A QC or GA is asked to do a lot of the computer work, especially back then because of the older generation of coaches,” Saleh says. “Even though I didn’t know much, I made it a point to figure it out. That skill set helped me create a reputation of being very detailed and efficient, because the amount of work I could produce in the amount of time was different from other people.”

Saleh was able to master Vizio, the program that gradually replaced Playmaker Pro as the go-to playbook resource for NFL and college coaches beginning in the early 2000s.

“I think when you have a staff you’re trying to build your staff with certain strengths,” Bradley says. “Obviously you want coaches on the grass who can really relate to players and teach them, and then there’s that technology part of it. It was growing so fast in the NFL that someone who understood it and could teach us could get a leg up. Robert came in and opened our minds up to some of the things that we could do.”

While Saleh was immersing himself in coaching technology and bouncing around college football in preparation for the NFL, the world he’d known in Dearborn was coming to grips with life after 9/11. The high school football team, riding a streak of 34 consecutive winning seasons, became the subject of racial taunts during road games. After an 8-2 season in 2002, they finished 7-11 over the next two seasons combined.

“After 9/11, those kids couldn’t recover,” Robert says. “The racial backlash they faced, I don’t know if you can imagine it, but for a kid to go through what those kids went through was not fair.”

Stergalas led the program to a rebound, going 11-2 in 2004 and again in 2006, the year he retired to become the athletic director at nearby Dearborn High. His wife, Georgene, a teacher at the school, filed a lawsuit in 2010 alleging that she and a white colleague were discriminated against in a larger effort to rid Fordson of Christian employees. A judge ruled that the claims were without merit.

Through the years, Dearborn found itself at the center of a struggle to define the Arab-American experience. In 2010, failed Nevada Senate candidate Sharron Angle told supporters the city of Dearborn was under Sharia law. The Islamic Center of America in Dearborn was the target of a 2011 bombing plot and numerous anti-Muslim protests. Last August, University of Michigan-Dearborn chancellor Daniel Little

wrote a letter to students and faculty denouncing then-Republican presidential candidate Donald Trump’s “virulent strand of anti-Muslim bigotry.”

Saleh, who is believed to be the first NFL coordinator of Arab ancestry, was reluctant to be profiled by The MMQB. He feared that his story would be interpreted as a political statement while Trump tries to ban immigrants from a number of predominantly Muslim countries.

“Unfortunately, the perception of our culture and of Arab-Americans who were born in this country and worked tirelessly to assimilate, goes unnoticed,” Saleh says. “And all some people can see is what they think they know from what they see on TV. One bad apple spoils them all, fair or not.”

Saleh, who is Muslim, declined to say whether he supported Trump or his policies. He speaks Arabic, though not as fluently as his wife, who is also Lebanese. When Ramadan falls on the football calendar, long hours usually prevent him from fasting, though he tries. He wants the focus to be on the community of people who raised him, and the example he’s trying to set. “In our culture we believe it takes a village to raise a child,” he says. “There are a lot of people back in Dearborn who have helped me.”



This offseason, when Kyle Shanahan got the coaching gig in San Francisco, the first-time head coach reached out to Saleh to interview him, and came away impressed with his preparedness. Saleh had the next nine months planned out, in the event he got the job. “He knew exactly what he wanted to do. Mapped out from beginning to end,” Shanahan says. “It was a fool-proof plan, and you could tell he’s been thinking about it for a long time.”

That’s how Saleh, who once cried at his desk before changing his life to chase his dream, became the defensive coordinator of the San Francisco 49ers. His journey is encapsulated in the 18-word statement of personal philosophy he gave Pete Carroll six years ago:

A commitment to consistently execute the details required to compete at my greatest level; with loyalty and conviction.



## **A lover of chess, 49ers' Robert Saleh now playing with bigger board**

By Matt Barrows  
Sacramento Bee  
September 4, 2017

They started with the type of plastic chess set you can find in any drugstore. If they were missing a piece they'd use a checker as a substitute or simply write "rook" on a scrap of paper.

Robert Saleh, the 49ers' new defensive coordinator, used to have epic matches with his brother, David, who is four years older. David dominated their early encounters. But at some point, when they were teens, the tally evened out. And soon after that Robert pulled into the lead.

"We don't like to lose to one another," David, 41, said. "Sometimes you wouldn't let the other get up from the table unless we played again."

Robert has had no formal training and has taken no classes, but his chess rating has grown to 1950, just below that of an expert (2000-2199).

"He's very, very meticulous, very methodical," David said of his brother's game. "He really thinks everything out. As a matter of fact, that's why I can't play him in person anymore. He'll take 20, 30 minutes to make a move."

Robert, of course, now is playing with a much bigger board and with more expensive pieces.

After the 49ers finished the 2016 season with two victories, they hired Kyle Shanahan, one of the sharpest offensive minds in the game, as their head coach. But San Francisco's defense was a far greater problem last year. It finished at the bottom of nearly every category and broke a 70-year franchise record in the most elemental principle of the game: stopping the run.

Like last year's defensive coordinator, Jim O'Neil, Saleh is in his mid-30s. Unlike O'Neil, he's never been a defensive coordinator.

The 49ers looked at several veteran options before making the hire, including former Jacksonville Jaguars head coach Gus Bradley and Vic Fangio, whose San Francisco defenses finished in the NFL's top five from 2011-14. Fangio, however, couldn't get out of his contract with the Chicago Bears. Bradley was hired to run the Los Angeles Chargers' defense.

So the 49ers ended up with a guy no one had heard of.

Who is Robert Saleh? If you ask Shanahan, he's a lot like him.

The two first met when they were young assistants with the Houston Texans. Shanahan started as the team's wide receivers coach in 2006. At that time, Saleh was what the Texans called a defensive assistant.

"I was really just a little intern," Saleh said.

The two were the same age and Shanahan said he was impressed with the speed and skill with which Saleh took in the team's defensive schemes and incorporated them into Vizio, the computer program teams had begun using for their playbooks. If Shanahan had questions about defense, he went to Saleh.

"He thinks through everything," Shanahan said. "I always thought he was extremely intelligent in how he'd explain it and – he was so good with computers and stuff – he was pretty off the chart in his preparation and organization."



Said Kailee Wong, a former Stanford linebacker who was with the Texans at the time: “He had an incredible work ethic. He had a lot of good defensive coaches around him at the time. But you noticed that he was the one who worked the hardest.”

Saleh grew up in Dearborn, Mich., where he was part of a large Middle Eastern population that’s been drawn to jobs in the automotive industry since the 1920s. His mother was born in Lebanon. His father, Sam, was born in Michigan after a civil war in Lebanon forced his family to flee to the United States in the late 1940s.

The Arabs, Assyrians and other groups who moved to Dearborn had no background in American football, but they immediately were drawn to the sport.

“A lot of people say they play football because they’re angry,” Sam Saleh said. “I don’t think that’s true at all. I think it’s a way to express their freedom to have fun in a country that allows them to do whatever they want to do and choose what they want to do. But the immigrants who come here certainly embrace football and basketball very quickly.”

Sam, big and bald-headed like his son, was a high school linebacker and nose guard in the 1960s and earned a scholarship to Eastern Michigan. Robert, meanwhile, was a tight end who was talented enough to get attention from Lloyd Carr, then the head coach at the most renowned football school in the state, Michigan.

He also was recruited by Northern Michigan, a Division II program. When he was 18, he visited the school over a three-day weekend and returned to Dearborn with a surprise announcement: He had committed to attend Northern Michigan instead of Michigan.

“I was livid,” Sam recalled. “I looked at him and said, ‘What did you do?’ I kind of hollered at him. And he went upstairs in his bedroom and he laid awake crying. And my daughter said, ‘What is wrong with you, Ba? How can you do that, Dad?’ Even today I get a lump in my throat when I think about it.”

What Sam would learn is that his son does not make decisions without an exhaustive amount of thought.

In his community, young men became doctors, lawyers or financiers. That’s what Robert did after college, landing a job as a credit analyst at a bank that paid him \$800 a week, excellent money for someone in his early 20s. But Robert hated it. He eventually realized his passion was football and that he would become a coach.

“He’s deep thinker,” Sam said. “I always said Robert took after my dad in one way. He was a calculated mover as well. He would tell us, ‘Before you make a decision, think about it. Then think about it two, three hundred more times. Then if you feel good about it, do it.’ ”

Deep thinking also is what drew Robert to chess. Looking five, seven, 10 steps ahead is challenging, fun – even cathartic – to him.

“It’s training your mind to see farther and farther,” Robert said. “It’s a game that you can actually improve in, not because you trick people, but because you can see farther than they do.”

Wong said that during the Texans’ road trips, the two used to take a chess set to the back of the plane and settle in. The flight would take off from Houston and land in, say, Chicago and they’d just be wrapping up their first match.

Wong said Saleh’s game is built on strategy and patience and controlled aggression. He wasn’t the type of player who’d bring out his queen early and attack in one mad rush. He played like an older man.

“He was very organized,” Wong said. “He was very strategic. He would just pressure – he always would put pressure on you. It was constant pressure. You didn’t know exactly what he was trying to do. He’d just always be making small, strategic moves to advance his cause.”



For Robert and David, who were close but highly competitive brothers, chess also was a way of staying in contact when they went off to their respective colleges and, after that, started careers and families. The two would play over the computer and, of course, Robert usually was the winner.

With one exception.

“One day, miraculously, he absolutely crushes me,” Robert said. “And he was like, ‘I guess I was in the zone.’ Then he does it again. And again. And I’m like, ‘Something’s up.’ ”

It turned out that David was plugging his brother’s moves into a computer program, one that was set to Grandmaster level.

“It would tell me what move to make and I would wax him that way,” David said, laughing at the memory.

Said Robert: “And I’m like, ‘This son-of-a-gun! At least set it to intermediate.’ ”



## Kwon Alexander

### **How Kwon Alexander overcame tragedy, adversity to sign with 49ers**

By Matt Maoicco  
NBC Sports Bay Area  
March 19, 2019

Within the first hours of the NFL's open negotiating period, former Tampa Bay Buccaneers linebacker Kwon Alexander agreed to terms with the 49ers on a lucrative contract.

Alexander traveled a bumpy and painful road to get to this point in his life. After months of uncertainty, Alexander finally signed the kind of life-changing contract for which he had dreamt.

"I reflect on everything, all the hard work I put into it, the times I ran hills by myself," Alexander said on The 49ers Insider Podcast.

"When it all happened, I just started thinking about everything I've done in the past that got me to this spot I'm in right now. And now I just got to keep going."

The 49ers signed Alexander to a four-year, \$53.5 million contract with \$14.25 million in guaranteed money, not because of what he has done in the past. General manager John Lynch and coach Kyle Shanahan singled him out among all free agents because of what they believe he can contribute in the middle of the team's defense in the future.

Shanahan knew all about Alexander from facing him with the Atlanta Falcons, including a game that will forever show what the game of football means to him and his family.

As Alexander was preparing for just his seventh NFL game in 2015, he received word from back home in Alabama that his 17-year-old brother, Broderick Taylor II, was shot and killed. The Buccaneers organization told Alexander, a rookie, they would support him if he decided to go home to be with family.

Alexander decided to play in the game.

"It felt right, but it felt wrong. You know what I mean? Because I wanted to be there with my family," Alexander said. "I know they were going through a tough time. But I just knew . . . he always told me, he just wanted me to ball. He wanted me to keep doing what I was doing.

"So I went out there and played for him, and he really took over the whole game for me. I feel like he was in my body the whole game. I was making plays that I wasn't making. It was amazing."

Alexander recorded 11 tackles, forced and recovered a fumble, and had an interception as Tampa Bay defeated the Falcons in overtime.

Alexander joined his family two days later for his brother's funeral. In a piece for The Player's Tribune, Alexander revealed he placed the game ball and the jersey he wore from that game in his brother's casket.

Two years later, the man who shot and killed Alexander's brother was found guilty of manslaughter and sentenced to life in prison. Alexander got a tattoo over his entire back as a tribute to his brother, Lil' Brod, an energetic and good-natured kid he remembers fondly for his sense of humor, love of family and his plan to serve in the Army.

On the day he signed with the 49ers, Alexander was on the field at Levi's Stadium for photos and interviews. Afterward, he went over to meet a group of young children taking part in the STEAM program. He shook hands, bumped fists and posed for pictures.



He has a son of his own. He considers himself a role model for all the kids back home in Anniston, which also happens to be the hometown of new 49ers edge rusher Dee Ford.

"It's a difficult place," he said. "A lot of people don't make it out. Everybody says that. But back at home, a lot of people don't make it out. That's why I'm so happy to play with Dee because we both made it out."

"We can show kids back at home that it's possible. Whatever you put your mind to you can do. We're the big picture now, so they can see that and have a great mindset."

Alexander had three outstanding seasons, including a Pro Bowl appearance, upon entering the NFL as a fourth-round draft pick from LSU. But midway through his contract year, he sustained a torn ACL. Afterward, then-Tampa Bay coach Dirk Koetter referred to Alexander as the "heart and soul" of the team.

The timing of the injury appeared to be disastrous – potentially robbing him of the opportunity to secure a big contract. But Alexander said he never lost faith.

"I'll never question God. Look where I'm at now," Alexander said. "I've been hurt and I still got what I wanted. It's amazing. That's why I put all my faith in Him. And when you have faith in Him, you can do whatever you want to do."

Alexander's rehabilitation appears to be going well. He has been running on a treadmill for more than a month. Lynch said the 49ers' medical staff was thorough with the physical examination, and the official signing turned into a family experience.

"Our doctors came out feeling good about it," Lynch said. "And that excited us even more because we got to the point where we were signing a contract with his parents, Peaches and Brod, on Facetime. It was fun."

Alexander said his mind is at ease, and he is not putting any kind of timetable on his return to the football field.

"I wake up every day happy, smiling," he said. "I'm taking it day by day. Whenever it's time, it's time."



### Arik Armstead

#### **49ers' Arik Armstead raises over \$100K for equal opportunity education**

By Jennifer Lee Chan  
NBC Sports Bay Area  
June 8, 2019

Over the weekend 49ers defensive lineman Arik Armstead raised over \$100,000 at his Charity Gala to provide the underserved youth of his hometown with equal opportunity education programs.

Proceeds from the weekend will fund the Armstead Academic Project which provides multiple resources for young students in the Sacramento area where Armstead grew up. Not only does the organization fund supplies for students and schools in need, but they also provide interactive programs for students to work in smaller groups.

Armstead is not just a talking head. He has done his research and cited several statistics that he is trying to change: Two-thirds of students who cannot read proficiently by the end of fourth grade will end up in jail or on welfare. 85 percent of all juveniles who interface with the juvenile court system are functionally illiterate.

One of Armstead's programs is a creative writing workshop to help build the confidence of the participants. Armstead not only funds these programs, but he is also actively involved as a positive voice and role model. Last year some of the stories written at Armstead's workshop were even published as a collection.

Armstead's cause was supported by several of his teammates, including Richard Sherman, DeForest Buckner, Ahkello Witherspoon, Ronald Blair, Jaquiski Tartt and Sheldon Day. Former teammate and current Raiders tackle Trent Brown, as well as Panthers linebacker and Sacramento native Shaq Thompson also attended.

Several pieces of autographed sports memorabilia from Bay Area players were up for silent auction including signed jerseys from Steph Curry, Jimmy Garoppolo, Jerry Rice and Roger Craig. It was during the live auction where things got a little heated.

Sherman donated a painting of his likeness which he autographed on site. He drove the price up by bidding for the item himself which got the crowd motivated and riled up.

Another painting that featured Buckner and Armstead together as both Oregon Ducks and 49ers was an item that also had a flurry of bidding. Both players got up on the stage to help inspire bidders to open their wallets.

The following day Armstead hosted nearly 200 children in his youth football camp held at Pleasant Grove High School where he was a member of the football team. The campers went through both offensive and defensive drills while Armstead went from group to group giving one-on-one coaching.

At the conclusion of the camp, Armstead spoke to the group and gave awards to campers who stood out both as teammates and with their work ethic.

Armstead hopes to continue to raise awareness of how literacy affects the population in a positive way while providing opportunities for those with little or no resources.



### C.J. Beathard

#### **Aunt's cancer fight steels Beathard. 'How joyful she is ... no reason for me to be angry'**

By Chris Biderman  
Sacramento Bee  
October 6, 2018

C.J. Beathard was enjoying a family reunion at the beach in Kitty Hawk, N.C., sitting alongside his aunt Karen. She asked him about losing the starting quarterback job to Jimmy Garoppolo last December.

"Did it hurt your ego?" Karen Beathard asked with a laugh, knowing her unassuming nephew had always put his team first dating to his earliest football days in grade school.

"Not at all," he responded. "Because I know God has a plan, and it's for him to decide when it's my time. I'll learn more (as a backup), so I'm going to use it as a positive."

His optimism came from a place of perspective. The woman he was sitting with was battling a situation far more difficult than being relegated to a backup role.

Karen Beathard had been diagnosed with breast cancer — for a second time.

She's undergone chemotherapy since February and is slated for nine more treatments, not including 45 more radiations, and is waiting to be approved for surgery because the cancer spread. She regularly travels from her home near Franklin, Tenn., to Houston's MD Anderson Cancer Center, one of the few facilities in the country that specializes in her form of inflammatory cancer.

"I still have a long way to go," Karen said in a phone interview with The Bee.

She initially overcame breast cancer three years ago, undergoing a double mastectomy and reconstruction. She thought she was in the clear. But it returned in a new form, which has Beathard playing with a heavy heart while the calendar flips to October, when the NFL raises cancer awareness with its annual "Crucial Catch" campaign.

On Tuesday, Beathard attended the 49ers' Crucial Catch Fashion Show, where he walked down the runway with 2-year-old Tatum McKerr. She was diagnosed with acute lymphoblastic leukemia in March.

Beathard and Tatum were fast friends. She gave him the all-important responsibilities of holding her bottle and blanket while Beathard got to know her mother, Sinead. "The nicest, most down-to-earth guy. I was talking to him like I've known him my whole life," Sinead McKerr said of the 49ers quarterback.

The encounter hit home for Beathard because Tatum was nearly the same age as his daughter, Lyla, who turns 2 in December.

Fighting, with joy

Karen Beathard is married to C.J.'s uncle, Kurt, one of four children to Bobby Beathard, who was inducted into the Pro Football Hall of Fame in August following his 33-year career as one of the NFL's top personnel executives. Bobby helped construct four Super Bowl winners — two with the Miami Dolphins in the 1970s and two in Washington in the 80s.

Kurt Beathard is currently the offensive coordinator at Illinois State and has worked as C.J.'s personal quarterback guru in the past.



Away from football, C.J. grew close to Karen because her three daughters, LaRae, Grace and Eva, were similar in age to C.J. and his brothers Tucker and Clay. The cousins and parents were constants in each others' lives, both during the school year and their annual family reunions at the beach.

The Beathard family last offseason would convene at Bobby's house in Tennessee on Sundays, where C.J. would get a chance to see his aunt Karen when she wasn't bedridden by chemotherapy treatments. "There are times after chemo that I can't go anywhere. I'm kind of stuck in the house. Your immune system is down so low," Karen said.

Karen and C.J. have a unique relationship. They have found ways to gain strength from one another, helping overcome their vastly different life obstacles.

Karen's sickness gives C.J. a different perspective on life and reminds him there are more important things than football. The support Karen gets from C.J., and the rest of the family, ranging from hugs to cross-country text messages, is helping her deal with the rigors of her treatment (but she hates watching C.J.'s games because of the hits he takes).

"It keeps you motivated to keep fighting and keep positive," Karen said. "A lot of people don't know this about C.J., he is very emotional and very deep. And a very loving person, compassionate. And he doesn't generally say too much, but you can feel it from him. (It's) just how he is. I think it's something a lot of people just don't know about him, that he loves deep."

Said C.J.: "When you talk to my Aunt Karen, you see how joyful she is, how she tries to really live every day. None of us know when our last day's going to be. But when you have cancer that's really trying to kill you, it's so easy to give up and just call it quits. But to see her fighting, to see how joyful she is around everybody, it's like, man, there's no reason for me to be angry or mad right now."

'Feels like the world is ending'

Beathard's young NFL career hasn't been easy or glamorous.

He was widely considered a late-round draft prospect in 2017 before the 49ers surprisingly traded up to the third round to get him. He struggled as a rookie after taking over for veteran Brian Hoyer in Week 6 of 2017, surrounded by a roster in the first year of team-wide rebuilding project. The 49ers went 1-4 in his starts and began the year 0-9, the worst start in team history.

Beathard hardly looked like a building block as first-year pro, ranking at the bottom of the league in most meaningful passing statistics. Then the New England Patriots shocked the football world and traded Garoppolo to San Francisco last Halloween.

Beathard became the odd man out. Garoppolo took the same downtrodden supporting cast and led the 49ers to a 5-0 finish to end the season. He parlayed that into his massive five-year, \$137.5-million contract signed in February, which runs longer than Beathard's four-year rookie deal, worth roughly \$3.5 million.

Garoppolo, with movie-star looks and near-perfect fundamentals, shares little in common with Beathard, whose Tennessee twang, slender build and unassuming personality often go unnoticed in an otherwise boisterous 49ers locker room.

Beathard, like any player in his situation, struggled last season coming to grips with his new reality as the long-term backup after momentarily being the starter. That's when he turned to his deep-rooted Christian faith, which he shares with the rest of his family, including his aunt Karen.

"It feels like the world's ending," Beathard said of his rough 2017. "Being able to look back, read the bible and know that God has a plan for my life and everyone's life, it kind of gives you peace knowing that if you just put your faith in him, keep working, do your best in every situation you can, it's all going to work out for the right reasons."



But now Beathard is back in the driver's seat as San Francisco's starter after Garoppolo went down with a torn ACL in Week 3.

Last week against the Chargers, in his first start of 2018, Beathard threw for a career-best 298 yards, including an 82-yard touchdown catch-and-run to tight end George Kittle, who believes the 49ers could remain competitive with Beathard under center. The two were teammates at Iowa for five seasons before they joined San Francisco in the same draft class.

"When you see him approach it, he deserves 100 percent of my attention because that's just the guy he is. You don't want to let him down," Kittle said.

'That's who C.J. is'

49ers coach Kyle Shanahan liked Beathard in the draft because of his leadership traits, even though he's not the loud, demonstrative type. Beathard's also become known for his toughness, repeatedly getting back up after taking some viscous hits. "He's a badass," Kittle said last week.

"I think the biggest key in being a leader is being yourself. People will follow people who are themselves, that have special qualities. And that's who C.J. is," Shanahan said.

C.J.'s ability to galvanize the people around him while being quiet and unassuming became apparent to Karen when he was first playing quarterback in grade school. Those traits have come to define him.

"Even when he was a little kid, he was just like that. But very caring of other people," Karen said. "And he's always been a leader. But not because he tried to be. But it just kind of fell to into place."

When Beathard takes the field Sunday against Arizona at Levi's Stadium, he'll do so knowing the outcome against the Cardinals means little in the broader picture of life.

"I think that's what C.J. sees when he looks at me," Karen said, "that you have to keep that strength. You can't go down that other road, and you can't do it with football either. You have to look ahead and say that in end that it's God's plan, whatever it's going to be, whether you like it or not. But if you don't have trials and tribulations, you're never going to A, appreciate anything you have, and B, you're never going to learn. And I think he lives like that."



## Nick Bosa

### **49ers rookie Nick Bosa benefiting from developing bond with Joe Staley**

By Matt Maiocco  
NBC Sports Bay Area  
July 30, 2019

When 49ers rookie defensive end Nick Bosa took the practice field Monday, it dawned on him just how long it had been since he strapped on his football pads.

“Every day you get the butterflies. It’s that kind of sport,” Bosa said. “You’re going full speed against another grown man, so it’s nerve-wracking. But once you get that first hit, the first play, those all go away and it starts to be fun.”

Bosa’s final season at Ohio State ended on Sept. 15 with a core muscle injury. After the 49ers selected Bosa with the No. 2 overall pick in the 2019 NFL Draft, he sat out the bulk of the 49ers’ offseason program due to a mild hamstring strain.

Bosa comes to the NFL with a greater knowledge of his craft than most rookies. His father, John, was a first-round pick of the Miami Dolphins in 1987, and his older brother, Joey, was the No. 3 overall selection of the Chargers in 2016.

The first three days of practices have been highlighted by Bosa’s interactions with 49ers’ six-time Pro Bowl left tackle Joe Staley.

Bosa beat Staley badly on three occasions in the first practice. Staley got the better part of Bosa on Day 2.

“He would tell you (Saturday) was his first day back, so he’s just getting his feet under him, getting his hands right, getting his feet right,” Bosa said. “I definitely got him a couple of times and he’s definitely going to come back strong on me, I’m sure.”

And on Day 3, with Staley taking a veteran day off, those two still managed to spend time together during a special-teams period on Monday to go through run-game technique.

“We’ve built a really good relationship. He’s a super nice guy,” Bosa said of Staley. “I don’t usually be nice to offensive linemen, but it’s hard not to be nice to him. He’s such a good dude and he’s been a really good influence on me. It’s good to go against one of the best who ever did it. Any reps I can get against him are good reps for me.”

Bosa’s most notable play in practice Monday was his final play on 11-on-11 when swing tackle Shon Coleman, filling in for Staley, was seen pancaking him at the end of a run play to that side. Bosa pointed out that before that occurred, he got the would-be tackle.

“I actually tagged up the running back and Shon wanted to keep pushing me back,” Bosa said.



## How Nick Bosa went from 'one of the darkest moments' of his life to a top NFL prospect

By Chris Biderman  
Sacramento Bee  
March 2, 2019

Nick Bosa's junior season with Ohio State was off to a promising start.

The talented defensive end logged four sacks in his first three games of 2018 as he hoped to solidify himself as the best defensive player in the country. Doing that, of course, would also help cement his future in the NFL, when he was widely expected to be the first prospect drafted in 2019 even before the season began.

But then on the third play of the second half against TCU in September, Bosa felt a sharp pain in his abdomen and hit the deck, requiring attention from the medical staff. It didn't take long for him to realize his college career might be over sooner than expected.

"I knew my season was in jeopardy and I had a doctor confirm that. It was tough, but it had to be done," Bosa told reporters at the NFL scouting combine Saturday in Indianapolis.

He required months of rehab in order to rejoin his teammates and complete a bid for the College Football Playoff. But Bosa roughly a month later elected to sit the remainder of the season out in order to focus on preparing for the NFL draft when his professional future, and millions of dollars, would be on the line.

"When it happened, when I got home from that TCU game I was lying in bed, I could barely get it. It was one of the darkest moments of my life so far," Bosa said. "For me to talk to my family and let them bring me up and let me know that my life is still good and I still have amazing blessings and a bright future, that's what helped me get through it."

The story of the combine from the 49ers' perspective has been the rise of Oklahoma quarterback Kyler Murray, whose height was questioned heading into the week despite having supreme athleticism that help him win the Heisman Trophy last season.

Murray was measured at 5-foot-10 1/8, 207 pounds and 9 1/2-inch hands. Those marks are widely considered strong enough to clear the thresholds for quarterbacks, and the buzz has been increasing that Murray will be the first player taken in the draft April 25 either by the Arizona Cardinals or a team they trade the top pick to.

Of course, that scenario means the best defensive player could fall to the second pick owned by San Francisco. And it's widely believed that Bosa would be the selection to help solve the team's longstanding issues at defensive end.

Bosa – who measured at nearly 6-foot-4, 266 pounds and had 29 reps on the bench press – is headlining a talented group of defensive-line prospects which could allow the 49ers to trade down to acquire a different pass rusher while accumulating more draft picks.

"I would tell you that it's a great year to be looking for D-linemen in general," general manager John Lynch said this week. "This is as strong of a class as the last eight years at the defensive line."

Bosa is planning to be a full participant in combine workouts Sunday despite only recently getting back to top capacity. He told reporters he had scheduled meetings with the teams holding the top eight picks of the first round, including Arizona.

"I've been training at full speed for a couple months, but actually feeling like myself, not feeling soreness after, probably a few weeks," he said. "The toughest part is the beginning. It's such a unique injury in that it's literally the muscle used to breathe, to cough, to go to the bathroom. It's your core muscle, it's



something different than I've dealt with before. It's really gradual, small steps. Once you get through it, I'm feeling better than I've ever felt right now."

Bosa logged 17 1/2 sacks and 29 tackles for loss over three seasons at Ohio State. He's a stout, powerful prospect and a mirror image of his brother, Joey, who has 28.5 sacks in 33 games since being taken with the No. 3 pick by the Chargers in 2016.

Nick Bosa was widely expected to be a top NFL prospect dating to his high school days. But the groin injury, on top of a partially torn ACL that ended his high school career early, might cause concerns about his durability.

Injuries have been such a pressing issue for 49ers coach Kyle Shanahan and Lynch over the past two seasons that the club fired its head athletic trainer Jeff Ferguson and strength coach Ray Wright. The 49ers recently hired Ben Peterson run the club's medical and training staffs under one title in order to create more continuity than the previous staffers. Peterson's evaluation of Bosa could wind up deciding if Bosa wears a 49ers helmet next fall.

Injuries aside, Shanahan said this week he's had trouble in the past identifying defensive linemen in the past (which includes 2017 first-round pick Solomon Thomas, who hasn't become a difference-making player with San Francisco during his two seasons).

"I've asked some of the best D-line coaches that I could ever imagine, and they say he's a slam dunk, and he doesn't make it," Shanahan said. "And then it's got another direction, too. Every story can contradict anything you say is the right answer ... That's why we over talk it, over think it, over do everything because you have to because there are so many variables."

Other pass rushers – such as Josh Allen (Kentucky), Brian Burns (Florida State), Montez Sweat (Mississippi State) and Clelin Ferrell (Clemson) – could fill San Francisco's needs.

Allen is widely considered a top-five prospect and is expected to test extremely well Sunday. He measured 6-foot-4 7/8 and 262 pounds with 33 1/2-inch arms, half an inch longer than Bosa's. Allen logged 17 1/2 sacks last season for the Wildcats despite spending more time in coverage as a linebacker.

Still, most evaluators believe there's a sizable talent gap between Bosa and Allen – and perhaps Bosa will tap into his disappointment from last fall to motivate him to make his mark early on in the pros.

"(My season) just got torn away from me," he said. "It's something that I'll always think back to."



### Matt Breida

#### **49ers running back Matt Breida could hit top form next season**

By Eric Branch  
San Francisco Chronicle  
December 25, 2018

Matt Breida ranks fourth in the NFL in yards per rushing attempt and is fifth in runs of 20-plus yards.

This leads to the logical question: What could he do on two good ankles?

The 49ers hope to discover the answer in 2019 after Breida's season ended Sunday when he exited with an ankle injury in the second quarter of a 14-9 loss to the Bears.

That should sound familiar. Breida sprained his ankle in a Week 5 loss to the Cardinals and it never fully healed. He's only missed one game because of the ailment, but he won't play in Sunday's season finale against the Rams after he aggravated it for a final time against Chicago.

"He's battled every week to get in there and play for us," head coach Kyle Shanahan said. "He's ended up hurting it every week. So it's lingered all year. Just a credit to him to still be effective when he's been out there. (The way) he's been able to help us throughout this year has been unbelievable. He has not been 100 percent for a while."

Still, Breida often looked fully capable at less than full strength. He had 814 rushing yards and averaged 5.3 yards per carry, which is the third-highest average in franchise history for a running back with at least 150 attempts.

Breida is in select company. He ranks behind Hall of Famer Joe Perry (6.1 yards per carry, 1954) and Frank Gore (5.4, 2006), who is fourth in NFL history in rushing yards.

It's fair to say Breida has beaten some odds: He averaged 3.8 yards a carry in his final season at Georgia Southern and went undrafted last year. It wasn't just the unimpressive end to an otherwise stellar college career that scared off NFL evaluators. There were also concerns about Breida's ability to withstand punishment at 5-foot-11 and 190 pounds: After all, he would no longer be facing Arkansas State.

However, Shanahan was largely pleased with Breida's durability this season.

"Besides the ankle," Shanahan said, "he was able to handle the wear and tear with the rest of his body."

It wasn't just his ankle, however. Breida left a Week 3 loss to the Chiefs because of a knee injury, which made him questionable for the next week. He was then listed as questionable for the next two games because of a shoulder injury. Breida has been on the injury report before 10 of the 49ers' past 12 games.

But the 49ers likely won't ask him to carry such a large load in 2019. Breida will share the backfield duties with a group that should include Jerick McKinnon, who tore his ACL before the season opener after signing a four-year, \$30 million contract.

Shanahan has said McKinnon's injury was significant because much of the offense was tailored to his dual-threat ability as a runner and pass-catcher. There were also plans for McKinnon and Breida to be on the field together.



"I envisioned it this year," Shanahan said last month. "So that won't change next year."

Breida's performance in McKinnon's absence means the 49ers don't have to envision how he'd fare in a lead-back role. He's more than a stopgap measure primarily because of his elite speed: He hit a top speed of 22.09 mph last month on a 33-yard run against the Buccaneers, which was the fastest of any ballcarrier over the past two seasons, according to Next Gen Stats.

His wheels were also on display in a Week 2 win over the Lions when he had a 66-yard touchdown sprint that was the 49ers' longest of the season.

As it turned out, it was the last game in which Breida was fully healthy.

But the way he performed through pain gives the 49ers' backfield a healthy outlook for 2019.

"Matt stepped in right away," Shanahan said, "and played like a No. 1 back."



## 49ers' Matt Breida returns to Tampa Bay as a breakout success

By Eduardo Encina  
Tampa Bay Times  
November 23, 2018

If it appears Matt Breida emerged out of nowhere to become one of this season's best NFL success stories, the story behind the second-year pro's breakout season is far from that.

Breida, the San Francisco 49ers running back who played high school football for Nature Coach Tech in Brooksville, took the path less traveled. He was ignored by big college programs, received no invitation to the NFL combine and went through the 2017 draft without hearing his name called.

But Breida and the 49ers had a plan. The team saw something in the speedy but slight back and signed him as an undrafted free agent.

Breida, 23, comes home Sunday for the Bucs-49ers game at Raymond James Stadium as a key piece to San Francisco's future.

Breida's 5.59 yards per carry are third-best in the NFL among backs with at least 500 rushing yards. His eight runs of 20 yards or more are tied for most in the league with the likes of Todd Gurley, Ezekiel Elliott and Saquon Barkley.

"He's just a tremendous kid," said 49ers general manager and former Bucs standout John Lynch. "We're really proud of the work he's doing and think he's going to be a part of us for a long time. ... He's been great. He's probably one of our most improved players."

Breida was slated to share the running back load with free-agent acquisition Jerick McKinnon, but McKinnon suffered a season-ending knee injury just before the opener.

"I knew it was going to be a once-in-a-lifetime chance that you can't let pass you by, so you have to make the most of it," Breida said.

The 49ers thought the 5-foot-10, 190-pound Breida had the ability to break out. He ended last season with back-to-back 70-yard rushing games averaging 6.35 yards a carry, including a 104-yards all-purpose game in the 49ers' finale.

"The speed and the power he runs with gives him for a smaller guy gives him the chance to be successful at this level," 49ers coach Kyle Shanahan said.

Breida said it took time to grab hold of Shanahan's intricate offense, which blends West Coast quick-passing schemes with a zone blocking ground attack. His understanding of the 49ers playbook led to early success this season. Two weeks in he was the NFL's leading rusher.

"The first couple weeks of the season I did notice I was getting more attention and people were starting to take more notice of me and thinking, 'This guy's actually good,'" Breida said. "I try not to let it get to my head. I still know I've got a long way to go to where I want to be at."

Despite a senior year at Georgia Southern that saw his production go down, the 49ers thought he'd be a strong fit for their offense.



"We thought about drafting him late," Lynch said. "Sometimes when a talented player slips, there's ... a reason behind it. They had a coaching change at Georgia Southern and they didn't feature him as much.

"He went from almost six yards a carry his junior year to like 3.9 or something his senior year. But we watched that film and thought he was a great one-cut runner which we covet in our scheme."

Breida might have had his best all-around game two weeks ago against the Giants, scoring two touchdowns while rushing for 101 yards on a career-high 17 carries while adding 31 receiving yards on three receptions.

His scores against the Giants offer an example of the multi-dimensional threat he's become. On his first, he took a handoff, breaking a pair of arm tackles for a three-yard touchdown run. On the second he made a lunging one-handed catch into the end zone from 11 yards out. His day included two runs of 20 yards or more.

"He's got excellent change of direction," Bucs defensive coordinator Mark Dufner said. "He can stop on a dime, like people say, and cut and get vertical on you. He can cut back. This guy has got really good skills athletically and I think he sees holes pretty well and he's got a good receiving capability as far as coming out of the backfield. This guy is a real threat for them."

The 49ers (2-8) own the league's third-best rushing attack at 133.6 yards a game. While that hasn't translated into many wins or points — San Francisco's 23-point average ranks 18th in the league — the team's many young talented offensive weapons, from Breida to tight end George Kittle, 25, and quarterback Nick Mullens, 23, have been on display.

Four of the 49ers' eight losses have been by four points or less.

"I feel like us going through these growing pains right now, it's only going to help us when we get to next year or the year after when our record is really good and we're going deep in the playoffs," Breida said. "We have (already had) these close games and we're going to know how to finish. We're going to know we've been in this situation before and it's not going to be anything new. It's not where we want to be right now, but it'd definitely going to help us to where we're going."



## Georgia on their minds: How Jerick McKinnon and Matt Breida emerged from Georgia Southern to form 49ers' 1-2 punch

By Brad Almquist

KNBR.com

June 14, 2018

Jerick McKinnon had just agreed to sign with the 49ers, marking one of the most significant days of his life. After spending the first four years of his career as a third-down back in Minnesota, he was paid to be a feature back in San Francisco, while moving to an area of the country he had only visited on occasional road trips.

McKinnon made two immediate calls to share the news. The first went to his mother, Frances. The second went to 49ers running back, Matt Breida.

On that May 14th morning, McKinnon and Breida celebrated, reminisced, and looked ahead to a re-established partnership. Five years earlier, they shared the same backfield at Georgia Southern, once an FCS program hardly established as an NFL pipeline.

"It felt like just yesterday we were at Georgia Southern," Breida said. "We were ready to get back together and bring greatness to the 49ers."

Out of the five Georgia Southern alums currently playing in the NFL, Breida and McKinnon, San Francisco's 1-2 punch entering the 2018 season, are the only running backs.

They first crossed paths in Statesboro, a small, southeast Georgia town and the home of Georgia Southern, in the fall of 2013. Breida was a freshman. McKinnon was a senior and the face of a budding program on the verge of making the leap to Division I.

Breida knew all about McKinnon, the team's starting quarterback, rotational running back, and occasional defensive back. The first time Breida encountered McKinnon, nicknamed 'Jet,' he was squatting 600 pounds — on a pulled hamstring.

"(I was like), 'Holy crap. This is crazy. I have never seen this before,'" Breida said. "Anything Jet did, I tried to follow."

It was a fitting introduction for a player who inspired Breida. The odds of an NFL career were inherently slim for Georgia Southern prospects, playing in a region infested with pro talent at bigger schools. The only Georgia Southern running back that McKinnon and Breida knew had made the NFL was eight-year Chicago Bears veteran Adrian Peterson— not to be confused with the longtime Vikings running back.

As McKinnon progressed as an upperclassman, it became clear he was next in line. McKinnon ran the triple-option as the team's starting quarterback, leading the team in rushing in both his junior and senior seasons.

Listen to his coaches and former teammates tell stories about his college career, and it starts sounding like a modern folktale.

During his sophomore year, injuries among the defensive backfield forced the Georgia Southern coaches to play him both ways, despite his inexperience on defense. In his first game at defensive back, he recorded three interceptions. Fast forward to the final game of his college career, and McKinnon led Georgia Southern to its biggest upset in program history. He scored the game-winning touchdown in a 26-20 win at Florida.

"Jerick really set the standard on the next wave of running backs to come through," Breida said. "I always



wanted to be like him. I knew he was going to go to the NFL, so that's how I wanted to get there— by following everything he did.”

McKinnon nurtured the younger backs by example. He was the strongest lifter of the group and consistently finished first in conditioning drills. At the 2014 NFL Combine, the 5-foot-9 McKinnon lifted 32 bench reps, the second-most ever for a running back at the event.

On May 9th, 2014, McKinnon's hard work culminated when the Minnesota Vikings selected him in the third round of the NFL Draft.

“When I was there, the thing that always came to my mind when I left school, was, ‘What did I want the coaches or the players who are younger than me, watching me, to remember me by?’” McKinnon said. “I worked my butt off to get to where I was. I didn't know that I would be in the league, or be in the league this long. I just knew where I wanted to go.”

Breida followed McKinnon's blueprint. After being delegated to special teams duties during his freshman season, Breida succeeded McKinnon as the team's starting running back one year later. In that 2014 season, Georgia Southern's first as a Division I team, the Eagles won the Sun Belt Conference.

Breida led the Sun Belt in rushing yards and was named a first-team all-conference player. He led the country with 8.78 yards per carry. As a junior, he did it all again. Breida ran for 1,608 yards, 17 touchdowns, and averaged 7.9 yards per carry — leading the nation for the second consecutive year.

Breida's numbers dipped during his senior season, partly due to a coaching change and roster turnover. He ran for nearly 1,000 yards fewer than his junior campaign, fading from NFL radars.

He had still produced one the most productive careers in recent Georgia Southern history. Perhaps most impressive, the running back group experienced little-to-no drop-off when Breida replaced McKinnon.

“Those two guys were very important in our transition from FCS to FBS and showed that Georgia Southern did belong in Division I football,” said Georgia Southern head coach Chad Lunsford.

Similar to his predecessor, Breida helped his pro prospects when he blew away his Pro Day. He lifted 23 bench press reps, ran a 4.38-second 40-yard dash, 42-inch vertical jump, and 142-inch broad jump — all numbers that would have put him in the top-three of all running backs invited to the Combine.

But he was not drafted. The 49ers signed him as an undrafted free agent one week later.

The similarities between McKinnon and Breida are vast. McKinnon is 5-foot-9, 205 pounds, compared to Breida's 5-foot-10, 190-pound frame. Neither were major recruits. Both were instrumental in transforming Georgia Southern into a respectable Division I program.

Both have spent their NFL careers primarily as third-down backs. McKinnon was stuck amid a revolving cycle in Minnesota, where Adrian Peterson, Latavius Murray, and Dalvin Cook were the featured runners on base downs throughout McKinnon's four years. Last year, in Breida's rookie season, he beat out Joe Williams for the No. 2 spot in the rotation and assumed a similar third-down role behind leading rusher Carlos Hyde.

Above all, McKinnon and Breida approach their craft with a similar relentless mindset they developed in the same place.

“We both play with that chip on our shoulder,” Breida said. “People say, ‘Oh you guys are from Georgia Southern, blah blah blah.’ But Georgia Southern, we will still beat you guys.”



“And we are not that big,” added McKinnon, sitting beside Breida. “We are not big backs. But, we play big. We play like giants.”

Neither player is getting comfortable despite promising roles entering the 2018 season. McKinnon wants to prove his lucrative four-year contract, which includes \$11.7 million guaranteed, was warranted. Breida wants to build off a solid rookie season, while fending off Williams as the No. 2 option for a second straight season.

“No matter what happens, stay humble,” McKinnon said. “Keep working. The work you put in, it’ll eventually show.”

That McKinnon and Breida get to enjoy their NFL journeys together adds excitement as they enter important seasons in their careers. Oddly enough, their current situation reminds them of college.

The San Francisco glitz could not contrast the southeast, Georgia grit any more, but that’s not how they see it. They view the 49ers as an organization filled with longstanding tradition, rooted in a place that loves football and treats its players like rock stars— just like Georgia Southern.

“It’s the same sense of feeling, just on a bigger scale,” McKinnon said.

“It’s a unique situation,” Breida said. “I feel like I am back in college, almost.”

In the nearly three months since McKinnon moved to the Bay Area, he and Breida have grown closer than ever before. They’re always together at the 49ers facilities. They haven’t been able to hang out away from football because Breida is married— McKinnon jokes Breida is “tied up”— but they are planning on it now that mini camp has concluded. Their growing friendship has acclimated McKinnon to a new team and city nearly 2,500 miles from his Atlanta hometown.

Neither McKinnon nor Breida has had time to revisit Georgia Southern since they left, yet they continue to indirectly promote their alma mater.

“For both of our guys to be on the 49ers, I think that is going to bring a lot of exposure to us,” Lunsford said.

Lunsford uses McKinnon and Breida as prime examples for the current Georgia Southern players pursuing their NFL goals. Breida says current seniors occasionally call him to thank him for paving the way to the league. He credits McKinnon for the same thing.

“I just go back and think, it started with (McKinnon),” Breida said. “I followed him, and now those guys look at me and keep on going.”

McKinnon and Breida’s college careers will forever be immortalized in a downstairs hallway next to the equipment room at Georgia Southern’s football facility, where every NFL alum has a shrine with his name and corresponding NFL team. Breida will soon be added alongside McKinnon, whose Vikings jersey will be changed to a 49ers one.

Georgia Southern’s influence on McKinnon is also evident.

When asked what his alma mater means to him, McKinnon pulls down the top of his shirt to reveal the tattoos on his chest. He points to the eagle, emblazoned across the middle as a tribute to his Georgia Southern roots, always resting at his core.



## From Philly with love: 49ers' Matt Breida back in parents' home town

By Matt Barrows  
Sacramento Bee  
October 27, 2017

Matt Breida doesn't pronounce water as "wooder," doesn't use the phrase "youse guys" and like most Americans would struggle if asked to spell the Schuylkill River.

But the 49ers rookie running back has Philly hard-wired into his system and will have a gaggle of screaming relatives in the stands Sunday wearing his red, No. 22 jersey. His parents are from North Philadelphia – "Philly born and bred!" Terri Breida says with oomph – and he was raised watching the Eagles on Sundays.

Like most Philadelphians, the Breidas loved Brian Westbrook, cheered Donovan McNabb and, in the words of his father, Mike, thought Terrell Owens was "a butthead, but also a heck of a player."

Matt was born in Brandon, Fla., in 1995.

Two days after his delivery, he was adopted by Mike and Terri, who had moved to the Tampa area after Mike got sick with a life-threatening case of meningitis. One of Matt's biological parents is white, the other black. The Breidas are white and both currently are in wheelchairs.

Money always was tight in their household, especially after Terri had to quit her nursing job when severe arthritis seized her back and legs. Which partly explains why their son is perhaps the most driven member of the 49ers' rookie class.

An honor student at Georgia Southern, Breida graduated a semester early so he could concentrate on acing the NFL scouting combine. He wasn't invited. And two months later, he wasn't drafted.

Instead he signed a free-agent deal with the 49ers and joined a running backs group that included fellow rookie Joe Williams, whom the team's new coaching staff hand-picked in the fourth round. During spring practices, however, Breida was the young runner who caught everyone's attention.

"He's just going for it," coach Kyle Shanahan said early in training camp. "You've got a guy who comes in who's undrafted. He's got a chip on his shoulder, which you love. He's trying to prove himself every single day. It doesn't matter whether it's a run play, a pass play, whether he's in protection. The guy loves competing."

That was the working-class Philadelphia ethos shining through.

Both Mike's mother and father worked in North Philly factories – "My dad always worked two jobs," Mike said – so that Mike and his sisters could go to the Catholic schools in the neighborhood. Before he became ill, Mike said he worked 50-plus hours a week while also taking night classes in business.

Terri, meanwhile, started working straight out of high school. Unbeknownst to her, her parents were setting aside \$50 from each of her paychecks until there was enough for her to go to nursing school.

Matt Breida may not have their genes, but he picked up that ethic.

In high school, he was up at 6 a.m. to work out, then he was off to classes followed by more training.

"He wouldn't get home until 6:30," Mike said. "He had a 12-hour-plus day. Even during the offseason he kept crazy hours."

During one of his junior varsity games, Terri noticed her son was holding his water bottle in his left hand.



Was there something wrong with the right? He said he was fine and scored two, two-point conversions later in the game. But a trip to the emergency room the next day revealed a broken bone in his forearm.

Mike: "He had to have been in a heck-of-a lot of pain. He has a high tolerance ..."

Terri: "... a high, HIGH tolerance ..."

Mike: "... Yes, a high, high tolerance for pain."

The Breidas are characters.

Their Philly accents have very much survived two decades in Tampa and Matt says it becomes even more acute in his mom when he or his younger brother, Josh, who also is adopted, does something wrong.

"When my mom gets mad at me she'll use my full name and I'll really hear it," he said.

Terri says she and Mike went to every one of Matt's police-league games when he was a grade schooler, were in the stands at each high school game and attended Matt's home games at Georgia Southern.

She says she knows they "embarrassed the hell out of him" the way enthusiastic, doting parents do, but she also knows that he always would look into the stands during pregame warm-ups to find out where they were sitting.

They won't be in the crowd on Sunday. "We just don't have the money to get up there," Mike said.

Matt, however, said they are the reason he'll be on the field in Philadelphia.

"It's me not wanting to let them down," he said. "Because they gave me the chance to have the life that I'm having right now. I always wanted to succeed for them, always wanted them to know that they made the right choice in adopting me and my brother. That's what drives me."



## DeForest Buckner

### **DeForest Buckner pictures himself making it onto 49ers' 10-year wall**

By Matt Maiocco  
NBC Sports Bay Area  
June 7, 2019

It is nearly impossible for the players not to take notice. After all, they walk past it several times a day.

"It's one of the first things you see every day you walk in," 49ers defensive lineman DeForest Buckner said. "I'm not going to lie. I look at it all the time. Sometimes I picture my face on the wall. It's very motivating to see."

It is called the 10-year wall.

A framed 8x10 photo of every player in 49ers history who served 10 or more seasons with the organization appears in the hallway at Levi's Stadium that players pass by as they go from the parking lot to the locker room. They pass it again any time they walk to the practice field, weight room or cafeteria.

The subject of the 10-year wall was discussed this week in reference to Joe Staley, whose photo went up two years ago. Staley has completed 12 NFL seasons, all with the 49ers, and now is under contract for three more years.

When Buckner learned this week Staley agreed to a two-year contract extension, did he think about his own future?

"Most definitely," he said. "You know me. I love this organization. I'm very happy this organization chose me back in 2016. There's no other organization I'd rather be at and play for."

Buckner, whom the 49ers selected with the No. 7 overall draft pick, has completed three seasons. He was a breakout star last year, notching a team-best 12 sacks and earning his first trip to the Pro Bowl. For the first time this offseason, he is eligible for a contract extension. But those talks have not gotten far.

Buckner is under contract for two more seasons – the final year of his original four-year, \$18.2 million contract, as well as the non-guaranteed 2020 fifth-year option at more than \$12.5 million. Buckner said he believes great things are ahead for the organization under the leadership of coach Kyle Shanahan and general manager John Lynch.

"This organization is special," Buckner said. "Obviously, they've done it in the past. We're taking steps forward to do it in the future. Kyle and John and the type of culture that they've brought in with them, and the guys they wanted and the guys they chose to be here, we're all on board, and I'm very excited with where everything is going."

The 49ers wrap up their offseason program next week with two days of mandatory minicamp practices in Santa Clara. Those workouts will look similar to the voluntary organized team activities, as every player under contract has been in attendance.

Buckner said his concentration continues to be on football matters and not his contract situation.



“That’s something that’s my agent’s job,” Buckner said. “That’s something they have to talk over with Paraag (Marathe) and John, Jed (York) and Kyle. Right now, I’m focused on playing ball and doing whatever I can do to help to contribute to getting a Super Bowl.”



## In San Francisco, the NFL's Next Great Defensive Force Emerges

By Andy Benoit  
MMQB.com  
June 22, 2018

One of the most enjoyable discussions making its way through NFL circles last offseason was: How would new 49ers defensive coordinator Robert Saleh use his defensive linemen? After the selection of Stanford's Solomon Thomas third overall in the 2017 draft, Saleh had a nearly unheard of three first-round D-linemen under the age of 24: Arik Armstead (23), DeForest Buckner (23) and Thomas (21). But those first two—Armstead and Buckner—had been drafted to fill the previous regime's 3-4 scheme. Saleh, who had worked for the Seahawks and, most recently, Jaguars, ran the Pete Carroll/Gus Bradley/Dan Quinn 4-3, single-high zone scheme.

One thing that made Saleh an appealing D-coordinator candidate was his willingness to diversify his scheme just enough to not be predictable. But that diversity would stem more from his safeties in coverage and linebackers on blitzes. For D-linemen, the task was consistently clear: penetrate gaps. That's the hallmark of many 4-3 schemes, as opposed to a 3-4, where D-linemen are asked to clog multiple gaps. This in mind, the NFL was eager to see how Saleh would repurpose his talented defensive linemen.

"Coming in, we watched all the tape and were trying to find who would be the most disruptive player at the [defensive tackle] 3-technique position," Saleh says. "The 3-technique is your premier inside guy. He can rush the passer, stop the run—he does everything. The importance of that 3-technique to us was first and foremost, especially when you're dealing with all the different bodies that we had to take over from a 3-4 team."

"For us, the 3-technique was Buck. He's a very physical, dominant human being. He just manhandles people."

After identifying Buckner, the focus shifted to who would align outside of him. (They call this position the Leo.) In Saleh's scheme, that often means aligning on the weak side. There were a handful of role player defensive ends built to line up on the strong side. That left Armstead as the most natural selection to play the weak side. "He was the next most athletic player of the group, and he too is physical and long," Saleh explains. "Not ideal for the system that we have, but very functional in terms of first and second down."

These decisions were made before San Fran drafted Thomas, which is notable given how many people viewed Thomas as a true defensive end.

"I know there's always a discussion of, What is Solomon?" Saleh says. "Well, it was very, very clear to us and it's still very clear: In run situations, we would have him outside where he can set edges and have a lot of one-on-one run blocks. If he can line up over a tight end, that tight end has zero chance. But when it comes to rushing the passer, his speed and quickness and strength is definitely made for inside." There was room for Thomas inside because San Fran's passing down fronts, as in many schemes, almost always deploy two 3-techniques.

Though much of the evidence looks favorable, the jury is still out on Thomas. Same for Armstead, who played just six games in Saleh's scheme before breaking his hand. As for Buckner...

"When you look at Buck," says Saleh, "his physicality in the run game, his ability to win one-on-one in pass rush, he can play any style of football that you want. There's a mindset that you must have when you're playing there, and he definitely has that mindset."

Buckner's three sacks weren't enough to draw national attention last season, but people in the building are quick to point out that his 19 QB hits led all interior defensive players. Given how much on-the-fly learning he did in 2017, the 6' 7", 300-pounder could be a Defensive Player of the Year candidate in 2018.



“My whole life I played in a 3-4,” says Buckner. “It was about defending two gaps all through college and even a little bit into high school. So [in 2016] it was easy for me as a rookie to come in, working in the same scheme and everything. Last year was an adjustment. But I got the hang of it and I like the 4-3 a lot better. I like being able to penetrate against the run and get vertical.” That penetration against the run so naturally converts to a pass rush that, as Buckner explains it, not even the fake handoffs of play-action slow down the D-line.

While Buckner’s smooth transition to gap penetrator is commendable, it should be expected of any first-rounder in this day and age. Because as Paul Guenther, the defensive coordinator working across the Bay in Oakland, puts it, “the whole 3-4 vs. 4-3 thing gets way overblown. You’re in nickel 60% of the time anyway.” Most nickel fronts feature four down linemen.

Saleh concurs. “The game’s not played with two-backs anymore, so you hardly get a chance to actually see the 3-4 element of 3-4 teams,” he says. It’s mostly all one-gap concepts along the D-line nowadays.

What’s more, most of the teams labeled as a “3-4” also play one-gap rules, making them nearly the same as a 4-3. Wade Phillips’s Rams are the best example.

“That’s the hard thing,” says Buckner, when asked to categorize his division rival’s defense. They’re called a 3-4 but “they still play ‘under’ fronts.” An “under” front is when the 3-technique aligns on the weak side—like he often does in Saleh’s 4-3. “I feel like they’re still emphasizing penetration. It’s like they have a 3-4 scheme but instead of really reading and reacting, their D-linemen are getting more vertical.”

Phillips himself gladly elaborates.

“It’s just not a two-gap 3-4. It’s a 3-4 defense that plays one gap. We start out in an ‘under’ look sometimes. But it’s 3-4 so they don’t know which [outside linebacker] is coming from the outside. We’re gonna rush four but they don’t know if it’s Von Miller from the strong side or DeMarcus Ware from the weak side or whoever else.”

When Phillips first took over, some carped that a “3-4” didn’t fit superstar Aaron Donald. Donald, of course, went on to win Defensive Player of the Year in his first season under Phillips, carrying out the same 3-technique tasks he did over his first three seasons in the previous regime’s 4-3.

If Donald hadn’t won Defensive Player of the Year, Jacksonville’s Calais Campbell probably would have. That’s a name Buckner heard, by his estimation, “a million” times leading up to the draft. Buckner has the 6’ 8”, 300-pound Campbell’s body structure and explosive strength. Campbell even acknowledged this the first time he came across Buckner. It was on a special teams play in Buckner’s second NFL game. One man was running onto the field, the other running off it. (Buckner can’t remember who was doing which.) Campbell said, “Hey, they keep saying you’re supposed to be the next me. Don’t prove them wrong.”

Campbell is another testament to the blurring of lines between a 4-3 and a 3-4. His Cardinals for many years were considered a 3-4 when coordinated by Todd Bowles and James Bettcher. But the Jaguars paid him \$30 million guaranteed over four years to come play in their Saleh-style 4-3. Like in Arizona, Campbell has thrived at 3-technique, 1-technique (nose tackle) and 9-technique (defensive end).

Buckner does not yet have Campbell’s flexibility. He’s had some great snaps at 1-technique, but says “probably not” when asked if he’ll soon see significant snaps at 9-technique. But snaps on the edges seem inevitable if we’re to believe his answer to the next question:

If your career were a baseball game, and you reach your development at the bottom of the 9th inning, then where are you currently in that game?

“First inning,” he says quickly.  
Come on now.

“Oh...O.K.” And here he stops and thinks. “Maybe the third inning.”



## Forget the statistics, DeForest Buckner is having a breakout season

By Nick Wagoner  
ESPN.com  
November 21, 2017

Scan the list of the NFL's leaders in traditional defensive categories -- tackles, sacks, forced fumbles -- and you'll have to look long and hard to find San Francisco 49ers defensive tackle DeForest Buckner.

Through the Niners' first 10 games, Buckner had 45 tackles, 1.5 sacks and a lone forced fumble. None of those numbers jump off the page and none will draw the attention of those who prefer box score scouting to actually watching game tape.

For those willing to dig a little deeper, there's an obvious conclusion to reach from watching Buckner: He's one of the league's most dominant interior defensive linemen and an unquestioned foundational piece in the 49ers' on-going rebuild.

"He's very good in the run game and the pass game," coach Kyle Shanahan said. "He's got the ability to be a very good player in this league. I know he doesn't have the sack numbers, but he gets after the quarterback a lot. Around the country, they're [not] going to notice the numbers. But from a coaching standpoint, what offensive coaches look at when they turn on the tape, he's in the backfield, he gets to the quarterback, he affects a lot of the game."

The 6-foot-7, 300-pound Buckner isn't your traditional 3-technique defensive tackle. After spending his rookie season playing defensive end in a read-and-react gap control scheme, Shanahan and new coordinator Robert Saleh moved Buckner to the position generally reserved for the best interior pass-rusher.

A typical 3-technique's primary responsibility is to get in the backfield quickly and create as much havoc as possible. Among all-time greats at the position, smaller, quicker players like John Randle and Warren Sapp have been the prototype. In today's game, the Rams' Aaron Donald and Cincinnati's Geno Atkins are considered the standard.

But Buckner's ability to defeat blockers in multiple ways is changing perceptions of what a 3-technique can look like. Because of his size, Buckner has to play with incredible discipline just to ensure his pads are low enough to maintain leverage on every play. Once that's done, Buckner gains an advantage because of his brute strength, which makes him difficult to move in the run game.

"He's a dominant 3-technique in the run game," Saleh said. "That's his first job, is to make sure that he gets great penetration, sets edges and just wreaks havoc in the backfield as much as possible. Obviously in the pass game, same thing, from a 3-technique spot, to be able to win one-on-ones and get to the quarterback. He's done an unbelievable job at doing exactly what we ask him to do. There is an art to being able to penetrate and maintain your gap, and I believe that he's mastered that."

"He can penetrate and create knock-back, still maintaining his gap, and he wins constantly. He constantly wins one-on-ones."

So with all of those tools in his belt, why doesn't Buckner have bigger numbers in the traditional statistics? There are a couple of reasons.

First, as Shanahan points out, opposing offenses view Buckner as a threat and they design game plans around, slowing him down. That means endless double- and even occasional triple-teams.

"The one thing that I would encourage, and it's something we're still trying to work on, is for him to find that extra step, that one more step," Saleh said. "That step that we're working on, bending the corner to



be able to, so that when he does win that it's that half a step. That's what makes players elite. A lot of players can win. Not very many can win at the rate he does. The elite ones have that two-yard burst to the quarterback to create that sack production, for lack of a better word. That would be one thing if there's something that he needs to improve in his game and the one thing that we're continuing with him is to find that extra step, find that extra bend, find the lean that when he does win to be able to get the hit on the quarterback and bring him down with the ball."

Buckner's current step has been enough to make him one of the most disruptive players in the NFL, even if it's not turning into sacks. Through 10 weeks, Pro Football Focus had Buckner ranked as the No. 3 interior defensive lineman in the league. PFF also had Buckner in the top five interior defenders in the league in total quarterback pressures with 34 and his total of run stops was at the top of that list.

So, how can Buckner get that additional step to turn those pressures into more traditional production? One way would be to get more help from the Niners' edge-rushers. As an interior defender, there's a built-in advantage of being closer to the quarterback when the ball is snapped but that advantage can be negated by the fact that quarterbacks can see you coming.

However, if there's a strong outside pass rush bending the edge and leaving no outs for the quarterback, it can serve to create that extra half-second for a guy like Buckner to get home. Think Robert Quinn complementing Donald or what Carlos Dunlap and Michael Johnson have done for Atkins in the past.

The Niners have no such threat on the current line, save for the occasional flash from veteran Elvis Dumervil. Dumervil has 4.5 sacks on the season but no other teammate has more than two.

Adding help at that spot might have to wait until the offseason but in the meantime, Saleh said Buckner is seeking ways to close the gap on his own.

"There's a bunch of different drills to help him with his lean, his pad level, helping him stay low to the ground where when he does win to be able to instead of having a long loop to run, it's a tighter loop," Saleh said. "And so, those things you just continue to drill it and drill it and drill it. That's the best you can do with him."

For now, perhaps. But if his current trajectory is any indication, Buckner's best is yet to come.



## DeForest Buckner: A Family Man Molded by the Hawaiian Islands

By Joe Fann  
49ers.com  
November 20, 2017

DeForest Buckner was glued to the window. The first-grader's eyes widened, fascinated by the images of his first journey to the United States mainland that came long before he'd become a first-round pick of the San Francisco 49ers. As he looked down from the plane, he saw thousands of tiny cars move through the streets of cities that looked nothing like his home of Waianae, Hawaii on the island of Oahu.

"Look mom, we're in Toyland," Buckner told his mother Maria.

The ultimate destination was Knoxville, Tenn., in order to visit the family of Buckner's father George. After being born in Tennessee, George moved to Hawaii and met Maria. This particular family reunion provided DeForest with far more than a meet-and-greet with distant relatives.

Everything looked different from his home on the islands. For starters, the lack of beaches was troubling for Buckner. But beyond the aesthetics and the geography was the contrast of the people who called the mainland home.

"The way everything was moving, it felt so fast-paced," Buckner said.

Even at such a young age, the overall anxiety level was readily apparent. Where was everyone going and why did they need to get there so quickly?

Things move much slower on the islands. That's not to say that people are lazy or unmotivated, but it speaks to the emphasis placed on being present and, most importantly, enjoying the people surrounding you in each moment.

Time already flies as is, so what's the point in trying to speed up the timeline?

"Everything here is so on the go," Buckner explained his impression of the continental U.S. "Everyone is always going. People don't take the time to slow down and really enjoy the moment. You're thinking about what happened yesterday or what's going to happen tomorrow. Back home, we are all hardworking people, but we always find time to enjoy the moment."

Long to-do lists are replaced with mid-week get-togethers. We're not talking just immediate family, either, but an extended family that goes well beyond bloodlines. Every elder (which is really just loosely defined by a person older than oneself) is referred to as either "auntie" or "uncle" in Hawaii.

"That's just how it goes. It was a big difference coming to the states. I'd call someone's parents by their first name. I felt like I was being disrespectful. It was an adjustment for me. Oahu is such a small island, it's kind of like everyone knows everyone."

Events of all kinds were extravagant, especially in regards to the culinary spread. Nobody ever came empty-handed, and most gatherings featured enough food to feed a small army.

For example, when kids in the mainland play sports growing up, it's customary for one parent to bring postgame snacks. In Hawaii, everyone pitched in. So instead of orange slices and a Capri Sun, Buckner grew up with spreads that consisted of chicken katsu (his favorite), fried rice, poke and kalua pork along with several other dishes. The same went for graduations, birthday parties and all other celebrations.



Never lost in the extravagance is the purpose behind the feast – to spend quality time with cherished loved ones.

“Family is everything,” Buckner said. “It’s been instilled in me from such a young age, and I’ll never forget that. Whenever you have a chance to take care of a family member, I’ll go out of my way to take care of them.”

DeForest proved that when he was just 13 years old. George was the victim of a motorcycle accident that left him fighting for his life. DeForest recalled the anxious moments in the hospital waiting room, linking arms with family in prayer as his dad underwent heart surgery.

“The initial impact was I thought I was going to lose my dad,” Buckner said. “He was always there for me, my brother and my sister at any event we had. He was always in the stands at every game. I’d always know where he was sitting. When I was playing basketball, I’d hear him from the court. It was a scary moment.”

Thankfully George pulled through, but not without long-term ramifications. George went through a lengthy rehab period and remains in a wheelchair to this day. That put added pressure on Buckner to mature faster than most teenagers. Make no mistake, “DeFo” was never a problem child, but it was still an adjustment.

“I made sure I wasn’t a problem for my mom and my dad. I made sure they didn’t have to worry about me or what I was doing.”

DeForest also took a much larger role with his younger brother. They were always close, but he had to be much more of a mentor rather than just a best friend. Buckner would make sure that his brother stayed out of trouble and kept on top of his schoolwork.

Buckner’s responsibilities around the house changed as well. DeForest became a teenage handyman, landscaper and house cleaner all in one. All the while, he continued to emerge as an elite athlete, starring in football and basketball.

He accepted a full ride to play football at the University of Oregon in 2012. But moving to the mainland away from home and family was a big adjustment. Buckner admitted he was homesick during his freshman year. Luckily, he was surrounded by several other players from Hawaii, namely Tennessee Titans quarterback Marcus Mariota.

Those players took Buckner under their wing and made him feel closer to the island that he missed so dearly.

“I had that crew,” Buckner said. “I knew I had those guys who were from where I’m from. If I got homesick, I always had them. Being around those guys helped me get through those times. It was a big adjustment.”

Fast forward to 2017 and Buckner is in his second season with the 49ers. When San Francisco drafted him in 2016, he opted to stay home with friends and family rather than travel to Chicago to attend the draft in person. There’s a lasting image of Buckner buried eyes-deep in leis with George and Maria on either side of him. A local Hawaiian news outlet caught the celebration on camera when the 49ers selected Buckner with the seventh-overall pick.

Buckner is still a kind-hearted family man, which contrasts his physical dominance at the line of scrimmage. He’s already developed into one of the premier interior defensive lineman in the NFL.



Buckner shared that he talks to his parents at least twice a week over the phone. He now has the financial means to help his family as well, even from afar. Over the past two offseasons, Buckner has taken a group of his 49ers teammates to his home in Oahu. His family is growing, and it's only right that those worlds collide.

On those trips, his time is spent as it always is – on the beach, surrounded by his loved ones and without a care in the world. There are no autographs to be signed or photos that need to be taken. His primary residence may be in “Toyland” now, but Waianae will always be home.

“There’s no better feeling than knowing you’re home,” Buckner said.



## 49ers' DeForest Buckner an artist off field and destructive force on it

By Grant Cohn  
Santa Rosa Press Democrat  
November 11, 2017

This is a portrait of the 49ers' best player, DeForest Buckner.

Buckner is a defensive tackle and an artist. He likes sacking quarterbacks and drawing. In college, he was the Pac-12 defensive player of the year in 2015 and the winner of the breakout artist award in one of his art classes at the University of Oregon.

He won the football award for recording 10½ sacks his senior season. And he won the art award for a self-portrait called "King of Pop," where he's posing like Michael Jackson. Buckner used spray paint on a vinyl canvas for this piece.

He also has a tattoo portrait on his right arm of the statue of the Pietà by Michelangelo. It's the Virgin Mary holding Jesus' dead body. "I really like portraits," Buckner said while standing in front of his locker.

Everyone agrees Buckner is special. He is the bright spot on a winless 49ers team, even if the stats don't show it. He has just 1½ sacks this season. But he is the 49ers' highest-graded player, according to head coach Kyle Shanahan.

"He's tough to block," Shanahan said. "He's very good in the run game and the pass game. He's got the ability to be a very good player in this league. I know he doesn't have the sack numbers, but he gets after the quarterback a lot. Around the country, they're going to notice the numbers. But from a coaching standpoint, what offensive coaches look at when they turn on the tape, he's in the backfield, he gets to the quarterback, he affects a lot of the game."

Shanahan appreciates Buckner. Robert Saleh, the 49ers' defensive coordinator, loves Buckner. Here is Saleh's ode to the young defensive tackle.

"First and foremost, he's dominant in the run game. That's his first job, to make sure he gets great penetration, sets edges and just wreaks havoc in the backfield as much as possible.

"Obviously in the pass game, same thing, being able to win one-on-ones and get to the quarterback. He's done an unbelievable job at doing exactly what we ask him to do.

"There is an art to being able to penetrate and maintain your gap, and I believe he's mastered that. He can penetrate and create knock-back, still maintaining his gap, and he wins constantly. He constantly wins one-on-ones.

"His sack total is not where he wants it to be, and teams are sliding protections toward him, completely eliminating him from the game. Now, as a D-line, we've all got to step up. All of us. If you get a one-on-one you have to win, otherwise teams will find a way to continue to neutralize him in the pass game.

"That's the stuff that we're trying to work through, to see if we can find more opportunities for him to get one-on-ones. Because when he is one-on-one, he's winning. That's why his pressure rate is so high. That's what makes him unique; that's what makes him special."

That's not the only thing that makes Buckner unique and special. He's a giant — 6 feet, 7 inches. He's of



mixed race; black and Samoan. And he's from Hawaii. He grew up in a small town on Oahu called Waianae.

"Where I grew up, people always say it's the rougher side, tougher side of the island," he says. "Sometimes you've got to be on guard depending on where you go. But I love where I grew up. It helped me shape the person I am. Just because I grew up being tough doesn't mean I have to be tough all the time."

Buckner is extremely tough and aggressive and violent on the field. But aggression and violence aren't his favorite parts of his job.

"What I love is being able to perfect my craft every day. No matter what the record is, I always get an opportunity to perfect my craft.

"Every day I come in and see what I can work on to be better, to win better on pass rushes or fit better in the run game. That's what I love. Being able to challenge myself every day. Trying to do something to perfect my game.

"The moves, the hand work — all of that is art. When you see a perfect pass by a quarterback, when he throws that bomb and it hits the receiver in stride, I see that as art, guys working on their craft. Everything we do in this game is our own art."

What does Buckner see as his art?

"If you think about it," he says, "you come in and do your job and make one big play every game. That's the mindset. You do that, you'll have a really good career. Everything else is extra."

Thus speaks the artist on the art of football.



## 49ers' DeForest Buckner: So good, he's already a bad man

By Eric Branch  
San Francisco Chronicle  
October 28, 2017

With reporters, 49ers defensive lineman and Hawaii native DeForest Buckner is polite, soft-spoken and gives off a laid-back island vibe.

He labors in the NFL's trenches, but a large piece of him is peaceful. On his right biceps is a tattoo that quotes Ephesians 5:2, which reads, in part: "Walk in love as Christ has loved us ..."

Buckner, 23, got the tattoo before the 2016 NFL combine, where teams often asked him about being a "nice guy." Translation: They questioned whether he was nasty enough, and Buckner had to assure them he had the necessary "dog" in him.

Given that background, what Buckner said recently near the end of another earnest, look-you-in-the-eye, library-voice interview came as a surprise. As he was explaining the mentality that's required to do his job, it became clear that he doesn't always walk in love.

"Every time I approach the field, I'm thinking to myself that — sorry for my language — but that I'm the baddest mother f— out there," Buckner said. "I view myself like that every game. And I tell myself that every game."

OK, so he still apologizes before his rare expletives, but Buckner isn't the only one who views himself as, well, a very bad man.

After a strong rookie year, Buckner, the seventh overall pick in the draft, has leaped from promising to punishing in 2017 and is one of the few bright spots in a dark season.

As the 49ers (0-7) visit the Eagles on Sunday, Buckner will arrive ranked second among interior defensive linemen in quarterback pressures (31) and fourth in run stops (17), according to Pro Football Focus. He's on pace to have 71 pressures, which would be 23 more than he had last year when he was a member of the NFL's all-rookie team and had the second-most tackles (73) among defensive linemen.

When told about the curse word Buckner invoked to describe his on-field mentality, defensive coordinator Robert Saleh smiled.

"He's operating at a level of confidence that allows him to speak that way," Saleh said. "Look at him: He's 6-foot-7 and whatever (300) pounds, and he just manhandles people. He needs to continue the course, but, yes, he is: He is a bad SOB out there, for sure."

It's not just Buckner's coaches. Right guard Brandon Fusco, center Daniel Kilgore and left tackle Joe Staley — a trio with 26 seasons of NFL experience — recently marveled at his sophomore season.

"We were all talking the other day about how he just jumps out on film," said Fusco, who routinely battled Buckner in training camp. "It's fun to watch him go against someone during a game instead of doing it to me. My first impression going against him was, 'OK, you really can't let him get in your chest.' But his arms are so long, so it's like you have no choice."

In some ways, the rebuilding 49ers might still be in tear-down mode, but Buckner is a foundational piece.



In fact, his blend of talent and intangibles make him the poster boy for what the new regime is seeking as it works to reshape the roster and instill a new culture.

His position coach, Jeff Zgonina, appreciates that Buckner's top-10 talent is packaged with the mind-set of an undrafted rookie. Zgonina recognizes others who share his drive: A former defensive tackle, he was a seventh-round pick whose work ethic helps explain his seven-team, 17-year NFL career.

"I've seen a lot of guys who were way more talented than him and they'll just squander it," Zgonina said. "He doesn't have the mind-set for that. And it's great to see. Other top-10 guys? They got picked there and they just never took advantage of it. DeForest? He's going to blow it apart."

That's what Seahawks defensive end Michael Bennett predicted after working out in Hawaii with a group of players that included Buckner the past two summers. Bennett, 31, a two-time Pro Bowler, has said Buckner will eventually win the NFL's Defensive Player of the Year award.

Among the 49ers' seven defensive linemen on their 53-man roster, Buckner is not the oldest. But the player whom Zgonina describes as "quiet, but not antisocial by any means" already wields considerable influence thanks to his actions, on and off the field.

"He's kind of taken on the leadership of that room," said Kilgore, 29, the team's second-longest tenured player. "He's a younger guy with some veteran guys, but I would say he's the alpha on the defensive line. He's so much more mature than I was in my second year."

Buckner traces his work ethic and maturity to his parents, George and Maria, who raised him and his sister, Shantel, 26, and brother, Kenya, 21, in Waianae, Hawaii, a working-class town about 30 miles from Honolulu.

"It's beautiful, but a lot of people don't recommend going on that side because it's a little rougher part of the island," Buckner said. "But I'll forever love that side of the island."

Maria is a government contract specialist for the Army, and George worked for UPS until a motorcycle accident in 2007 left him permanently disabled and altered the course of Buckner's childhood.

George, a 6-foot-7 college basketball player who attended Mississippi and Hawaii Pacific, clung to life after his accident. He had a crushed pelvis, broken femur, punctured lung and torn aorta, among other injuries, and was in a medically induced coma for six months.

Buckner, then 13, worried whether his dad would live. And when George awoke, and told his son he had to assume the man-of-the-house role, Buckner wondered whether he could fill the void.

With his mom focused on her husband's rehabilitation, Buckner helped Kenya with his schoolwork, mowed lawns for extra money and handled house chores, even handyman duties such as repairing doors.

"It really impacted me because I didn't get to do all the stuff I wanted to do as a kid," Buckner said. "I had to put some of that stuff aside, really step up and be a man and try to help my family as much as I could. It helped me mature as a person."

Said Maria: "I basically concentrated on George. DeForest had his sister's help, but he took the initiative and took care of almost everything else."

George, who has undergone nearly 10 surgeries, including a recent hip procedure, has extensive nerve damage on his right leg and left arm. He deals with chronic pain and uses either a wheelchair or walker.



His days remain difficult. But after DeForest helped his family navigate their nightmare, Maria says he's still helping today from afar: She and George will attend four 49ers' games this season after seeing six last year.

"Going to DeForest's games, and watching him on TV, really helps George's spirits," Maria said. "The family is so proud of DeForest. And the island is so proud of him."

And that pride is understandable. After all, he was a good kid who has grown up to become a bad man.



## 49ers DeForest Buckner commanding right kind of attention

By Cam Inman  
San Jose Mercury News  
October 5, 2017

Asked if DeForest Buckner could emerge as dominant a defensive tackle as former 49er Justin Smith, NaVorro Bowman didn't flinch.

"Yeah, I think so," Bowman replied Thursday. "I don't even know how much mental (analysis) is going into his game right now. That's surprising, because his talent speaks for itself."

Bowman marveled at how well Buckner is making plays, including nine quarterback hits, 19 tackles and last week's first sack of the season. Buckner, last year's top draft pick, had a second sack nullified once the 49ers accepted a holding penalty on Sunday's final series.

"If you look at him and not know anything about him, you'd think he's been playing a while," Bowman said. "I'm just glad he's on my team. He's willing to get better every day, not get complacent with anything. You can definitely see how good he's going to be."

Buckner had six sacks in 15 games as a rookie while playing more than 1,000 snaps. He has been the 49ers' top defender heading into Sunday's game at Indianapolis.

"This year I'm more comfortable," Buckner said. "The scheme, too, really helps. Being more of an attacking style defense, it allows me to open up a lot more instead of just reading and reacting at the line of scrimmage"

One question Buckner has heard a lot in recent days regards his new sack celebration.

"I've got a broom and I'm sweeping him off the field," Buckner explained. "If any of you watched the Apollo back in the day, when they got bored, they'd sweep people off stage."

"He's starting to get attention and the attention's only going to get greater," Saleh said, "which is why it's so important for the other three (lineman) to find their niche and come along and catch up.

"... He's playing at a level that offenses won't be able to ignore him any longer."



## DL DeForest Buckner and 49ers Youth Football Return to Hometown of Hawaii

By Keiana Martin  
49ers.com  
July 26, 2017

Before the 2017 NFL season commences, San Francisco 49ers defensive lineman DeForest Buckner returned home to the island of Oahu, Hawaii and brought the 49ers youth football crew along for the trip. Buckner held his first ever youth football camp in the community where his love of the game began, Waianae.

“It was really important for me to have this camp, especially on my side of the island where I grew up, because this side doesn’t get enough exposure with the youth and the young athletes,” Buckner said. “Growing up, I never had the chance to go to camps like this. I always had to travel. I just wanted to make it easier for the kids out here so they could come out and have a great time.”

Buckner was joined by teammates Arik Armstead and Ronald Blair III for the inaugural camp. The DeForest Buckner Youth Football Camp hosted more than 250 children from surrounding communities, learning how to play the game of football through curriculum activated by 49ers director of youth football Jared Muela.

“There’s a real love for the game of football and just a sense of enthusiasm in Waianae. There’s no pro baseball, no pro basketball, no pro football. There’s definitely the University of Hawaii, but this is something different.” Muela said. “They’re big 49ers fans. So, for us to go out there and really show some love, it’s really well received there.”

The 49ers didn’t stop there. As part of the 49ers “Hawaii Blitz” program, youth football partnered with the Mililani YMCA and USA football for camps and coaches clinics centered around player safety. The camps focused on basic non-contact football drills and spreading messages of work ethic and teamwork in a culture that continues to embrace the game of football.

“The intent of the 49ers Hawaii Blitz is to get out to markets that we can’t traditionally visit during the season just because of proximity,” Muela added. “We do a good job of going out to all the schools in our market and our community, but when we get to the offseason, we really have the time and the ability to get out and beyond.”

Over the duration of the week, 49ers youth football impacted more than 400 kids across various communities. The hope is to continue to expand their reach in the years to come.



### Garrett Celek

#### **49ers tight end Garrett Celek and the secret to survival**

By Eric Branch  
San Francisco Chronicle  
August 28, 2018

In 2012, before the 49ers' preseason finale, then-undrafted rookie tight end Garrett Celek expected to be cut when the roster was pared to 53 players two days later.

"The way it was playing out," Celek said, "I thought I was going to be on the practice squad."

In 2017, after the 49ers signed free-agent tight end Logan Paulsen, who had played for just-hired head coach Kyle Shanahan in Washington, Celek assumed he soon would be released.

"I figured he was my replacement," Celek said. "I thought 'This is Kyle's guy. We're very similar. We're blocking (tight ends). I might be on the outs here.'"

Instead, Celek stayed in Santa Clara.

Celek, 30, now in his eighth season, is the 49ers' second-longest-tenured player behind left tackle Joe Staley, a first-round pick who has remained because he's a perennial Pro Bowler who plays a premium position.

Celek? He's the anti-Staley. He was bypassed in the 2012 draft after a 14-catch career at Michigan State. In the NFL, in which he had eight catches in his first three seasons, it wasn't just in 2012 and 2017 that he pondered a potential pink slip.

"I would say," Celek said when asked about his bottom-of-the-roster anxiety, "the first four years were like that."

So how has Celek survived four head coaches and two general managers? How has he stayed longer than two tight ends drafted during his tenure and, yes, Paulsen? And how has he easily outlasted his more heralded peers from 2012? Every member of the 49ers' seven-man draft class from that year was off the roster by 2015.

The answers are about as flashy as Celek, a 6-foot-5, 252-pounder who was an offensive lineman in high school.

"It always starts with the talent," Shanahan said, "but then it goes to the person, and he's a guy you know what you're going to get every single day."

Said quarterback Jimmy Garoppolo: "He's consistent every day: comes in early, stays late. You put in the time, good things will happen. If you work hard, good things will happen."

And tight end George Kittle: "He's just a guy that's always in the right place at the right time. He knows what he's supposed to be doing. And he just takes advantage of every single opportunity."

Celek's blocking ability got him in the NFL, and his improvement as a receiver has helped him stick.

In the past three seasons, he has had 69 catches for 872 yards and 10 touchdowns. Since 2015, his touchdown total leads the 49ers and is one fewer than Pro Bowl tight ends Greg Olsen and Jason Witten.



And Celek's yards-per-catch average (12.6) ranks ninth among tight ends with at least 50 receptions over that span.

His development earned him a modest four-year extension before the 2016 season that included \$3.5 million fully guaranteed. For Celek, it meant he could exhale briefly — before discovering job security didn't suit him.

In 2016, "I felt like 'OK, they finally have invested money in me — I don't have to be freaked out,'" Celek said. "Obviously, I couldn't feel like I could calm down and not play as hard. It was just like I could relax and feel my position is somewhat safe. That was the one season that I felt like that. But I don't even like that feeling because I got so used to feeling like my job was on the line — I played better that way sometimes."

Celek will survive final roster cuts for the eighth straight year when the 49ers trim the roster to 53 players Saturday. He's the No. 2 tight end behind Kittle and his primary backup spot was not threatened this summer by Cole Hikutini, 24, or Cole Wick, 24.

Last season, Celek began to feel more secure about his place on the roster when he learned that he was on Shanahan's radar before free agency in 2016. Shanahan, then the Falcons' offensive coordinator, was studying Celek, who didn't reach the open market because he signed his extension.

"He said (to reporters) some time last year that he always liked me as a tight end," Celek said. "I never knew that. We never had that conversation or anything like that. So I never knew how they felt about me, but it was good to hear."

It's possible Celek could realize a dream that once seemed laughable by playing 10 seasons with the 49ers. If he can finish the 2020 season with the team, he would join Brent Jones as the only tight ends in franchise history to have a 10-year career, all spent with the 49ers.

To realize his goal, he's eliminated some offseason fun.

Celek and his wife of four years, Sarah, previously celebrated their July 12 wedding anniversary with trips to Europe, Hawaii and Big Sur. This summer, they stayed home in Cincinnati, so Celek could prepare for training camp.

"It was just like, these young guys are slowly creeping up on me," Celek said. "It was pretty boring. I'd work out, come home, not really do anything. My wife had some house duties for me and I never really got around to doing them. But from here on out, that's what I'm doing. It makes coming back to training camp a lot easier."

At some point, Celek, now six years removed from sweating out his first roster cut, embraced how to make his anxiety-filled career easier.

His secret to survival? It's simple, but hard to do.

"You just do your job," Celek said. "The biggest thing is to not worry about other crap. Because as soon as you start doing that, you get distracted and you forget what the most important thing is, and that's just doing your job. And that's all I've tried to survive by."



## **The wall-banging backstory before Garrett and Brent Celek's first NFL meeting – in the City of Brotherly Love, of course**

By David Lombardi  
The Athletic  
October 27, 2017

Steve and Deb Celek didn't begin discovering much of the destruction until later, years after both of their oldest sons had left their Cincinnati home to play in the NFL.

"There'd be a sticker or a poster on the wall, and we just figured they put it up for whatever reason," Steve Celek said, laughing during a phone interview this week. "And we'd be cleaning or moving or painting or whatever, and we'd take a picture or a sticker off the wall — and there'd be a hole in the wall behind it! "We'd find bits and pieces of what happened five years ago, 10 years ago."

Call them remnants of the coexistent childhoods of two future NFL tight ends, who roughhoused each other and smashed into walls frequently growing up — all in the name of some good ol' living room football.

Garrett Celek, now 6-foot-5 and 252 pounds at age 29, plays for the 49ers. He's three-and-a-half years younger than 6-4, 255-pounder Brent Celek, who plays for the Eagles.

The brothers will face off in an NFL game for the first time this weekend — in the City of Brotherly Love, of all places.

Their parents will be in attendance at Philadelphia's Lincoln Financial Field, as will a host of Celek friends and family members. Fifty strong will roll into town a day early for a Saturday afternoon party — with both brothers in attendance — before crowding into one stadium section on Sunday.

They'll all be celebrating a 2002 mud fight coming full circle.

For context of the photo up above: The Celeks were remodeling their house, and the two future NFL tight ends — teenagers at the time — were busy being their competitive selves.

"We weren't even playing football or anything," Garrett said. "But we were just tackling each other, smearing mud in each others' faces."

In fact, moments before Steve Celek took that photo, Brent grabbed some more mud and smashed it into his brother's mouth — an act that'd provoke outright hostility among most people.

But, in typical Celek fashion, both remained jovial. They were too competitive to get upset. They smiled for the camera as if nothing had happened.

"I wasn't mad," Garrett said. "Because right after the picture was taken, I tried doing the same to him." Brotherly love, indeed.

The duo's path to professional football began years before that, when Brent was a toddler.

"That's all Brent has ever wanted to do," Deb Celek said. "Before he turned two, he said he wanted to play football on TV."

So Brent's ascent was linear: He stayed in Cincinnati and played for the Bearcats in college before being taken by the Eagles in the fifth round of the 2007 draft.



Garrett, meanwhile, wasn't even sure he wanted to play college football until high school, where he played offensive line.

He originally planned to follow in Brent's footsteps at Cincinnati, but coach Mark Dantonio — who had developed a close relationship with the Celek family — left for Michigan State in 2007.

So Garrett followed the coach to East Lansing instead.

“He saw me running a 4.6 at a camp as an offensive lineman, and Dantonio saw the type of tight end my brother was,” Garrett said. “And he said, ‘I want that same guy,’ when he saw me.”

Garrett signed as an undrafted free agent with the 49ers in 2012. (And, in an interesting twist, his rookie season ended at a Super Bowl in which the opposing coaches were brothers by the name of Harbaugh.)

The Celek brothers both opened their careers at Green Bay's Lambeau Field, but it's taken five years for them to hit the same NFL field at the same time.

The 49ers and Eagles met in 2014, but Garrett was hurt then — foiling the family affair. This time, the stars have finally aligned, and special teams assignments mean that both brothers should be in the game simultaneously.

It's time to renew the rivalry that first broke the walls of the Celek living room.

“When we were kids, we would play football on our knees so we wouldn't pick up too much speed,” Garrett said. “We'd have the football, and if you could get it from this end of the couch to the other end, you'd score.”

As the boys grew older and stronger, the living room had to be re-arranged to accommodate these football games. Think of the room as a miniature Veterans Stadium or Candlestick Park — the former cathedrals of both brothers' current teams, which could both switch between baseball and football configurations.

“You had to push the furniture out of the way and hope nothing got broken too bad,” Steve said, laughing about the destruction that probably wasn't as funny at the time. “Chairs got flipped and stuff. They had fun.”

Steve and Deb have racked up frequent flier miles over the past decade, following their sons' football travels around the country.

Just last weekend, the couple flew from Cincinnati to the Bay Area to watch Garrett's 49ers on Sunday. They then shot back across the country to catch Brent's Eagles in Philadelphia on Monday Night Football before completing the loop back to Cincinnati.

“And then back to work the next day,” Deb said.

But the parents certainly aren't complaining. They've been thrilled by their travel exploits.

In 2012, Garrett's 49ers were playing on Sunday afternoon against the Jets outside of New York City, while Brent's Eagles played that night in Philadelphia.

Steve and Deb attended both games, speeding down the New Jersey Turnpike to pull off the doubleheader.

But Deb fears that the actual game this Sunday may not be as fun for her as advertised, since rooting for Garrett means rooting against Brent — and vice versa.



“It’s exciting, but it’s tough to watch,” Deb said. “Even the last one, where Garrett wasn’t even playing, was tough. It was like you had to sit on your hands. You couldn’t cheer anything.”

Deb cites Peyton and Eli Manning, perhaps the most famous duo of brothers to ever play in the NFL. There were rumors that Peyton would join the Eagles after his tenure with Indianapolis finished in 2012, but that would mean entering the same division as his brother.

“Peyton Manning ended up turning the Eagles down,” Deb said, noting her appreciation for the quarterback’s decision. “He said he couldn’t do that to his parents: Playing his brother twice a year.”

Even though she’s plagued by conflicting rooting interests, Deb can take solace in the fact that her sons will have moved their horseplay out of the house.

Up until a few years ago, when Garrett was home from college and Brent’s NFL offseason was in full swing, the two started playfully bickering back in Cincinnati.

“Our mom was making dinner in the kitchen,” Garrett said. “We started pushing each other, and then I picked Brent up and slammed him into the wall. I thought we were gonna go through the wall.

“We looked at each other and said, ‘We can’t mess around anymore. We’re too big. We’re either going to break something or hurt each other. You’re in the league, and I don’t want to hurt you.’ And that’s the last time we went at it.”

Until this Sunday. Walls will be broken — this time in the City of Brotherly Love, of course.



### Adrian Colbert

#### **'Drugs, gangs, guns.' How 49ers safety Colbert and his father escaped troubled life**

By Matt Barrows  
Sacramento Bee  
December 8, 2017

Adrian Colbert's life went hurtling in a new direction the day he rode his bike down a service road in Wichita Falls, Texas and crossed in front of an oncoming car.

Colbert, 9 years old at the time, went through the windshield with such force he broke the car's steering wheel. The impact left him with a fractured nose, collarbone, shoulder blade and ankle, and he was flown 80 miles to a hospital in Dallas.

It left his father, Adrian Colbert Sr., just as battered.

Adrian Sr. declined to go into detail about how he grew up on the troubled lower east side of Wichita Falls and what he did for a living, but it wasn't good. He bears bullet wounds that hint strongly at the story. The home in which he raised his son does, too. It was sprayed with gunfire one night when Adrian Jr. was a baby. Two bullets struck the crib where he was sleeping at the time but didn't penetrate it.

"It was bullet holes from the front to the back of my house," Adrian Sr. said. "My house was like Swiss cheese."

The father spent days, then weeks, at his son's bedside feeling alone and abandoned. The guys he ran with on the streets of Wichita Falls – "all the friends and so-called gang members," he said – never showed up in support. In fact, while he was tending to his son at the hospital someone broke into his house.

Adrian Sr. had a lot of quiet time – time for contemplation. And while the son's bones mended, the father's soul did, too.

"God was trying to punish me ... well, trying to open my eyes," Adrian Sr. said. "It was like, 'OK, if you don't want to learn through the things you went through, I'm going to take your son through this.'"

Adrian Sr.'s own father had built a menacing reputation in Wichita Falls and the respect he was given transferred to him. So, too, did the violent lifestyle. He worried that if things continued, his son also would be ensnared.

So he changed.

When they got back to Wichita Falls, he got a job at the local Wal-Mart. And a few years after that took a management position at a new store that was opening 90 miles south in Mineral Wells, Texas.

Adrian Jr., 24, said he was resentful at first because the move took him away from his family and friends. He was close to his mother, who had three other children when Adrian was born. But he was raised by his father and later, his step mother, Monique, who made the move with them and helped Adrian Jr. assimilate to the new town.

"It was a bad situation for my dad, which would have trickled down to me – putting me in a bad situation," he said. "It just wasn't a good environment for either of us. It was a good move."

Adrian Sr., 44, has not been shy about sharing his dubious and dangerous past with his son, always with the message: You can forge a new path if you want it badly enough.



Adrian Jr. applied it when he went to the University of Texas. He played safety there but never had much opportunity to show off for the NFL. When he tried for a fifth year of eligibility, the coaches advised him to move on.

"I didn't know what I was doing. I didn't know where I was going," he said. "Then the fact that my coach told me I wasn't going to make it to the NFL – it was kind of like I hit rock bottom at that point."

He said he was depressed at the time, and leaned heavily on his faith and his father.

He decided to spend his final season at the University of Miami. The Hurricanes placed him at cornerback and he showed enough talent that the 49ers spent a seventh-round pick on him in April, their final selection of the draft.

General manager John Lynch figured Colbert might get on the field via special teams as a rookie. He's done that and a lot more.

Colbert is set to start his third game at free safety Sunday against the Houston Texans. He broke his thumb in his first start on Nov. 12 and played through the injury. He returned last week in Chicago with the surgically repaired thumb bandaged and didn't miss a snap.

Lynch, a tough-guy safety when he was a player, has been impressed with the rookie's resolve.

"I kind of admire that," Lynch said. "So he's been excellent for us on special teams and then given the opportunity, he's shown that he can do a little more than that."

It's a five-hour drive from Mineral Wells to Houston, but Adrian Sr. and Monique will be among Colbert's fans in the stands on Sunday.

It's been a little more than a decade since they said goodbye to Wichita Falls, and he said it's hard to believe how far he and Adrian Jr. – who has an undergraduate degree in corporate communications and who is working towards a master's from Miami – have come.

Adrian Sr. said he plans to go back to Wichita Falls and take photographs of his old two-bedroom house, the one with the bullet holes from top to bottom, as part of a documentary he's planning about his son's journey.

"People won't even believe the things this boy has been through," he said. "Nowadays, that's the kind of thing that people get their kids taken away from them. But that's where we grew up. We didn't have money. You know what I'm saying? We grew up in the 'hood. It was drugs, gangs and guns. That was the normal. There were no picket fences and white houses and brick homes where we grew up."

That's the beginning of the story. The essence of it, however, is that it doesn't need to be the end.

"You have to want it," Adrian Sr. said. "That's the bottom line and one of the things that I've always told Adrian: It's not about where you come from and what you've got. It's about what you want and what you're going to do to get there. Nobody owes you nothing and no one's going to give you anything. You're going to have to work for it."



## Tevin Coleman

### **Signing Tevin Coleman Was 'Christmas in March' for 49ers**

By Joe Fann  
49ers.com  
June 10, 2019

Kyle Juszczyk was on vacation in Thailand when he got the call from Mike McDaniel. The San Francisco 49ers had just signed Tevin Coleman, and McDaniel needed to share his elation with somebody. Who better than the fullback who will be Coleman's lead blocker?

There aren't many coaches who know Coleman better than McDaniel. The team's run game coordinator – along with Kyle Shanahan and passing game coordinator Mike LaFleur – spent two seasons with Coleman with the Atlanta Falcons.

Atlanta selected Coleman in the third round (73rd overall) in 2015. According to McDaniel, Shanahan and the rest of the offensive coaching staff believed Coleman was worth a second-rounder. The running back scored 11 total touchdowns in Shanahan's offense in 2016 – his best season as a pro.

Now Coleman is reunited with Shanahan, McDaniel and Co. in San Francisco.

"That was the equivalent of a March Christmas because we hold him in such high regard," McDaniel said of the signing.

Added LaFleur: "He can run and he's explosive, no doubt. The thing that really sticks out with Tevin is how fearless and physical this guy is. He is a man out there. When you tell him to put his foot in the ground and go north and south, he's going to do it times 10. It's every single week. It's every single down. You're always getting the same guy. ... When we need him to get us a yard, he's going to get us a yard every single time."

It's evident that Coleman has experience in Shanahan's offense. He's hit the ground running and impressed his teammates and coaches during the offseason program.

"Tevin has been awesome," Juszczyk said. "This has been a great time for him and I to work together and get a feel for each other. The guy works super hard and is super consistent. He runs the zone scheme phenomenally. I've just been seeing him make plays."

Coleman posted 1,076 total yards and nine touchdowns in 2018 with the Falcons. Now he joins a loaded backfield alongside, most notably, Jerick McKinnon, Matt Breida and Juszczyk. Special teams ace Raheem Mostert and second-year back Jeff Wilson have also shown their ability to contribute.

"It's safe to say that this is the deepest backfield that I've ever been around," McDaniel said. "You could go to war with anybody on our roster."

Coleman is currently enjoying a lion's share of practice reps with McKinnon (ACL), Breida (pectoral) and Mostert (forearm) all on the shelf. But all three are expected to be back by training camp.

It will be a challenge – albeit a champagne problem – for the coaching staff to split up gameday reps and figure out how each guy will be used. There are a lot of mouths to feed and only so many touches to go around.

"That conversation hasn't happened," LaFleur said. "We're just so happy to look at that board and know we have a lot of quality running backs – guys who have played in this league and guys who have played in this offense."

First and foremost, it's imperative to maintain a positive culture within the running backs room. McDaniel isn't worried about that part and said everyone has bought into the mantra of, "We all have success when one has success."



Matchups will impact which runner is featured on a game-to-game basis. Each opponent will have varying weaknesses that Shanahan will look to take advantage of. It won't always be the same running back that gives the 49ers the best chance to do so.

"We know what these guys can do, so how can we exploit the defense with what they can do? It can change week in and week out," LaFleur said. Juszczyk envisions a similar scenario playing out.

"I anticipate that you're going to see a different guy shine each week. There's so much skill in that room – there's so much talent that I think it's going to be hard to keep anyone off the field. It's going to be hard to focus on just one guy.

"I think each week you're going to see somebody different make a big play. I think it's a good thing. It's going to be a lot of fun, and I'm interested to see what Kyle does with us."



## Tevin Coleman Gives 49ers a Surplus of Talented Running Backs

By Joe Fann  
49ers.com  
March 18, 2019

It didn't take Sherlock Holmes to draw the straight line between Kyle Shanahan and Tevin Coleman. The two spent two notable years together with the Atlanta Falcons, the latter notably including a run to Super Bowl LI.

Coleman played a pivotal role in Shanahan's offense, serving as the counterpunch to lead back Devonta Freeman. He posted 1,347 yards from scrimmage and 12 total touchdowns over the course of those two seasons. Their reunion with the San Francisco 49ers makes obvious sense given that production.

But Shanahan had no expectation that they'd be able to sign Coleman in free agency, which makes the addition a welcome surprise.

"We were very fortunate to have a chance to get Tevin," Shanahan said. "(I) didn't really think that at all that would be a possibility of going through."

The move creates an obvious logjam at the running back position with Jerick McKinnon, Matt Breida and special teams ace Raheem Mostert. That's without mentioning fullback Kyle Juszczyk or Jeff Wilson, who showed well as an undrafted rookie in 2018.

Shanahan was adamant that acquiring Coleman doesn't indicate that another move is in the works or that McKinnon's ACL rehab is behind schedule. This was merely the 49ers taking advantage of the opportunity to sign another quality player and add to the competition on the roster.

"I don't consider it a problem. I consider it a very good thing. There's a lot of guys we have confidence in and a lot of guys with some different skill sets too that we can use differently."

San Francisco's head coach has never had four active running backs on gameday (five if you include Juszczyk), but he didn't rule out that scenario in 2019.

"I think it could make a lot of sense this year," Shanahan suggested.

Coleman isn't worried about San Francisco's surplus of talented runners. It's never been in his nature to stress about the numbers game.

"I'm just going to be me," he said Thursday evening. "I'm going to go out there and compete. This is my team now. Those are my brothers now. We're going to go out there and have fun together and play ball and compete together."

The allure of Shanahan's system and another chance to work with running backs coach Bobby Turner was too good for Coleman to pass up. He noted his fit in Shanahan's offense given his ability to run in a zone scheme, catch the ball out of the backfield and line up at receiver.

As for Turner, the two have kept up over the last two years. Coleman credited the acclaimed running backs coach with improving every aspect of his game.

"He's helped me tremendously in my career," Coleman said. "I'm excited to be here with him."

Fellow free agent signee Kwon Alexander had a unique perspective on San Francisco adding Coleman. Alexander and Coleman saw each other bi-annually in the NFC South for the last four years. Coleman scored four combined touchdowns against Alexander's Tampa Bay Buccaneers.



“Oh, I’ve got a scouting report on him,” Alexander said, laughing. “I had to play him twice a year, so, yeah, I know him. He’s a great player. He’s great, and he can catch the ball, run, and make great cuts. He’s got great vision, very fast too. He’s going to be a great addition to this team.”

Shanahan is going to have his work cut out for him in terms of how to get all of his talented running backs involved next season. That, or there will be a few challenging roster decisions to be made this summer. Either way, those are likely to be champagne problems in Shanahan’s eyes.



## Tevin Coleman brings more speed to 49ers' fleet running backs group

By Matt Maiocco  
NBC Sports Bay Area  
March 15, 2019

The 49ers have compiled the makings of a pretty good team in their backfield.

Sure, it's a deep group of running backs, but they also can form a nice track team.

Tevin Coleman was at the 49ers' facility on Thursday to sign a two-year, \$8.5 million contract. He is a speedster who played two seasons in Kyle Shanahan's offense with the Atlanta Falcons.

He joins a group of running backs that already includes Jerick McKinnon, Matt Breida and Raheem Mostert.

Has Coleman ever been teammates with such an explosive group of running backs?

"No, I have not. It's going to be a 4x1 back there," Coleman said, referring to a 4x100-meter track relay team. "So there's a lot speed in the backfield. I'm real excited to play with those guys."

Coleman was timed at 4.39 in the 40-yard dash before he came out in the 2015 draft. One year earlier, Jerick McKinnon clocked a 4.41 at the combine. Two years ago, Matt Breida ran a 4.39 at his pro day.

Mostert, who signed a three-year extension on Friday, won Big Ten titles at Purdue in the 60 meters and 200 meters during the indoor season, and was the conference champion in the 100 and 200 during the outdoor season. He entered the NFL in 2015.

Shanahan said he has never been with an NFL team that suited up four running backs on game days during the regular season due to the league's 46-player limit. Because of the team's increased depth, he could be tempted to re-think some things, he said.

"I think we're in a situation right now, just looking at our roster, that I think it could make a lot of sense this year," Shanahan said.

It remains unlikely the 49ers will suit up four running backs. But, they can be expected to keep each player on the roster this season. The 49ers know how quickly depth can disappear at running back, so it would be foolish for them to not hold onto all four players.

Last year, McKinnon sustained a season-ending knee injury before the start of the regular season. Breida battled ankle issues; Mostert sustained a fractured forearm; and Jeff Wilson sustained a shoulder injury in the season finale.

Veteran Alfred Morris gained a season-high 111 yards in the final game of the year with Wilson sidelined. Morris, 30, an eight-year pro, remains available on the free-agent market.

If the four running backs remain healthy, the 49ers will be forced to deactivate a proven player for games. Coleman said he is looking forward to bonding with his new running partners as they fight among themselves for playing time.

"Those are my brothers now," Coleman said. "We'll go out there and have fun together and play ball and compete together."



Coleman was a dynamic multi-dimensional player during his four years with the Falcons. He rushed for a career-best 800 yards with a 4.8 average last season. In his first season with Shanahan, he caught 31 passes for career highs with 421 yards and a 13.6 average.

That's the kind of playmaking Shanahan likes to see from his running backs -- making defenses play a big price for breakdowns in coverage.

"It's real big because it's hard to do good in this league with a lot of big guys, a lot of great guys," Coleman said of the importance of speed. "To get me in space, that's what my strength is."



## Dee Ford

### **Dee Ford and Nick Bosa, the 49ers' bookend best friends — 'It's a beautiful situation, man'**

By Tim Kawakami  
The Athletic  
August 1, 2019

When you see Dee Ford jogging from station to station during 49ers training camp, nine times out of 10, Nick Bosa is right behind him, always keeping a respectful distance but also looking like he's attached by an irreversible NFL gravitational force.

When Ford is on the field stretching, there's Bosa right behind him, not exactly copying everything he does but not exactly not-copying Ford, either. When Ford is lined up in a drill, there's Bosa glancing over from his spot for clarity or confirmation. When Ford and Bosa are temporarily out of a drill, Bosa habitually wanders over to Ford for a quiet word or two.

"Me and Nick? Yeah, it's a beautiful situation, man," Ford said after a recent practice. "There's a lot of chemistry. That's my guy."

It's pretty simple: Bosa wants to put together a pass-rushing career just like Ford is crafting right now and that common ground fused them almost from the start of their 49er careers in the spring.

They do not have similar backgrounds. Ford grew up in rural Alabama; Bosa grew up in Fort Lauderdale, Fla., with a superstar older brother. There's more than a six-year age difference. Ford's been through five seasons in the AFC West cauldron with the Chiefs, registering a career-high 13 sacks last season. Bosa was a star at Ohio State but missed most of 2018 with a core-muscle injury.

But from almost the moment they met at 49ers headquarters, after Ford was acquired in March and Bosa was drafted in April, the potential bookend pass rushers figured out that they were going to get along just fine. Which maybe was what you would've predicted or maybe it wasn't.

"Just when he showed up," Ford said. "First impression, just good vibes. He's a good person. Just from Day 1, man."

The interesting thing I found out from Bosa this week: He sort of planned this from afar, at least his role as a pupil learning from a proven alpha sack man, even before he ended up with the 49ers. While Bosa was preparing for the draft last winter and spring, he had an idea of where he might go — to the 49ers with the No. 2 overall pick — and, once they acquired Ford from the Chiefs, how this dual attack might flourish.

Go to the 49ers. Play with Ford. Chase the QB together. Form the backbone of a great defense and maybe win a lot of big games. Wouldn't that be pretty great?

"Even before I got drafted by the Niners, I had an idea that it was possible that I'd end up here," Bosa told me earlier this week. "So in free agency, they picked him up. Everybody's texting me like, 'Aw, man, they're not going to take you now!' I was just thinking to myself, what if they do take me? We get to play together."

"(With the Chiefs last year), he was in the same division as my brother (Joey, a Chargers defensive end). Last year, I got to watch pretty much every one of my brother's games and I got to watch (Ford). I only watch pass rushers when I watch football. So I watched him and Justin Houston for the Chiefs, and I just love what he does technique-wise. Speed. He uses great power."

"And just to be able to see it in practice situations, just to see how it works ... obviously, I'm just a rookie and I'm going to take everything I possibly can from him because he's a vet. He just signed a second contract. He's where all of us want to be. Coming off a huge year. So he's a great role model as a person and obviously as a player."



In practice, the 49ers defensive line has occasionally overwhelmed the first-team offensive line using the defense's new "Wide 9" scheme that emphasizes aggression and a full-out attack-the-QB mode. That offense-defense dynamic could change — the defense almost always gets up to speed more quickly than the offense during training camp.

But the 49ers have poured a lot of resources into this defensive line and are especially focused on unleashing a real pass rush after several years of generating very little outside pressure. So they gave Ford a five-year, \$85-million contract (\$17 million a year with almost \$20 million guaranteed) and also gave up a 2020 second-round pick to the Chiefs to facilitate the deal. And then the 49ers drafted Bosa No. 2 overall.

Will this be the newest duo to terrorize passing offenses? Maybe yes, maybe no. But there's a better chance of it if the two outside rushers have elite skills and also understand each other, share information and feed off of each other, like Ford said was definitely the case with him, Justin Houston and Tamba Hali in their Chiefs days.

You get a look at Ford and Bosa on the field together in this camp and you can see that this is already happening.

"Yeah, we play the same position," Bosa said. "We do the same things. I mean, he's just somebody who's really easy to get along with. Really nice dude."

Of course, Bosa came to the 49ers with a little more of a cloud than most top draft choices. Everybody knows about the pre-draft controversy when it was discovered that Bosa had "liked" a few photos on social media that contained racist or homophobic comments when he was younger.

Kyle Shanahan and John Lynch talked to him, checked with his Ohio State teammates and former coaches and drafted him believing that Bosa wouldn't only be OK in the 49ers locker room, he'd probably end up as one of the most popular guys among his teammates.

So I asked Ford what he thinks now of Bosa's social media history.

"Don't matter to me," Ford said. "Who I meet, you can be whatever you want to be on social media. It's social media. Who you are with me when I meet you in person? That's the person I judge. That's the person I want to be around.

"You could be anything you want to be on social media. There's no ceiling. But you can't fake who you are as a person."

The locker room decides these things, I've always believed. Are you genuine? Are you considerate of your teammates? Do you respect the leaders of the team? Do you work hard? The locker room has pretty much already decided on Bosa —and, as several team sources acknowledged, it sure helps that everybody who watches Bosa in practice knows that he's going to help this team enormously.

So Bosa has already bonded with Ford. He's also won praise from senior 49er Joe Staley and generally is viewed as a quiet, deferential and slyly funny potential superstar, which is about as good a start as you can get in an NFL locker room.

"I like to see that Nick knows how to handle himself and he's one of the guys," Shanahan told me this week. "We love him. Thought the team would like him. But to come in and have everyone embrace him ... it's not like they're trying to go out of their way to do that just because he's the first pick. I mean, guys want to bring the first pick in and make him feel at home.

"But it's very natural for him. The guys like him. He's one of them. He's completely himself. It's not like he's going out trying to talk too much or too little. He's been the same guy every day. And I think our team really enjoys him."



Bosa is only 21, but probably because he's spent so much time around his brother at NFL camps and because Ohio State is like a mini NFL franchise, he doesn't sound like a rookie when he talks about how the 49ers defensive line is going to operate.

He actually sounds like a budding defensive coordinator.

"It's great when you have chemistry with your interior guys who are on your side, with Buck and Armstead and Solly and all the guys," Bosa said. "Just knowing what your teammate's going to do, give a little hand signal, whatever it is. Just knowing maybe what move they're going to use so you stay in your rush lane, you don't let the quarterback escape the pocket, stuff like that.

"The biggest thing is keeping double-teams off me. Hopefully, they double (Ford) for a week or two. And then double Buck, double Armstead. And maybe come around and double me once I start making plays. But, I mean, we're stacked. It's going to be tough (to defend)."

Bosa didn't say this bombastically. He said it with a matter-of-fact tone and a slight grin, like he was just telling the truth as he sees it with a little splash. There's humor there, definitely. And I'd heard that he and Ford share that kind of deadpan sensibility.

"Who said that? Dee said that?" Bosa said with a sly grin. "Yeah, it's kinda dry. Sarcastic. We're similar. We're both kind of quiet, but when we do have something to say, it means something." Yes, I can confirm that it was Ford who told me this, by the way.

"He has a different sense of humor," Ford said. "That's what I like. He's different, man. He's Nick, you know what I mean? Like any other guy, but he's humble and he's ready to learn. And he looks up to me. So it's definitely going to be a fun time, period."

Bosa picked a perfect mentor. Ford has his bookend partner. They have to do it together in games, but they're off to a very comfortable start. Shanahan and Lynch are loving this whole development and they can see it just about every moment of every practice.



## Why Dee Ford fits mold of the 49ers' prototypical 'leo' edge rusher

By Matt Maiocco  
NBC Sports Bay Area  
March 14, 2019

The 49ers on Wednesday announced the signing of defensive lineman Dee Ford to a five-year extension after acquiring him in a trade from the Kansas City Chiefs for a second-round draft pick in 2020.

Repeat, the 49ers announced the signing of defensive lineman Dee Ford.

During his five seasons in Kansas City, Ford was an outside linebacker in a 3-4 defensive scheme. All indications are Ford will be the "leo" in the 49ers' 4-3 defensive alignment.

His job: Get after the quarterback.

Ford did his job exceptionally well last season, recording 13 sacks and forcing seven fumbles. Outside of defensive tackle DeForest Buckner, the 49ers lacked a consistent pass rush. The 49ers, as a team, generated just seven takeaways on the season – the worst mark in the history of the National Football League.

Coach Kyle Shanahan hired Robert Saleh to implement the Seattle-style defense with the 49ers. It's a 4-3 defense with essentially 3-4 personnel. The leo position is based on the elephant edge-rusher spot that George Seifert used with the 49ers in the 1980s and '90s.

Ford fits the height-weight prototype to play the leo position. The 49ers had little consistency at that position in the first two seasons with Saleh as defensive coordinator. Last year, Solomon Thomas mostly started at leo, but he either left the field on passing downs or moved inside to defensive tackle in nickel situations.

Ford is likely being counted upon to be an every-down leo – the pass-rusher the 49ers have lacked since Aldon Smith's departure.

Here is how Ford height and weight compare to a list of players Saleh cited in 2017 as prototypical edge rushers at the leo position:

Dee Ford 6-foot-2, 252 pounds  
Chris Clemons 6-3, 260  
Cliff Avril 6-3, 260  
Yannick Ngakoue 6-2, 246  
Dante Fowler 6-3, 255  
Vic Beasley 6-3, 246  
Von Miller 6-3, 250  
Khalil Mack 6-3, 252



## Ben Garland

### **Air Force Academy's Ben Garland came close to becoming a fighter pilot; now he commands the 49ers' ground game**

By Matt Barrows  
The Athletic  
August 16, 2019

Ben Garland calls the A-10 Thunderbolt the offensive lineman of the air. It's a great description.

The plane isn't sleek or swift or stealthy. It's essentially a battle tank with wings, one that's bulked up with 1,200 pounds of titanium armor so it can take a beating while flying low and wiping out tanks, troops, missile launchers or anything else that threatens the U.S. ground game.

"It's a protector. It gives that close air support. It gets down and dirty. It doesn't hide," said Garland, 31, who has served as the 49ers' starting center since the spring. "I love it. It goes right up to the front line. It gets shot up a lot and it can still fly home."

Since he was a boy, Garland wanted to do two things: Fly an A-10 and play in the NFL.

After all, there's been a Col. Garland in the family since World War II. His great grandfather flew combat missions for 3 1/2 years in Europe, including a C-47 cargo plane that carried paratroopers across enemy lines on D-Day in 1944. His grandfather, Hal Garland, worked on an intercontinental ballistic missile crew for years and he has an uncle who flew F-15s.

In 2010, Ben Garland seemed well on his way to the cockpit of A-10 when he was awarded a coveted pilot's slot at the Air Force Academy.

"I was incredibly excited," he said. "It's what I trained for at the Academy."

At about the same time, Garland started getting visits from NFL scouts who encouraged him to enter the upcoming draft. He soon realized his dual dreams were colliding.

In order to compete at defensive tackle, his position at Air Force, he had to maintain his 300-pound weight. To fit inside the cockpit of the Air Force training plane however, he couldn't be over 220 pounds in full gear. He couldn't do both.

"It was a tough decision," he said. "I talked to my grandfather about it. We talked it over and it got to the point where I knew if I didn't go the NFL route and try that, I would always regret it."

Joining the Denver Broncos as an undrafted free agent in 2010 didn't mean Garland had to give up the Air Force altogether, just change career paths. He fulfilled his two-year military commitment by serving as a public-affairs officer at an Air Force base in Illinois. During that time he took part in the Broncos' offseason program while on the NFL's reserve/military list.

When his commitment expired, he joined the Colorado Air National Guard. A Colorado native, he still spends about 50 days a year, including during the long stretch between the 49ers' spring practices and training camp, with the 140th Wing at Buckley Air Force Base just east of Denver.

"It's the closest thing you find to that team environment in the workforce," he said. "You take this group of people from all walks of life — men, women, black white, from the country and the ghetto and you try to become the best team in the world. And you have this close-knit locker-room environment where they're family to you."

Garland is good at juggling assignments. It's what kept him in the NFL.



He stuck around on the Broncos practice squad early in his career because he could do a little of everything, from defensive line to center, guard and even tight end and fullback. While with the Atlanta Falcons in 2016, his main role was as a backup interior offensive lineman, but the team asked if he could be on call if there were issues on the defensive line.

There were, and during the NFC Championship Game that season he recorded his first-ever safety when Seahawks quarterback Russell Wilson tripped in the end zone and Garland tagged him down.

“We had some depth issues on the D-line and he plugged right in there,” said 49ers guard Mike Person, a teammate in Atlanta. “He’s going to do exactly what you ask him to do every single time. And when you see that, other guys feed off of it. And it’s really impressive. ”

With the 49ers, Garland’s role is much more well-defined.

The team signed him in the offseason after top-line center Weston Richburg had surgery on his knee and quadriceps. Team officials still say Richburg could be ready by Week 1, but he remains on the physically-unable-to-perform list. With the 49ers’ date with the Buccaneers only a little more than three weeks away, it’s becoming more likely with every practice that Garland lines up at center in Tampa.

Kyle Shanahan said he’s not worried. After the Falcons’ win in the 2016 championship, Shanahan, who was Atlanta’s offensive coordinator at the time, was ready to lean heavily on Garland in the Super Bowl considering the starting center, Alex Mack, was playing with a broken left fibula. Mack ended up playing every snap that game, but Garland started three games for the Falcons the following season and four more last year.

“That’s why we brought him here,” Shanahan said. “He’s played in a lot of games, a lot of big games.”

Garland expects to see a few of his old orange-and-blue No. 63 jerseys in the crowd during the joint practices between the 49ers and Broncos on Friday and Saturday. Some of his buddies from Buckley Air Force Base will be there. So will his grandparents, who live in Colorado Springs and with whom Garland is very close.

He lived with them after graduating from the Air Force Academy in 2010 and stored his belongings in their house after he joined the Broncos full-time two years later. Those belongings were destroyed along with virtually everything else the Garlands owned when the massive Waldo Canyon Fire tore through the neighborhood in 2012. The Garlands relocated to another part of town a year later.

Hal Garland said he and his wife left with only an hour to spare. The blaze was so hot — it reportedly reached 2,000 degrees — that it melted a fireproof gun cabinet they had in the basement of the house.

It contained the weapons the Garland men had used in the various wars since 1939, including the service pistol that had been at Ben Garland’s great grandfather’s side during the Normandy invasion and two swords Ben was given upon graduating from the Air Force Academy that he, in turn, had presented as a gift of thanks to his grandparents.

Later that summer, Garland’s Broncos’ teammates surprised him by presenting him with two replacement swords following a training-camp practice. Hal Garland, meanwhile, said the World War II sidearm was the only thing salvageable from the fire.

“It was extremely damaged,” he said. “I had it reconditioned, but it can’t be used. It’s just a relic now.”

Garland noted there was a bit of poetry in that the National Guard, which he had joined that year, was one of the groups that responded to the disaster.

“So my other family was there helping out my family,” he said. “That was really cool.”



## Five Top Candidates for NFL Comeback Player of the Year

By Eric Branch  
San Francisco Chronicle  
July 31, 2019

Ben Garland's bio includes an almanac of fun facts.

The 49ers' center is a United States Air Force Academy graduate who served a two-year active duty commitment. He's a captain and base executive in the Colorado Air National Guard in his offseasons.

In addition, the offensive lineman is a converted defensive tackle who has played offense, defense and special teams in the NFL: In January 2017, Garland, then with the Falcons, sacked Seattle's Russell Wilson for a safety in a divisional-playoff game before playing seven snaps at center in the next week's NFC Championship Game.

But here's the fact that might interest fans the most about the largely anonymous 31-year-old: He could be the 49ers' starting center Sept. 8 when they open the season at Tampa Bay.

Garland has spent offseason practices and training camp with the first-team offense while starting center Weston Richburg recovers from offseason surgeries on his knee and quadriceps. Last week, general manager John Lynch said the 49ers were "hopeful, but we'll see" when discussing Richburg's chances of playing in Week 1.

With Richburg in the early stages of his extensive rehab, the 49ers signed Garland in late April, based largely on his connection to head coach Kyle Shanahan. They were together in 2015 and '16 with Atlanta and Shanahan said he's comfortable rolling with Garland, who has made seven starts at guard, if Richburg initially isn't ready.

Garland, a 2010 undrafted free agent who signed with the Broncos, acknowledges he didn't expect to survive so long in the NFL. But he's not satisfied to just stick around.

"This is more than I ever dreamed," Garland said. "Now, it's not even close to what my goals are: Now I want to win a championship. I want to win a starting job, become a Pro Bowler — there are a lot of aspirations and goals I've yet to achieve."

As a junior at Air Force, Garland's goal was to become a decorated officer after graduation. He'd earned a coveted pilot slot, but NFL scouts began expressing interest in the defensive tackle as a senior.

Garland decided to pursue the pros, which meant changing his career path in the Air Force. He weighed about 300 pounds, too heavy for the training planes Air Force pilots use before they graduate to larger aircraft.

"After college, I was initially a pilot slot, but I needed to lose about 120 pounds to maintain that," Garland said. "And being a defensive lineman in the NFL and being 180 pounds doesn't really work. So I had to switch career fields or lose a lot of weight."

Garland was a second lieutenant and served as a public-affairs officer during his two-year commitment, which ended in 2012. He was stationed at Scott Air Force Base in Belleville, Ill., and Fort Meade in Maryland. He wasn't eligible to play in games, but participated in the Broncos' offseason program while on the reserve/military list.

He joined the National Guard after his commitment and has spent about 50 days during each offseason with the 140th Wing at Buckley Air Force Base in Aurora, Colo.



Garland, who has a long list of relatives who have served in the military, deployed to Jordan in 2014 to work with the country's military on a coalition trip. He has been on two of the NFL's USO tours and visited U.S. military bases in Italy, Germany, Iraq and Kuwait.

He often donates tickets to military members, and has worked to raise PTSD awareness. He was the Falcons' nominee for the Walter Payton Man of the Year award in 2017. Last year, Garland won the NFL's Salute to Service award for his military service and support.

On the field, he has carved out a unique career. Garland spent the previous five seasons playing both offense and defense, a dual role that began in 2012 when he was on the Broncos' practice squad and began half-jokingly offering to fill in when an offensive lineman was injured.

It turned out he was no joke in his new spot.

Said Garland: "Eventually, before spring ball one year, they said 'Hey, grab your offensive playbook. We want you to play both ways.'"

Garland's versatility explains his longevity. He spent two seasons (2012-13) on Denver's practice squad, made his NFL debut in 2014 and spent most of 2015 on the Falcons' practice squad before making his seven career starts with Atlanta over the past two seasons.

Now, with the 49ers, the National Guard captain hopes the best is to come.

"My concept in college was to be the best Air Force officer I could be," Garland said, "but this came up and I've pursued it with everything I have."



## Jimmy Garoppolo

### **Five Top Candidates for NFL Comeback Player of the Year**

By Damichael Cole  
The MMBQ  
July 24, 2019

Every NFL season, injuries and disappointments rob some of the league's brightest players from productive years. And every year, a player will emerge from a lackluster season to silence skeptics.

Last year that player was Colts QB Andrew Luck. Concerns about Luck's shoulder injury started to surface after a sprain in 2015 against the Titans. Luck missed two games but continued to play in 2016, despite lingering issues. After the season, he opted for surgery on a labrum tear and missed the entire 2017 season.

Many questioned if Luck would ever be the same. A setback during the recovery process even led to the quarterback seeking treatment in Europe.

In 2018, he responded by throwing for 4,593 yards and 40 touchdowns while compiling a career-best 98.7 passer rating. Luck led the Colts to a 10–6 record—their best since 2014—and a playoff berth, and the QB won the NFL's Comeback Player of the Year award.

Here are the top candidates for the CPOTY award in 2019:

Jimmy Garoppolo, QB, 49ers: Garoppolo was traded to San Francisco at the trade deadline in 2017 and brought the 49ers home, starting and winning the team's five last games. That made the team a trendy playoff pick ahead of the 2018 season—until Garoppolo suffered a torn ACL three games in.

Garoppolo is practicing with a brace, but has shown promising signs in his progression. One of the last hurdles in his recovery was throwing the deep ball, which he'll need with players like Deebo Samuel, Dante Pettis and Marquise Goodwin at receiver. The 49ers have made it a focal point to surround Garoppolo with weapons.

"The receivers make my job so easy," Garoppolo said during training camp in June. "When you have the speed of Quise and Dante and those guys, their ability to separate from the defense makes it easy. Just put it out there far enough and don't underthrow them."



## Jimmy Garoppolo Talks 49ers Training Camp, Brian Urlacher And Other Greats

By Andy Frye  
Forbes  
July 22, 2019

San Francisco 49ers quarterback Jimmy Garoppolo first made his name known to most NFL fans as a superb backup. Drafted by the New England Patriots in 2014, many saw Garoppolo as just a future successor to Tom Brady. But during that rookie year Garoppolo played six games and posted an impressive 101.2 quarterback rating, and in doing so was instrumental not only to winning critical season games but also to the Patriots return to a Super Bowl championship, their first in 10 years.

After helping the Pats win Super Bowls XLIX (in 2014) and LI (in 2016), New England decided to hold on to Brady and traded Garoppolo for a draft pick. After missing much of last season after a knee injury, Garoppolo is set and ready to play, as 49ers camp starts later this week in Santa Clara, California.

I caught up with Garoppolo recently to hear his take on his role as San Francisco's quarterback, and who inspired him as a young player.

Andy Frye: The San Francisco 49ers are a legendary club with some very big name quarterbacks. Do names like Steve Young and Joe Montana add pressure to your role?

Jimmy Garoppolo: I think excitement is the better word for it. There is something special though about playing here, with that tradition behind you. I think the fan base that's here, and also the greatness they are accustomed to seeing over the years— we're trying to get back to that. But this organization is a tremendous one and we have the right people in place to start to do that.

AF: You were born in 1991 and thus didn't grow up watching Joe Montana. But who were some of your football idols early on?

Garoppolo: I didn't even play quarterback until my junior year of high school, so I was into all kinds of positions, growing up. Oddly enough, I was a linebacker before then, so I loved watching Brian Urlacher. He was my guy. He was a monster at linebacker and everyone wanted to play like him.

But once I got into quarterbacking I looked to quarterbacks more. I did watch Brett Favre when I was very young—he was the man when I was a little kid. Then when I got older and started to play it was Peyton Manning and Tom Brady obviously, and Aaron Rodgers. Those guys all make it look easy, when playing football is one of the hardest things.

AF: NFL stars and ex-players are known for their efforts to help their community. You're currently involved with Men's Wearhouse's Suit Drive.

Garoppolo: I think it's important to give back, and I think a lot of men on and off the field have a general attitude of "look good, feel good, play good." So when I got approached and heard about this effort called the Men's Wearhouse Suit Drive, I thought helping less fortunate people was a good thing, but also sort of follows that mentality.

Anyone can donate a used suit at any Men's Wearhouse location. It's something that translates to the workforce—helping men and women who want to get back out there and put on their best look, and feel confident going into a job interview.

Before signing with San Francisco, Garoppolo made his mark filling in as a sub when Tom Brady was injured.

AF: Tell us about your routine during the offseason, and what a big league quarterback gets to eat (or not) to stay fit.



Garoppolo: The eating part was always kind of easy for me. I tend to eat pretty ell, even though I have a sweet tooth that gets me in trouble occasionally. But, getting a good night's sleep is a big part of being able to function at the highest level. The physical stuff like running and working out will never change. But being in a good routine, especially this time of year, going into training camp is essential.

Training camp is a grind. You've got to be in good physical shape and the best mental shape to handle everything that is thrown at you.

AF: What kind of music are you listening to while working out, gearing up for the season?

Garoppolo: For me it's a mix. Sometimes it's a little country or maybe some OAR. But when I'm ramping up and it starts getting intense, a little rock and a little rap gets thrown in there. It all depends on the mood and whatever you are doing at the time.



## Jimmy Garoppolo calls learning from Tom Brady on Patriots 'invaluable'

By Dalton Johnson  
NBC Sports Bay Area  
July 17, 2019

Jimmy Garoppolo spent three-and-a-half seasons as Tom Brady's backup quarterback in New England. Over that span, the 49ers' current QB appeared in only 17 games, starting two.

Still, he learned plenty behind the six-time Super Bowl winner.

More than anything, Garoppolo witnessed the immense amount of preparation Brady put into his game every day. Garoppolo recently told The Ringer's Kevin Clark that it was "invaluable" to watch the legendary signal-caller as his backup.

"I can barely put it into words. What you learn is playing the game within the game, that's a big part of Tom," Garoppolo said. "I don't even know if he told me that [directly], but he would always talk about the game within the game."

The story has been told time and time again. Brady beat the odds years ago as a sixth-round draft pick who ran the 40-yard dash in quicksand. Garoppolo emphasized that sweating the small stuff made Brady a Patriots legend and an all-time great.

"The little details and how he ties them all together -- that's what separates you," Garoppolo said.

The two QBs have remained friends after Garoppolo was traded to the 49ers on Halloween in 2017. They were even seen together at the Kentucky Derby this year.

As much knowledge as Garoppolo soaked up from Brady, the 49ers hope it shows in a healthy year this season.



## Jimmy Garoppolo Q&A: 49ers QB talks Tom Brady, 2019 pressure, and his future in San Francisco

By Cody Benjamin  
CBS Sports  
June 13, 2019

In a league where the last two decades have been defined by recurring Super Bowl appearances from names like Tom Brady and Ben Roethlisberger, most quarterbacks are under tremendous pressure to live up to expectations and prove their worth as "franchise" material.

No starting QB might be under more pressure entering 2019, however, than Jimmy Garoppolo.

Nearly two years after he was acquired via trade by the San Francisco 49ers and anointed "the guy" with a \$137.5 million contract, the 27-year-old signal-caller has just eight starts to show for what's now the seventh largest annual salary in the NFL. Not only is the former Tom Brady backup still tasked with emerging from the shadow of one of the greatest QBs to ever play the game, but he's set to open Year Three of the Kyle Shanahan regime with only 12 touchdowns, eight picks and a torn ACL under his belt in San Fran.

Aside from Carson Wentz and Derek Carr, he's the only QB among the top 10 highest-paid at the position to start zero playoff games. Despite two Super Bowl rings he won behind Brady, he's also the only player in the top 30 highest-paid players across all positions to never appear in the postseason. With a potential 2020 out in his big-money deal, it's essentially now or never for Garoppolo to justify Shanahan and Co. keeping him around as the Niners' long-term leader under center.

And yet the Illinois-turned-California star is not sweating it. While promoting a partnership with Men's Wearhouse for the company's annual Suit Drive, which collects gently used professional attire to distribute to more than 150 nonprofits across the nation, Garoppolo spoke with CBS Sports about everything from Brady and 2019 expectations to his future in San Francisco.

CBS Sports: What inspired you to be a part of Men's Wearhouse's annual Suit Drive?

Jimmy Garoppolo: Yeah, it's their 12th year with it, and it seemed like a good match. It's kind of that football player mentality -- look good, feel good, play good. It's for a good cause, you know, helping people who don't have as much. I donated a suit to Men's Wearhouse for it, and it's something great to be a part of.

CBS: How much does something like this help you declare your platform is bigger than just football?

JG: People always get tied up with athletes as if they just do football, just do basketball, but there's more to it. Any chance you get, you want to help people who are less fortunate. It's a great thing to do.

CBS: On the field, how much motivation do you get knowing you're one of the highest-paid quarterbacks with only 10 starts under your belt -- that you've got to go out and prove you're worth it?

JG: There will always be motivation. You're motivated by yourself more than a ton of pressure, but that pressure is a good thing, too. We've had good OTAs so far, and the summer before training camp will be important. Every OTAs, every training camp, you're always making personal goals, and there's an opportunity to go out and do some exciting things.

CBS: What were some of your personal goals for this offseason?



JG: Well, getting my knee back to normal is a big one (laughs). Obviously that was No. 1 this offseason, and that's been great.

CBS: You've also spoken recently about working with QB coach Tom House this offseason. How much has that impacted your preparations for 2019?

JG: Those guys are awesome down in L.A. We were working on mechanics, the throwing motion. Nothing drastic, but if you could better your game by 1%, you want to do it.

CBS: It's been six years since the 49ers made the playoffs, but you're also known for going 5-0 at the end of your first season in town. How close is this team to breaking that streak, replicating 2017's finish and getting into the postseason?

JG: Like I said, there's opportunities. This season's going to show us a lot. It's our job to make that happen. And that's what all the preparation is for. You can't just throw your helmet out there and expect to win.

CBS: You've got quite a few new weapons this year -- Tevin Coleman, Deebo Samuel, Jalen Hurd, Jordan Matthews. How much do you think they can elevate your game in 2019?

JG: Yeah, those guys have been tremendous. Whether it's providing more competition on the practice field, all that stuff, for those new guys, it's not the easiest offense in the world to learn, so for them to pick it up so quickly has been pretty impressive. Now we've just got to take this into training camp.

CBS: Plenty of people still know you from your days in New England. Have you kept in touch with Tom Brady over these last two seasons, and did you connect while rehabbing?

JG: Yeah, we'll shoot each other a text here and there, just saying hi, seeing how it's going. Whether I have a question for him, he's always been awesome for whatever it is. He's really down to earth and just experienced so many things in this league. He's been awesome in that way.

CBS: You've been in San Francisco for a few years now. Even being limited on the field, what have you learned about carrying the label of being a San Francisco 49ers quarterback -- what has that meant to you?

JG: Oh yeah, it's been awesome. The people out here in the Bay Area, initially they were so welcoming, and since then, they've still been so welcoming. The Bay is a special place. And then there's a weight with that. There's a standard to it. A standard to be the best quarterback I can be for this team.



## The Time Jimmy Garoppolo Called His Own Number against the Jaguars

By Joe Fann  
49ers.com  
September 6, 2018

It's still a bit surreal to think about the San Francisco 49ers five-game winning streak to close the 2017 season. In just five weeks with Jimmy Garoppolo under center, San Francisco pulled itself out of the cellar in the NFC and back into the national conversation. San Francisco missed the postseason and pundits still found ways to work Garoppolo and the 49ers into their takes of varying temperatures.

Garoppolo threw for 1,560 yards and seven touchdowns last season with the 49ers, but it was his 1-yard touchdown run against the Jacksonville Jaguars that may have left the biggest impression on his teammates.

"That play in particular is probably my favorite Jimmy story," said 49ers nose tackle Earl Mitchell.

Garoppolo opened San Francisco's 44-33 win in Week 16 against the Jaguars with a statement drive. The 10-play, 79-yard march through the teeth of Jacksonville's top-ranked defense culminated in Garoppolo's 1-yard touchdown run as he powered across the goal line on a QB sneak. Fans roared as the quarterback spiked the ball to the Levi's® Stadium grass. Jubilation on the 49ers sideline was mixed with a shade of confusion.

That's because the 49ers had never practiced that play. In fact, Shanahan's playbook was void of a QB sneak all together. So how on Earth did Garoppolo end up keeping it himself? He called his own number, of course, and here's why.

On the previous play, Kyle Juszczyk caught a 17-yard pass and took it all the way to Jacksonville's 1-yard line. Garoppolo's initial thought was that his fullback had scored.

"I was borderline celebrating, and then I saw that he was just short," Garoppolo recalled.

What felt like "just short" was a full yard in reality. Juszczyk hobbled back to the huddle after getting banged up on the reception. After a quick hesitation, he pivoted and ran back to the sideline to get looked at by the training staff. Mitchell – yes, the 49ers 310-pound nose tackle – came sprinting into the game to play fullback in front of Carlos Hyde.

This wasn't completely random. Mitchell practiced with the 49ers offense each Friday during goal line work. There were three-to-five plays each week that included Mitchell, but that package was never utilized up until this point.

"All of a sudden Earl was running in," Garoppolo said. "I looked up at the play clock, and it was already down to 16 or 17 seconds. The comms system goes out at 15 seconds. I remember seeing Kyle (Shanahan) on the sideline super animated getting people in, yelling at coaches or whatever it was. Then he looks at me, and once he started to call the play, I hear, 'I-right' and then this beep goes off and the sound goes out."

It's important to remember that at this juncture, Garoppolo was barely through the 101 course of Shanahan's offense full of minute complexities and nuances. Calling timeout was one option, but that was never in the cards.



“We were rolling, so in the back of my head, I was thinking, ‘We’re on the 1-yard line, we can get this in right now,’” Garoppolo said.

Instinct took over, and the quarterback went with his gut.

“I went, ‘I-right, QB sneak on one,’ or something like that,” he said.

Blank stares washed over the other 10 players in the huddle. The fact that Garoppolo butchered the formation didn’t help sell his teammates on his moment of ingenuity. Former 49ers tight end Logan Paulsen was the first to speak up. Paulsen, a player lauded for his football IQ, attempted to help set Garoppolo straight.

“I don’t remember exactly what it was, but Logan goes, ‘Whoa whoa whoa. Jim, we can’t do that,’” Garoppolo laughed as he mimicked Paulsen’s voice. “It’s funny if you know Logan because he’s such a detailed and smart dude. He was all concerned about the formation, and I thought, ‘Why does it matter what formation we’re in for a QB sneak?’”

The quarterback was far less playful in the moment. He remembers interrupting Paulsen firing back.

“I said something to the effect of, ‘We’re running the (expletive) play!’” Garoppolo yelled, now impersonating himself. “Everyone just kind of looked at me like, ‘OK, we’re running it!’”

Mind you, this all transpired within 10 seconds. San Francisco broke from the huddle, hurried to the ball and snapped it with five seconds left on the play clock. The execution ended up being the easiest part of the entire ordeal. Jacksonville’s defensive line was fairly spread out with the nose left relatively uncovered. The quick count also helped catch the Jaguars before each player was completely set.

“I put my leg back, got in a sprinters stance and just stayed low,” Garoppolo said. “Earl gave me a pretty good push I remember.”

Garoppolo shared that he ran sneaks all the time in high school and at Eastern Illinois. The New England Patriots – Tom Brady specifically – are also fond of the play. That’s why Garoppolo’s spike drew obvious parallels to his former mentor. Brady has never been shy about using the same celebration with equivalent gusto.

But Garoppolo made it clear that his spike had been in the making long before he made it to the NFL.

“Since I was a little kid, I’ve always thought the spike was pretty sweet,” he said. “I told myself that whenever I scored my first rushing touchdown in the NFL I was going to spike the hell out of the ball. So I had to.”

Shanahan was there to greet Garoppolo on the sideline with a high five and one question: “What did you call?” The quarterback responded with “I-right QB sneak” in an “I totally made it up” sort of way.

Externally, the 49ers have been tabbed as a potential breakout team since January. Internally, John Lynch and Shanahan decided that Garoppolo was indeed the team’s quarterback of the future and showed their commitment by signing him to a five-year contract extension. At the time, it was the largest deal in league history.

Excitement continued to build around the 49ers throughout the offseason. Media outlets around the country shared their own angle as to how San Francisco captured lightning in a bottle and reignited the



slumbering army of 49ers Faithful. But it was Garoppolo's in-the-heat-of-battle decisiveness that sold some 49ers players on their quarterback.

"It's a great example of him being a leader and taking control," Mitchell said. "I think at that moment, you knew he was the right guy to lead this team into the future."

While some had already bought into the Jimmy G craze, many naysayers expected the Jaguars to swiftly and definitively terminate the bandwagon's late-season joy ride. Jacksonville strutted into Levi's® Stadium fresh off of a 45-7 pounding of the Houston Texans. Even the rosiest of 49ers fans never expected their team to hang 40 points on the Jags.

Joe Staley said he learned something about Garoppolo during that Christmas Eve contest. Staley, who was another initial skeptic of Garoppolo's play call, shared his admiration for how the quarterback took the reins in the situation.

"I'm much more analytical," Staley said. "I like to be in the right play. But sometimes in football, you've just got to say 'screw it' and make the play happen."

Garoppolo quite literally did just that. His thoughts on the play are best summarized as all's well that ends well.

"Thankfully we got in," Garoppolo joked. "If not this would be a completely different feeling telling this story."

It's a fun anecdote to reflect on. Now the task at hand is to recreate last season's magic. The secret is out, though, and Garoppolo won't be sneaking up on anybody in 2018. The pressure that comes with hope and expectation isn't likely to faze the quarterback. He'll have a prime opportunity to showcase his mettle in Week 1 on the road against the Minnesota Vikings, one of this year's Super Bowl favorites.



## Up close with Jimmy Garoppolo: Just one of the guys while being ‘the guy’

By Matt Barrows  
The Athletic  
September 5, 2018

Jimmy Garoppolo is a White Sox fan. This tells you a lot.

In the Arlington Heights, Illinois, neighborhood where he and his three brothers grew up, the Cubs are king.

“It’s split probably 80-20 Cubs to Sox,” he estimates.

They are the trendy team throughout most of Chicagoland, the team of white-collar workers, rich kids from Lake County, people who can afford to leave work and watch a game in the middle of the day. Vince Vaughn loves the Cubs. So do John Cusack, Bette Midler, Bill Murray and, well, it’s a long list. The Cubs have a lot of celebrity fans.

The White Sox, meanwhile, are Chicago’s other team, the team of hard hats and regular Joes. Their celebrity fan: George Wendt, who played a character on “Cheers” who rarely left his stool at a sports bar.

They also are the perfect fit for Garoppolo.

He may look like he should be starring as a handsome young doctor on “All My Children” or modeling merino wool cardigans in a Banana Republic catalog. Or even leading an adoring crowd through “Take Me Out to the Ball Game” at Wrigley Field.

But that’s merely a trick of the eye. That’s not him at all.

Instead, Garoppolo is the son of an Italian-American electrician, someone who’s faithful to his working-class roots, whose housemates and buddies always have been defensive players and who, despite his pretty-boy looks and his quarterback status, doesn’t carry an ounce of conceit.

“Having three brothers, especially two older ones, you start putting yourself on a pedestal, they’re going to take you down real quick,” Garoppolo said.

That authenticity was quickly embraced when he arrived with the 49ers midway through the 2017 and his cool confidence helped rally the team to five straight wins at season’s end.

Nine months later, he’s suddenly the face of the franchise, someone fans and club executives alike believe can lift the region’s most beloved team back to the great heights from which it’s fallen. The front entrance to Levi’s Stadium is dominated by a pair of huge banners. Joe Montana is on the left, Garoppolo on the right. The slogan: “Faithful Then, Faithful Now.”

No, the expectations aren’t subtle. In fact, they’re 50-feet tall.

Garoppolo, quiet as a kid, never considered himself for that role. In fact he didn’t even see himself as a quarterback.

When he was a teenager, he wanted to be like Mike, his next-oldest brother.

“Mike was a linebacker,” he told The Athletic in a sit-down interview last week. “And I was built similarly to



him — a little skinnier — and I thought, ‘You know what, that’s the path I want to take.’ He got a scholarship to Western Illinois and I kind of saw my path going similarly to that.”

Jimmy’s coaches knew that, of all the Garoppolo boys, he was the best athlete of the bunch. He was the pitcher in baseball, the defensive stopper in basketball — it didn’t matter if it was the opposition’s center or shooting guard, Jimmy would shut him down — and was capable of playing any position on the football field.

On the first day of youth football, when Jimmy was 12, his coach stood before his new crop of players and asked if any was interested in being the quarterback. One hand eventually, tentatively was raised. It belonged to Jimmy’s best friend, Dan Lowry, who lived a couple of blocks from the Garoppolos.

Jimmy says he might have become a quarterback sooner but didn’t want to usurp the position from his buddy. Lowry laughs and says he has a slightly different recollection.

“I probably would have been OK with him taking it,” Lowry said. “I just remember the coach saying, ‘Hey, has anyone played quarterback before?’ And nobody really raised their hand. ‘Well, does anyone want to give it a try?’ And I was, ‘Well, I’ll give it a shot.’”

So Lowry was the quarterback in middle school. Jimmy played defensive end and halfback, albeit one with a powerful right arm. They began each game the same way, with Lowry pitching the ball back to Jimmy, who then would send it 40 yards downfield.

“I’d literally throw the ball as far as I could and the receiver would run a post,” Garoppolo said. “It worked every time.”

Said Lowry: “I think he actually had more touchdown passes than I did.”

When they started at Rolling Meadows High two years later, there was a thought that Jimmy would play quarterback for the freshman team. But the plan was put on hold when he broke his finger in the opening game. On a sack? On a quarterback keeper? After his hand struck a helmet on a follow-through?

“Tackling, actually,” Garoppolo said. “I was still playing linebacker, too. Not the safest thing in the world.”

Both Garoppolo and Lowry were promoted to varsity as sophomores. Rolling Meadows had a three-year starter at quarterback that year, so Garoppolo played outside linebacker. It wasn’t until the following year — Garoppolo’s junior season — that he finally made the switch.

During 7-on-7 sessions that summer, a man named Jeff Christensen introduced himself as a quarterbacks coach and gave Garoppolo his card. Garoppolo took it, said thank you, but was puzzled. That guy’s a what?

“I’d never even heard of quarterback coaches,” he said. “I didn’t really know who the guy was or anything. I was immature. I didn’t know any better.”

Garoppolo’s dad, Tony Sr., convinced his son to give Christensen, who had played at Eastern Illinois and spent four years in the NFL, a try. Christensen started showing Jimmy clips of NFL quarterbacks with perfect form — Tom Brady was a regular on the playlist — and they began chipping away at Garoppolo’s elongated pitcher’s motion, eventually replacing it with the clipped, ball’s-out-in-a-snap delivery for which he is known today.



Because he'd never been a quarterback, Garoppolo was a blank slate for Christensen to mold. The protégé embraced the toil and by the end of his senior season was one of the best prep quarterbacks in the Chicago area.

Hard work was natural for Garoppolo. Other changes were not.

He loved lifting weights, for example, and wanted to get as bulky as his brother, Mike, who is built like a refrigerator. Quarterbacks, however, weren't allowed to lift like linebackers. They also weren't allowed to hit. His new position, Garoppolo learned, required a new, measured temperament.

"That was one of the weirdest things when I first became a quarterback," he said. "It's different because you don't hit anybody. You just take hits. Whereas on defense, you can hit or be hit. And quarterback's really the only position where you're like that. I don't know, that was a weird thing for me to accept at first, I guess."

Another adjustment came after he realized just how much a quarterback's success rests on what he does before he even walks on the field.

He remembers watching Brady come to the sideline during games in 2014, Garoppolo's rookie season, and being astounded as the veteran, who was in his 15th season at the time, and offensive coordinator Josh McDaniels flipped through photos of formations as if they were shuffling a deck of cards. Brady's memory and recall were legendary, and Brady and McDaniels would chatter away on the sideline in what seemed like a foreign language.

"He would come to the sideline and before he even looks at the pictures, he'd say, 'That last third down was Cover 1,' or something like that," Garoppolo said. "And I can remember as a rookie thinking, 'How the hell does he know that?'"

Garoppolo watched and mimicked Brady in how he prepared and how he managed his time. He realized that being an NFL quarterback meant becoming so familiar with your own system and players that when you drop back you're only looking at what the defense is doing. Knowing where your players are should be automatic.

Which is what made the recent offseason so challenging. He went from being fluent in one offense to having to learn an entirely different one. And not just that. The one-time linebacker needed to climb inside the head of Kyle Shanahan, perhaps the sharpest offensive mind in the game.

"One of the biggest things this offseason was trying to think the way he thinks, especially when it comes to play-calling and how he views the situation compared to how I was taught in New England," Garoppolo said. "There's different ways to look at any situation. We've gotten on the same page more and more and it's starting to show now."

Shanahan wasn't always happy with the progress, or at least feigned displeasure in order to push the quarterback harder. After Garoppolo went 10 for 12 in a preseason game in Houston, Shanahan said he had to resist sending his \$137.5 million quarterback onto the field for another series because he didn't like the way he had gone through his progressions.

"Sometimes, he doesn't go through them right and he still makes some plays," Shanahan said. "We're hard on him about that stuff."

Other things have come much more easily.



Shanahan and general manager John Lynch said one of the telltales they looked for after trading for Garoppolo last year was how he meshed inside the team's locker room. If there was no fit, there would be no deal. Shanahan would look hard at signing Kirk Cousins, who was heading for free agency at the time and who happens to be Garoppolo's Week 1 counterpart.

Instead, the chemistry was nearly instantaneous and better than they could have hoped.

Garoppolo, after all, is the son of a man who played defensive tackle in high school. His oldest brother, Tony Jr., was a guard, Mike was a linebacker and Billy, the youngest, played cornerback.

The rank and file of the 49ers locker room — those are Garoppolo's people.

"I think being one of the guys while still being 'the guy' is a big part of being a successful quarterback," Garoppolo said.

During training camp, he played video games with tight end George Kittle and backup lineman JP Flynn to let off steam. He and safety Adrian Colbert have a two-locker combination in the middle of the locker room that has become a popular spot during down times in the day.

"He's friends with everybody," Colbert said. "(Safety Jaquiski) Tarrt comes over here all the time. Spoon (cornerback Ahkello Witherspoon) comes over here all the time. He talks to everybody. And that's what you want in a leader, somebody who will have the same connections with his O-line as he has with the DBs."

Lynch and Shanahan also are undoubtedly pleased not to have seen much of Garoppolo away from the team facility. He turned down magazine shoots, award shows, nearly every endorsement opportunity — he will wear Jordan Brand cleats this year, he disclosed — as well as sit-downs with most national writers.

He's not philosophically opposed to that sort of publicity. He just hasn't had time in his first year as a starting quarterback.

He also hasn't been spending much of his newfound wealth. He did buy a house in the South Bay, which included his favorite purchase so far.

"I have a pool at my house," he said. "I was really happy about that one, really excited."

How many months can you use a pool in Chicago?

"Three for real," he said. "If it's four or five, you're pushing it a little bit."

And of course, he's still rooting for the Sox, which has been difficult of late considering they are more than 20 games back in the AL Central and especially since the Cubs finally won a World Series two years ago.

"At least we won in '05," he noted. "Up until that point, it was tough."



## As backups to greats, Steve Young, Jimmy Garoppolo looked before leaping

By Eric Branch  
San Francisco Chronicle  
September 3, 2018

You can learn a lot by watching.

Just ask Steve Young.

And Jimmy Garoppolo.

Young, the 49ers' Hall of Fame quarterback, and Garoppolo, the 49ers' current quarterback, are the lone members of a fraternity: QBs who spent more than three seasons earning a Ph.D. in what it takes to be great while backing up the QBs widely regarded as the best in NFL history.

Young's education was almost all observational. That is, Joe Montana was not his mentor. And Garoppolo gets it because he lived it: Tom Brady wasn't helping Garoppolo work on his footwork.

"Yeah, they're not coaching you," Garoppolo said when told of Young's dynamic with Montana. "That's how it is. Especially at the quarterback position because there's only one of you. And I never wanted to be a bother to Tom, especially when I was really young. I don't want to be that guy asking a million questions. Without being annoying, you observe as much as you can."

Garoppolo evidently watched well. He went from caddying for Brady to carrying the 49ers last year, leading a 1-10 team to a 5-0 finish after he was acquired via trade in October.

How did a novice with two career starts look so Brady-esque down the stretch?

Young, who was the NFL's MVP in 1992, his second season after serving his four-season apprenticeship, says seeing had something to do with what Garoppolo achieved.

"Seeing it empowers you because now you know," Young said. "You can't lie to yourself, 'Oh, it's going pretty well.' No, it's not. You know how well it has to go. I can't tell you the empowerment of seeing what greatness looks like."

The similarities between Young and Garoppolo go beyond being caddies to the QBs who have won nine Super Bowls between them.

They also played for two of the best head coaches in NFL history, Bill Walsh and Bill Belichick, and their teams won two Super Bowls as they stood on the sideline: Young made 10 starts from 1987 through '90, and Garoppolo made two starts in 3½ seasons before he was traded.

There is an obvious difference: Unlike Young, who had the burden of replacing Montana in the Bay Area, Garoppolo is roughly 3,100 miles removed from Brady's shadow.

That doesn't mean Garoppolo isn't facing gigantic expectations entering the regular-season opener at Minnesota on Sunday.

He's 7-0 as a starter, making him one of seven QBs since 1970 to win his first seven starts. And his 2,038 passing yards in his first seven starts ranks fourth over the past 49 seasons.

He now has to live up to a \$137.5 million contract and a standard of perfection that's impossible to sustain. Again, Young points to Garoppolo's NFL upbringing to explain why he shouldn't be overwhelmed.



“Now the expectations are huge, and that’s good,” Young said. “He knows how good you have to be. He’s watched it — so that’s nice. It’s not going to be, ‘Oh, Jimmy, the expectations are too high.’ He’s like ‘No, I know how good you have to be. You can expect me to do whatever you want, but I know how good I have to be. I’ve witnessed it.’”

Head coach Kyle Shanahan was a ball boy when his dad, Mike, was the 49ers’ offensive coordinator (1992-94). Shanahan knows Montana wasn’t tutoring Young, and he notes that’s hardly uncommon in starter-and-backup relationships among QBs. But he doesn’t dismiss a reason for why Garoppolo looked unflappable last year despite having a supporting cast and knowledge of the playbook that were extremely limited.

“Tom Brady did not teach Jimmy how to play football at all,” Shanahan said. “But you learn so much by watching. I’m sure Steve is the same way, just watching the pressure that was on Joe: how he handled it every day, the expectations, the standard of not to just be good, but if you don’t win a Super Bowl, that’s considered a failure. For guys like (Young and Garoppolo), I think you know the expectations where they would shell-shock other people.”

Of course, Garoppolo has had plenty to do with his own early career success.

He’s a second-round pick out of Eastern Illinois who won the Walton Payton Award, given to the best offensive player in the Football Championship Subdivision (formerly Division I-AA). Last year, his first throw in his first practice with the 49ers created a memory for Shanahan and general manager John Lynch, who were wowed by the way the ball came out of his hand.

Like Young, an All-American at BYU who entered pro football with the USFL after signing a then-record \$40 million contract, Garoppolo doesn’t lack natural talent.

But he acknowledges he entered the NFL deficient in other areas.

In college, his video study didn’t go much beyond examining the coverages the upcoming opponent employed. In the NFL, he marveled at Brady’s mastery of the minutiae, from how a free safety with an injured left ankle could be exposed, to his encyclopedic knowledge of the upcoming cornerbacks.

“The amount of time you put into it is so important, and one thing that really stuck out to me was Tom’s film study,” Garoppolo said. “He would know the opponent inside and out in the first couple of days of preparation. Whereas in college, you’re watching throughout the whole week and you think you’re watching, as opposed to what I’m doing now.

“I look back at college and it’s like — what the hell was I thinking? I could have done so much better. It’s one of those things you don’t really learn until you see someone do it.”

Said Young: “More than anything, there’s a standard of preparation, of anticipatory throwing in game situations, of mastering the data and seeing it live and in person. It’s semantical, right? You didn’t learn from Tom, but you learned everything from watching Tom.”

Last year, Garoppolo won his first start 33 days after he was traded. During that month, he learned part of an offense that had no correlation to what he knew in New England. For example, Garoppolo says the term “rub” has opposite meanings in each offense.

Garoppolo learned enough to flourish, and Shanahan learned during that crash course that his new QB could match his intensity when it came to studying X’s and O’s.



"I think that's how Tom is, and I think that's how Belichick is: They are hard on everything," Shanahan said. "They hold everyone accountable week in and week out, and that's why it's exhausting for a lot of people. I think I'm very similar to that. So I think it's neat that Jimmy can handle the urgency and demand that I have. And I think that's from being in an organization like that."

Garoppolo can be excused for exhaustion when it comes to his relationship with Brady and his past with the Patriots. In fact, he goodnaturedly feigned surprise when the topic of this story was broached.

When asked if he thinks the credit Brady receives for his development diminishes what he has accomplished, Garoppolo apologized for the cliché, while noting he took it upon himself to prepare each week as if he was the starter.

It's something he did well: Niners linebacker Cassius Marsh, who spent part of last season with Garoppolo in New England, says Garoppolo had reached a point where he resembled Brady's equal.

"He would shred our defense every day," Marsh said. "He'd shred the first team every day, and it looked no different than when Tom was on the field. He's a much better athlete than Tom; he's super disciplined and works hard."

Garoppolo hadn't reached a point where he became satisfied with his progress. He says his desire to replace the Patriots' QB was crucial to his development.

"I would never say I got comfortable in New England, especially having Tom in front of me — I was always chasing to be the starter," Garoppolo said. "I think it benefited me, having that mind-set."

Young understands. His competition with Montana elevated him, and his observation of Montana allowed him to understand what greatness required.

Will Garoppolo be great? Young envisions a bright future based on what Garoppolo has seen.

"Witnessing sucks," Young said, "but it's totally empowering."



## A perfect match? Jimmy Garoppolo and the Bay Area's instant embrace

By Nick Wagoner  
ESPN.com  
September 5, 2018

It took all of about one minute and seven seconds last season for a large number of Bay Area fans to embrace San Francisco 49ers quarterback Jimmy Garoppolo.

That's how long it took for Garoppolo to enter the game against the Seattle Seahawks, run for 4 yards, complete a pass for 8 and then evade pressure to throw his first touchdown as a 49er, a 10-yard strike to Louis Murphy.

Now, he's got a snow leopard named after him.

That three-play sequence on Nov. 26, 2017 capped an 11-point defeat. That part, the Niners' 10th loss of the season anyway, is mostly inconsequential. But Garoppolo's quick cameo immediately gave Niners fans something they desperately craved: Hope. Hope that the 49ers were on the path back to respectability and that Garoppolo would be the guy to end the team's nearly two-decade search for another franchise quarterback.

In the ensuing months, the Bay Area's love for Garoppolo has been readily apparent despite Garoppolo's attempts to maintain a low profile. And now that Garoppolo has had time to do something other than bury his head in a 49ers playbook, he's taking advantage of the chance to return the love to his new home.

"It's exciting," Garoppolo said. "... (I'm) really getting to know certain areas of the Bay a lot better. It's cool. I never got to do that last year. I was pretty much (at the facility) 24 hours a day. It's nice to get out and experience some of it."

After replacing C.J. Beathard as the starter in December, Garoppolo led the Niners to five straight wins to close last season. That was enough for the Niners to show Garoppolo how much they care about him, in the form of a five-year, \$137.5 million contract in February.

The Bay Area's instant love for Garoppolo can be seen and experienced in myriad ways, big and small, from San Francisco to San Jose and points in between. It's also grown exponentially, considering all that's happened since he took his first snap with the team.

To wit, within Garoppolo's first month as the starter, La Rocca's Corner Bar in the North Beach neighborhood of San Francisco began advertising that Garoppolo would be at their bar looking for a date, a clever effort to capitalize on both Garoppolo's burgeoning popularity and his movie star good looks.

In April, the San Francisco Zoo took things a step further, naming one of its resident snow leopards after the 49ers quarterback. "Jimmy G" the snow leopard followed in the footsteps of a hippopotamus named for former Giants pitcher Brian Wilson in 2011, a rhinoceros named for former 49ers guard Alex Boone in 2013 and a pair of Bongo calves named for the Giants' Madison Bumgarner and Hunter Pence in 2014.

Those other players all had spent at least a couple of seasons with their Bay Area teams before an animal was named after them, but Garoppolo has perhaps the most fitting animal namesake. After all, the snow leopard is known for its rarity, having first been photographed in the wild in 1971. One could argue a franchise quarterback has been equally elusive for the 49ers.



Garoppolo's popularity has extended to some of the Bay Area's other pro teams. After 49ers coach Kyle Shanahan opened the locker room doors for the San Jose Sharks at a playoff game, Garoppolo said he hoped to get to a game, too. The Sharks wasted little time reaching out to make it happen with defenseman Brent Burns taking to Twitter to invite Garoppolo to a game with the added bonus of a promise of providing Garoppolo with oil for his growing beard.

With left tackle Joe Staley and former Niners lineman Zane Beadles in tow, Garoppolo was the honorary door opener for Game 3 of the Western Conference Finals against the Las Vegas Golden Knights. He even showed up on the scoreboard to fire up the playoff crowd.

"It's weird," Staley said of constant attention Garoppolo draws. "It honestly is. It's like 'Gosh, I don't even want to hang out with you.' Because (all the cameras) are everywhere. Everybody is watching him but he's a good dude."

Garoppolo's offseason adventures even have other celebrities getting in on the clamor. On May 12, Niners tight end George Kittle had a connection for tickets to a Bellator mixed martial arts event in San Jose and brought Garoppolo, receiver Trent Taylor and Shanahan and his son.

At the event, Garoppolo, Kittle and Shanahan found themselves sitting near 50 Cent and eventually posed for a photo with him, a photo the rapper later sent out to his more than 10 million Twitter followers.

Even movie star Jeremy Renner, a diehard Niners fan, couldn't help but jump on board. At the NBA Finals, Renner told the San Jose Mercury News he hadn't yet met Garoppolo but was looking forward to it.

"Finally we got someone," Renner said. "Finally!"

Of course, with Garoppolo's escalating fame comes an increasing amount of attention when he goes out. Asked during the team's offseason program if he'd spent much time out with Garoppolo, center Weston Richburg joked that he wasn't "high profile" enough to hang out with his quarterback. And with Garoppolo's every move being documented by cameras, a night out can turn into an appearance on TMZ, as it did outside a bar in San Jose following the Bellator event.

While Garoppolo is enjoying settling into his new home, he's also made it clear that he isn't too big on going out and creating a scene. Garoppolo is just as content to spend a night playing the popular video game Fortnite or to watch NBA games somewhere with his teammates.

But still ...

"It's wild," Kittle said. "He likes to have a fun time but he's super professional and he understands that. So we are also really good in that we usually go out in a big group and we are all about protecting the team. It's just weird because I have never really experienced that before. You look around the corner and there's a guy with his camera out and you're like 'Oh yeah, Jimmy is over there.'"



## Jimmy Garoppolo is Superman in Disguise

By Joon Lee  
Bleacher Report  
July 24, 2018

Ten hours after Bill Belichick called to tell him he'd been traded to the Niners, Jimmy Garoppolo almost died. The Patriots had received a better offer from the Browns—multiple high-round draft picks—but Belichick believed San Francisco offered more possibilities for the young quarterback; he settled for a second-rounder. When a report surfaced that Tom Brady played a role in the exit of his own protégé, Garoppolo felt grateful that he didn't have to answer questions in public, high-tailing straight outta Boston.

"Parts of it were true, parts of it I knew weren't true, parts I didn't know if they were true or not," Garoppolo says now. "I appreciated that Coach Belichick put me in the best situation—you hear those horror stories about guys finding out from ... Twitter.

"It was a bye week, and he had planned on going home to Illinois for his 26th birthday. He was planning a post-Super Bowl trip with the guys. He was planning to soak in more as Brady's backup—sure, he'd only started those two games for the Pats during the Deflategate suspension, but deep down, he felt he was better than the greatest of all time, that he could one day beat out Brady for the starting job in New England. Hell, he'd even planned on moving to a new place at the Seaport District in Boston for the 2018-19 season, because Jimmy's a planner. "Everything went a little sideways on that plan, but it worked out," he tells Bleacher Report. "I planned every scenario that I could think of in my head." Jimmy plans and plans, then plans some more.

All of a sudden, it was 5:30 on Halloween morning, and Jimmy—the linebacker turned quarterback who used to wear K-Swiss sneakers into the ground and spit Weezy verses from Tha Carter III in his '91 Buick Century—was rushing to the airport to catch the Niners' private plane to the Bay. He was running on not enough sleep, a suitcase full of unfolded clothes and his iPhone blowing up in the backseat of a limousine merging onto I-95.

That's when the unexpected nightmare began. Another car exited the highway, skidded off the side of the ramp, turned straight toward Jimmy's door—straight toward the man who is now the third-highest-paid player in the National Football League.

Jimmy stared at the headlights outside his window. For a young man whose superpower is self-confidence, whose only insecurity is the temporary absence of perfection, Jimmy Garoppolo, once more, didn't know what could possibly happen next.

He is hard to miss, Jimmy is, with that Superman chisel and all, a comparison he's heard multiple times. "I thank my parents for the good looks," he says with a laugh, a denim jacket over his pink T-shirt, with fresh-out-the-box Tinker Hatfield Jordan 3s hovering across the parking lot this June evening. "It's the Italian tan, I guess." Garoppolo is one of those people who immediately make you conscious of what you're wearing, whether you have bags under your eyes or whether there's a stain on your shirt.

At the front door of Fleming's steakhouse here in Santa Clara, hopeful eyes dart toward him instantly. The mood of Niners fans has shifted dramatically in the eight months since the trade for their present and future QB. And as our waiter says after whisking Jimmy into a private back room, delivering a New York strip, medium-plus: "You know how they say a good quarterback makes everybody better? You literally proved that."

"I tried," Jimmy says with a laugh.



People take a glance up and down at Jimmy and see the ever-white smile, the comic-book jawline, the Italian tan and a photogeneity that makes even an unflattering fan selfie impossible to take. They watch a mic'd-up video of him leading the Niners on a game-winning drive and leave comments like this: "Tom Brady really birthed his son and alley-ooped him to the 49ers."

"Baby Brady," another commenter says.

"I've said that stuff since I was a little kid," Jimmy says. "Creepy when you put it all back to back like that. He rubbed off on me, I guess."

Because the Patriots prevented reporters from talking to Garoppolo's family and friends, the perception of the San Francisco 49ers star has been shaped by assumptions, infatuations and the scarce public information known about him. (His Wikipedia page does not have a "Personal Life" section, just stats and stats and dollar signs.) Fans and haters alike wonder out loud: Is Jimmy Garoppolo really that perfect? That humble? The second coming of Brady, on and off the field? Or is he more like Graduation-era Kanye: Dude, you really still trying to convince us you're some kind of underdog?

Spend the weekend with Jimmy Garoppolo, though, talk to Mom, Dad, the three brothers, the coaches, the GM, and then help him find a new house with that record-setting contract—five years at \$137.5 million with a signing bonus of \$7 million, a guaranteed roster bonus of \$28 million and a base salary of \$6.2 million just for this season alone—and you'll find that the monotonous march up Mount Perfection is more tumultuous than it looks, that things don't ever really go according to plan...especially when you're not just Tom Brady's mysterious backup on the Patriots anymore.

The first time Jimmy Garoppolo had the chance to play quarterback, he turned it down. Jimmy didn't start playing football until sixth grade, but he was already 6'2" by then, so he started off at tight end and linebacker. On offense, he soon became a running back. Jimmy liked the ball in his hands. Jimmy likes control.

His Pop Warner head coach, Bob Viti, frequently called a play usually saved for desperation time in Madden: the half-back pass, wherein the quarterback—who was Jimmy's best friend growing up, Dan Lowry—would hand off the ball to Jimmy, who would chuck it down the field. Coach Viti liked to call this play because it was always—always—a touchdown. It led Coach Viti to approach his star running back about a position change, to QB. But every time the coach asked, the answer from 11-year-old Jimmy was no.

"He never told me why," Viti says.

This is why: Jimmy had lived a few streets away from Dan Lowry his entire life—Jimmy's family has lived in the same house, on the same cul de sac, in the same suburb of Arlington Heights, Illinois, since before he was born—and simply did not want to take away his best friend's job. Yes, Jimmy was that humble. "I didn't know about quarterbacking," Jimmy says. "Nobody in my family had ever done it."

Jimmy grew up the third of four sons to Denise and Tony Sr., who left for work as an electrician before 6:30 in the morning to put enough food on the table to feed his boys but clocked out at 4:30 to make sure he could coach their sports teams.

"[Jimmy] really just flowed with the way everything went," Denise says. "So on vacations, he really never caused any kind of a problem. My other sons were more boisterous. Jimmy wasn't."

Those around him say he's always been that level-headed. But he was still a linebacker until 2008, his junior year at Rolling Meadows High, when he gave up track and baseball to play quarterback and point guard. Jeff Christensen, a former NFL QB and private coach, saw Jimmy's long release—the remnants of pitching in Little League—and began playing him tapes of other gunslingers. Naturally, 16-year-old Jimmy gravitated toward the quarterback who had just set all the passing records, who had just lost his first



Super Bowl in four attempts before turning 31, the QB who was the star on most of the game tape: Tom Freaking Brady.

“It wasn’t even like I was a Patriots fan,” Jimmy says, “but seeing him do that, it was flawless. I was like, ‘OK, that’s how I should throw.’”

By his senior year, Jimmy felt comfortable under center, finishing high school with 3,136 passing yards and 25 touchdowns in 19 games at quarterback. Christensen, recognizing his student’s potential, called up the offensive coordinator at Eastern Illinois. And even though there was barely enough data or game tape to put together a firm scouting report, EIU trusted Christensen and gave Jimmy a scholarship.

His routines had been sharpened. He almost exclusively ate chicken, spinach and rice for every dinner. He listened to YouTube motivational speeches at the gym. He memorized Tha Carter III by Lil Wayne, front to back, after he learned it was stuck in the CD player of his Buick. And he listed off workouts to his dad: lifting, stretching, throwing repetition drills. Tony Sr. would nod along, listening to his son’s low-key bravado.

“You think you worked hard?” Tony Sr. would ask. “I think I put in some good work,” Jimmy replied.

“There’s always someone working harder than you,” his father would tell 18-year-old Jimmy, then walk away.

The words still leave Jimmy shaking his head.

“He’d just sneak it in,” Jimmy says now. “I would just be like, ‘What the fuck, man?’”

Eastern Illinois wanted Jimmy Garoppolo to transfer. He’d expected to redshirt as a freshman in 2010, throwing out fake signals from the sideline with a headset not connected to anything at all. By the fourth game, he was starting. “Nobody told us there was an NFL quarterback sitting there,” the offensive coordinator, Sterlin Gilbert, says now.

As an assistant at Baylor, Dino Babers had watched Robert Griffin III win the Heisman, and he believed another mobile quarterback would fit the new offensive scheme he brought to EIU as head coach in 2012. But Babers wanted to watch Garoppolo throw a bit, getting a first glimpse at spring ball. It took five passes for the coach to be sure.

“This guy shouldn’t be here,” Babers said.

“That’s exactly what I’m saying,” a staffer told him at the EIU stadium, which seats 10,000.

“No, he shouldn’t be here, as in, he shouldn’t be at I-AA,” Babers said. “There’s a whole bunch of coaches who should be fired for missing this guy. He’s really, really good.”

Jimmy didn’t own a car in college, so he would walk 30 minutes from his place to the football facility and still be the first one there, hours before the rest of his teammates. The day after a game, Jimmy was at the facility by 7 a.m., breaking down tape. If there was a 6 a.m. workout, Jimmy would be there by 5:30, lifting weights. And he was still in routine by sundown, cooking up chicken on a George Foreman Grill—yes, with a side of spinach and rice. His teammates called him “Leaves.”

Jimmy had started keeping a small journal in his dorm room, jotting down the school’s passing records—single-season and career, held entirely by Eastern Illinois legends Tony Romo and Sean Payton—during freshman year. Two seasons later, as a junior, he’d already broken some.

“And, obviously, he got the girl attraction,” says John Wurm, an EIU linebacker and Jimmy’s current best friend. “It was ridiculous. Jim never led a girl on, though, or dated a girl.”



"I definitely got attention just by being next to him," says Jerone Williams, an EIU D-lineman known as Juice to his buddies.

"Pretty small school," says Niko Foltys, Jimmy's former roommate and teammate. "Word gets out."

"Jim's the most laid-back, cool dude you'll probably ever meet," says Pete Houlihan, an EIU cornerback and former roommate. "On the football field? Complete opposite."

"Historical schools ... put these guys on pedestals, and it was unfathomable to us that Jimmy could play with those guys," says Adam Gristick, another former roommate and now the linebackers coach at EIU. "Jimmy was the guy from day one."

Jimmy's squad—Wurm, Juice, Niko, Pete and Gristick—would keep him in check with nightly games of Super Smash Bros. on the Nintendo 64. (He played as Samus.) They would make fun of his white K-Swiss sneakers, a pair of which he bought before every year of college, and called him "Swagless Swiss." ("My freshman year, I bought some Vans and they asked me if I was a skater," Jimmy says. "I was just like, 'I don't know what I'm doing. Somebody help me.'")

For the 2014 NFL draft, Jimmy invited his roommates to New York City, registering all five of them as his brothers. The night before, the group came over to his hotel room, which featured a king-size bed, a wheel-in cot and a lumpy couch. Gristick, the 227-pound linebacker, sat down on the couch, only for Jimmy to give him a gentle nudge. "Hey, Gristick, you're in my bed," Jimmy said. "That's where I'm sleeping tonight." Yes, Jimmy had ceded the bed and the cot to his older brothers, and yes, Jimmy Garoppolo is still that kind of guy.

On Day 1 of the draft, Roger Goodell approached the Garoppolo table in the green room. Juice Williams, who is 6'7", black and clearly not Italian, looked up at the commissioner. "Eight brothers, huh?" Goodell said with a laugh. (The NFL disputes this.)

On Day 2, when Jimmy expected to be selected, he walked into the bathroom of Radio City Music Hall and felt a tap on his shoulder. It was former Patriots Pro Bowl linebacker Willie McGinest, who was there to announce the team's pick.

Garoppolo, right?" McGinest asked.

Yes, nice to meet you," Garoppolo said.

"I've got a feeling I'm about to call your name here in a bit," McGinest said, 40 minutes before the Pats' second-round pick.

"I thought he was BS'ing with me, being a nice guy," Jimmy says now.

Three picks before New England went on the clock, Jimmy received a call on his iPhone—location: Massachusetts. "Oh, it's the Patriots!" he thought. He took the call and Bill Belichick was on the line.

Everyone was making noises, and I couldn't hear half the things," Jimmy says. "It didn't matter what was being said. I made sure to say, 'Yes, sir. Yes, sir. Yes, sir.'"

The first time Jimmy Garoppolo met Tom Brady was during a predraft visit. They shook hands, exchanged pleasantries, then disappeared into other meetings. Over the next three-and-a-half seasons in Foxborough, he mostly tried to stay out of the GOAT's way. "I was going to watch and literally absorb everything I could from him without being an annoyance," he says. "I didn't want to ask a ton of questions. I didn't want to ruffle any feathers. You have to play the politics a little bit."

As Jimmy's oldest brother, Tony Jr., says: "You gotta look up the ladder and see who's done it well, and I think he just tried to duplicate as much as he could at what Tom did, and that's not going out too late on the weekend and getting in trouble."



Brady and his backup did, however, develop a competitive relationship. After practice, the two quarterbacks would often play the bucket game, which requires landing a football into a trash can in the back corner of the end zone. “There would be days where one of us would win and you wouldn’t talk to the other for a little while,” Jimmy says. “We’d be fine the next day, but it was one of the best things for me. We would push each other and we got two Super Bowls out of it.”

Jimmy spent most days at Gillette Stadium and did not keep any food in his home. During the offseason, Brady would call once a week to check in on his progress, ask him how he’d been working to get better. In the three full seasons with Jimmy backing him up, Brady produced arguably the best stretch of his career, completing 65.1 percent of passes, throwing for 97 touchdowns against 18 interceptions and posting a QB rating of 103.1...all at ages 37 to 39. (Through the Patriots and the agent he shares with Garoppolo, Brady declined to comment for this story.)

The competitiveness between the two of us was very similar. If I’m playing my best friend in one-on-one basketball, if we are both into it, by the end, we are going to hate each other,” Jimmy says. “That’s how it is. All the good competitors have that. We got along, but there were always times where we wanted to kill each other. It was a healthy, competitive relationship.”

While Jimmy certainly learned a lot on the field, he received the most advice from Brady off it. He has not adopted Brady’s notoriously stringent diet (“Let me tell you, avocado ice cream is not bad,” Jimmy admits), but he picked up tricks of a modern celebrity life, from the finances to the locker room and, of course, the women. “I can’t tell you that,” Jimmy says with a wide smile, when pressed about veteran dating tips from the husband of one of the world’s most famous supermodels. “That’s top-secret stuff.”

And in New England, you try to not piss off the other GOAT, either. Belichick was a supporter, to be sure, but he and Garoppolo kept it strictly professional. “There was no BS’ing around,” Jimmy says. “I related to him in that way, as crazy as it sounds. He’s different than he is with the media. He has dry humor—he would say some stuff that was borderline mean. He would put up a lowlight clip every once in a while, and it was always your worst throws from practice. He would put it up there, and you already knew what was about to happen. Any position, there are so many people on the outside hyping you up and saying good things, that everyone needs to be brought back down.” (Belichick also declined to comment for this story.)

Jimmy knew he could be a starting quarterback in the NFL, and by the end of his first season, he was itching for that opportunity. Sometimes, Jimmy would joke with his buddy Wurm, a Browns fan, that he’d become the signal-caller in Cleveland. “Maybe I’ll be in Ohio in no time,” Jimmy would tell his best friend. Part of him hoped that the chance would come in New England. His confident side thought he could—maybe one day—beat out Brady on the depth chart. It was, after all, the one best-laid plan he could control: Only Jimmy Garoppolo was going to steal Tom Brady’s job.

“I’ve always had that mindset,” Jimmy says. “I knew that [Brady] was better than me in my first day in the NFL. Naturally, you’re the rookie and he’s the veteran, but you have to have that mindset, that you want to be the starter.”

“Even when I was a little kid, my brothers, whenever we would play, I would literally always think I was going to win. I wouldn’t, but I would always think that. It’s like when I go to New England, when I first got there, I thought in my head, ‘I’m better than this dude.’”

“But in your head, you believe you’re better than Tom Brady?” I ask.

“It was always a quiet confidence,” Jimmy says. “I would never speak that.”

I ask again: “But you believed that you were the best dude there?”

“Yeah, you believe in yourself,” Jimmy says. “That’s the best way to put it.”



I check his confidence one more time: “So you’re going up to Tom Brady and saying, ‘I’m better than you’?”

“I’m not stupid. You have to pick your battles, but I had belief in myself that I could do certain things, and it’s always worked out pretty well. It will always be in me, that drive that comes from my dad telling me that someone is always working harder, that I’m always in last place and I need to catch up to someone else.”

Last offseason, San Francisco’s flashy new GM and head coach, John Lynch and Kyle Shanahan, had looked at every scenario to acquire a franchise quarterback. Colin Kaepernick was not going to come back, that much was decided. For Shanahan, none of the attention on the Niners’ protesting quarterback would affect his next decision.

“I did not think about any of the [Kaepernick] stuff,” Shanahan tells B/R. “You’re going to go through a lot of tough times regardless of how good you are. I want someone who can execute the system, has the skill set to manage a win, and I don’t really put anything else into that.”

Shanahan brought with him a dynamic offense, and in clip after clip of QBs who could shine in his complex playbook, Jimmy’s quick release and quicker decisions kept popping up. So Lynch asked about Brady and Jimmy before last season, but Belichick rebuffed on both. Shanahan had expected to wait a year and go hard after Kirk Cousins this offseason and contemplated spending a first- or second-round pick in the quarterback-heavy 2018 draft if all else fell through. But when Belichick came to him at the trade deadline in October, asking if he wanted Garoppolo for a second-round pick, the team jumped at the opportunity.

Even after the trade, however, Lynch and Shanahan emphasized a very specific—and surprising—point to the Niners brass: Just because the franchise had given up a second-rounder for Jimmy...didn’t mean he was immediately the franchise QB.

A lot of people would say if you’re going to trade a second-round pick, you’ve gotta be committed to this being your guy,” Lynch says. “This was not the way we wanted to talk about it. We had an opportunity to possibly have our guy, but we wanted him to come in. That was worth the risk.”

Shanahan adds: “It would be irresponsible to get someone like that and then commit to him long-term without seeing more of him, especially when you’re in the position we thought we were going to be in, with free agency and Kirk becoming available and the draft.”

Lynch quickly became convinced the Niners had found their man, but it took Shanahan three Garoppolo wins, including a 381-yard, one-touchdown, 72.1-completion-percentage performance against Tennessee, to be finally sold. By the end of the season, five wins, a 67.4 completion percentage and a 96.2 passer rating later, there was not even a decision to be made. Everyone wanted Clark Kent in California for a long time to come.

“I didn’t want to play around with the franchise tag because it’s just a distraction that you don’t need,” Jimmy says. “There are so many things that go into it outside of football. Now that we have this set in stone for years, it’s done, and there’s nothing to worry about.”

The pressure is certainly on now, especially with Jimmy’s newly minted bank account balance. “His first interception last year, he didn’t know the system and had every excuse in the world,” Shanahan says. “But when you get paid like that, you don’t know how people are going to react, and the first interception is going to be different.”

Lynch, who played in New England for his final season, has noticed the Brady influence. “That mindset, that you’re not going to just sit back and learn from Tom and say, ‘I’m going to beat out Tom,’ that works both ways,” Lynch says. “Having a guy as talented as Jimmy around—Tom is Tom Brady, and I don’t



know if he ever thought about it, but it probably made [Brady] better. That's what the great ones do. Every little thing, they draw from it, and I can see that with Jimmy."

Shanahan now has exactly what he wanted out of a franchise star: someone who isn't going to wait around for an opportunity—someone who's going to go out and get what he wants.

"I know New England wanted to keep him there and keep him on ice before Tom eventually retired ... but what was exciting for me was that New England knew he wasn't going to re-sign there," Shanahan says. "He wanted to start and he wanted to play. He forced their hand. ... It would've been cool to play for Belichick and do that stuff and be in that system once Brady retires, but he didn't want to wait. That's the guy you want."

Two years ago, Jimmy and his squad from Eastern Illinois reunited in Vegas, as college buddies do, just another pack of sentimental bros waiting in line at the club. The trip gave them an opportunity to remember back after wins on game days, when EIU fans would come over to their place to party, like that time a cowboy riding a horse ended up on their front lawn.

This past March, the roommates returned for another guys trip, and this time, fans were waiting in line to get a photo with Jimmy. He opted out, because one photo turns into hundreds, and the line never stops. The former roommates hit up 1 OAK, where Lil Uzi Vert was scheduled to perform. When Uzi finally hit the stage, he performed one song before coming over to the EIU squad's table, finishing the rest of his set with the spotlight squarely on the quarterback."

That was probably the one big moment for me," says Wurm. "I realized, 'Wow, Jimmy really is the biggest celebrity in here.'"

In college, Jimmy and Wurm watched *Entourage* together—every season, three or four times—and Jimmy never really related to Vincent Chase, the show's movie-star protagonist. But now he's got talk-show hosts screaming about him in the morning, cornerbacks talking shit about him in the afternoon and the paparazzi following him around at night. Brady and Gisele Bündchen once organized a double date with Garoppolo and a model friend of theirs, but the relationship did not work out. "It's crazy to think about it, not expecting to be in Vinny's situation, but it's slowly turning into that," Jimmy says. Five weeks later, the paparazzi will catch Jimmy on a date with an adult film star, not unlike his *Entourage* counterpart.

In May, TMZ had posted a video of Jimmy outside a San Jose bar with a young woman. It's the type of attention he's still getting used to, even if he makes his friends read the thirsty Instagram comments. "You're not even sure if it's a real person," Jimmy says. "You just pretend they aren't. ... The comments are the weirdest part. The DMs are even crazier." When TMZ claimed he had a girlfriend two months before, friends congratulated Jimmy on the relationship. "It was news to me," he says.

Oh, Jimmy Garoppolo did not die, by the way. As the swerving car crossed the median of the Massachusetts interstate and kept barreling toward him on the morning after the trade, Jimmy's limo driver bailed into a ditch. "Could you imagine that story," the driver said to Jimmy, "if we got hit leaving here?"

"Holy shit, what just happened?" Jimmy asked.

What does someone do right after he almost dies, 10 hours after being traded out of Tom Brady's shadow? If you're as ambitious as this guy, you put on your noise-canceling Bose headphones, turn up the country music and study your new team's playbook, right there on your iPhone. "I had texts going off every second, but I couldn't respond," Jimmy says. "It was my chance."

Now, with a signing bonus to spend, he's deciding between a Tesla or a Maserati and looking to rent a new place. He doesn't have enough time or experience with the area to buy a home just yet, because he doesn't do a whole lot with his time other than play football. He likes to golf, but he's more engrossed by locker room matches of *Fortnite*. He's figuring out what to do with all the endorsement offers, as both Nike



and Adidas try to sign him as a face for their football brands. He used to be the quiet one who passed on the quarterback job. Now, when one of the richest guys in the NFL returns to his childhood home in Arlington Heights, his unwavering, deep tenor voice shakes the walls like an audible call aiming for the back corner of the end zone.

So when Jimmy goes pad-hunting in San Jose with his family on a Saturday afternoon in June, his dad asks the real estate agent about the vibe of the gated community.

“It’s very quiet here,” says Jimmy’s brother Mike.

“Seems like it,” Jimmy says.

“Once someone finds out you’re here, it’s gonna change,” says the real estate agent.

He’s pretty famous, Jimmy is, with the NFL’s second-highest-selling jersey this offseason and, for a hot minute, its biggest contract ever. He’s not just talented and charming, you know. Technically, he’s still undefeated as a starter. “Don’t jinx me,” Jimmy says.

Some gray hairs have started coming in on the sides of his head, though. Turns out, perfection doesn’t last forever. So what else could Jimmy Garoppolo want? Well, exactly what you’d expect if Superman were the quarterback of your favorite team.

Super Bowls. That’s every football guy’s dream. That’s why we play the game. We’re just trying to do it one day at a time.” Sure enough, Jimmy pauses and laughs before looking dead ahead. “I know it sounds super Patriots cliché, but it really is true—like what the hell? Try to get better every day.”



## **“A Bit of Brady”: How Jimmy Garoppolo Copied the G.O.A.T. – Then Escaped His Shadow**

By Jenny Vrentas  
The MMQB  
July 24, 2018

Jimmy Garoppolo is standing at the 40-yard line, play sheet in hand. It's June, mid-minicamp in Santa Clara, Calif., and the quarterback with the perfect record, swarthy good looks and \$137.5 million contract is serving after-practice detention.

The punishment is self-imposed; six false starts by the offense left him no choice. Garoppolo called over left tackle Joe Staley during the third team period and informed him they would all be staying late.

So thirty-some 49ers players surround the quarterback in the black No. 10 jersey, long after the defense has gone inside, tuning their ears to the Chicago accent piercing the late-afternoon breeze. Garoppolo announces a play, then the corresponding cadence, a code of numbers and colors that refers to either a specific command or, well, nothing at all. Tense in their stances, the guys are waiting to hear their QB bark the word that means “go.”

It's a pretty good approximation of what the rest of the Bay Area has been doing since the trade that shocked the NFL: hanging on every last thing Garoppolo does. Has there ever been so much hype surrounding a team coming off a 10-loss season? Has there ever been a veteran passer with seven starts to his name who's carried greater expectations?

Right now, Garoppolo is just trying to make sure every offensive player is used to his cadence—he hasn't even been here a full calendar year, after all. It's tedious work, running through infinite combos of the same words. But for these 20 minutes, Garoppolo gets to control the tempo.

Ever since he left his Foxboro apartment at 5 a.m. last Halloween and boarded a plane to northern California, Garoppolo has been living in a sort of time warp. He was transported, in just a few short months, from being Tom Brady's rarely used backup to being the highest-paid player in the NFL (for five weeks, at least). In this new world, a sloppy mid-summer practice is now a headline, and never mind the two banners that adorn one corner of Levi's Stadium. Printed on one, under a photo of Hall of Famer Joe Montana, are the words “FAITHFUL THEN.” On the other, under a photo of Garoppolo: “FAITHFUL NOW.” No pressure, Jimmy.

After spending most of his career under the radar, Garoppolo, 26, has tried to limit his time in the newfound spotlight. He's turned down multiple offers to pose for magazine covers, including from the outlet that inspired his Jimmy GQ nickname. (Like Brady, his idol and former teammate, Garoppolo has looks that created a buzz in some circles long before he ever made his first NFL start.) Through a 49ers spokesperson, he declined an interview request for this story, citing a desire to play more games and further prove himself on the field first. The biggest headlines he's made since agreeing to a five-year contract extension in February were when cameras found him while on a mid-summer date in Los Angeles with an adult film star.

“He doesn't have to be the star. Really, he doesn't,” says his mother, Denise Garoppolo. “It's just coming to him.”

As a middle-schooler in the Chicago suburbs, Garoppolo had no interest in playing QB, preferring to hit and be hit as a linebacker and running back. On the basketball court, his parents had to beg him to shoot; he was more interested in passing to his friends.

Two of Garoppolo's three brothers, Mike and Billy, are relocating with him to the Bay Area, to help him keep pace with his rapidly accelerating life. And his parents will fly in for every home game. Last fall, the



football world was taken by surprise when Garoppolo became the face of the 49ers. For the past five years, the family has been getting used to the thought of Garoppolo being the face of any franchise.

When Dino Babers ran into Tony and Denise Garoppolo in a hotel lobby on the eve of the 2013 season opener against San Diego State, it was just the second time the Eastern Illinois coach had spoken to the parents of his star senior quarterback. Tony, an electrician and second-generation Italian-American, and Denise, who worked at a natural foods store, assumed this could be their son's final year of organized football, and so they'd made a point of attending as many games as possible.

Babers was glad to bump into them, as he had a request: "Listen, agents are going to start contacting your son. I want you two to handle all this stuff so he can focus on the season."

Tony stopped him. "That's very nice, but you don't have to say those things—"

"Mr. Garoppolo!" Babers interrupted. "Your son is going to the NFL."

This wasn't false modesty; they simply didn't know. Within a few days' time, that would change. Eastern Illinois was a two-TD underdog at San Diego State, but Garoppolo led the Panthers to a 21-point victory, throwing for 361 yards and three touchdowns. After watching film of Garoppolo dissecting the Aztecs, the coach of SDSU's next opponent, Ohio State's Urban Meyer, announced to the nation, "Eastern has really one of the best quarterbacks I've ever seen."

In the three years before, just a handful of scouts had trickled through the FCS program's campus. Then came Garoppolo's senior season, when 31 teams sent eyes to tiny Charleston, Ill. Sean Edinger, the team's strength coach, recalls a Jaguars scout commenting that Garoppolo's hands were too small and his release too quick. As for the Patriots?

"They came one time," says Babers, now the head coach at Syracuse. "Didn't even stay for the whole practice. But that's classic. If you're on the outside, you think they're not interested. And then—Bam!"

As a case study in the making of a franchise quarterback, Garoppolo is something of an anomaly. The first time he played the position was on the freshman team at Rolling Meadows (Ill.) High, after coach Doug Millsaps saw how the ball came out of his hand when he threw. In the class of 2009, seven QBs across the state of Illinois received scholarships from FBS programs; Garoppolo wasn't one of them. Millsaps recalls personally driving Garoppolo's tape to Northwestern and begging the head coach to offer him. No luck.

It wasn't until his throwing coach, Jeff Christensen, a former Eastern QB who spent a few years in the NFL in the 1980s, called in a favor from EIU's offensive coordinator, Roy Wittke, that Garoppolo even got a look from a college program. Wittke had coached Tony Romo, a four-time Pro Bowler, at Eastern Illinois, and Garoppolo was the first quarterback he'd seen since who bore a resemblance to his former star, from his humble Midwestern manner to his quick release and excellent balance. When Rolling Meadows' coaches described the responsibilities Garoppolo took on before each snap, Wittke gave him an offer.

Garoppolo was EIU's starter just four games into his true freshman season; the team struggled, winning just four games over his first two seasons. When Babers was hired in 2012, some members of the athletic department wanted to make a change at quarterback. After watching Garoppolo throw five passes, Babers concluded that his quarterback shouldn't be at Eastern—he should be at an FBS school. The quickness of his release, Babers likes to say, is second only to Dan Marino.

Babers brought with him from Baylor a spread system that put a premium on quick decision-making, and by Garoppolo's senior season the QB was given the freedom to change plays at the line of scrimmage. But this wasn't a check-with-me situation where he'd pick the better of two plays. If he saw a bad defensive look, he could choose something else entirely. The third game of that season included a 63-yard TD pass—a play that was made before the snap. Illinois State's defense had been in a zero blitz,



with six men rushing against the Panthers' five-man protection. Garoppolo slid the protection and, noticing a nickel safety playing man coverage over star receiver Erik Lora, used a subtle pre-snap hand signal to convert Lora's route to a fade. Pitch-and-catch for an easy score in a 57-24 win.

The passing records Garoppolo eventually broke at Eastern belonged to Romo and Sean Payton, but all along he was being modeled after another QB. In the film room, offensive coordinator Sterlin Gilbert often pointed to Brady's unflappability. Since high school, Christensen had worked with Garoppolo to replicate Brady's impeccable mechanics. Garoppolo himself, meanwhile, wasn't exactly shy about his adulation for the Pats' All-Pro. Nine months before New England drafted him, Garoppolo tweeted: "Happy birthday to my boy Tom #livingLegend #Brady."

"Brady was his idol," says Babers. "Even when he was picking agents, he was so excited he was going to meet Brady's agent [Don Yee]. And that's the agent he picked."

Four years later, Garoppolo's new Niners teammate, Richard Sherman, assessing the QB from a defensive perspective, sees a guy "doing his best impression of Tom." The veteran corner, who signed with San Francisco this offseason, is referring to Garoppolo's quick release and reads, and his ability to neutralize the pass rush by speedily getting the ball out of his hands.

Staley, too, has watched enough TV to know that he's sometimes hearing a bit of Brady in the 49ers' huddle. "[Jimmy] does have a lot of the same sayings," Staley points out with a smirk. "Like, 'Whatchoo say now, 1-0? . . . Let's go now, c'mon, 1-0.' I'm always calling [Jimmy] out on that, like, 'Hey, that's not your saying—that's Tom's saying! Get something else!'"

Kyle Shanahan and Bill Belichick met at the scouting combine in Indianapolis in March 2017, less than a month after Belichick's Patriots roared back from a 28-3 deficit to defeat Shanahan's Falcons in Super Bowl LI. They had a lot to talk about: the game . . . Shanahan's first head coaching job, with the 49ers, which he'd accepted that February . . . and a certain backup Patriots quarterback. San Francisco, at the time, had literally zero QBs on its roster. But when Shanahan inquired, he got the same answer Belichick gave everyone else: Garoppolo, in no uncertain terms, was not available.

Belichick's insistence on holding on to his backup, after his then-39-year-old starter had just won his fifth Super Bowl, only served to stoke other teams' desires. Part of the Garoppolo mystique has always been this implicit endorsement from Belichick, who is notoriously hard to please and who is wary of using high draft picks on QBs. (In 24 drafts with the Browns and Patriots, Belichick has never selected a passer with a top-60 pick.)

Three years earlier, the Garoppolos had been unsure if they'd even attend the NFL draft—they didn't want Jimmy to be uncomfortable if he slid deep into Day 3—but Gil Brandt, the former Cowboys personnel man who's in charge of draft invites, assured them they didn't have to worry. Ultimately the clan all flew in, and on the night before Garoppolo was announced at No. 62 he slept on their "hotel suite's couch. He let his brothers have the beds.

At a press conference the night Garoppolo was picked, Belichick uncharacteristically referenced Brady's age and contract in discussing the Pats' pick. Back in New York, one of Garoppolo's brothers had come running out of the green room to find Jimmy's EIU buddies in the audience, screaming, "He's going to New England!" At 22, Garoppolo was going to be sharing a quarterback room with his idol.

And how did that work out? "I think they had a competition amongst themselves, and Jimmy gave Tom a little push. But it's not like Tom Brady is some average quarterback," says Tony Garoppolo. "He wasn't going anywhere. Jimmy knew that. At the same time, he took the opportunity to learn from [Brady]. Tom was a mentor to him. We couldn't ask anything more."

In the quarterbacks room in New England, Brady would spend most of his time working one-on-one with offensive coordinator Josh McDaniels. Jerry Schuplinski, the assistant QBs coach, would work mainly with the backups: Garoppolo and, before he was traded last September, Jacoby Brissett. "The standard



was always to Tom's [level of] knowledge," Brissett says. The two groups would break down film separately, then come together to share their notes. (The three QBs still have an ongoing group text chain, Brissett says.)

In 2016, when Brady served his four-game Deflategate suspension, Garoppolo got his chance to start, and in the days leading up to the season opener at Arizona he and Brissett hunkered down until 8:30 or 9 each night, going through the game plan and reads and checks. There was one run-to-pass check they spent extra time getting right, and it resulted in a 37-yard touchdown pass to Chris Hogan in the Patriots' 23-21 win.

Millsaps, Garoppolo's coach from Rolling Meadows, was at that game, and he saw Belichick afterward. Belichick, he says, told him how much he appreciated the QB—Garoppolo had the mentality of a linebacker and had helped them on the scout team en route to Super Bowl XLIX. "He was really happy," Millsaps says, "which you don't see on TV."

It all seemed like a glimpse into a post-Brady future—until Garoppolo's run ended prematurely with a right shoulder injury in a Week 2 victory over Miami. Even then, he was sharp in that game, too, and Belichick continued to dole out praise. Later that fall, in response to a question about Brady, he noted, "when we put Jimmy in there, it's really seamless." Even if no one knew when the Patriots would anoint Brady's successor, most felt they knew who that successor would be.

Nate Solder, a fixture on New England's offensive line for seven seasons, saw it the same way: "I thought it was a Brett Favre-Aaron Rodgers situation."

"Looking back," Tony Garoppolo says, "we should have realized something would happen." On Oct. 30, 2017, the Patriots were 6-2; Brady had already tossed 16 touchdowns, showing no signs of slowing down. "With Tom playing as well as he was, do you have [Jimmy] sit for another few years?" Tony asks. "By then, it would be too late for Jimmy."

As the trade deadline approached, all was quiet. Any rumblings of a move had died down after the draft. That's when Belichick reconnected with Shanahan, offering Garoppolo in exchange for the 49ers' 2018 second-round pick. "It was almost too good to be true," says Shanahan's father, Mike, the longtime NFL head coach who fielded a call from his stunned son after the proposal was made. (Mike, too, had played quarterback at EIU, and he'd attended the same suburban Chicago high school as Tony Garoppolo.) It took no more than 10 minutes for Kyle and 49ers GM John Lynch to decide to accept the offer.

Only a day earlier the 49ers had gotten clobbered in Philadelphia, falling to 0-8. Now they were pulling off the exceedingly rare midseason trade for a young franchise QB. "I'd watched him play," tight end Garrett Celek says of Garoppolo, "and I thought, Man, when Brady is done, this guy is going to be good. When we traded for him, I was like, Sweet. I mean, they had to have known what they were losing."

It would seem they did. Garoppolo had become something of a weekday legend in Foxboro. "One of the more enjoyable [parts] of practice was watching Jimmy rip 'em downfield on a tightrope [on the scout team]," says former Patriots center Bryan Stork. When the backup prodded the offense in his thick Chicago accent—"Let's go fellas!"—Stork couldn't help but think of the old Bears Superfans skit on SNL. In games, even in the preseason, Garoppolo brought a "whole next-level kind of competitiveness," recalls Matt Patricia, then the Patriots' defensive coordinator. And the team responded.

The surprise in New England when the trade went down echoed that respect. On one hand, a move had to be coming: Garoppolo's rookie contract was set to expire after the 2017 season, and he hadn't yet signed an extension. The Patriots could either franchise him, thereby paying their backup more than their legendary starter, or they could swap him before his contract expired. But Belichick had just traded Brissett, a move that suggested they had long-term plans for Garoppolo. So what changed?

ESPN reported in January that Patriots owner Robert Kraft had mandated that Belichick trade Garoppolo. (The team denied the story but has not commented on specifics. Belichick, through a spokesman,



declined to be interviewed for this story.) But even longtime players and staff members have no idea what went into the decision, and Belichick never addressed the trade with his team.

One thing is for certain, though: The coach didn't go through his normal process. Which is to say, he didn't milk the asset for every last drop. The Browns, as has been widely reported, were willing to offer more for Garoppolo than what the 49ers exchanged. Was Belichick's hand forced? Was he determined to place Garoppolo where he'd have the best chance of success?

"Bill really, really liked Jimmy," says Denise. "Not like they were warm and fuzzy—but they both knew it was there."

Many around the NFL believe the move came from Belichick's respect for Kyle and Mike Shanahan (he and Mike had ascended the coaching ladder concurrently, and Mike defended him to the NFL during the Spygate scandal) and from his belief that Garoppolo would thrive under Kyle's tutelage. And "if that is true," says the elder Shanahan, "it's the biggest compliment you could receive as a coach."

Last December, following the trade, a sort of weekly ritual began: After each of Garoppolo's starts for the 49ers, he received a text from the coach who had traded him, congratulating him on another win.

On Dec. 3, 2018, Garoppolo made his first start with the 49ers, at Soldier Field, just 30 miles from where he grew up. When Mike Shanahan describes what makes Garoppolo's potential so high, he focuses on both the QB's quick release and his ability to spot seams. And the very first completion Garoppolo made in red-and-gold provided a clue of what was to follow: On third-and-10 he sliced a 15-yard zinger to Marquise Goodwin, beating two converging defenders.

Among the 50-odd friends and family in attendance for the 15–14 victory that day was Tony Garoppolo, celebrating his 61st birthday and wearing binoculars around his neck. Millsaps had just been released from the hospital two days earlier, but he was there, too, as was Lora, the old EIU teammate, and a group of Garoppolo's college roommates from the old brick house on Seventh Street where they'd gather after games and make Jimmy John's runs. (The "Italian Night Club" sandwich for Garoppolo, obviously.)

The quarterback has what Babers, his old college coach, describes as "this weird charisma" that seems to cross all barriers. During that 2013 trip to San Diego, knowing it would be many of his players' first chance to see the Pacific Ocean, Babers scheduled a surprise detour to Mission Beach after their Friday walk-through. He only told Garoppolo, and instructed him to keep it a secret from the rest of the players. But when the buses pulled up, the entire offensive line hopped out and started stripping down to their Speedos. "Garoppoloooo!" Babers boomed. "C'mon coach, those are my hoggies," the quarterback replied. "I had to tell them." At Eastern, his housemates were all defensive players. In New England, he developed a friendship with Alyssa Silva, a Patriots fan living with a rare neuromuscular disorder, after she interviewed him for a feature on her blog. ("No one had really heard of the quiet leader that was Jimmy Garoppolo," she says). His best buddies on the Patriots were Stork and fellow lineman Cam Fleming ("probably the most diverse/random group of three you've ever seen," says Stork), who started a ritual of Papa Gino's pizza and pool each Friday night before a game. During the week of Super Bowl LI in Houston, Garoppolo piled into a six-passenger car with seven linemen for a taco run. As guard Joe Thuney conversed in Spanish with their female driver, Solder, sitting in the front seat, quickly discerned that they were talking about Garoppolo, whom the driver—like so many women—had taken a liking to. "We made fun of him because he was viewed as this ladies' man," Solder says, "but we know he's a goofball—an offensive lineman at heart."

It's been the same in San Francisco. Garoppolo and three teammates—Celek, tight end George Kittle and guard JP Flynn—have assembled what they call "the Dream Team." Only this is no nod to the 2011 Eagles; the Dream Team is their squad name in the popular multiplayer video game Fortnite. "Jimmy is the guy that saves everybody," Celek says. In the game, "there's a thing called the storm, and it hurts you every second you're in it. And he always runs into the storm, hurts himself, but saves all of us."



If this all sounds too good to be true, then the same could be said of Garoppolo's five wins in five starts for the previously 1-10 team he joined in the middle of last season. And he seems determined to make sure this idyllic image holds up. Note the offseason throwing sessions at San Jose State. And the time spent with Celek watching a Brady-Rob Gronkowski highlight reel, discussing the possibilities of being creative within their playbook. ("I have never talked so much with a quarterback about every route, which is awesome," says Celek.) And the extra 20 minutes spent on his cadence on the next-to-last day of the Niners' offseason program.

Watching this all puts into perspective what Garoppolo accomplished last season. Some of Shanahan's play calls are eight or nine syllables long, and there are 100 different cadences. Yet the QB became conversant enough in this complicated language to win every game. On his first day with the 49ers he stayed at the facility until midnight with QBs coach Rich Scangarello, learning the offensive formations. Just a few weeks later he was leading a two-minute march against the playoff-bound Titans as an NFL Films microphone caught him advising his receivers on how to get open against Tennessee's safeties. Gilbert, Garoppolo's old EIU coordinator who's now at South Florida, watched the tape in his office and recognized the Brady-like demeanor he'd so often held up as an example.

"I've been around here a couple offseasons where we've just been like, Man, I hope this year goes well," says Staley, a 49er since 2007. "But now we're working for something. Have a bad play and it's like, We have to get this right." The last time he felt like that? "Probably [Jim] Harbaugh's last year," he says, back in '14. "But even then, there was some stuff going on that was just like, all right, this is going off the rails a little bit. It wasn't so much the QB situation or anything like that, but [now] you can see the light at the end of the tunnel."

Now the question being asked across the Bay is: How can you measure improvement from 5-0? From a completion percentage north of 67? From a passer rating of 96.2? "I don't know how you live up to that," says Kyle Shanahan. "Does that mean we have to have 600 [yards in] these first five games to improve? I don't know what the numbers will be. I think we'll be a better offense. I feel pretty confident in that."

On the final day of minicamp Garoppolo is again lingering on the field, this time for some extra red-zone reps, after some misfires in practice. A few throws later, he's satisfied that he and his receivers have gotten the timing right. As he finally heads inside he passes Celek, who pauses mid-sentence in a conversation with a reporter. "I was telling her all your deepest and darkest secrets," Celek says to his quarterback.

"Just the good ones, right?" Garoppolo jokes. He flashes his cover-model grin and excuses himself, letting that air of mystery linger. While he still can.



## Hollywood looks, blue-collar background

By Matt Barrows  
Sacramento Bee  
December 1, 2017

Anyone worried about Jimmy Garoppolo's ability to process the 49ers' complex offense should consider this: He's been running intricate systems since the 12th grade.

When he was a rising junior at Rolling Meadows High School in Arlington Heights, Ill., the coaches decided to give Garoppolo, a linebacker who never had played quarterback at any level, a shot at the position.

That fall he ran a simple, run-oriented system heavy on tight ends and read options.

His senior year was different.

The coaches rebuilt the offense around Garoppolo's arm, legs and brain. It featured four or five wide receivers. It leaned on the quarterback's ability to check out of unfavorable calls. It was the "Jimmy Show" and his coaches weren't shy about piling on responsibility.

Charlie Henry, the school's offensive coordinator at the time, remembers a visit from an Eastern Illinois coach who was recruiting Garoppolo.

"I said, 'Well, let me show you what we do here,' " Henry recalled. "And I threw up a couple of looks and said, 'So, we'll tell Jimmy, 'You've got to get out of this (protection)' or, 'You've got to get into this one.' And the coach was like, 'And he does all that? That's a lot to ask a high-school quarterback.' "

Henry will be one of 15 or so of Garoppolo's former teachers and coaches at Soldier Field – about a 35-mile drive from Rolling Meadows – to watch their former pupil make his 49ers starting debut Sunday. Like most die-hard Bears fans, Henry said he wants to see the hometown team and the hometown kid succeed, and he decided a shootout would be the ideal scenario.

"I don't care who wins if it's a shootout because that means both quarterbacks probably played pretty well," he said with a laugh. "It would give a little hope for Bears fans and I'd be excited for Jimmy."

Garoppolo will have plenty of family and friends in the stands as well, and he admitted he had to put away his constantly buzzing cellphone after Kyle Shanahan announced he would start this week.

He doesn't seem, however, like the type of guy who will fall into the trappings of the hometown hero. For one, he studied under two men who could teach a Master's class on freezing out distractions, Tom Brady and Bill Belichick, for three and a half seasons in New England.

And perhaps more important, he is firmly grounded by his working-class roots in Arlington Heights. His father, Tony, is an electrician. His mother, Denise, works at an organic foods store but was a stay-at-home mom when Jimmy and his three brothers were growing up.

"We were basically living on one person's salary – six people," said Mike Garoppolo, one of Jimmy's older brothers. "I wouldn't even see my dad some days because he was working so late and going to work so early. That blue-collar approach really got imbedded in us: If you want to do something, you've got to work for it."

Tony Garoppolo is average size – about 5-10, 180 pounds – but was a two-way player at offensive guard and defensive tackle in high school, and his sons grew up hearing stories about the merits of the sport.

Mike, who coaches football at nearby Niles North High School, played linebacker at Western Illinois. The oldest brother, Tony Jr., was an offensive guard in high school. The youngest, Billy, played cornerback.



So what happened when good-looking Jimmy transitioned from linebacker to the glorified and refined quarterback spot?

“When he got switched over, we definitely gave him a hard time about it – being the pretty boy now,” Mike said. “But he worked his tail off. And the way he played the quarterback position, he was no pretty boy. In high school especially he was like their running back and quarterback at the same time. As much as it’s a pretty-boy position, he made it a tough-guy spot.”

Jimmy was a baseball player growing up, but it wasn’t necessarily his arm that convinced coaches he could play quarterback. Instead it was his overall athleticism – Jimmy was a standout in basketball and soccer, too – and the way he interacted with the other kids.

“He’s a leader,” Henry said. “The kids in his grade, I mean, they always gravitated toward him for guidance. And when you can package that – the running ability, the leadership and that talent – that’s exactly what you want to have at quarterback on a good football team.”

What Henry and his fellow coaches didn’t realize at the time was the depth of Garoppolo’s drive and his capacity for work. Between his junior and senior seasons, the boy who had never played the position before hired a quarterbacks coach, got up early every Saturday morning and made massive strides before his senior season.

Henry said he coached two of Garoppolo’s brothers and taught social studies to the third.

“They’re grounded,” he said. “They don’t take anything for granted. And they work hard. And that all showed up with Jimmy. He just got better and better and better. And I don’t think that’s stopped since he left here.”



## Jimmy Garoppolo's Chicago-area upbringing made him the quarterback he is today — and will be Sunday

By David Lombardi  
The Athletic  
December 1, 2017

When Jimmy Garoppolo arrives at Soldier Field on Sunday, it will be his first-ever visit to that hallowed venue.

But it certainly won't be Garoppolo's first time in Chicago: The new 49ers quarterback's story began there, in the suburb of Arlington Heights, Illinois — just 40 minutes away from Soldier Field's gates on the windy shores of Lake Michigan.

The Garoppolo saga, or at least the quarterback chapter of it, can be traced back over a decade to its origin at Rolling Meadows High. As a sophomore there, Garoppolo was a basketball player, a pitcher on the baseball diamond, and a rail-thin 175-pound outside linebacker.

“Going into games, I would always ask coach, ‘how much does this guy weigh?’” Garoppolo remembered. “Because I knew I wasn't big enough to just man him up. I had to think of other ways to get creative with him.”

Those mismatches ended when Doug Millsaps, Garoppolo's high school coach, decided to try the skinny kid at quarterback. The freshman still had an elongated pitcher's throwing release, but the football did zip out of his arm, so it was worth the try.

The rest was history. Garoppolo became — and remained — the starting quarterback, a job title that he wouldn't relinquish until he reached the NFL and Tom Brady was his teammate.

And now, Garoppolo has earned that starter's title again, this time with the 49ers, a team whose general manager has called him the “quarterback of the future.”

The road to this point traveled through Eastern Illinois University, which happens to be the alma mater of Mike Shanahan, the father of Garoppolo's new coach Kyle Shanahan, and only really went that way because of an endorsement from former NFL quarterback Jeff Christensen, who's been Garoppolo's personal coach since high school.

Christensen, an Eastern Illinois alumnus himself, convinced Roy Wittke — then the school's offensive coordinator and the man who had coached Tony Romo in college — to catch at least a half of Garoppolo's game while recruiting another quarterback in suburban Chicago.

Wittke obliged. He went to see Rolling Meadows play, and he called Christensen from the school's parking lot after the game.

“Jeff, that's Tony Romo,” Wittke said back then, glowing about Garoppolo's lightning-quick release, according to Christensen.

No FBS school offered Garoppolo a scholarship during that recruiting cycle — 2010 was a stacked year for high school quarterback prospects in the greater Chicago area, so he slipped under the radar. But it wasn't long before Eastern Illinois, an FCS program, pulled the trigger.

Wittke returned to Arlington Heights during basketball season, and he began to learn more about Garoppolo's personality by watching other sports, just as he had done while recruiting Romo 10 years prior.



“Tony was a damn good basketball player,” Wittke said. “Jimmy was a little bit of a blue-collar guy on the basketball court. Jimmy was a rebounder and he played defense. That type of thing.”

Later, Wittke visited Garoppolo's home. The coach met the quarterback's father Tony, an electrician, his mother Denise, and his three brothers.

“They were real down to earth, blue-collar, Midwestern values, people with a great work ethic,” Wittke said, having seen a home parallel to Garoppolo's rugged style of play on the basketball court. “I walked away sold. You can just see the home and the atmosphere: The relationship Jimmy had not only with mom and dad, but with his brothers — it was special in my mind. There's no question in my mind that it's been a big part of his success.”

He offered Garoppolo a scholarship to Eastern Illinois, and that's when this story truly took flight.

Nowadays, Garoppolo is one of the most celebrated relatively-unknown commodities in NFL history. Sunday will mark only his third professional start in four seasons, but Garoppolo has already been lauded as a potential franchise savior and big-money recipient when his rookie contract expires after this season. But it hasn't always been this way. In fact, when it comes to the correlation between production and publicity, the opposite used to be true for Garoppolo.

During his senior year at Eastern Illinois, Garoppolo made a mockery of the stat sheet: He threw for 5,050 yards and 53 touchdowns, averaging 8.9 yards per attempt.

“It was like watching a video game,” Wittke said. “Instead of measuring yards after contact for running backs, you had to measure yards before contact. Because defenses were so adamant to try to stop Jimmy's passing, our backs were always in the secondary before they even got touched.”

Eastern Illinois annihilated San Diego State behind three Garoppolo touchdown tosses early in that 2013 season. The Aztecs played Ohio State immediately after that, so Buckeyes coach Urban Meyer watched the Panthers' tape to prepare.

“I think I just saw one of the best quarterbacks I've ever seen,” Meyer said of Garoppolo at the time. “And nobody knows what his name is.”

Recently, Garoppolo's playing time has been much more sparse than it was back then, but he's become a household name. Backing up Brady in New England certainly helped put him on the map.

Just last Sunday, Garoppolo delivered three of the most exciting garbage time plays in 49ers history when he relieved the injured C.J. Beathard, converted a fourth down, and threw an on-the-go touchdown to Louis Murphy as time expired.

Garoppolo has gone from playing all the time with hardly anybody noticing to hardly playing at all with seemingly everybody clamoring for more.

Over the course of the past month, Kyle Shanahan has said that even his wife, Mandy, has been asking when Garoppolo will appear for the 49ers.

The level of intrigue surrounding the quarterback has ballooned. It should finally be satisfied on Sunday in Chicago, very close to where the build-up began a decade ago, very quietly, in parks around the city's northeastern suburbs.

That's where Christensen, who now has a bevy of NFL clients that includes Washington's Kirk Cousins and Miami's Ryan Tannehill, began working with the 16-year-old Garoppolo.

Long before the Patriots drafted Garoppolo, Christensen showed his young pupil video of Brady's technique on repeat.



“It was really about making him feel how the ball leaves his fingertips on all these different movements and different routes,” Christensen explained how Garoppolo developed his accuracy, a process he continues fine-tuning every offseason. “You want him to feel ‘that’s perfect’ when it leaves his fingertips.”

Christensen broke Garoppolo’s mechanics down into scientific detail, converting the former pitcher’s elongated throwing motion into a lightning-quick one that current Syracuse coach Dino Babers — who coached Garoppolo at Eastern Illinois — said was “the fastest release of any guy I’ve ever seen” outside of Dan Marino.

“If you’re throwing the ball with the right mechanical movement and the proper body parts functioning at the proper time, you have to have a quick release,” Christensen said, describing Garoppolo’s training regimen. “And Jimmy just bought in from Day 1.”

Christensen remembers fielding a phone call from Garoppolo on a sweltering summer day. The quarterback, about 17 at the time, wanted to throw some more, so the coach met him at a nearby park with a playground and swing sets, setting up a camera to record Garoppolo’s passes.

“It was 102 degrees outside,” Christensen said. “He just wanted to get his reps in for a full hour-and-a-half. I recently found that film and watched it — and it looked like Jimmy was 12 years old. But even then, watching the ball come out of his hand, it was really impressive.”

Christensen points to that hot summer day, and Garoppolo’s willingness to sweat through while refining his throwing motion, as early evidence of the success to come.

“Things like that told me about Jimmy,” Christensen said. “And that’s all I needed to know.”

Like Wittke, Christensen points to Garoppolo’s family as the grounding influence that shaped his work ethic.

“He’s kind of a good-looking guy, so he could’ve been at the pool — he could’ve been doing all that stuff in the summer,” Christensen said. “Instead, he wanted to get his work in, and he’s been the same type of kid ever since.

“Jimmy has zero entitlement in his body. His two older brothers beat on him like a rag doll for 10 years growing up, so he’s just a worker. And that’s what college coaches want: A guy who shows up and knows how to get to work. Who gets knocked down and can get up.”

In Garoppolo, that’s exactly who Eastern Illinois got.

Garoppolo started as a true freshman in college, but the Panthers won only three combined games through his first two years.

Then Babers, formerly the wide receivers coach at Baylor while Robert Griffin III was the quarterback there, took over the program.

Babers saw Garoppolo throw five passes in an offseason workout, and the coach was sold. Babers had his man to operate the Veer-and-Shoot offense, Art Briles’ offshoot of the Air Raid. This new system featured more deep passes and quarterback running than its predecessor, developed by Mike Leach.

Garoppolo — though he is mobile — wasn’t as fast as Griffin, and nasty lake-effect Illinois winds made Babers modify the free-wheeling Baylor version of the Veer-and-Shoot. He created an offense that incorporated the pro-style experience that Garoppolo had developed under Bob Spoo’s previous Eastern Illinois staff.

“When we went to the spread his last two years, it completed his training,” Babers said, adding that Garoppolo addressed his biggest weakness — deep throws — during this time. “We spent time not only



in the spread, but also under center. I think having the ability to do both not only made us dynamic as an offense, but it also helped us to continue Jimmy's development for the next level.”

The effort culminated in Garoppolo's 5,050-yard senior season, his second-round draft selection by the Patriots in 2014, and two very impressive starts while filling in during Brady's “Deflategate” suspension in 2016.

And it all built up to the frenetic final play of the 49ers game against Seattle last week, during which Garoppolo stood calmly in the pocket — emulating Brady — before bolting out and throwing a spectacular touchdown as time expired.

“It really seemed preordained by a superior power,” Christensen said, chuckling about the play. “He had to scramble to his backside, flip his hips, head toward the right mark to throw the ball, over the top of the ref, over the top of the guy, while leading his guy, so it was in front of the other defender, into a size six-and-a-half shoebox. It was like the perfect demonstration video.”

It might've been reminiscent of those training videos that Christensen recorded of Garoppolo throwing in suburban Chicago parks, way back when. Except the play in this recent video would directly precede Garoppolo's action in the most famous Chicago park of them all, at least for football purposes: Soldier Field.

To successfully execute his job, a team's starting quarterback must do more than just succeed on the field. Coaches count on the position for a more general sense of team leadership, and Babers offers a story from Garoppolo's senior season at Eastern Illinois to illustrate that trait:

Before that aforementioned blowout win at San Diego State, Babers wanted to surprise his team — most of whom had never seen the ocean — by taking them to a San Diego beach.

Babers only told Garoppolo about the plan, since he was the team's quarterback. But the coach wanted it to be kept a secret from the rest of the players, and the team buses pulled away from a walk-through at Jack Murphy Stadium and rolled westward, eventually arriving at the sandy shores of Mission Beach.

As the bus ground to a halt, all of the Eastern Illinois offensive linemen started ripping their clothes off. To Babers' shock, they were all wearing Speedos underneath, and they sprinted off the bus toward the ocean.

“Garoppolo, what the heck?!” the coach yelled at his quarterback, who had obviously spilled the beans. “Coach, I had to tell the offensive line,” Garoppolo responded. “They're my guys. I had to tell them we were going to the beach!”

Many 49ers players have already commented on Garoppolo's likeable presence, which seems to resonate well in the locker room.

“He was always a guy that had a magnetism and a charisma about him,” Wittke said. “From fear of sounding a little corny, he's a really good-looking young man, and he's always been that way. And because of that, he's popular, so he was always good with anyone in the locker room. He could sit with the DBs, and at dinner he could sit with the offensive linemen. He was never above anyone.”

Babers added a similar thought, one that should make Shanahan and 49ers GM John Lynch smile during this franchise construction process.

“Jimmy is the type of guy that a team will just rally around,” Babers said. “He crosses racial barriers. He crosses economic barriers. He is exactly the type of person you want to build a football team around.” And that's where this all comes full circle.

“That goes back to mom and dad and his family,” Wittke said. “There's no question about that. So it's really fitting that he gets his first (49ers) start at Soldier Field, in front of them.”



## Marquise Goodwin

### **49ers' Marquise Goodwin plans to jump back into track career**

By Eric Branch  
San Francisco Chronicle  
June 11, 2019

Marquise Goodwin plans to jump back into track and field.

The 49ers' wide receiver said Tuesday he will try to qualify for the 2020 Summer Olympics in Tokyo in the long jump. Goodwin, 28, was a two-time NCAA champion at Texas, has won two national titles and finished 10th at the 2012 London Olympics, which he entered as medal contender.

Goodwin, who hasn't competed in track for three years, said his return wouldn't interfere with his NFL career. He also competed in track in 2015 and 2016 when he played for the Bills. He finished seventh at the 2016 U.S. Olympic trials and failed to qualify for the Rio de Janeiro Games.

"It's just offseason," Goodwin said. "... It's all on my off time. I use it as part of my training. What I do in long jump — track and field — definitely correlates to what I do as a wide receiver. Being fast. Being explosive. Putting my foot down. It's the same mechanics that I use in football."

The 2020 U.S. Olympic trials in Eugene, Ore., will run June 19-28, when the 49ers are off before training camp. Goodwin would miss part of training camp if he qualified for the Tokyo Games, which begin in late July.

In 2017, a few months after he signed with the 49ers, Goodwin and the 49ers each said in statements that he was focused fully on football. They made those statements after Goodwin was suspended for one year by the U.S. Anti-Doping Agency for failing to provide his whereabouts for drug testing.

Goodwin said he didn't submit his "whereabouts" information because he'd "decided to cease competing in (track) in order to concentrate 100 percent on my NFL career."

Crowds arrive early on opening day of the Golden Gate International Exposition. Feb. 18, 1939.  
Said the 49ers: "Marquise informed our organization quite some time ago that he has no intentions of competing in track and field and has been entirely focused on his football career for more than a year."

It's not known how the 49ers feel about Goodwin's change of heart.

Last year, they signed him to a three-year, \$18.85 million extension after he had a breakout 56-catch, 962-yard season in 2017 and he was viewed as the team's top wide receiver entering the 2018 season. However, Goodwin had just 23 catches for 395 yards in 11 games last year, and head coach Kyle Shanahan spoke openly near the end of the season about him playing fewer snaps this season.

On Tuesday, Shanahan suggested the 49ers planned to use Goodwin in a more specialized role that would showcase his elite speed.

"He's had to play a lot more than you would like," Shanahan said. "He's had to do some routes a lot more than you would like. He's capable of doing them all. But you want to put people on what they're best at."

The 49ers have drafted three wide receivers — Dante Pettis, Deebo Samuel and Jalen Hurd — in the first three rounds since 2018. Those additions could make Goodwin a part-time player.

"Of course, I'm going to do anything (Shanahan) says," Goodwin said. "I'm not going against it; I'm not going against the grain. If he doesn't want me in there every down, that's what it is. If he does, that's what it is. I'm here to help the 49ers. I'm not here for Marquise Goodwin's ego."



The 49ers hope fewer snaps could keep Goodwin healthier. He has missed 28 games because of injuries in his six-year career, and his medical file includes an extensive concussion history; Goodwin has been placed in the concussion protocol six times since 2014. Last year, he missed games because of quadriceps and calf injuries.

On Tuesday, Goodwin said he'd likely to have to "get a little leaner" to compete in the long jump.

"We're just hoping that we can just keep this going and keep him healthy," Shanahan said. "I think it'll be easier to do that with some of the other guys that we brought in."



## 49ers WR Marquise Goodwin buys new house for mother and sister

By Staff  
ESPN.com  
July 6, 2018

Wide receiver Marquise Goodwin has found a home with the San Francisco 49ers after a breakout season in 2017 and a three-year, \$20 million contract extension.

He wanted those he loves to have a home too, so he bought a new house for his mother, Tamina, and sister Deja, who has cerebral palsy.

Thursday, he posted video of the unveiling.

Goodwin says that Deja has been a lifelong inspiration. She is usually confined to a wheelchair. Goodwin is 10 months older than his sister and when they were children they were inseparable.

"If Deja wasn't my sister, I feel like I would still be motivated but not in the way that I am today," Goodwin told ESPN in 2013. "Having a disabled sister, that's a lot more motivation, especially when she tells you growing up that she wishes she can be out there with the kids playing and she wishes she can be out there running around."

Doctors told their mother that Deja would not live beyond 6 months. But she continues to overcome the odds. On Sept. 17, she will celebrate her 27th birthday.

"It's very inspirational to me," Goodwin said. "To me, no doctor can determine when it's your time to go. God really knows, and He's the only one who can really give you the day. You just have to keep the faith and live the best you can each day."

Goodwin had a breakout season with career highs in catches (56) and receiving yards (962) to go with two touchdowns. He was third in the NFL with 17.2 yards per catch, and he had two of his three 100-yard games after quarterback Jimmy Garoppolo was inserted as the starter.

The former Olympic long jumper signed with the 49ers in 2017 and was expected to be mostly used as a kick returner. But he developed a chemistry with Garoppolo, and was rewarded with the contract extension in March.



## One year later, Marquise Goodwin's emotional TD still resonates

By Nick Wagoner  
ESPN.com  
November 10, 2017

On Monday, it will be exactly one year since San Francisco 49ers wide receiver Marquise Goodwin provided the most emotional moment of the 2017 NFL season.

After Goodwin hauled in an 83-yard touchdown pass from quarterback C.J. Beathard in Week 10 against the New York Giants, he blew a kiss to the heavens and dropped to his knees to pray in the end zone, overcome by the weight of the moment.

In the wee hours of that Sunday morning, Goodwin's infant son had been delivered stillborn, and after some internal debate and discussion with his wife, Morgan Goodwin-Snow, Goodwin decided he would play.

One year later, Goodwin's perseverance still resonates in the Niners' locker room.

"It was just very emotional moment for 'Quise," receiver Kendrick Bourne said. "Knowing what he was going through that week, man, you could feel it. I could feel it, once that ball left C.J.'s hand, and I knew who it was going to and just the mindset he had in that moment. That was all for his son, knowing how that situation just happened. It was definitely a blessing to be in, and I just said in his ear once I got down to him, man, like, you're very blessed, bro. He's up there watching. And things will turn around for your future, and you will have a family. It was just very emotional, a great moment to remember his son. It touches you every time you watch it."

On this week's edition of Monday Night Football, Goodwin and the Niners will play the Giants in another Week 10 matchup at Levi's Stadium.

Under normal circumstances, the memories of the 10th game of a 6-10 season would quickly fade, but for the 49ers, last year's game against the Giants is one they'll never forget. In addition to Goodwin's inspiring play, it was the Niners' first win of the season and the first under coach Kyle Shanahan.

All of which makes memories of that day a bittersweet combination of joy and pain.

### Choosing to play

On Wednesday of the week leading up to the game, Goodwin had informed some of his teammates that his wife was dealing with complications in her pregnancy, which was at 19 weeks. Bourne recalled Goodwin telling his fellow receivers what was happening and noticing that the normally upbeat Goodwin wasn't his usual self.

"We knew what he was going through, and we had all kind of banded around him and let him know that we all had his back and were there for him," fullback Kyle Juszczyk said.

It didn't take long to realize that Goodwin might not play that week. Teammates told him throughout the week that whatever he decided to do, they would be there for him for whatever he needed.

By Saturday, Goodwin had spoken to Shanahan and let him know that he would miss the team's walkthrough and meetings that day so he could be at the hospital. Shanahan saw Goodwin later that night, when things had seemingly improved, but got another call hours later that Goodwin was headed back to the hospital to be with his wife.

At the time, Morgan Goodwin-Snow told People Magazine that there had been complications throughout the week leading up to the game. The child, who was named Marquise Jr., was delivered stillborn at 3:52 a.m. on Sunday, Nov. 12.



In the moment, Goodwin wasn't sure if he had it in him to play. But his wife encouraged him to give it a go.

"My wife, we prayed about it, and I guess she felt that God moved her to allow me to go play, and she encouraged me," Goodwin said at the time. "She raised my spirits up and helped me get ready for the game."

Without a wink of sleep and with little preparation, Goodwin rejoined the team and informed Shanahan that he was ready to play and help the team however he could.

"He's an awesome guy, great teammate, nothing is going to get him down," tight end Garrett Celek said. "He's a competitor. Him and his wife have an incredible relationship. For her to go through what she did and then tell him, like, 'I'm OK, your guys need you,' that just shows how strong the two of them are."

The play that almost wasn't

Trailing 6-3 midway through the second quarter, Shanahan relayed the playcall to Beathard: H 2 F Palm Z Swirl Stack Right Clamp Minus Y Left. The play was designed to take a deep shot to Goodwin, but it almost never happened.

In fact, the play looked doomed before it began.

"We were struggling. We couldn't get anything going," Shanahan said. "We hadn't won a game yet. 'Quise, we didn't even know if he was going to play because of the stuff he was going through, and that was a third-and-10."

Before the snap, the 49ers were hoping to see the Giants playing quarters coverage, knowing that it could open things over the top for Goodwin on a post route. After breaking the huddle, Beathard stepped under center, much to the dismay of Shanahan, who said he expected him to be in shotgun and "was freaking out" when he wasn't.

"I guess on the sideline, Kyle was cussing. He was pissed, like, 'What the f---, what's he doing under center?'" Beathard said. "And as I was dropping, like, 'What's he doing?' and then 'Oh, great job,' like a swing of emotions."

As Beathard dropped back, the Giants sent a two-person blitz with safety Landon Collins and linebacker Jonathan Casillas attacking up the middle. The blitz was unusual, but Celek and running back Carlos Hyde recognized it before the snap and communicated which player would pick up which defender.

Celek took out Collins as Hyde sent Casillas flying with a low block just before he could get to Beathard. Sure enough, on the back end, the Giants were indeed in quarters coverage, leaving cornerback Janoris Jenkins attempting to keep up with Goodwin.

Beathard let it fly as Goodwin gained separation from Jenkins. As the ball soared through the air, and before it even landed in Goodwin's hands, Bourne could be seen raising his arms like Steph Curry letting a pure 3-pointer go and celebrating before it splashes through the net.

The pass landed softly in Goodwin's hands at New York's 35. He tucked it away and used his left arm to fend off Jenkins, keeping his balance as he raced toward the goal line. Just inside the 10, Goodwin blew a kiss to the sky before dropping to a knee in prayer as he reached the end zone overcome by emotion.

"I just remember beating the defensive back, C.J. throwing a wonderful ball and me coming down with it and running to the end zone with it," Goodwin said. "And just getting on my knees thanking God for the opportunity."



"Really, technically the play wasn't even supposed to get off, but for whatever reason, it did, and it was just meant to be."

### Sharing their story

After the Niners beat the Giants 31-21, the team celebrated its first win of the season in the locker room. Goodwin quickly exited to return to his wife's side and soon revealed on Instagram that his son had passed away earlier in the day.

"To see him make a big play like that, elevate our team to a win and when he was going through so much, it just personified everything that Marquise is," Juszczyk said. "He's just a guy who has fought through so much adversity and a guy that we all look up to, and we were all really happy to see him make a play like that."

A couple days after the game, Goodwin and his wife returned to Texas to be near family. The Goodwins decided it was important to share their story with the public. Goodwin participated in a conference call with Bay Area reporters and discussed the details of what he and his wife had been through. Morgan Goodwin-Snow offered more details to People Magazine, revealing that a previous pregnancy had ended with a miscarriage.

In the time since, the Goodwins have remained an open book when it comes to sharing their story and have stayed positive about starting a family in the near future. They wanted to tell their story in their own words, but also they knew how much it could help other couples dealing with similar pain.

"We just felt like we could help somebody else in a similar situation," Goodwin said. "A lot of people deal with premature birth, more than I knew. So just raising awareness for it and helping people realize that those kind of things that happen in 'normal people's' lives do happen in our lives everyday as well. There's a lot of things that we have to fight through and still have to come play on Sundays, Mondays, Thursdays."

At the Niners' Players for a Purpose season-opening event, Goodwin served as the keynote speaker and shared his and his wife's story with fans. For next month's "My Cause, My Cleats" initiative, which allows players to show support for the cause of their choice, Goodwin will wear cleats supporting the March of Dimes, a nonprofit that works to improve the health of mothers and babies to prevent birth defects, premature birth and infant mortality.

The message Goodwin and his wife want to get across hasn't changed.

"Never stop believing," Goodwin said last year. "The reward will last longer than the pain. Just because something that you wanted your whole life didn't quite work out as you planned it to -- a lot of the times it's not supposed to work out how you want it to -- it will grow you as a person and make you better. I know my wife and I will be better after this situation, and we'll know how to handle it next time even better."

This week, Goodwin said he doesn't reflect often on that day, though the touchdown will be one he remembers forever. A year later, he and his wife still hear from couples and families who have gone through similar things. Those notes and letters often thank Goodwin for being so open about something so heartbreaking and for having such a real, raw moment after the touchdown.

"It just felt like it was meant to be," Beathard said. "I think God works in mysterious ways, and I think for whatever reason, that was supposed to happen, and it happened the way it did. That's almost like it was his son looking down and had something to do with it, like an angel. It was pretty special."



## Robbie Gould

### **Special team: 49ers kicker Robbie Gould and his brother, Chris, sharing the NFL experience**

By Eric Branch  
San Francisco Chronicle  
August 17, 2019

Robbie Gould ended practice with a boot Saturday.

The 49ers kicker drilled a 55-yard field goal in a two-minute situation to cap the last of two joint practices with the Broncos.

Gould's teammates greeted the faux game winner by celebrating on the field, but one person wasn't so happy about Gould's success: his younger brother, Chris.

Don't misunderstand. The brothers, separated by three years, aren't at odds, but they don't share allegiances.

Chris Gould, 33, is the Broncos' assistant special teams coach and he will be on the opposite sideline from Robbie, 36, when the 49ers meet the Broncos on Monday night in their second preseason game.

The outcome of the game is meaningless — to most. However, Robbie has a different scoreboard in mind: He's 1-2 in NFL games against his brother, who also has an edge in another category.

"His first year (in Denver), he won a Super Bowl. So he's got one more ring than me," Robbie said. "I'm just hoping we can win Monday so I can get it to (2-2)."

Yes, the brothers are competitive. There are memories of Chris, after backyard losses, furiously chasing Robbie around in Lock Haven, Pa., when they were growing up.

But the siblings, who also have a younger sister, Lindsay, have always been close. And their bond is a reason they are sharing an NFL experience.

Chris was also a kicker, but not at the level of Robbie, who ranks second in NFL history in field-goal percentage and just signed a four-year, \$19 million contract that made him the league's second-highest player at his position.

Chris kicked at the University of Virginia and played in the Arena Football League with the Chicago Rush (2010-11) and Arizona Rattlers (2012). However, Chris never realized his NFL dream as a player. And Robbie helped Chris, the little brother he terms a football junkie, enter the league as a coach.

Robbie connected Chris with Joe DeCamillis, the Bears special teams coach from 2013-14 when Robbie was with Chicago. Chris would visit his brother at training camp and they would study video with DeCamillis, who was impressed by Chris' knowledge and passion.

The relationship fast-tracked Chris' coaching career. He'd served as a volunteer coach at Elmhurst College, a Division III school in suburban Chicago, when he was in the Arena League. And Chris was in his third season as a special teams quality control coach at Syracuse in 2015 when DeCamillis, then with the Broncos, brought him on staff as a low-level assistant.

From there, Chris has done the rest. He was promoted to Denver's assistant special teams coach in 2017. And it's notable that he's been retained by two new head coaches in his five seasons with the Broncos, a time during which the majority of their coaching staff has been overhauled.

Of course, Chris would have preferred to kick in the NFL. But when asked if he ever felt pressure to follow in his brother's footsteps, he focuses on the support he's received from Robbie. During his stint in the



Arena League in Chicago, Robbie insisted Chris live with him and his wife to help make ends meet so he could keep kicking.

“I’ve always wanted the best for him and he’s always tried to help me as much as he could,” Chris said. “He’s been a really good brother. He let me live with him and his wife — he took care of me because you don’t always make the most money in the Arena League. So I didn’t feel any pressure. I just wanted to become the best football player I could be at the time and I’ve always had his support.”

Robbie is as adept at talking up his brother as he is at kicking field goals.

He terms him one of the NFL’s top “up-and-coming assistants,” and notes Chris’ expertise has helped in the latter stages of his career. When he was handling kickoff duties, for example, Chris would detail kick-return schemes and that information informed the placement of Robbie’s kicks.

They talk football as equals, although Robbie has a habit of terming Chris a “kid” when discussing him: “The kid eats, sleeps and drinks football,” he said at one point.

Robbie explained. He knows his brother is all grown up — and he’s aware he trails him in titles.

“I think he’ll always be my kid brother,” he said. “He’ll be my kid brother with one extra ring than I have.”



## **Inside Robbie Gould's Candidacy for the 2018 Walter Payton NFL Man of the Year Award Presented by Nationwide**

By Joe Fann  
49ers.com  
December 11, 2018

Robbie Gould continues to be an absolute stud for the San Francisco 49ers. He's missed just one field-goal attempt this season, and his 25 makes rank tied for sixth among all NFL kickers. But Gould's stellar on-field performance has been matched by his ongoing philanthropic efforts. It's that work in the community that has earned him the organization's nomination for the NFL's 2018 Walter Payton Man of the Year Award presented by Nationwide.

There are 32 total nominees league-wide, and the winner will be announced at NFL Honors on the eve of Super Bowl LIII in Atlanta. A donation of \$250,000 will be made to the United Way in that player's honor. In addition, every nominee will have a chance at receiving \$25,000 for a charity of their choice in the "Man of the Year Charity Challenge."

Here's how you can help Gould win that money. Head to Twitter and compose a tweet with "#WPMOYChallenge" and "Gould" to cast a vote for the 49ers kicker. Each use, even within the same tweet, will count as an additional vote. Voting is open now and will run until Jan. 13.

"I think it's important to give back to the community because the game of football and life in general has given me a lot," Gould said. "I was raised in a family where giving back and being part of a community that comes together and helps each other out is really important."

Gould has been a staple in the award-winning efforts of the 49ers community relations team. You'll find Gould at each of the team's Community Tuesday's. In addition, here's a look at the work Gould has done on his own, headlined by his nonprofit organization The Goulden Touch.

Gould founded The Goulden Touch, 501c3 nonprofit organization, in 2011 with a mission to help those in need. In his hometown of Lock Haven, Pennsylvania, Gould has contributed over \$650,000 to a variety of organizations.

On March 26, 2018, Gould and his foundation, The Goulden Touch, opened the Ace Hardware Robbie Gould Patient and Family Library at Lurie Children's Hospital following a financial commitment of over \$2 million.

Earlier in March, Gould took part in the Children's Miracle Network's Children's Hospitals Week in Orlando, where he visited with patients and helped the organization raise funds as a guest auctioneer. During his time in Orlando, Gould connected so deeply with one family that he hosted them at the 49ers vs. Giants game on Nov. 12.

In addition to being a mainstay at 49ers Community Tuesdays, Gould was also selected as one of five players to direct the team's social justice contributions, resulting in a joint 2.35-million-dollar grant with Google.org to the National Center for Youth Law to support the Santa Clara Youth Justice Initiative. To aid in education, he gives annual scholarships to enable students to attend Lock Haven University and has supported the Ross Library.

Gould also donated \$150,000 to the construction of Goulden Touch Field, a turf soccer and football field in the West Lawn neighborhood of Chicago, which serves over 12,000 children.

In order to fund these charitable projects, Gould has been hosting the Robbie Gould Celebrity Golf Tournament since 2010, raising and donating more than \$2 million in just the last three years. The Lock Haven version of his golf tournament, which started in 2011, raises nearly \$100,000 for the area each year.



## 'I get mad about those': How Robbie Gould's missed kicks help motivate him

By Matt Barrows  
Sacramento Bee  
December 18, 2017

Robbie Gould can conjure up every kick he's attempted this season.

His two game-winning field goals aren't the ones he thinks about the most. Instead, the 49ers' veteran kicker is motivated by his misses.

There aren't many. A 47-yard attempt in Washington in Week 6 drifted wide right in a game the 49ers lost 26-24. Two weeks later in Philadelphia, a 27-yard attempt was blocked. He also missed an extra point in San Francisco's two-point loss to the Rams in Week 3, a rare error that ended up haunting the team at the end of the game.

"I go back to those kicks because those are the kicks that fuel me every day," Gould said after Sunday's game. "I get mad about those. ... I put the two losses we had against Washington, against Los Angeles on my back because I didn't get my job done."

Like a lot of veteran kickers, Gould, 35, uses that self criticism to stay sharp.

When the Chicago Bears abruptly released him at the start of the 2016 season after 11 years with the franchise, he decided to, in his words, "reinvent himself." He said certain aspects of his game had gotten sloppy as he passed the decade mark in the league and became the Bears' all-time leading scorer, and he spent his time away from the game perfecting his craft.

The New York Giants called him in October of last year, and Gould was ready. He made all 12 field-goal tries with New York. In fact, he didn't have a field-goal misfire until the 49ers' Oct. 15 game in Washington. He's on another roll now, having connected on 20 in a row, including a 45-yard game-winner as time expired Sunday for a 25-23 victory over the Tennessee Titans at Levi's Stadium.

"Robbie's playing as good as anyone I've ever had," 49ers coach Kyle Shanahan said. "Whenever he goes out there, I never think he's going to miss it. He's been automatic. I just hope he's not getting too fatigued. I wish I didn't have to use him so much."

Only the Los Angeles Rams' Greg Zuerlein has attempted more kicks this season (40) than Gould's 38, and the 49ers kicker is closing in fast. He was 5 for 5 on field goals against the Bears in Week 13, 4 for 4 a week later in the win over the Houston Texans and 6 for 6 against Tennessee, making him the first kicker in NFL history to kick 15 field goals in a three-game span.

That workload has only boosted his confidence.

As the 49ers (4-10) were beginning their comeback in the fourth quarter Sunday, a third-down sack of quarterback Jimmy Garoppolo turned a 40-yard attempt into a more daunting 50-yarder, threatening to upend the team's momentum. Gould was unfazed by the added distance. He sprang onto the field, did a practice swing with his right leg, then lined up like he always does before drilling his longest kick of the day.

Asked if he said anything to Gould before the kicker trotted out for the 45-yard game winner later that quarter, Garoppolo seemed astonished.



“Absolutely not,” he said quickly. “He’s in the zone. I know how that is. Just going out for the two-minute drill, we went and handled our business and he handled his. That’s what a good team does.”

The only one who talks to Gould before he kicks is Gould.

“I usually talk to myself before I get ready to go kick those kicks,” he said. “The kicks that I need to go up by one (point), or the kicks we need to extend it by 10 – I usually kind of get myself excited.”

After the ball goes through the uprights, he’s even more vocal. He directed a hard stare at the Bears’ sideline after his game-winner in Chicago. On Sunday, he was mobbed by teammates before the ball even landed.

“My favorite part as a kicker making a kick like that is watching the other sideline go completely silent, to be honest with you,” he said.



### D.J. Jones

#### **49ers nose tackle D.J. Jones won't be running on empty this season**

By Eric Branch  
San Francisco Chronicle  
August 20, 2018

Last year, before the 49ers drafted Mississippi nose tackle D.J. Jones in the sixth round, an unnamed SEC offensive assistant told NFL.com that Jones had resembled a “different player” as his senior season progressed.

“I just thought,” the coach said, “he looked like he kind of ran out of gas later in the year.”

Then, as a rookie, Jones played in nine of the 49ers’ first 10 games (missing one with an injury) before the team chose not to dress him for the final six games.

So why was Jones making a habit of sputtering down the stretch? It appears the chronic condition was tied to his conditioning.

On Saturday night, after Jones’ standout performance in a preseason loss at Houston, he joked that the south Texas heat the 49ers endured during joint practices with the Texans earlier in the week was nothing compared to what he experienced this offseason in Greenville, S.C.

Jones said he’d wait until midday, when the temperature spiked, to begin three-hour workouts at his high school that included lifting and running around the track and up and down the bleachers. Jones, who is listed at 6 feet and 321 pounds, said he hadn’t run so much before and shed 20 pounds while following what he termed “The D.J. Jones Workout, man.”

“I feel way better,” Jones said. “A lot better. I feel faster, stronger. I can breathe better, actually.”

Crowds arrive early on opening day of the Golden Gate International Exposition. Feb. 18, 1939.

And it seems Jones can exhale if his rookie-season finish made him wonder about his chances of making the 53-man roster. On Saturday, two days after finishing a strong training camp, he had three tackles and forced a fumble, while earning the highest grade among 49ers defenders, according to Pro Football Focus.

It appears Jones is in line to eventually replace Earl Mitchell, who will turn 31 in September, and cement himself as one of the 49ers’ recent late-round finds. In their past two drafts, the 49ers also have selected tight end George Kittle, wide receiver Trent Taylor, safety Adrian Colbert and promising rookie defensive tackle Jullian Taylor in the fifth round or later.

For his part, Jones concedes it wasn’t until months after he was drafted — when he was observing the 49ers’ final six games as a healthy scratch — that he understood his work ethic needed upgrading.

“I took that as a signal that I needed to work,” Jones said. “If I was inactive, that means someone else was better than me. So I felt like I needed to work that much harder. Nothing against anyone I’m going against, but when I’m on the field, I feel like I’m the best one out there. So I need to show that to these coaches so they can put me on the field.”

Jones is a big man with a big personality. Last year, he had a guest spot as a weatherman for Fox Carolina News and advised viewers to “get some fluids in you” as he outlined the steamy forecast. His



dad, Dave, also known as “Big Dave,” owns a catering business that is headlined by his barbecue sauces (“Big Dave’s All-American Hawaiian Bold Gold” is one). D.J. is a big fan, but notes he didn’t enjoy any sauce this offseason while he was slimming his body.

“It’s still good,” he said, careful to not hurt Big Dave’s sales, “but I cut it out.”

Jones, whose mammoth weight-room numbers include a 440-pound bench press, has the strength to perform the primary duty of most nose tackles: take on the blocks of two offensive linemen, freeing up the linebackers behind him to amass the tackles and glory.

On Saturday, though, Jones had a modest moment in the spotlight when his tackle helped force a fumble by running back Lavon Coleman. It actually appeared a hit by linebacker Mark Nzeocha did more to jar the ball loose, and even Jones was initially clueless.

“I didn’t even know I forced the fumble,” he said. “I had to get to the sideline and people had to let me know I did it.”

So perhaps Jones was fortunate in that case. But after he ran, and ran, to avoid running out of gas, he might say this: Good things come to those who work.



## **49ers rookie D.J. Jones was raised on Cowboys and brisket**

By Matt Barrows  
Sacramento Bee  
October 20, 2017

Big Dave Jones' story is one of persistence and barbecue sauce.

Jones had opened a restaurant, Li'l Red Barbecue Smokehouse, in Dallas in the early 1990s when it occurred to him the business really would take off if he somehow became affiliated with his favorite sports franchise, the Dallas Cowboys.

So one day he took a sample platter to team headquarters hoping a nibble would get him in the door. He was turned away, but kept showing up with an assortment of ribs, brisket and pulled pork as well as a bottle of his custom-made sauce.

On the 27th try, the security guard finally broke down and had a taste. It was Jones' ticket into the kingdom.

"So we go down some corridors and make a right and go through these double doors and there's Emmitt Smith, Michael Irvin, Troy Aikman, Larry Allen," he recalled. "My knees buckled."

That foray led to a long-running catering gig with the Cowboys that had Jones making deliveries during minicamps, cooking family dinners at Tony Tolbert's home, catering a birthday celebration for Nate Newton's son and essentially whipping up a batch of barbecue any time the triumphant, ever-partying Cowboys got together.

"If someone got a new hat, they had a party," Jones chuckled.

"A helicopter flew in one day and landed on the back field," he continued. "And the gentleman who jumped out had a Cowboys jersey. I think it had zero-zero on it. It was Supreme Court Justice Clarence Thomas and his wife. He's a huge Cowboys fan."

The relationship also gave his son, 49ers nose tackle D.J. Jones, an early glimpse into the NFL.

He'd be one of the boys running around and playing games at team picnics. He'd also accompany his dad to drop off food at team headquarters. Dave recalled one delivery in which they encountered Smith and safety Kenneth Gant in the hallway.

"And D.J. had his little Cowboys cap on," Dave said. "And I said, 'Son, here's your opportunity.' And nothing happens. I looked to my right and it was like my son had literally frozen. His mouth was open but nothing was coming out. I nudged him a little bit and he gave them his cap. Kenny Gant signed one side and Emmitt signed the other side of the cap."

On Sunday Jones will face the team his father once fueled with slaw and smoked turkey.

A sixth-round pick out of Mississippi in the spring, Jones has been backing up veteran Earl Mitchell and has averaged 17 snaps over the first six games. His playing time stands to increase this week with one 49ers defensive lineman, Arik Armstead, on injured reserve with a broken hand and another, Aaron Lynch, out with a calf strain.

Jones (6-foot-1, 319 pounds) gets his girth from his father – Big Dave, 58, played at North Carolina A&T in the 1970s – with a big assist from his love of brisket.



D.J. said that when the final school bell rang, he'd head to his father's restaurant. By that time, the family had moved to Greenville, S.C., to be near D.J.'s ailing grandmother.

"I'd leave school and I'd go to the restaurant," he said. "And eat some fries. Put some (brisket) on top. I'd eat all that and see what else was there."

Big Dave notes that when he was in Texas, a group of powerlifters were regulars at his restaurant. Instead of protein shakes, the group would binge on brisket. "They'd go through two or three pounds of it," he said.

He wondered if it was coincidence that when D.J. transferred from East Mississippi Community College to Ole Miss in 2015, he immediately was one of the school's strongest players, bench pressing 440 pounds and squat-lifting 650 pounds.

"I'm not attributing brisket to his body form," Big Dave said. "But let's just say he ate a lot of brisket."

D.J. said he likes to dabble with barbecue and experimenting with sauces, but not to the extent of his father, whose cooking and catering business is built on his two sauces, Big Dave's Texas Red and Big Dave's All-American Hawaiian Bold Gold.

Ever the savvy operator, he said he's toying with the idea of putting his son's image on the bottle and stocking it on shelves on the West Coast.

"We definitely want to market the Bold Gold out there," he said.



### Kyle Juszczyk

#### **For 49ers, Offense Still Gets Plenty of 'Juice'**

By Doug Williams  
NBC Sports Bay Area  
May 17, 2019

Niners head coach Kyle Shanahan loves players who can perform in multiple roles. It's one reason why he and general manager John Lynch recently drafted wide receiver Jalen Hurd, because he has the skill set to play wide receiver, tight end or running back. It's also why he loves fullback Kyle Juszczyk.

In a league where fullback mostly has disappeared from offensive schemes, Juszczyk still has a job in Shanahan's offense. And, as the 49ers ramp up their offseason program in preparation for the 2019 season, fullback will be a key role again for a scheme that has added running backs and wide receivers to its skill-position stable.

This week, Gregg Rosenthal of NFL.com projected the starters for every NFC West team, and San Francisco stands out as the only one with a fullback.

Wrote Rosenthal: "Give Shanahan credit for zigging while the rest of the league zags. Kyle Juszczyk is the only fullback to make a team's projected-starters list in this entire exercise. He's been one of the 49ers' better offensive players the last two seasons."

Juszczyk, 28, has played six seasons in the NFL and has been selected for the Pro Bowl the past three seasons (the first with Baltimore in 2016 before he signed with the 49ers).

Though he rarely carries the ball out of the backfield – just 15 carries over the past two seasons, for a combined 61 yards and no touchdowns – he's a big part of the passing game as both a blocker in protecting the quarterback, and as a receiver. He averaged 10.8 yards on his 30 receptions in 2018 and had 31 catches in 2017 for a 9.5-yard average.

But as one writer pointed out in 2018, "Juice" is not a throwback as a fullback to an earlier time, but a "unicorn" in that he's a special player who is perfectly suited to Shanahan's system of offense, capable of running deep routes out of the backfield or lining up anywhere he's needed.

"Kyle is a great player," Shanahan said late last season. "He's as good of a fullback as there is or probably has been."

Last season, he had 56- and 35-yard receptions while not lined up at fullback, but as a slot receiver. He has the speed to do that, while also having the size for breaking tackles once he gets into the secondary. When Shanahan entered this offseason, he knew the 49ers needed major upgrades at almost all positions. But Juszczyk's spot was exempt.

"We're looking to improve at every position except quarterback and fullback," said Shanahan. In 2019, Shanahan's "unicorn" should again play a high-impact role in the 49ers offense.



## Why Kyle Juszczyk is More of a Unicorn Than the Last of a Dying Breed

By Joe Fann  
49ers.com  
November 7, 2018

Fullbacks are going extinct. You know it. I know it. Kyle Juszczyk knows it.

It's no secret that the NFL has been steadily devaluing fullbacks for years now. But is that because the position has become obsolete in today's pass-first, high-scoring game? Or is it because there's a deficiency of fullbacks who possess an invaluable skill set for a modern offense?

According to Pro Football Focus, only five fullbacks have played at least 100 snaps this season and only two have reached the 200 mark. Juszczyk is far and away the leader at 379 while playing a career high 64 percent of snaps for the San Francisco 49ers in 2018. He's posted 21 receptions for 255 yards and a touchdown and has more receiving yards than Kenyan Drake, LeSean McCoy and Ezekiel Elliott. That's big time usage, even in an offense like Kyle Shanahan's that is predicated on the presence of a fullback.

"Every game, if the other team has a fullback, he'll come up to me, and it's usually the exact same conversation," Juszczyk said. "It's, 'Damn, man, they've got you doing everything. You've got it good.' Literally every single time. There's not much I can say. I just grin."

But Shanahan isn't a conservationist striving to protect football's equivalent to the Bengal tiger. Juszczyk provides a legitimate mismatch, and Shanahan utilizes him as such. That's why Juszczyk is far more of a unicorn than the last of a dying breed.

"Kyle is a great player," Shanahan said. "He's as good of a fullback as there is or probably has been."

Juszczyk's aptitude at the position stems from a robust résumé as a high school football player. He earned all-state honors in Ohio at linebacker. He also played tight end while dabbling at wide receiver, quarterback and running back for good measure. Most colleges recruited Juszczyk as a linebacker, but he preferred to play offense. Harvard gave him that opportunity, and he signed with the Crimson to play tight end.

He went on to be a two-time All-American and three-time All-Ivy League selection. Juszczyk's 125 career receptions rank sixth in program history, and his 22 receiving touchdowns are the third-most of any Harvard player. And yet, despite all of the production and accolades, he had no future in the NFL as a tight end.

"Rarely does anyone want to be a fullback," Juszczyk said. "You become a fullback by necessity. I was a tight end who was too short. That's what my agent told me during the pre-draft process."

Juszczyk made the position switch prior to the Senior Bowl. A week in Mobile, Ala., was a baptism by fire. His physicality as a former high school linebacker served him well at fullback.

"I'd never pass blocked from the backfield in my entire life," Juszczyk said.

But he held his own and even earned strong praise from acclaimed NFL Network draft analyst Mike Mayock after one standout rep. Juszczyk stood up the linebacker who came barreling down on him and ultimately planted him on his back.

"In reality, I got kind of lucky because the guy kind of tripped. But it looked great," Juszczyk said laughing about the play, clearly not arguing with the outcome or the subsequent attention it earned him.

He still faced an uphill battle, though, even after a strong week at the Senior Bowl. A 6-foot-1 tight end had no chance at making an NFL roster. A 6-foot-1 fullback's odds weren't much better. Fullbacks were already becoming a niche in 2013. That's part of the reason why he was snubbed an invite to the NFL



Scouting Combine. But Juszczyk kept the proper mindset, and his confidence never wavered. He didn't need all 32 teams to fall in love with him. All he needed was one.

"I figured I'd be able to find my spot somewhere," Juszczyk said. "My goal was that once I got my foot in the door, at some point I'd be able to showcase my receiving skills."

His transition to fullback mirrored his move to full-time tight end in college. Juszczyk was accustomed to the "fun stuff" in high school – being the star player, constantly having the football in his hands and making regular visits to the end zone.

Harvard head coach Tim Murphy provided him with a bit of a wake-up call upon his arrival in Boston.

"You can't play unless you block," Murphy told Juszczyk. "You need to become a better blocker, otherwise I'm not going to leave you in for the pass plays."

Juszczyk wasn't thrilled about that reality, but he embraced it all the same in order to get to the carrot that dangled in front of him. The NFL posed a similar challenge. The Baltimore Ravens wouldn't have used a fourth-round pick on him if they weren't intrigued by his proficiencies as a pass catcher. But those abilities were immaterial if Juszczyk couldn't excel in the grunt work mandated of a fullback.

"I wasn't going to make the team if I couldn't block," he said. "Once you're able to block, then you're on the field more. And when you're on the field more, then you get more opportunities to catch passes."

It was really that simple in Juszczyk's mind. Survival had always been objective No. 1. The goal was that everything else would ideally fall into place thereafter.

He continued to evolve his game during four seasons with the Ravens, emphasizing different aspects of his skill set each season. Juszczyk started for Baltimore in 2014 in offensive coordinator Gary Kubiak's scheme. His role shifted drastically in 2015 under Marc Trestman – a coach whose system was void of a fullback all together. In order to retain his roster spot, Juszczyk had to prove capable of being the team's third-down back. He did so admirably and racked up a career high 41 receptions and four touchdowns that season. Another successful campaign in 2016 resulted in his first trip to the Pro Bowl.

Juszczyk entered free agency the following offseason and signed a lucrative four-year deal with the 49ers – the richest in league history for a fullback. General manager John Lynch justified that price tag by noting that the 49ers envisioned Juszczyk as an "OW" (offensive weapon). Comprehensive inconsistencies for the 49ers offense in 2017 limited Juszczyk to just 21 receptions on the year. He still managed his share of big plays and earned a second straight Pro Bowl nod. Juszczyk's leaping 28-yard reception despite double coverage against the Houston Texans was the type of highlight-reel play seldom seen from a fullback.

His knack for explosive plays has continued in 2018. Juszczyk hauled in a career long 56-yard catch-and-run against the Minnesota Vikings in Week 1. Two weeks later he was on the receiving end of a 35-yard touchdown pass from Jimmy Garoppolo. What's most impressive is that Juszczyk wasn't lined up at fullback on either play which illustrates his deployment as the 49ers "OW." He was lined up in the slot right against the Vikings and at tight end on the left side of the formation against the Chiefs.

Jerick McKinnon's season-ending ACL tear and various nagging injuries to Matt Breida have only increased Juszczyk's snap count. The fullback has spent most of this season as the 49ers primary third-down back.

"The more injuries you have, the more you keep him out there because you don't have the option to mix up personnel groups as much," Shanahan said. "But even without that, you want him out there because

he does a lot of good things in the run game and pass game. Any time you have a fullback on the field, it limits what the defense does."



Juszczyk will tell you that he's grown fond of all the responsibilities encompassed in his job description. He still prefers catching passes and scoring touchdowns, but he's also found genuine enjoyment in the dirty work. Juszczyk works weekly with 49ers run game coordinator Mike McDaniel on the minutia of the position – improving his technique and hitting his blocks at the perfect angle. There's a certain satisfaction in springing Breida for big runs, and Juszczyk deserves ample credit for the running back's breakout sophomore campaign.

The trivial cliché of “the more you can do,” while admittedly overused, is literally Juszczyk's calling card. It's what earned him a college scholarship, a spot in the NFL and a big-money second contract.

“We're looking to improve at every position except quarterback and fullback,” Shanahan told reporters last winter when detailing the team's offseason plans.

That kind of job security contradicts the notion that fullbacks are going extinct. Or maybe it means that the 49ers have found a player who supersedes the outdated threshold of his traditional blue-collar position. You be the judge.



## With Kyle Juszczyk and Kyle Shanahan, the fullback is alive and well in San Francisco

By Nick Wagoner  
ESPN.com  
September 4, 2018

Widely regarded as one of the NFL's brightest offensive minds, San Francisco 49ers coach Kyle Shanahan's concepts and schemes are considered among the most detailed and creative in the league. So it was only fitting that one of his first orders of business upon taking the Niners job in January 2017 was identifying and signing ... a fullback?

Yes, one of the league's foremost offensive play callers prioritized adding a player at the one position that many believe is headed toward extinction. That perception didn't prevent Shanahan and general manager John Lynch from signing fullback Kyle Juszczyk to an eye-opening \$21 million deal over four years with \$10.5 million guaranteed.

At the time, Juszczyk's contract was worth more than double the next highest-paid fullback on the list and made him one of the 10 highest-paid running backs in the league.

But Shanahan's love for fullbacks isn't universal. He has an affinity for fullbacks like Juszczyk, who are capable of doing more than slamming into would-be tacklers down after down in hopes of creating a running lane for the tailback.

"The negative can be you can have a fullback in all the time and they know you're in two-back all the time there's only a couple of eligible [receivers] they have to worry about so it's a lot easier to cover people," Shanahan said. "But, that's the advantage with someone like ours that just because our fullback is in, you don't know whether we're in two-back or one-back, which I think puts pressure on defenses."

In other words, it's about options. With Juszczyk in the game, Shanahan can call just about anything in his playbook without allowing the defense to make substitutions. If the defense stays in base, it can create mismatches in the passing game. If the defense goes smaller with an extra defensive back, the Niners can power up and run it.

Having those options at his disposal last season, Shanahan used more two-back formations than any team in the league. The Niners played 391 snaps with two running backs on the field. The league average was 138.7. Of those 391 snaps, Juszczyk was on the field for 385 of them, most among fullbacks and 62 more than New England's James Develin, who had the second-most.

As you might expect given those numbers, the Niners finished with the most yards in the league (2,146) with two backs on the field, narrowly edging New England's 2,144. Jacksonville was next and well behind at 1,282.

Juszczyk finished with 33 catches for 315 yards on the season but it wasn't until late in the year, especially when Jimmy Garoppolo took over at quarterback, when things began to click. In Garoppolo's five starts, Juszczyk had 17 catches for 195 yards, twice setting game highs in receiving yards in a three-game span.

"He's not your average fullback," Garoppolo said. "He's more agile, he can run routes from the backfield, he can run routes split out. That's a rare thing to find in a fullback. ... And he has good hands on top of all of that. It's just a unique position that he's in and he takes advantage of it."

Indeed, Shanahan doesn't hesitate to alter the way in which traditional fullbacks are used. Juszczyk lined up all over in 2017, even spending 26 snaps as the slot receiver. He was targeted 42 times in the passing game, most among fullbacks with 25 of those targets coming outside the numbers and 12 between the



numbers and hash marks. His 152 routes run were also most among fullbacks. Juszczuk caught 79 percent of those passes.

And, if the preseason and training camp were any indication, Shanahan and Juszczuk were just scratching the surface of what they can do together. Now in Year 2 with Shanahan, Juszczuk says he feels "unbelievably more comfortable," relating it to his days at Harvard where it took some time to adjust to his new surroundings and scheme.

"From X's and O's, Kyle throws a lot at you," Juszczuk said. "Everybody knows it's a complex offense. ... There's a lot of layers to it and that first year, you've got to start at ground zero. Where this year, as soon as we came back from OTAs, we weren't really starting from day one. We were able to pick up from where we left off and I feel like we're already ahead of the curve compared to where we were at the end of last season."

Juszczuk already figured to have an even bigger role in the Niners' offense in 2018 before running back Jerick McKinnon suffered a season-ending ACL injury. With McKinnon lost for the year and backups Alfred Morris and Matt Breida having little track record as productive pass catchers, Juszczuk could be in for even more work.

That would come in addition to his many other jobs, which include operating as the lead blocker in the running game -- a fullback is imperative in Shanahan's outside zone scheme to help wipe out strong safety blitzes and pick up other would-be run pressure so receivers can stay wide and block corners -- and could mean more work as a pass protector on third down.

In other words, Juszczuk's value won't necessarily show up in numbers.

Finding players wearing as many hats as Juszczuk around the league has become increasingly difficult. In fact, some teams don't even bother carrying a fullback, as nine teams didn't have one after Saturday's roster cuts to 53-man rosters.

Niners defensive coordinator Robert Saleh has noticed the shift in fullback usage, pointing out that the teams that have players capable of doing a lot make it particularly tough on defenses because the game has changed and many defensive players rarely even see two-back sets on a regular basis.

"The art of defending a two-back run game is becoming harder to teach," Saleh said.

Those that still do have a fullback generally aren't looking for the traditional type who might only serve as a means to help the running game. Like everything else in the NFL, the position has evolved.

"It's well documented that there's not as many fullbacks in the league as there used to be, so I think in order to stick around you have to be able to do those things, you have to be able to do multiple things," Juszczuk said. "And I think the age of the stiff, muscled up, road grader. I think there are times for that in the game, but I don't think a lot of teams are going to use a roster spot on that so you have to be able to show you can do some other things. You've got to find a way to stick around."



## Free Agency, Football and a Fiancé: The Busy Offseason of Kyle Juszczyk

By Joe Fann  
49ers.com  
August 18, 2017

Kyle Juszczyk felt his phone buzzing in his pocket.

“OK, there’s an 80 percent chance you’re going to the Philadelphia Eagles, a 15 percent chance you’re going to stay with the Baltimore Ravens and a five percent chance that a random team enters the equation,” his agent explained to him.

This was the fullback’s first encounter with NFL free agency. Juszczyk spent the first four years of his career in Baltimore and was coming off of his first Pro Bowl season in 2016. Now he readied himself for a move to Philly.

Then the focus shifted to the Buffalo Bills. A potential move back home to Cleveland also entered the picture as the Browns gained interest.

“It was a whirlwind of emotions,” Juszczyk said. “Literally, every other day, it felt like I was going to be living in a different city.”

The San Francisco 49ers got into the mix two days before the official start of free agency when NFL clubs are allowed to speak with agents. Admittedly, Juszczyk was wary at first with the 49ers coming off of a 2-14 season in 2016. That initial trepidation quickly subsided. Among the California sunshine and the quality of life in the Bay Area, Kyle Shanahan’s offense became another selling point.

“My agent told me about how well I’d fit in Shanahan’s scheme,” Juszczyk said. “He could tell how serious John Lynch was about getting a deal done. That’s when I knew San Francisco was the real deal.”

San Francisco made Juszczyk the highest paid fullback in the NFL, and they introduced their new playmaker at a press conference that featured six other new additions. Brian Hoyer, Pierre Garçon and Marquise Goodwin were among those who joined Juszczyk in the Levi’s® Stadium auditorium.

“This is a completely new team – more than half the roster is turned over, a new head coach, a new GM, everything,” Juszczyk said. “It almost feels like we are the first class when there’s a new head coach at a college and he brings in his recruits.

“We are kind of like those recruits who want to build something. If we do build something special, we will be remembered as that first class.”

Juszczyk and his girlfriend Kristin had a trip already on the books to Anguilla shortly after he signed. They nearly cancelled due to the quick turnaround, but ultimately decided that a celebration was in order.

“You know what? Something great just happened in my life. Let’s reward ourselves a little bit,” Juszczyk recalled the deliberation.

Baltimore Ravens wide receiver Mike Campanaro and his girlfriend joined them on the trip. The week in paradise was spent with morning workouts on the beach and a quick lift followed by good food, rest and relaxation.



The sticker shock of Bay Area properties welcomed Jusczyk back to the States. The fullback told his realtor that he hoped to pay comparable prices to the place he rented in Baltimore. There were no such options.

“That was my first lesson in how expensive things were,” Jusczyk said.

Then came the dilemma of whether to rent or buy. The volatile nature of the NFL makes renting the most logical option for a number of players. It makes it much easier to pack up and move to another city should that become necessary.

But Shanahan just got to San Francisco on a six-year deal. The coach’s job security, in turn, is also Jusczyk’s job security.

“You’re going to be here as long as I’m here,” Shanahan told the fullback. “Just buy the house.”

And so Jusczyk bought a house. The endless paperwork and hassle of applying for a mortgage served a rude awakening to life as a homeowner. Mold turned a one-week project to install new hardwood floors into a three-month headache. The dishwasher needed fixing, they had to order a new garbage disposal and they ended up painting the entire first floor.

“Being an adult is tough, man. It’s really tough,” joked the 26-year-old fullback.

The offseason program went much smoother than Jusczyk’s remodeling projects. The fullback lauded Shanahan for the player-friendly schedule. The coach built in breaks between meetings and made efficient use of allotted practice time. If Shanahan saw legs getting heavy towards the end of a session, he’d cut practice short in order to avoid injuries. The coach also cancelled the final practice of mandatory minicamp for similar reasons.

Instead, Shanahan took the opportunity to plan a family barbeque before players left for summer vacation. Shanahan has made it a point of emphasis for each player’s family to be involved. He encouraged wives and girlfriends to get to know each other and make connections as well.

That leads us to Jusczyk’s Memorial Day Weekend plans. He and Kristin went back East to her hometown of Long Island, N.Y. Kristen’s parents hosted each of their families for the holiday weekend. A Saturday boat ride to Fire Island, a narrow strip of beaches beyond the coastline, provided the perfect backdrop for what Jusczyk had planned.

The families took a walk down the beach before deciding it was time to head back to the boat. Jusczyk slipped off his sandals just before turning around. As everyone reached the boat, the fullback informed his girlfriend that he’d accidentally forgotten them back at the beach. Jusczyk planted a photographer nearby who waited for the couple to return for the sandals. Meanwhile, their family members set up decorations and champagne to celebrate at the boat.

“I got down on one knee, gave my spiel and proposed,” Jusczyk said. “I’d never felt my heart thump like that.”

But Jusczyk had one more surprise up his sleeve. All of the couple’s closest friends – an estimated 50-to-60 people in all – had gathered for an engagement bash back at the house.

“That’s a lot of surprises for one day,” Jusczyk said. “It wasn’t until we got back to the house that I was able to kind of relax.”



Following the offseason program, they went back abroad for a two-week European excursion. The engaged couple went to three different cities in Croatia (Split, Hvar and Dubrovnik) and four cities in Greece (Athens, Mykonos, Santorini and Paros).

A new city, a new home, a fiancé and several breathtaking trips in between – not a bad six months for Juszczyk. The fullback returned to the Bay Area two weeks before the start of training camp, and it was back to business.

“Once I got back here and saw some of the guys, that’s when the switch flipped,” Juszczyk said. “We are pumped to start building something.”



## George Kittle

### **Does George Kittle ever have a bad day?**

By Nick Wagoner  
ESPN.com  
August 19, 2019

It takes George Kittle a full 14 seconds to answer what seems like an easy question.

Two days before the 49ers would end their offseason program this spring, the tight end is lounging in a sleeveless hoodie and athletic shorts, his feet propped on the desk of a PR staffer. One of the breakout stars of the 2018 NFL season has been riffing about his whirlwind rise to fame, his love of professional wrestling, his recent wedding and an upcoming trip to the U.S. Open at Pebble Beach.

Then, a simple question brings him to a screeching halt: Have you ever had a bad day?

Kittle takes his feet off the desk, leans down and thinks about it longer than you'd expect. Finally, he looks up and says, simply: "No."

Sure, he acknowledges, there's been the occasional disappointment, a minor injury here or there, but nothing reaching the level of a full-fledged bad day. In the end? "I'm just grateful I get to play football every single day of my life," Kittle says. "So I'm never really in a bad mood."

Go ahead and groan. The notion of a Ripken-like streak of non-bad days -- that'd be 9,000 and counting for the 25-year-old -- seems impossible. But Kittle might be one of the few who can say it and mean it. Those closest to him struggle to answer the same question. His dad, Bruce, can't remember even one ... maybe that time a girl didn't like him back early in elementary school? Mom Jan says George was disappointed to miss Iowa's 2016 game against Michigan with an injury ... but stops short because the Hawkeyes won, leaving George feeling just fine. Kittle's wife, Claire, draws a blank. College coaches such as Iowa's Kirk Ferentz and Chris Doyle and high school coach Greg Nation? Stumped, stumped and more stumped.

Only close friend and former Iowa teammate Steve Manders manages anything close to a real answer. He points to a rough spring practice between Kittle's sophomore and junior years, when the Iowa coaching staff laid into Kittle for not being serious enough about football. Manders tried telling him later that anybody can have a bad practice, but Kittle jumped out of his chair and vowed to cut back on the partying and go all-in on football. "The lightbulb kind of hit on, and ever since then it just took off and he never looked back," Manders says. "He just kind of created his own destiny."

Now, entering his third season in professional football, Kittle has become one of the league's most unlikely rising stars. The 2017 fifth-round pick had 48 catches in four years at Iowa -- then last year exploded for 88 receptions and 1,377 yards, an NFL record for receiving yards by a tight end in a season. It also included 855 yards after the catch, the most of any player since ESPN started tracking the stat in 2006. Combine that game-breaking ability with a fun-loving, larger-than-life personality and it's little wonder Kittle is already drawing comparisons to another exuberant tight end: Rob Gronkowski.

Like Gronk, Kittle enjoyed every second of his breakout season, which included wearing a Deion Sanders Falcons jersey for a postgame interview with Prime Time himself, crushing the local Panda Express every Monday with receiver Trent Taylor and safety Adrian Colbert (he ordered the same thing every time: orange chicken, chow mein, fried rice and crab Rangoon, unless the honey walnut shrimp looked strong that day -- "when it's good, it's really good"), and the week he finally followed through on a promise to Claire to dress nicer on game days ... by switching from wrestling T-shirts to a Hawaiian shirt adorned with toucans.



49ers quarterback Jimmy Garoppolo had a locker near Gronkowski in New England and now finds himself in the line of vision of the Stone Cold Steve Austin figure that sits atop Kittle's locker. He doesn't shy away from the idea that Kittle has some Gronk-like traits.

"It's one of those things that's contagious," he says. "Both of them are the guy in the room that is picking everyone up, getting everyone laughing and feeling good and everything. I'm glad we've got a guy like that."

EVERY SATURDAY DURING the season, a letter for George Kittle arrives at 49ers headquarters. The next day, Kittle makes reading it his top priority. The letters are from his father, usually three or four pages long with a mix of notes about the upcoming opponent, observations from the previous week's game, a photo or two and what Bruce calls "significant" (and often vulgar) trash-talk. The letters are themed-things like staying focused on the moment and savoring the opportunity to play football -- and usually feature a cameo from comic book heroes like Batman or Spider-Man.

"That dude is Ric Flair on the football field. When the lights come on and he comes out of the locker room, he flips that switch and he's in that same place until the end of the game. And then he goes back to being George Kittle."

On the team bus, George works his way through the week's letter, feeding off every word. Bruce, a big proponent of sports psychology, has taught George the importance of having an alter ego. There's George, and then there's Football George, agent of on-field chaos -- and the bus ride gets him where he needs to go in more ways than one. "That's kind of like the first step to my switch," Kittle says. "I read that and I know, 'Hey, it's game day, lock in.'"

George has kept every letter since his father began writing them eight years ago, storing them in his nightstand. His favorite came last season before a Thursday night game against the Raiders. That letter emphasized the importance of ending the Bay Area rivalry on a high note before the Raiders move to Las Vegas. Kittle finished with four catches for 108 yards and a TD, including a one-handed grab, in a blowout win.

Bruce's letters began as a somber remembrance of former Oklahoma linebacker Austin Box. In 2011, Bruce was Oklahoma's tight ends and tackles coach when Box died of a painkiller overdose. In the aftermath, Bruce found out that Box's dad had written his son a letter before every game since Austin was in seventh grade. He decided to do the same for George. George calls Bruce his best friend, and the letters remain integral in keeping them connected when distance gets in the way.

On the way to the field, Kittle puts his helmet on, delivers a head-butt to a wall -- no, really -- and the transformation is complete. George is a die-hard Batman fan but considers his game-day self to be more like the Dark Knight's archenemy. "I don't try to channel all the Joker, obviously, because he has some issues," Kittle says, unleashing a diabolical laugh of his own. "Creating a little bit of chaos is just kind of what I try to do. I'm just trying to be the most outgoing, craziest person on the field."

In an October loss to Green Bay, Kittle delivered a crushing block on a rushing play, planting a Packers defender on the ground. When he got back to the huddle, he was laughing so maniacally that center Weston Richburg turned to him and asked, "What the f--- is wrong with you, dude?"

Kittle says his favorite thing to do in football is move a man from point A to point B against his will. "That dude is Ric Flair on the football field," says Nation, his high school coach. "When the lights come on and he comes out of the locker room, he flips that switch and he's in that same place until the end of the game. And then he goes back to being George Kittle."

KITTLE'S STARDOM HAS always felt like a genetic fait accompli; sports are woven into the Kittle fabric. Bruce played at Iowa and was a co-captain of the 1981 squad that went to the Rose Bowl. Jan was a standout basketball player at Drake who was also on the softball team. Sister Emma played volleyball at Iowa and Oklahoma. Cousins Jess Settles, Henry Krieger-Coble and Brad Carlson are, respectively, one



of the top 10 scorers in Hawkeyes basketball history; a standout tight end at Iowa who has spent time in the NFL; and Iowa's career home run king.

That tight family bond is also at the heart of Kittle's unrelenting loyalty to the many friends he considers family. Kittle's first move after he received his signing bonus in 2017 was to pay for the medical expenses of a friend's mother in Oklahoma. More recently, Kittle sent a signed Pro Bowl jersey to his tight ends coach at Iowa, LeVar Woods, thanking him for his help.

In the offseason, Bruce, Jan and Emma all moved from Iowa to Nashville to be close to George and Claire's offseason home. The move was hard on Jan because it meant leaving their farm and many family members behind. "He called me and he goes, 'Mom, you have always told us that wherever we are together as a family, that's what home is, and we're all gonna be together, so it's going to be OK,'" Jan says. "He always sees the positive. Sometimes you want to say, 'Come on, George,' but he really does."

Before their departure, the Krieger family reunion took place with 113 of a possible 128 relatives attending. And after the extended Kittle family arrived in Nashville, George and Claire threw an impromptu housewarming party to celebrate the move. On short notice, 70 people from all over the country showed up, including current and former NFL players, as well as friends from as far back as George's ninth-grade basketball team in Iowa.

"We're all just hanging out, like very low-key in our backyard," Claire says. "And he's hopping around to everybody, talking to them, laughing. It's just everybody has a good time when he's around, honestly."

FOR A GUY who has never had a bad day, Kittle's offseason contained a bunch of very good ones. From his first Pro Bowl to the Super Bowl -- he was a pitchman for a credit card company -- to the U.S. Open to his honeymoon, Kittle lived the fantasy offseason of a 20-something NFL player, with a truly epic week sandwiched in the middle of it all.

It started with WrestleMania -- his second straight year attending; Kittle is a huge wrestling fan -- and ended with his wedding, which he calls the best day of his life.

Kittle and Claire met in 2012 as freshmen at Iowa. Claire was on the basketball team and one day was getting ready to hop on her moped to head across campus. She had just pulled on her bright pink helmet when Kittle walked up and said, "Nice helmet." A few months later, Kittle and Claire were inseparable; by last year, they were engaged and Claire was planning a 2020 wedding, before they made a very George Kittle decision: Why wait?

Just two days after George, Bruce and Manders got back from WrestleMania in New York City, the Kittle and Till families pulled together the type of intimate, family-only wedding Claire had often dreamed about. They reserved space at M.C. Ginsberg, a custom jewelry store in Iowa City owned by some of Claire's family friends. A local florist came through with a small bouquet; Bruce, an ordained minister, would marry the happy couple; and Jan, a photographer, would handle photos and videos. The day before the wedding, however, a little bit of Football George spilled into Everyday George.

Kittle had been wanting to get a tattoo of his alter ego -- the Heath Ledger version of the Joker -- and he wanted to do it at Neon Dragon Tattoo in Cedar Rapids, Iowa, his preferred purveyor of ink. With scheduling conflicts both ways, the day before the biggest day of his life was the only option.

While Claire's brother Riley and Bruce were in favor, Claire, Jan and Emma hated the idea. But Kittle was insistent, and he spent seven hours in the chair while the Joker, complete with bold, red lips, took over most of the inside of his left forearm.

The next morning, surrounded by their inner circle -- just seven other people attended -- Claire married George with his left forearm covered in saran wrap under his long-sleeved white shirt to prevent the tat from bleeding through.



"He's so goofy," Claire says. "At first, I thought he was joking -- he has a lot of ideas that are out there and he doesn't actually go through with them. So at first, I was like, 'Oh my gosh, that's the worst idea you've ever had. I hate that.'

"But then after he had explained to me all of the meaning behind it and then seeing it in person, it's actually really cool. So I do really like it now. That's just George."



## **Manbuns! The return of Jimmy G! It's been an exciting summer for 49ers tight end George Kittle**

By Lindsay Jones  
The Athletic  
August 6, 2019

If you want to talk to George Kittle, get ready to wait in line.

After a recent training camp practice in Santa Clara, Kittle was swarmed — by the children of 49ers staffers, by fans screaming for autographs and hoping to pose for selfies — while teammates holler across the field long after practice is finished.

With apologies to Travis Kelce, if there's anyone ready to assume the mantle of the NFL's most popular tight end in the wake of Rob Gronkowski's retirement, it just might be the 49ers' Kittle.

Consider Kittle's qualifications: In 2018, just his second year in the NFL, he led all tight ends with 1,377 receiving yards, and was third in catches, with 88, and plays in a tight end-friendly offense that should see him repeating, if not exceeding, those numbers in 2019. He's also just beginning to tap into his social media star potential, thanks to a post-college California glow-up and an Instagram-worthy life with his new wife Claire, whom he married in a surprise ceremony in April.

In our latest edition of the training camp Q+A series, we chat with Kittle about how he plans to build off his breakout season, his advice for the league's rookie tight ends, and just what is up with his new ponytail. I have to imagine this training camp experience is a bit different for you, coming off a Pro Bowl season, than last year. How have you handled everything that's come with being a star player around here? It's going great, it's always great when you get back into it, get to play football, see the guys. But it's fun too because we're taking a lot of big steps forward, offensively and defensively, got a lot of young guys that have been stepping up already, so that's been fun to see.

### **How do you build off of what you were able to do in 2018?**

Growth, that's really the key word. My rookie year was a struggle. It's a very dense playbook, so just being able to get reps, get used to the speed of the NFL game — it's a lot different than college. It was kind of just getting thrown into the fire, that's how my rookie year was. So you take that and your second year try to learn from it, improve on that, and once you get comfortable, the playbook kind of takes off from there. This offense has been great for me, it's similar to what I had at Iowa, a lot of the techniques are the same thing, so I've been improving on those the last three years and really just trying to get better every day.

### **What are the steps you're hoping this offense can take in Year Three of this system and with this coaching staff, and with Jimmy back healthy?**

Our biggest thing is we have to score when we're in the red zone. That's something we struggled with the last two years. I love Robbie Gould, but I'd rather him kick less field goals and more extra points. So that's one thing we've really got to focus on, staying on the field, finishing when we get down to the red zone.

**You must be a big part of that. I saw you had a touchdown today in team drills. What's your chemistry been like so far in this camp with Garoppolo in the red zone? [Note: Kittle had five touchdowns in 2018, which tied for seventh among tight ends. The 49ers had the worst red zone offense in the NFL last year, scoring touchdowns on just 41% of drives inside the 20-yard line.]**

Really good. One thing I love about Jimmy is he just gives guys a chance to make plays, whether that's me, Dante, Deebo, Marquis, he's giving us the opportunity, and if you take advantage of that opportunity, he keeps feeding you and keeps feeding you. That's all you can ask for.

**How do you fit in this new generation of tight ends? With Rob Gronkowski retired now, is there an opportunity for someone else to become the next great tight end in this league?**



Well, Gronk is never gone [laughs]. My big thing is, I just like watching tight ends succeed, that's just good for the position group. Now, whether that's Kelce, (Eagles TE Zach) Ertz, (Colts TE Eric) Ebron, (Bucs TE) OJ Howard, (Austin) Hooper in Atlanta. It doesn't matter who it is, as long as it's not against me.

**I'm based in Denver, so I've been watching former Iowa Hawkeye and the Broncos' first-round draft pick Noah Fant a decent amount this preseason. How much are you watching him and fellow Hawkeye, Lions first-round pick TJ Hockenson, in their rookie camps? What sort of advice are you able to give them about what their rookies years are going to be like, especially for Noah, who is learning a very similar offense to the one you're playing in?**

I try to check in with them at least once a week because your rookie year is tough. You go from a whole college season to bowl prep to combine to rookie minicamp and you really only get a month off. It's a long year. So I just try to keep up with them, if they have any questions. They're both very mature, and I'm sure they're going to be just fine.

**OK now I have to ask about your hair, and this poll going on on social media between you and [49ers assistant coach] Katie Sowers about who has the better mini-ponytail. How did this start?**

It's a little competition. We're kind of twins. I'm not really sure yet. I'm just letting mine go, and she thinks I'm copying her. I'll let mine get longer than hers and then I'll be winning.

**Is this your first foray into the world of the manbun?**

This is the longest my hair has ever been in my life. Hard-core experimenting. If my wife didn't like it, I would have cut it already. But she's on board.



## A lesson in selflessness: Tight end George Kittle's impact on 49ers goes beyond numbers

By Chris Biderman  
Sacramento Bee  
July 28, 2019

Setting an NFL record for tight ends in 2018 isn't going to George Kittle's head. The feeling is quite the opposite for the 49ers' budding star entering his third season. He would prefer the ball end up in a teammate's hands.

"Those are my favorite plays," he said.

It's an odd sentiment from someone who had 1,377 receiving yards while leading the NFL in yards after the catch (870) and being one of two tight ends to finish in the top 35 in the category.

Kittle quickly became San Francisco's most dynamic offensive player, which is undoubtedly something his opponents will account for when trying to defend coach Kyle Shanahan's dynamic passing game.

Still, Kittle is a tight end at heart, which is why he felt in his element in a run-centric offense at Iowa. He never had more than 314 yards on 22 catches in a season with the Hawkeyes. Kittle preferred to block, like his father, Bruce, an offensive lineman at the same school in the early 1980s.

"I think I've said it a bunch of times, there's nothing better than to move a man from point A to point B against his will," Kittle said. "And so when you do that, and you can do it multiple times, it's a blast. So there are things that I don't think I'll ever let go away from me. The run game is something I take a lot of pride, because it's a way to separate yourself from other people."

NFL observers would say Kittle's speed that allows him to escape from secondaries downfield is what separates him from other tight ends. But his 49ers teammates might say it's Kittle's unselfishness that sets him apart, particularly coming off one of the best seasons in history for a player at his position.

"He's so selfless and that's why he ate like that," receiver Marquise Goodwin said. "Because he didn't worry about getting the ball, he just worried about getting open and being productive for the team. He had the right mindset. That's why I think he was blessed with that opportunity (to set the record).

"I can't say enough good things about him. I can't wait to see what he does this year."

Goodwin, and other 49ers receivers, could benefit from the way defenses approach Kittle in 2019. His speed and size combination should cause defenses to double team, or at least focus their coverage, which could create favorable situations for San Francisco's young group of wideouts.

Dante Pettis, entering his second season, figures to be a far more prominent part of the passing attack following his 467-yard, 27-catch, five-touchdown rookie year, particularly now that his role will be elevated following the offseason departure of veteran Pierre Garçon.

"it makes the defense just look at everybody and be like, okay, we know this dude (Kittle) gets the ball," Pettis said. "... We know we have to do something to stop him. And so just to have defenses game plan for someone like that is very helpful for everybody else on the team, because then they're not worried about me for instance, they're worried about him, or they're not worried about the run game or something like that.

"And then the fact that he's pretty selfless like that. He's just like, yeah, I'll run my routes. I'll block whenever. If I get the ball, I get the ball. It's pretty cool."

Kittle last season was named a team captain well before he put up his record numbers, which was a strong indication from the coaching staff and front office that Kittle's habits and work ethic were recognized to set the tone for the rest of the team.



And now that Kittle has the numbers to back that up, his credibility as a team leader can't be questioned, even though he doesn't turn 26 until October. Though Kittle's coach isn't necessarily buying the idea he doesn't want the ball in hands.

"I think it's great. I'm sure he's not telling the whole truth. Everybody would much rather have the ball," Shanahan quipped. "George is a football player, and that's what you want. Football players don't care. I mean, they're as competitive as can be and if they believe in themselves, they want to help the team win.

"That's exactly how (Atlanta Falcons receiver) Julio (Jones) was. If he's getting double teamed, he's not yelling at us for not getting him the ball, he's telling other guys they've got to make plays to help get him open. That's how good football players are and that's how good teams are. When your better players act like that, I think it teaches younger guys how they should be."

Kittle credited his offseason workout program in 2018 for his breakout. He dealt with nagging injuries during his rookie year and spent the spring working on ways to prevent injury. He continued that this offseason, adding three straight weeks of yoga to his regimen to add to his flexibility.

He also spent time studying the league's other elite tight ends, such as Travis Kelce of the Chiefs and Eagles star Zach Ertz.

"I just like watching them to see what they do, because everybody does something a little bit different, whether it's at the top of the route, whether it's a release, how they use their hands or something in the run game that might work for them," Kittle said. "I try to pull stuff from them because Ertz and Kelce are considered two of the top guys in the league, if I can learn anything from them, hopefully I can get up there, too."

It wouldn't be surprising if those tight ends spent their offseasons studying Kittle's tape, too.



## How 49ers' George Kittle will benefit from offseason yoga sessions with sister

By Jennifer Lee Chan  
NBC Sports Bay Area  
July 27, 2019

Along with speed and strength training, 49ers tight end George Kittle practiced yoga with his sister, Emma, as part of his offseason workout program in Nashville, Tenn.

"I actually hit about three straight weeks of yoga, which was really fun," Kittle said this week as 49ers training camp opened. "Slightly more flexible. Can't you tell I'm limber now?"

Kittle believes that increased flexibility could help as a preventative measure in regards to injuries during the season.

"[It's better] the more flexible you can get, because sometimes when you get tackled, you land in awkward positions and stuff like that," Kittle said. "I have learned that when you're more flexible, stuff like that doesn't happen sometimes, where you just kind of tweak something. Hopefully, that will help me to stay healthy."

While yoga was a new addition to Kittle's offseason program, he has practiced with his sister for a few years.

"It's just something that I've done in the past that I feel has worked for me," Kittle said. "My sister is a yoga teacher, so it makes it pretty easy for me. It's in house."

"I wanted to add something. I don't like to do the same thing over and over. If you stay the same, you're not getting better. So I just tried to add something in, and I think that helped me out a little bit."

"We've been doing yoga together since he was a senior at Iowa," Emma said. "At this point, it's pretty easy to see what's going on with his body. Based off how he is feeling in a particular day, we modify our sessions accordingly."

Emma worked alongside Josh Cuthbert, her brother's strength coach, and Jeremy Holt, who worked on his speed. With the combined regimen, Emma noticed that after a few weeks, her brother's flexibility had increased.

"I definitely saw a change in George's body over our time together in Nashville," Emma said. "Three weeks is kind of quick to notice a big change in flexibility, but he left for camp saying he felt better than he ever had before."

"George's strength and speed coaches were great about including me in their workouts. George's entire training process was coordinated between the three of us to make sure we maximized our time with him."

Emma teaches a sports performance variation of yoga, but the challenges for many of her clients are still about them taking their speed down several notches.

"George's biggest challenge in his yoga practice is probably the same as every other athlete I work with — making time to slow down and be in a relaxed environment," Emma said. "But one of his skills is being present in everything he does. He's a pro, so he is always locked in."

"There are so many benefits for any athlete who incorporates yoga to their training routine. Finding ease in stressful situations is what I focused on with George. We did a lot of breathwork and long prop supported holds. Slowing down movements is a great way to enhance mobility and also target core strength and stability."

It all sounds like serious work, but the two still enjoyed their time training together.



“He’s still my little brother, so we laugh a lot during our sessions,” Emma said.



## **Richard Sherman, George Kittle welcome LGBTQ 49ers fans to new team group**

By Jim Buzinski  
OutSports.com  
May 29, 2019

San Francisco 49ers' Richard Sherman and George Kittle are part of an official team announcement on the formation of a group for fans who identify as LGBTQ+.

"Forty-Niner faithful — you've helped us pioneer a group of dedicated fans for over 70 years. We're proud to announce 49ers Pride, the official community of 49ers fans who identify as LGBTQ+ and allies," Sherman, a cornerback, said in the team's video announcing the group.

"As we prepare for the upcoming football season, we want to celebrate the passion of all the faithful, no matter how they identify," said Kittle, the team's starting tight end. "If your team is the Red and Gold, you belong in the 49ers family."

The group is the first in the NFL specifically team-sanctioned for LGBTQ fans and it was a great move to have players part of the announcement. There are no openly gay players on the 49ers or anywhere in the NFL, though the 49ers do have an openly gay assistant coach, Katie Sowers. Having two name players participate gives the formation of the group more meaning.

The 49ers do have a historic legacy in the gay sports movement. Dave Kopay was a running back on the team from 1964-67 and came out after he retired and became an LGBTQ sports icon. An exhibit on Kopay is part of the 49ers' Hall of Fame at their stadium in Santa Clara.

49ers Pride is the first NFL team-sponsored group that officially recognizes its LGBTQ fans. The Chargers have held viewing parties in Los Angeles for that fan base and other teams have done one-offs.



## 49ers' George Kittle enjoying spotlight but staying grounded

By Eric Branch  
San Francisco Chronicle  
February 18, 2018

When George Kittle was a blocking tight end at Iowa and an under-the-radar rookie with the 49ers, he told himself he'd never turn down an autograph request.

Then Kittle had more receiving yards than any tight end in NFL history in 2018.

And now those autograph requests are piling up like his statistics in his breakout season.

"It's really, really hard" to sign everything, Kittle said in a phone interview. "I'm not going to lie: It's a difficult thing because it doesn't run out. People keep showing up. And they keep showing up.

"I have a little bit of a timer in my head, but I usually don't notice (it's time to go) until my wrist gets a little tired. The Pro Bowl was wild. There were just so many fans."

Life obviously has changed for Kittle, whose early offseason has made it clear the 2017 fifth-round pick has moved from relative anonymity to NFL celebrity. A year ago, before his record-breaking 1,377-yard season, Kittle was a project who had collected 1,252 combined receiving yards in his four-year college career and first NFL season.

Now, that second season has led to a series of firsts.

In the past three-plus weeks, Kittle has played in his first Pro Bowl, appeared in his first commercial (an online-only spot for Visa), made his first trip outside the United States (he went to Canada on behalf of NFL International) and realized a quirky dream by inking his first deal with Skittles.

Kittle served as a brand ambassador for Visa and Skittles during Super Bowl week in Atlanta — meaning he signed short-term promotional contracts tied to the event. He then traveled to Toronto, where he met with fans and sponsors on Super Bowl Sunday as part of his 36-hour visit.

The two-week tour — from Orlando to Atlanta to Toronto — was filled with interviews, glad-handing and, naturally, autograph requests. And it provided Kittle, a 25-year-old with an engaging personality, a glimpse into a future that could include long-term endorsements and other off-the-field opportunities.

In his tongue-in-cheek, 15-second Visa commercial, Kittle has so much extra time after using the tap-to-pay credit card that he takes up painting and produces a brilliant self-portrait. (Said Kittle of his acting chops: "I took drama in eighth grade. So I'm ready.")

As part of his work hawking candy, Kittle sported a red shirt with the company logo and enthusiastically punctuated each of his many interviews on radio row in Atlanta with his go-to line: "You can't spell Skittles without Kittle."

"Watching George grow and come out — we're all getting to see his personality," said Kittle's agent, Jack Bechta. "It's very natural. He's very outgoing. He's very gregarious. He's a guy you always just want to throw in a room and you can trust that he's just going to be himself and have fun."

Bechta's agency, JB Sports, arranged for its client to finally connect with Skittles, which is among a list of Kittle's passions that include pro wrestling and Panda Express.

As a junior in high school, Kittle sported custom cleats that included the phrase "Taste the Rainbow," which is part of Skittle's long-running advertising campaign. More recently, he'd taken to hounding the company on social media.



“Well, I tweeted them pretty often: ‘What’s up? I’m wearing your T-shirt,’” Kittle said. “Like I said, I’ve been plugging it for a while.”

Kittle also wants to send this message to 49ers fans: He’s not ditching hard work and going Hollywood.

Last year, he was voted one of five team captains midway through his second season, which was partly a nod to his commitment and drive. He credited last year’s offseason work in Tennessee for much of his 2018 success, and he returned to Nashville after the Super Bowl to begin preparing for the 2019 season.

Kittle noted he started training last year during Super Bowl week, meaning he’s a week behind.

“The whole thing has just been fun,” Kittle said. “But right now, I’m happy it’s over and I can work out and do football things. That is one thing I am thankful for: It’s a two-week thing, and it’s back to the grind. And I love the grind.”

Kittle’s agency had another promotional opportunity lined up, but Kittle declined it to begin his six-day-a-week program that includes speed, agility, strength and route-running work with a group of NFL players that includes 49ers quarterback C.J. Beathard.

Kittle is living with Green Bay tight end Robert Tonyan until he returns to Santa Clara for the start of the 49ers’ offseason program in April.

49ers’ George Kittle slowed only by Kyle Shanahan’s play...

“George and his family are aware of the fact that what butters his bread is being successful on the field,” Bechta said. “He’s also grounded to the fact that he’s had one great year. And one great year doesn’t make a great player. And now the challenge for him is can he do it again with popularity, noise and opportunity being thrown at him? That’s the challenge.”

Beyond proving 2018 wasn’t a fluke, Kittle, who will earn a \$645,000 base salary this season, won’t lack for financial motivation: He is eligible to sign what could be a massive contract extension after the 2019 season. How much more might he earn? Kansas City’s Travis Kelce — whose 1,336 yards last year would have been the NFL record for tight ends were it not for Kittle — will make \$8.75 million next season.

As part of his offseason improvement plan, Kittle plans to connect with 2019 Hall of Fame inductee Tony Gonzalez, the Cal alum who is widely recognized as the best tight end in NFL history. Niners tight ends coach Jon Embree, who was Gonzalez’s position coach for three seasons with Kansas City, is coordinating a meeting between the tight ends.

In the meantime, Kittle will work to stay ahead of less heralded players at his position.

When asked about guarding against an overinflated ego given the attention he’s receiving, Kittle said he stays humbled by the prospect of losing his starting job.

He pointed to last year’s midseason win over the Raiders, which he briefly left because of a cracked rib. In Kittle’s absence, undrafted rookie Ross Dwelley had his first NFL reception. The lesson that was reinforced for the record-breaking tight end from humble beginnings: His job is never safe.

“That was awesome and I love Dwelley,” Kittle said. “But it’s like, ‘Hey, I can’t let those opportunities go away.’ And I’ve learned that. I always think about it. So that keeps me pretty grounded.”



## Tight end George Kittle wins 49ers' Bill Walsh Award

By Eric Branch  
SF Gate  
December 31, 2018

The first day of George Kittle's offseason went as well as his regular season did. On Monday, a day after he set the NFL's season record for yards by a tight end in a 48-32 loss to the Rams, Kittle was named the 49ers' winner of the Bill Walsh Award, voted on by the coaches. It is given to the player who best represents Walsh's standard of professional excellence.

Kittle finished with 1,377 yards on 88 receptions and had five touchdowns. His reception total ranks 19th among tight ends in NFL history. And his yards per reception (15.6) ranks seventh among tight ends with at least 40 receptions in a season.

However, it's his record-breaking yardage total that had the 49ers celebrating near the end of Sunday's game.

Monday, head coach Kyle Shanahan detailed how much it meant to Kittle's teammates for him to get the record. Kittle needed 9 yards to pass Kansas City's Travis Kelce when the Rams had the ball with about three minutes left. Shanahan called two timeouts in an effort to get the ball back and exhorted the defense. Safety Antone Exum responded by blitzing on his own.

"I said, 'Hey, guys, if you can stop them here, we will throw the ball and get Kittle 9 more yards,'" Shanahan said. "We can get it for him if you guys stop them. To say that to the guys and to just watch Exum blitz on his own. Just do whatever they could. Because once I said that to them you could see it in their eyes. And everyone on the bench was yelling for it."

The defense made the stop. And Kittle broke the record with just more than two minutes left on a 43-yard touchdown catch. The team captain said seeing his teammates' excitement made the moment even more special.

Exum "was supposed to cover the post," Kittle said. "He walked down next to (linebacker) Elijah (Lee). Elijah was like, 'What are you doing?' He was like, 'I'm just going to be a baller.' ... It worked." More awards: Defensive tackle DeForest Buckner received the Len Eshmont Award, the team's most prestigious honor which is voted on by the players and given to the player who best exemplifies inspiration and courage.

Buckner, who was voted a team captain, had a career-high 12 sacks. Left tackle Joe Staley likened his work ethic to that of former 49ers running back Frank Gore.

Buckner "has the same kind of hunger and desire to get better that I saw with Frank," Staley said. "The way that he works on the practice field. He's one of the hardest workers, and a super competitor."

Other award winners included left guard Laken Tomlinson (Bobb McKittrick Award for offensive linemen), cornerback Richard Sherman (Ed Block Courage Award, which also takes into account sportsmanship) and quarterback Nick Mullens (Thomas Herrion Memorial Award for first-year players). Buckner also won the Hazeltine Iron Man Award for defensive inspiration.

Injury update: Tomlinson sustained a torn medial collateral ligament in Sunday's game. He will not require surgery, and faces a three-month rehabilitation.

The 49ers initially feared Tomlinson had sustained a torn anterior cruciate ligament, which would have sidelined him for the start of the 2019 season.



## 49ers' George Kittle might have surprised observers, but not his family

By Eric Branch  
San Francisco Chronicle  
December 30, 2018

George Kittle's parents, Bruce and Jan, both two-sport Division I athletes, quickly realized their oldest child had athletic gifts.

Based on his memories of touch-football games, Bruce recalled the kid "had nice hands. Could run a pretty good route. Wasn't afraid to mix it up."

That scouting report isn't surprising, considering the youngster grew up to be the 49ers' Pro Bowl tight end, right? But here's the thing: Bruce was describing his daughter, Emma, George's older sister, his first opponent and one of an endless parade of accomplished athletes in their family.

"Back in the day, I was able to kind of dominate George," said Emma, a former volleyball player at Iowa and Oklahoma who is three years older than her only sibling. "I was taller, way faster and just reached above him. It was great."

George evidently learned from those beatdowns: In 2018, Emma's little brother often has treated linebackers and safeties in the same way his sister used to abuse him.

Kittle, 25, set the NFL record for most receiving yards by a tight end, finishing with 1,377. He needed 100 yards Sunday to break the league record set by New England's Rob Gronkowski in 2011 and finished with 149 to pass not only Gronkowski, but Kansas City's Travis Kelce who had 62 against the Raiders and finished with 1,336.

Few saw this coming.

Crowds arrive early on opening day of the Golden Gate International Exposition. Feb. 18, 1939.  
Kittle was the seventh tight end on the depth chart early in his career at Iowa. He was a fifth-round pick in 2017 after he had just 48 catches in college. And he had a rookie season (43 catches, 515 yards) that didn't suggest second-year stardom.

But George's family is accustomed to seeing him rapidly ascend great heights. They have bonded over the years on summer trips from Iowa to Colorado, where they have scaled some of the more than 50 mountains in the state that are at least 14,000 feet.

One of those, Quandary Peak, was no problem for George.

"I've seen George do the craziest stuff with his body: I have this vivid memory of George running up a mountain and running down it," said Emma, who sprained both ankles trying to catch him. "When I think about those memories I'm like, 'Oh, my God, you're such a freak.' He's just built to perform."

"So, yes, some of (this season) has been surreal. But at the same time, we've been waiting for him to do it. We've been waiting for other people to see it."

The belief George would have huge success was rooted in the history of a family used to making history.

Bruce was a wrestler and offensive tackle at Iowa, where he was a co-captain on their 1981 team that reached the program's first Rose Bowl in 25 years. Jan is a member of the Iowa High School Sports Hall of Fame in basketball and softball. She played both sports at Drake, where the basketball team reached the Elite 8 of the NCAA Tournament in 1982.

49ers (4-11) at Rams (12-3)



Time: 1:25 p.m. Where: Los AngelesTV:Channel: 2Channel: 40Radio: 680, 107.7

Spotlight on: WR Kendrick Bourne. Who guessed that the 2017 undrafted free agent would lead 49ers receivers in catches this season? Correct answer: no one. Bourne's 37 catches are a nod to his development, but also a reflection of injuries to Pierre Garcon, Dante Pettis and Marquise Goodwin, none of whom will play against the Rams. Bourne figures to have a role in 2019, but a strong performance in a leading role will further cement his status.

Injuries: 49ers — TE Garrett Celek (concussion) is out. Rams — RB Todd Gurley (knee) is out.

Things to watch

Rams DT Aaron Donald needs 3.5 sacks to break Michael Strahan's record set of 22.5 in 2001. Donald had four sacks in a 39-10 win over the 49ers on Oct. 21.

The 49ers have a league-low seven takeaways and are poised to break the record of 11 held by three teams. Their two interceptions are two fewer than the league record held by the 2009 Lions.

The 49ers promoted DL Ryan Delaire and WR Max McCaffrey from the practice squad to the 53-man roster Saturday. They placed Pettis (knee) and RB Matt Breida (ankle) on injured reserve.

Jan is one of 10 sisters, seven of whom played a college sport. One sister, Barbara, was a basketball player who was the first female to receive a full athletic scholarship at Indiana.

George's cousin, Jess Settles, was an Iowa Mr. Basketball who was the Big Ten Freshman of the Year at Iowa. Another cousin, Brad Carlson, is Iowa's career home run leader.

On Sunday, George will reunite with his cousin, Henry Krieger-Coble, a tight end on the Rams' practice squad.

There is more. Plenty more. In fact, the family has so many big-time athletes that George can't keep track of some details. He recently couldn't recall how he was related to Xavier Nady, a Cal alum who had a 12-year major-league career (Nady is a second cousin).

George played several sports growing up, but football was the passion he shared with his dad, who was also an assistant coach at Iowa (1982-1985) and Oklahoma (2010-2012). They packed a football for every family vacation.

"We'd be on the roadside for an hour playing football," Bruce said, "and would forget about the trip."

George didn't just get his dad's genetics. He got his time.

Bruce, a criminal defense lawyer, worked for a firm in Madison, Wis., when George was born. But he switched to careers that were less demanding — and less lucrative — to spend time with his children.

He earned a master's in divinity at Chicago Theological Seminary and worked as a pastor. He was an assistant law professor and later used his degree at several nonprofits: He provided legal services to inmates in state prisons and served as a mediator between criminals and the victims of their crimes.

"Sometimes he was making almost no money," George said. "But he said, I'd rather hang out with you guys than make a bunch of money. That's one of the biggest things I learned from him: Family is more important than really anything else."

Bruce's career change allowed him to coach his children in youth sports, with Jan also leading many of Emma's teams.



At Northwest Junior High in Iowa City, Bruce led an undefeated team that allowed six points during George's seventh- and eighth-grade years (Bruce terms these the "dynasty years").

George laughed when recalling his dad's video sessions and their middle linebacker, who wore a wristband covered with play calls. Bruce adds the Vikings also had playbooks, which, he notes, his wife thought was "a little over the top."

"We had four different (defensive) fronts," Bruce said. "We played three different coverages. We did go man-free if we needed to. We played a three-deep (zone) and a two-deep and had a pretty good blitz package, as well. (Opponents) didn't have any idea what was happening."

Years later, the same has appeared true of teams trying to cover Kittle. He's been wide open on the two longest touchdowns by a tight end in franchise history, 82- and 85-yard scores he finished by outracing the secondary.

His long catches have led to his glamour-guy numbers this season. But he's also hailed as a hard-nosed blocker, a reflection of the old-school education he received from his dad.

Bruce, who coached tackles and tight ends at Oklahoma, doesn't discuss catches or touchdowns when talking about his son's achievements. In college, Bruce was proudest of the fact that George never missed a workout, allowing him to add about 60 pounds of bulk. This season, he's proudest that his son was voted a captain by his teammates.

George has strayed in one area: Bruce jokes about his son recently purchasing a Gucci backpack. But that horror has been offset by the lunch-pail mentality George still packs despite his newfound fame.

49ers' Joe Staley in no hurry to leave — or retire

"In run blocking, when he climbs to the second level, that's hard," Bruce said. "People don't appreciate the level of athleticism it takes to keep your hips down and hit a Mike 'backer coming over."

Bruce's career change led to more family time — and plenty of moving vans. George has lived in three states, six towns in Iowa and he attended three high schools as a sophomore.

The myriad moves helped foster the Kittles' closeness. They banded together navigating new experiences, and their bond is symbolized on their bodies: They each have a tattoo of a bear paw.

"It's about our tribe," Bruce said.

It's also a nod to their outdoor activities, which include their regular treks up 14,000-foot mountains.

The rocky terrain is hard on feet and ankles. And that's why George, now a professional athlete, will join his family in Colorado this summer but won't sprint up Quandary Peak.

He'll rejoin them at the summits when his career is over, after he's done adding to the family legacy by reaching great heights.



## George Kittle's breakout season fueled by 'angry mindset,' love of the game

By Matt Maiocco  
NBC Sports Bay Area  
December 25, 2018

George Kittle, who was used primarily as a blocker during his college career at Iowa, has quickly turned into one of the NFL's top playmakers at tight end.

On Dec. 9, Kittle set the 49ers' all-time single-season record for receiving yards from a tight end. He has 79 catches for 1,228 yards entering Sunday's season finale against the Los Angeles Rams. Eric Johnson holds the club record for receptions from a tight end with 82 in a single season.

Kittle, a second-year player, was named last week to the NFC Pro Bowl team.

Where Kittle has made his biggest mark is in yards after the catch. According to Pro Football Focus, Kittle has 772 yards after the catch this season, which ranks behind only Carolina running back Christian McCaffrey's 835.

Among tight ends, Kittle is 229 yards ahead of Travis Kelce of Kansas City and 408 yards in front of Philadelphia's Zach Ertz, who ranks third in yards after the catch.

Recently, former 49ers quarterback and NBC Sports Bay Area analyst Jeff Garcia drew a comparison between Kittle and Hall of Fame receiver Terrell Owens. Garcia said Kittle, like Owens before him, runs "angry."

The typically mild-mannered Kittle said he flips a switch when he steps onto the field to play.

"I play the game angry," Kittle said on The 49ers Insider Podcast. "And I love playing the game, so it's kind of half and half. I'm angry, and I'm having the best time of my life at the same time."

Kittle said he never wants to give any defensive player any breaks. If Kittle is going to come down short of the end zone, he wants that player to earn the tackle and pay the price.

"I decide, if you want to tackle me, you're going to have to tackle me," Kittle said. "I'm not going to let you tackle me. I'm going to do everything I can to go through you, go around you, avoid you, anything."

"But you have to decide that you want to tackle me. And I think with an angry mindset that makes it a little bit easier and a little bit harder on them."

Kittle's single-season receiving total ranks 13th in 49ers history. Jerry Rice occupies eight of those spots, while Owens had three 49ers seasons with 1,300 yards or more. Split end Dave Parks had 1,344 yards receiving in 1965.

In Iowa's run-first offense, Kittle's best college season came as a senior in 2016 when he caught 22 passes for 314 yards and four touchdowns in nine games. The 49ers selected him in the fifth round of last year's draft.



## Why 49ers' George Kittle is defined by more than just his WWE, Panda Express addiction

By Nick Eilerson  
San Jose Mercury News  
December 7, 2018

It is too early to function. The sun isn't even up, not even close. Garrett Celek, the San Francisco 49ers' veteran tight end, barely wills himself into his car, his body aching from yet another loss two days earlier. Santa Clara lies completely still on this mid-November morning as Celek's white Lexus SUV begins to roll forward.

But then up ahead ... movement. Tons of movement.

The SUV's headlights reveal a large man flailing next to the apartment complex's exit gate. His hips rock back and forth in an apparent attempt at rhythm. His arms swing wildly from side to side. All the while, his gaze remains fixed on Celek's face.

George Kittle is doing the Fortnite floss dance.

Beaming like he just won the Super Bowl, Kittle hops into the passenger seat and serenades his groggy teammate with some song or another. It doesn't matter which one. What matters is that Kittle will spend yet another day shining his inextinguishable light upon a 49ers season largely mired in darkness.

"When I was first getting to know him I probably thought it was fake at first how happy he was all the time," Celek said. "But then I realized, 'No, this is how this guy is 24/7.'"

Few NFL players have shot out of obscurity the way Kittle has over the past year. A fifth-round pick out of the University of Iowa, Kittle was the ninth tight end selected in the 2017 Draft. In his sophomore season, he ranks third among tight ends in catches (62) and receiving yards (893), trailing only the Chiefs' Travis Kelce and the Eagles' Zach Ertz.

Facing the Denver Broncos' 23rd-ranked pass defense on Sunday, Kittle has a chance to become the first 49ers tight end to reach 1,000 receiving yards in a season. The 25-year-old's Pro Bowl-caliber season remains one of the few bright spots for a 49ers squad tied with the Raiders for the league's worst record (2-10).

Kittle's sprint toward superstardom counts as a surefire boon for this San Francisco franchise, but that's not really what teammates and coaches value most about the guy. To understand why Kittle was voted a team captain after his rookie season, you have to go back to the maniac crushing Fortnite dance routines before the crack of dawn.

Meet 'Stone Cold Kittle'

Everybody around the 49ers organization understands Kittle's ultimate professional ambition. He talks about it incessantly; studies film whenever he can; obsesses over every not-so-subtle nuance of the sport.

Kittle wants to be a WWE wrestler.

"It's pretty much the coolest thing in the world," he said.

Like just about everything else in his life, Kittle does nothing to hide this obsession. A Stone Cold Steve Austin action figure lords over his locker. The 49ers' PA announcer belts out "Stone Cold Kittle" after third-down conversions and touchdowns from the team's exuberant tight end. His end zone celebration is a nod to Austin's habit of smashing two beers over his head, and his wristy third-down flourish comes



from Pentagón Jr., an independent wrestler who wears skull face paint underneath his elaborately fiendish mask.

This past April, Kittle attended one week of WrestleMania in New Orleans, where he spent eight hours a day watching independent wrestling shows before he practically had to be dragged away.

Last year Kittle lived out one of his fantasies when he climbed into the ring of a pro wrestling event in Iowa and executed a Stone Cold Stunner, a finishing maneuver made famous by his all-time favorite wrestler, Steve Austin. There were barely over 100 people in the gym, but it felt more like 100,000.

“When I hit it and I came up and the whole crowd erupted, I felt like I scored a touchdown,” Kittle said. “It was one of the best feelings ever.”

Not all of the man’s obsessions are so badass. Any mention of food prompts a spirited eulogy on the wonders of Panda Express. Kittle adopts the demeanor of a caffeinated chemist explaining the periodic table when asked about the proper order at this fast-casual Chinese eatery.

“You sample the honey walnut shrimp because when it’s good it’s fantastic but when it’s not good it’s okay,” Kittle explains at warp speed. “So if that’s good then you get three entrees and you get that on the side with the chow mein and fried rice split 50/50. And the two other entrees are orange chicken and SweetFire, or honey sesame if they have it because it’s seasonal.”

Lest you think he spends his free time alone, tucking into a heaping pile of sesame chicken with nothing but chopsticks to accompany him, understand that Kittle does not do well by himself. He loves going to early-week matinees at theaters in Santa Clara — they didn’t have the whole recliner seating thing back at Iowa — and he always makes sure to bring a crew.

“He’ll buy like 10 tickets to a movie before asking anybody, and it will be a movie that I hate,” said 49ers backup quarterback C.J. Beathard. “And people end up going.”

Starting quarterback Nick Mullens didn’t want to see *Fantastic Beasts: The Crimes of Grindelwald*, and he really didn’t want to see the horror flick *A Quiet Place*. Yet somehow he wound up seeing both.

“He’s a hard guy to say ‘no’ to,” Mullens said.

Suddenly it’s not all that hard to perceive why players voted Kittle an offensive captain alongside 34-year-old tackle Joe Staley in October.

“I can never catch him where he’s like, ‘Man I don’t want to be bothered today,’” 49ers cornerback Richard Sherman said. “He’s always got a smile; he’s always kooky. You’re just like, ‘Bro, one of these days I’m gonna catch you when you don’t want to talk.’ But I haven’t found that day yet.”

### Growing at Iowa

Watching George Kittle burst downfield, it’s easy to forget he’s a tight end. The way he jab steps linebackers out of their cleats, the way he wiggles past safeties and wheels toward the end zone — no wonder he ranks ahead of pass-catching tailbacks like Todd Gurley and James Conner in yards after catch.

It turns out Kittle is a wide receiver disguised in a newly acquired tight end’s body. He spent high school running go-routes as a fleet-footed wideout before heading to Iowa at about 6-foot-2, 180 pounds.

“He was skin and bones,” said Cole Croston, a teammate at Iowa who now plays tackle for the New England Patriots. “But he was doing things as a freshman that most people don’t do.”

Even as a baby-faced newcomer too twiggy to even think about suiting up for a game, Kittle wasn’t shy about flaunting his skill set.



In the gym, Kittle's athleticism manifested in several agility records. On the practice field, he and Beathard, another scrawny Iowa freshman, regularly lit up the Hawkeyes' formidable defense as members of the scout team.

Still, it took three years for Kittle to get in an actual game. Coaches pegged him as a tight end, but the kid simply wasn't big enough. And even after he grew two inches and added 50 pounds to his frame — thanks in part to a late growth spurt, eight Gatorade protein shakes a day and plenty of Budweiser — Kittle kept staying out late off the field and missing assignments on it.

"They couldn't count on me," Kittle said. "I just didn't understand the mental side of football and how important it is."

At some point in his redshirt junior season, something clicked. Kittle started treating college like a job rather than a party. He drew plays over and over on a whiteboard. He started to relish blocking drills. He prioritized sleep.

Instead of partying he poured his fun-loving energy into games, like the time he almost broke the ribs of tight end coach LeVar Woods while picking him up and celebrating a teammate's touchdown against Northwestern.

"They sort of broke the mold when they made George," Woods said.

Flipping a switch

About 15 minutes before kickoff every Sunday, George Kittle heads to the bathroom to puke his guts out. That's not something most athletes would be willing to admit, but Kittle hesitates only slightly before slapping the table and repeating himself. Who cares what people think about it?

"It just kind of happens," he said. "It's really weird."

Then, before he makes his way back onto the field, Kittle straps on his helmet, jogs into the tunnel and head-butts a wall. At that point San Francisco's ever-gregarious tight end flips into angry mode.

"That's my switch," Kittle said.

When he's not snaring catches in traffic and bouncing off would-be tacklers, he's using all that newfound bulk to bully defensive linemen in the trenches, often yelling indiscriminately but never trash talking.

It's a beautiful way to make a living, whether your team is 2-10 or 10-2.

"I literally wake up and I'm like, 'Okay well, I'm playing in the NFL and I'm living in California,'" Kittle said, "So there could be a lot worse than what I'm doing."

On Tuesday morning, Garrett Celek steers his SUV toward the gate again. As usual, there's Kittle, waiting and dancing. He hops aboard and launches into a falsetto Canadian accent while reliving his latest conquest playing Halo 3.

Celek shakes his head and laughs, then ponders what dance moves might lie ahead next fall, when a healthy Jimmy Garoppolo promises to lend more stability to the 49ers' offense. Kittle has proven he can produce with a rotating cast of serviceable quarterbacks, but imagine what could happen when two stars combine.

"Once he gets that relationship down," Celek said, "he's going to explode."



## How George Kittle Became A Major Building Block For The 49ers

By Vincent Frank  
Forbes.com  
December 11, 2018

Tight End George Kittle entered the NFL in relative obscurity as a fifth-round pick of the San Francisco 49ers back in 2017. Playing at Iowa during his college career, the 6-foot-4 pass catcher didn't have a great track record of success in that role. In fact, he gained just 737 yards in four seasons with the Hawkeyes.

George Kittle has become a major force and future building block for the 49ers. (Photo by Cody Glenn/Icon Sportswire via Getty Images)

George Kittle has become a major force and future building block for the 49ers. (Photo by Cody Glenn/Icon Sportswire via Getty Images) GETTY

Despite this, 49ers general manager John Lynch and head coach Kyle Shanahan saw something in the athletic tight end. His measurables showed up well on tape — as evidenced by the fact that Kittle ran a 4.52 40-yard dash at the combine.

Even then, he was an unknown. How would Kittle's overall game translate to the NFL? Could he have success in Shanahan's tight end-friendly offense? We got an inkling of what the tight end could do as a rookie. Despite struggling with injuries, he caught 45 passes for 515 yards in 15 games. Kittle also boasted a strong 68.3 catch rate.

The tape told us a story of a mismatch waiting to happen. Too physical to be covered by defensive backs, Kittle's athleticism made it hard for opposing linebackers to go up against. Flush with great route-running skills and a plus-level blocking ability, there were signs that Kittle would emerge as a sophomore.

No one could have envisioned what we've seen thus far this season. Kittle is coming off a 210-yard performance in a surprising win over the Denver Broncos this past Sunday. It's a performance that saw him break the franchise record for most receiving yards in both a game and during a single season. In fact, Kittle was a mere four yards short of breaking the NFL single-game receiving mark for a tight end.

His outing was brilliant. But in no way was it an exception to the rule. Kittle had been making highlight-reel plays on a never-ending loop for the 49ers. It was just lost on the national media due to this team's bottom-feeding status in the NFC West. But now, we simply can't overlook what the young tight ends brings to the table.

Kittle heads into Week 15 having caught 69 passes for 1,103 yards and four touchdowns. He has five catches of 40-plus yards this season — besting every tight end in the NFL. In fact, only Antonio Brown and Tyreek Hill have put up more catches of 40-plus yards in the NFL. Kittle has also gone for 70-plus yards nine times in 13 games. He's about as consistent as they get from a pass-catching standpoint.

More than the basic stats, the tape tells us a story of a young man that's going to be a major building block for the 49ers moving forward. This 85-yard touchdown against the Broncos is a prime example of that. The play design ran Kittle open on an intermediate route. Nick Mullens made a pass that pretty much every quarterback in the league could complete. But it's what Kittle did after the catch that stands out. He legitimately looked like a wide receiver in racking up 70 yards after the reception. That's what makes this tight end a major mismatch. And it's something we've seen repeated over and over again.

"He was open every play, man. It was crazy. Every receiver was open," Mullens said during media availability after Sunday's win. That's the thing. When receivers are doing what they're actually supposed to be doing on the field, Shanahan puts them in a great position to succeed. Kittle has done that on a consistent basis as a sophomore.

Moving forward, this is going to be an absolutely huge element to San Francisco's offense. It's getting to the point where opposing defenses might have to start shading their No. 1 cornerback in Kittle's direction.



Simply put, linebackers stand no real chance of covering him. And only the league's best free safeties can hang with Kittle one-on-one. This will open things up big time in the passing game once Jimmy Garoppolo returns from the torn ACL he suffered back in Week 3.

If defenses have to force their top corner into coverage against a tight end, the likes of Dante Pettis will eat big time on the outside. We saw first hand just how dynamic of a threat the rookie receiver is out on the boundary. His ability to create separation at the line is second-to-none in the NFL. This touchdown Sunday against the Broncos magnifies that in a big way.

The ability of Kittle to create mismatches enables San Francisco to head into the offseason thinking bigger picture. Do they really need a true No. 1 receiver with arguably the game's best all-around tight end? Will Kittle's success lead to progression from a rookie receiver in Dante Pettis who has stepped up big time recently?

We don't know the answer to these two questions. What we do know is that Kittle is a true building block for the 49ers. That's no small thing as the team closes up shop on what has been an otherwise lost season by the Bay.



## **'He acts like a WWE wrestler': 49ers' George Kittle has gone into second season as if sprung from the top rope**

By Matt Barrows  
The Athletic  
October 15, 2018

George Kittle's week of preparation at Iowa began with a trip to the local arts and crafts store.

As a redshirt freshman and a member of the scout team, his job was to mimic the upcoming opponent during practice. Kittle, however, took the role a step further by taking markers and colored tape from his shopping bag and altering his all-black practice helmet so that it looked like that of the next foe. Consider it the gridiron version of method acting.

"Nebraska was my favorite because I did my whole helmet in white duct tape," Kittle said of his various masterpieces. "I was going to do my face mask in red duct tape but it was a little too much."

The elaborate process speaks to the mundane life of a redshirt freshman. Kittle didn't get to play in games or even travel with the team that year. There was plenty of toil but no glory.

"The week of practice was like my game," he said. "I got — what? — three and a half practices a week where it was really high effort, high intensity. It was fun for me."

It also says plenty about what's percolating inside the 49ers' tight end. Kittle was colorful as a rookie last year but his personality — gregarious, brash, mischievous and most of all BOLD — has come alive even more in Year 2.

"It's a personality now where I say, 'Oh, that's just George,'" said long-time friend C.J. Beathard, who also was a member of that Iowa scout team. "It's like he's got his own category of personality. There's 'happy' and then there's 'George.' He's like a kid in a grown man's body."

Said Kyle Shanahan: "He acts like a WWE wrestler and I don't think that's an act. I think that's who he is 24-7, which is fun to watch. But you've always got to watch out for him. He's pretty rowdy all the time."

Kittle indeed has entered his second NFL season as if sprung from the top rope. He entered Monday's Week 6 game against the Packers with the third-most receiving yards among the league's tight ends and his 82-yard catch-and-run touchdown in Week 4 remains the longest offensive play in the NFL this season.

His blocking, a sacrosanct discipline at Iowa, has been just as conspicuous. In last week's game against the Cardinals, for example, he engaged a defender at the Arizona 13-yard line and didn't stop churning his legs until they were in the end zone, at which point Kittle drove him into the turf.

"My favorite quote ever was, 'Moving a man from Point A to Point B against his will is the greatest feeling to ever feel,'" Kittle said last year. "And so I take that to heart. Just being able to do that and bury somebody is a pretty good feeling."

It wasn't always like that.

Kittle played wide receiver in high school in a system that didn't even utilize a tight end. He arrived at Iowa in 2012 with the necessary height for his new position, but he weighed about 200 pounds. That put him at an 80-pound deficit against some of the senior defensive linemen he'd try to block in practice.

"He would jump in there and get his tail handed to him," Greg Davis, the team's offensive coordinator at the time, recalled in a recent phone interview.

No one seemed too worried about the mismatch.



“Over years of doing this, you always find yourself having to look around and ask players, ‘Hey, have you gotten your reps?’” Davis said. “That wasn’t George. He never hid. He was right back up (saying), ‘Give me another chance! Give me another go!’ He was that kind of guy.”

Kittle remembers the daily battles a little differently. Yes, there were plays that ended with him on the ground, he said. But the roughest moments came when he got the better of his older, established teammates.

“It was fun going against those guys every day,” Kittle said. “And whenever you put a good block on them they’d swing on you and try to fight you and tell you not to go so hard and stuff like that.”

Kittle may not have had the size and strength to be a dominant blocker at that age, but he already was well-versed in technique. After all, he and his sister grew up with blocking sleds in their backyard.

Their father, Bruce, is a former Iowa offensive lineman who was co-captain of Iowa’s 1982 Rose Bowl team and who also coached offensive linemen at Oklahoma.

He was George’s childhood coach and had him working on sleds and blocking dummies when he was 10 years old. Bruce Kittle wanted his son to be an offensive lineman the way mothers dream about their kids becoming doctors.

“On the first day of practice my dad convinced — true story — convinced the kids that offensive line was the best position on the football field,” George said of his fifth-grade team. “And so he had little kids fighting over the positions. All of them wanted to play offensive line.”

All except George.

He liked having the ball in his hands and always was faster than the boys on his team. He played running back that year.

Another roadblock to his dad’s dream: George’s physique looked nothing like an offensive lineman’s. At first he was small. Then in high school he grew tall and skinny. When he went off to college, no one would have guessed he’d be a future NFL draft pick.

“He was real long, kind of gangly,” Bruce said by phone of his son. “He had big hips but he didn’t have very much meat on him. He was pretty scrawny looking when you saw him.”

There also was the matter of George’s energy and enthusiasm.

He loved practice. He loved his teammates. He loved to stick it to the upperclassmen during the week. And he loved college life, perhaps a little too much.

“He really enjoyed his redshirt year to the point where, somewhere around the building, he was classified as a social butterfly. You know, life of the party,” Davis said. “To the point where I called him in and I said, ‘George, you really have a gift. You can really run, you’ll be a matchup nightmare and you are tough. But are you really serious about being a great football player?’”

There was nothing too troubling in the reports Davis heard. It was typical college-guy stuff. But there was a concern that so much of the young tight end’s energy — as abundant as it was — was being spent off the practice field. After their meeting, it never became an issue again.

“But I don’t know if he ever changed,” Davis said. “I think he just kept it off my desk.”

Later in the season, Kittle had another meeting with an Iowa coach about his energy. This time head coach Kirk Ferentz wanted to tap into it.

Iowa had lost four games in a row and hated rival Michigan was next on the schedule.



Ferentz wanted more intensity in practice that week and called on Kittle, Beathard and the rest of the scout-team players to provide it. He showed them film clips of previous squads that had doctored their helmets and asked if the current group could do the same.

Kittle and the others took the assignment and ran with it, not just re-creating Michigan's unique helmet with rolls of maize and blue duct tape but altering the jerseys and pants as well. To the Iowa starters, it was like waving a red cape in the face of a bull.

"It was really fun," Kittle recalled. "We definitely got in a lot more fights that week with the defense. We talked a lot of smack the whole time."

Did Iowa beat Michigan that week? No, they lost 42-17. But the practice was as rowdy and electric as Ferentz was hoping for and everyone has fond memories of that season's makeshift fashion shows. Well, maybe everyone but the Iowa equipment staff.

"They hated it," Kittle said. "Because the tape wouldn't come off. They were like, 'Hey, we're not doing this anymore. You have to take it off yourselves because we're not going to do it anymore.'"



## The 49ers Star Tight End in the Making with a WWE-sized Persona

By Joe Fann  
49ers.com  
October 26, 2018

George Kittle can find the humor in his rookie miscues. Self-deprecation has always been a strong suit of his. Still, those first-year mishaps and growing pains are easier to laugh about now that the San Francisco 49ers second-year tight end is in the midst of a Pro Bowl-caliber season.

But Kittle will be the first to tell you that nobody was laughing when he had six missed assignments (M.A.'s) in last year's road game against the Arizona Cardinals.

"Oh fudge," Kittle grimaced. "I got a few plays backwards. I almost got Brian Hoyer killed."

Think of M.A.'s like the demerits you used to accumulate back in grade school. Accruing too many blemishes on your record would result in a subsequent punishment – a trip to the principal's office, a shorter lunch, or \*gasp\* no recess. A seat on the bench is the football equivalent for too many M.A.'s. Kittle knows he was lucky to not get pulled from the lineup amid his egregious performance in Arizona.

For some context, Kittle had been thrown into the deep end as a Day 1 starter. He was barely keeping his head above water in his efforts to master Kyle Shanahan's "dense" playbook. Never mind trying to grasp all of the nuances that Shanahan is famous for, Kittle's focus was consumed entirely by the basics of his job description.

"Coach Shanahan threw me into the ocean and expected me to swim," Kittle said.

Back to the Hoyer play. Kittle smiled and shook his head as he began to tell the story, already picturing the punch line. Shanahan called a running play to give Carlos Hyde the ball up the middle. However, Hoyer liked the look the defense was showing and checked to a pass at the line of scrimmage. Kittle missed that check. He was in the middle of asking Joe Staley a question about his alignment on that particular play call and never heard Hoyer.

The tight end took a step down on the snap, ready to pull up the middle and pave a running lane for Hyde. Simultaneously, he saw Staley set, indicating to Kittle that he'd missed the audible to a pass play. Panic washed over him like he'd overslept his alarm ahead of an early morning flight.

"I was supposed to set Chandler Jones who, you know, is a pretty good defensive end," Kittle said facetiously.

He tried to trip Jones to no avail as Arizona's star defender zoomed past him into the backfield.

"He just got a free shot at Hoyer," Kittle said, laughing guiltily. "I think Hoyer's head touched his feet. He got crushed."

The story has increased comedic value primarily because such mental lapses feel like a distant memory. Kittle, a 2017 fifth-round pick out of Iowa, shared that he's had just one M.A. so far in 2018. The tight end has been an undeniable bright spot in an otherwise frustrating season for San Francisco.

Kittle has posted 32 receptions for 527 yards and two touchdowns through seven games of his second NFL season – numbers that place him firmly in the mix among the league's upper echelon of tight ends.

"That's huge production. That's something the 49ers can look at and say, 'OK we've got something here,'" said future Hall of Fame tight end and current "Monday Night Football" color analyst Jason Witten.

There are three primary contributing factors to Kittle's ascension in Year 2.



The first is his ongoing mastery of Shanahan's offense. Kittle spent the offseason in Nashville, Tenn., with Trent Taylor and C.J. Beathard. Taylor and Kittle worked out together on a daily basis and then ran routes for Beathard three times a week. Beathard would come to each throwing session with a detailed game plan based on what he felt needed the most work.

Kittle's evolution continued during the team's offseason program and throughout training camp. He no longer has to stop and process his responsibilities after each play call. Instead, he's able to spend that time pre-snap observing the defense, diagnosing the coverage and formulating his plan of attack.

"Now I know all of the little details for any specific play – my motion points, when I need to bluff, how I show my hands and all of these other little details," Kittle said. "The game has slowed down for me, and that's helped out a lot."

The second is Kittle's improved health, which has been a welcomed change from his rookie year. He battled a nagging hamstring injury throughout the summer of 2017 followed by an ankle injury that lingered for most of his first season. Kittle earned plenty of tough guy points for gutting through and playing 15 games as a rookie despite never being 100 percent.

The tight end has still had his share of ailments this season – a dislocated shoulder during the preseason and a minor knee injury – but Kittle still says he's far healthier now than at any point last year.

"Being healthy is fun," Kittle laughed as he literally knocked on a wooden box nearby.

Added Shanahan: "I think he's taken better care of his body throughout this offseason – what he does day in and day out, how physical he plays throughout a game and what he does Monday through Saturday just to get his body back ready to play on Sunday. It's been a complete credit to him, just how well he's taken care of himself."

The third – and most compelling – factor in Kittle's emergence is his approach to the game. His persona is a bit of a juxtaposition: A hyper-competitive professional athlete who is also a gigantic kid who never seems overly concerned about anything. Kittle is the class clown of the 49ers locker room, and no amount of Tom Rinaldi tear-jerkers could kill his vibe. His baseline is goofy and escalates rapidly to eccentric. The 6-foot-4, 250-pound tight end isn't macho and has no insecurities in telling anyone who will listen about the latest Pokémon he caught on his Nintendo DS.

And yet, on the football field, Kittle's objective is to physically impose his will on an opponent. He'll mercilessly plant someone into the turf to finish a block and laugh about it on his way back into the huddle.

"I like to play angry, and I don't think there are a lot of guys who like to play angry," Kittle said of his mindset. "You have to have a switch that you can flip when you get on the field. I'm a goofy dude. I don't usually take things too seriously, but when I step on the field it's a whole different aspect to me."

Kittle is also a conversationalist during games. He'll chat with anyone during a break in the action. The tight end referenced a recent chat with Aaron Donald during the 49ers Week 7 home game against the Los Angeles Rams.

"You didn't get in?" Donald asked him while the tight end's 10-yard touchdown was being reviewed.

"I had to get in because my fantasy coaches need me to get more points," Kittle replied.

(Side note: When people tell you that nobody cares about your fantasy team, just remember that Kittle does.)

During the same game, Kittle kindly asked Ndamukong Suh "how he got so big."

"He just laughed at me," Kittle said.



But even when things get contentious, Kittle isn't one for trash talk save for an occasional passive aggressive comment. Like on this running play in the red zone where Kittle blocked Cardinals defensive back Antoine Bethea for 15 yards all the way across the goal line. Bethea eventually threw Kittle down at the end of the play out of frustration. Kittle got up and casually inquired about "how his ride went."

Kittle's ability to seamlessly navigate between ruthless aggression and timely humor makes him a one-of-a-kind personality in the NFL. Shanahan compared the young tight end to a WWE wrestler.

"I don't think it's an act," Shanahan joked. "I think that's who he is 24/7 which is fun to watch. He's pretty rowdy all the time."

Kinder words have never been spoken as far as Kittle is concerned. He's long been an avid fan of professional wrestling (and all other levels of wrestling for that matter) and has even done some training at the same gym as WWE Superstar Seth Rollins.

Kittle and Rollins have discussed their respective mindsets and found common ground despite participating in vastly different arenas. Extreme levels of concentration are required in both WWE and the NFL. Failure to do so can have painful consequences (just ask Hoyer). They each agreed, though, that the need for ultimate focus and attention to detail doesn't have to come at the cost of showmanship and entertainment.

"I'm a high-energy guy," Kittle said. "I try to be infectious with my energy. I'm all about the excitement. Football is easy when you're having fun."

Both of Kittle's signature celebrations have ties to wrestling. His touchdown dance is an ode to "Stone Cold" Steve Austin's affinity for smashing two beers above his head. This year, Kittle added a unique "first down" signal after each catch that moves the chains. The tight end puts his thumb and pointer finger together with his other three fingers extended like a basketball player would signal a three-pointer. Then he reaches his arm out and flops his wrist down. According to Kittle, he picked it up from Pentagón Jr., an independent wrestler who dons a luchador mask. The signal means "no fear."

It can all sound a bit silly and gimmicky, but anyone who knows him will tell you that Kittle is as genuine as they come. That's a quality that commands immediate respect. Players recently voted Kittle as one of two offensive captains along with 12-year veteran Joe Staley, which tells you everything you need to know about how his work ethic and overall trajectory are perceived by his teammates.

Kittle's unique flair and increased production are starting to turn heads around the country as well. Esteemed national scribe Chris Wesseling recently tweeted that Kittle would be an All-Pro pick at tight end if it were up to him.

Witten has also taken notice and was eager to meet Kittle ahead of the 49ers Week 6 primetime game against the Green Bay Packers on "Monday Night Football." Kittle sat down with Witten and the rest of ESPN's broadcast team during production meetings at the 49ers team hotel.

"I really admire the way he's playing," Witten said. "He really jumps out at you when you're watching the tape. He can be a game changer."

"He's a mismatch, and Kyle is using him really well. He just needs to keep doing it because I think he's on the verge of taking that next step and joining that top tier of tight ends."

What's wild is that the numbers indicate he might already be there. Here's how Kittle stacks up against NFL tight ends: 32 receptions (fourth), 527 yards (third), 16.5 yards per catch (second; minimum 10 receptions), 368 yards after the catch (first), seven catches of at least 20 yards (tied for second), two catches of at least 40 yards (tied for first) and 22 first downs (tied for third).

Kittle is on pace for 1,205 receiving yards this season – a staggering number for a tight end. In fact, no



NFL tight end has reached the 1,200-yard plateau since Jimmy Graham in 2013 (1,215). It's a milestone that Witten, an 11-time Pro Bowler, two-time All-Pro and sure-fire Hall of Famer, never accomplished.

The production coupled with Kittle's intangibles – work ethic, toughness, aggression, athleticism, etc. – make Witten believe the league's best up-and-coming tight end resides in San Francisco.

"He's not a guy who is reading his own press clippings," Witten said. "That mindset combined with his versatility allows him to have a really high ceiling."

Don't mistake Kittle's natural humility for a lack of self-belief. He understands that greatness is a realistic benchmark.

"Yeah, I one hundred percent do," Kittle said. "I feel like I have the assets and the mindset to get there."

It's still too soon to mention Kittle's name in the same sentence as Rob Gronkowski, Zach Ertz, Travis Kelce and Graham. Those are all established Pro Bowlers who have exhibited the consistent production needed to be considered elite.

But Kittle is well on his way, and he's sure to savor the ride. He'll make sure the rest of us do, too.



### Mike McGlinchey

#### **Beers, bros and karaoke: Joe Staley, Mike McGlinchey are the heartbeat of the 49ers**

By Nick Wagoner  
ESPN.com  
August 15, 2019

It's a Thursday night just two weeks before the start of San Francisco 49ers training camp, and karaoke night at Khartoum Lounge in Campbell, California, has just taken an enormous and outlandish turn. Standing on stage are roughly 13 feet and 610 pounds of ballad-belted bookend offensive tackles.

Joe Staley and Mike McGlinchey generally prefer to compete at karaoke, flying solo on stage aside from the occasional dual foray into the Backstreet Boys.

Instead, they have something new and -- given the notes required to nail the performance -- risky in mind.

The song choice is "Shallow," the Bradley Cooper/Lady Gaga duet (the tackles repeatedly pronounce her name "Guh-gah") made famous by the 2018 movie "A Star is Born." Staley steps into the role of Cooper, dropping his voice to set the stage for McGlinchey.

"I set him up with a real low Bradley Cooper bar and then I stopped singing and I went, 'All right, blow them away,'" Staley says.

McGlinchey, whose go-to song is "Mr. Brightside" by The Killers, says he's rehearsed the song many times on his own, but it's different on stage when people notice, camera phones come out and it's time to put on a show. McGlinchey digs deep, attempting to take his voice to places it normally doesn't go.

On this night, it's just not happening.

"I just couldn't hit the high notes," McGlinchey says with genuine disappointment in his voice. "I was so upset with myself after that. I failed so hard at Lady Gaga. I thought I could do it. I just couldn't."

Although "Shallow" might have been a miss, the depths of Staley and McGlinchey's friendship go well beyond their musical stylings.

While wide receivers and defensive backs have earned a reputation for their big personalities (and egos), anyone who has spent time around a locker room knows it's often the offensive line that most effectively represents the heartbeat of a team. In San Francisco, the case can be made that Staley and McGlinchey best set the tone.

"They have a very unique relationship," quarterback Jimmy Garoppolo said. "The age difference is so different, but they're so similar in their personality. It's fun to be around those guys. They always keep it light. And when you get out there between the lines they're different people in the huddle and I love that. You've got to have guys like that who can know when to turn it on and know when to turn it off."

Joe Staley, left, may be 10 years older than Mike McGlinchey, right, but the two hit it off almost instantly, realizing that they are both "loud, obnoxious people." Courtesy of the San Francisco 49ers  
Bickering like brothers, laughing like friends

Sitting next to each other for an interview in the 49ers' public relations office, Staley and McGlinchey are 90 minutes removed from a training camp practice (Staley is fresh after a veterans' rest day) and have quickly shifted gears into what might as well be a stand-up comedy act.

Over the course of about 33 minutes, McGlinchey and Staley bicker like brothers and laugh like best friends while discussing everything from Staley's license to curse in front of McGlinchey's mother -- Staley



is a dad and McGlinchey is not, she reasons -- to their favorite karaoke tunes to how their fast and easy relationship has become integral in each other's careers and to the 49ers' building.

Long before Staley was even aware of McGlinchey, the second-year tackle had been keeping tabs on -- and looking up to -- the 12-year veteran. When McGlinchey was early in the college recruiting process, the Notre Dame strength coach was Paul Longo, who held the same position at Central Michigan when Staley was there.

Longo, who was part of the ND group recruiting McGlinchey to the Irish, told McGlinchey that he reminded him of Staley and, as McGlinchey began to realize that his path in football would be at offensive tackle, he decided it was time to study up. At the time, the Niners were one of the NFC's best teams and Staley was one of the key components of their run to Super Bowl XLVII, making him a natural starting point.

McGlinchey was blown away by Staley's combination of athleticism and technique and though the 49ers lost that game to the Baltimore Ravens, McGlinchey watched it on repeat and changed his high school number to Staley's 74.

"I knew everything about him before I got here and I've probably watched that Super Bowl on film, like 40 or 50 times," McGlinchey says. "I thought it was one of the best games I've ever seen a left tackle play."

(At this point, Staley stops McGlinchey. "You've never, ever complimented me like that," Staley says. "That was really nice.")

Staley, meanwhile, knew nothing of McGlinchey until the Niners used the No. 9 overall pick on him in the 2018 NFL draft. After sending a congratulatory text to McGlinchey, Staley quickly went searching for anything he could find on his new teammate and discovered videos of McGlinchey interviews from his time in South Bend.

The first thing Staley noticed was just how polished McGlinchey was in front of reporters, something McGlinchey attributes to getting weekly practice at Notre Dame and something Staley didn't get as much of at Central Michigan, a place McGlinchey likes to call "The Little Sisters of the Poor" as a job at Staley.

"I never experienced the big shining lights like Mike did," Staley says. "That was my very first impression was like this kid is a politician. So, I was going to try to break him down and get to the real Mike. I was really shocked. Because I thought his personality was very square like, 'Hi, how are you, Mike McGlinchey here, let me tell you why I'm the best.' And really he's like, just 'Philly Mike.'"

Staley, who is 10 years McGlinchey's senior, says he never felt threatened by McGlinchey's arrival and related to coming in as a first-round pick with big expectations. Within a week, the two went to a nearby sports bar for burgers and beers, realized how much they had in common as self-described "loud, obnoxious people" and, not long after, how much they could help each other.

The ways that manifested in their first season together were quite different. For McGlinchey, it was important to have a veteran sounding board who could offer tips on pass-rushers and technique and, perhaps most importantly, lift him up when inevitable rookie struggles hit.

In a game late last season McGlinchey was struggling. As the game was going on, Staley noticed and reminded his rookie teammate that the guys on the other side get paid to play, too.

"There's a lot of people in the position that he's in that would have viewed it kind of as a threat almost," McGlinchey said. "Luckily, Joe is a good enough guy and good enough teammate and comfortable enough in his own skin that he was pretty selfless. He was there for me 100 percent."

"They are both smart guys who really study their craft, who study each other," 49ers coach Mike Shanahan said of Staley (74) and McGlinchey (69). Courtesy of the San Francisco 49ers  
Balancing fun with success



For Staley, who has seen and done almost everything during his NFL career, McGlinchey's youthful exuberance has helped revitalize him. After a dreadful 2-14 season in 2016, Staley strongly considered retirement. Head coach Kyle Shanahan's arrival had given him some renewed vigor, but McGlinchey's arrival the following year has pushed that to another level. Staley even signed a two-year extension in June that takes him through the 2021 season and should allow him to retire with the only NFL team he's ever known.

Staley said he and McGlinchey are constantly bouncing ideas off each other and watch each other's reps in order to offer technique tips in real time.

"When he got drafted, I was getting to that point that I was going through a rough patch from Year 9 to 11 of like, do I want to keep playing football?" Staley said. "How long do I want to do this? And just having that kind of little brother-big brother relationship that he brought in and got along so well kind of really reinvigorated me a little bit."

While laughter might be a focal point of their friendship, it doesn't come without conflict. Some of it is good-natured -- such as the seven minutes and 11 seconds of arguing about what Staley calls McGlinchey's politician personality or the five-minute debate about whether McGlinchey didn't work out and hang out with Staley as much as promised in San Diego in the offseason -- but it can also turn serious, especially when those disagreements take place on the field.

In fact, just a couple of hours earlier, Staley and McGlinchey got into it over something on the practice field. They wouldn't disclose the specifics of what they disagreed on but both acknowledged that they were genuinely angry at each other.

"They are both smart guys who really study their craft, who study each other," Shanahan said. "They both compete more than anything even though they are, I joke BFFs, but they still are going to hate on each other too and try to get after each other because they definitely are competitive. I think that's something a veteran like Joe needs at this time in his career and I think it's great for a younger guy like McGlinchey to have a reminder on the other side that he doesn't have all the answers, that there's a lot more he can learn and he can get a lot better also."

Of course, that anger usually gets swept away in about an hour without apologies. After all, when practice and meetings are finished, it's time once again to bring a little levity to the locker room or head out for more burgers and beers, a round of karaoke, a sporting event (San Jose Sharks hockey games are a favorite) or a stop at Staley's house to hang out with his daughters, Grace and Audrey.

"I could not do another job, honestly," Staley said. "My personality would be really hard to work in a normal job."

On that, McGlinchey and Staley will always agree.

"I'd really struggle outside of the football realm," McGlinchey said. "But I think I think we just know what's important to us. It's like, we love to have fun. But we both want to be very good at what we do. And when it's time to play football and watch film and all that, it's serious. And when it's living life and being around your teammates, it's about having fun and enjoying the time that we spend together."



## 49ers tackles McGlinchey and Staley are bookends on and off the field

By Eric Branch  
San Francisco Chronicle  
July 30, 2019

Mike McGlinchey was a two-time team captain at Notre Dame who doesn't carry himself like a typical 24-year-old.

Last year, 49ers executive Adam Peters joked he was likely less mature than McGlinchey. This week, head coach Kyle Shanahan recalled thinking McGlinchey acted like a CEO of a Fortune 500 company when he first met him before the 2018 draft.

"McGlinchey is very mature," Shanahan said before delivering the punchline: "Until you hang out with him outside of the football office."

Yes, since making McGlinchey the No. 9 overall pick, the 49ers have discovered the ultra-polished offensive tackle is also a karaoke-loving goofball.

McGlinchey, in fact, can match Pro Bowl left tackle Joe Staley, one of his best friends, when it comes to unapologetically bad singing voices. But the 49ers aren't complaining because he might eventually prove to be Staley's equal on the field.

McGlinchey flashed that potential in his NFL debut season when he started 16 games at right tackle and was named to the Pro Football Writers Association All-Rookie team. McGlinchey often was dominant as a run-blocker, but he allowed 40 quarterback pressures, according to Pro Football Focus.

This week, McGlinchey reflected on his pass-blocking in 2018 and said his biggest problem wasn't with his hands or feet, but his head. McGlinchey acknowledged he allowed some of his All-Pro foes to mess with his mind.

"I think most of it last year was mental," McGlinchey said. "... I think it was a matter of names that kind of freaked me out more: Whether it was (Chicago's) Khalil Mack, or (Denver's) Von Miller, or (the Rams') Aaron Donald — whatever the hell it was. I wasn't really worried about what those guys did as much as who they were."

McGlinchey didn't always flourish, but he never was embarrassed.

Mack, for example, didn't have a sack against the 49ers, but did have at least one in nine of his other 13 games. And Miller had one sack against McGlinchey, although it came with an asterisk because the former Super Bowl MVP beat him as McGlinchey was being held by Broncos defensive tackle Derek Wolfe.

"I had ups and downs," McGlinchey said. "And it was a matter of 'OK, I've played those guys and they didn't crush me. They didn't hurt me. They didn't rush up the stat board. It was one of those things of where I know I can do it."

"It's a matter of just getting the job done now. It's a matter of being the best that I can be and, hopefully, eventually that's going to be the best in this league. It's a matter of not just getting the job done. But getting the job done and looking like I know what I'm doing."



The 49ers drafted McGlinchey and traded jumbo-sized right tackle Trent Brown last year partly because they prized McGlinchey's athleticism and movement skills. McGlinchey, listed at 6-foot-8 and 315 pounds, is similar in size and skill set to Staley, 34, who was an accomplished sprinter in high school.

McGlinchey hasn't reached the level of the six-time Pro Bowler, but Shanahan says he has the proper mind-set.

"It's easy to get on him hard; he's not going to get sensitive," Shanahan said. "You can tell him he looked (bad) and he'll get pissed off, but he's going to come back tomorrow and try to prove you wrong. If you don't have that type of mentality, then you always have a sophomore slump. I don't see that being in him, and it better not."

McGlinchey and Staley are set up to be Jimmy Garoppolo's primary protectors for the next few seasons after Staley recently signed a two-year extension that runs through 2021.

McGlinchey paid his buddy a compliment and, possibly, snuck in a crack about his age.

"He's the heart and soul of our football team," McGlinchey said, "and he has been since probably I was in sixth grade."



## Mike McGlinchey Expects Offseason Adjustments to Pay Dividends in 2019

By Keiana Martin  
49ers.com  
May 28, 2019

Mike McGlinchey is devoted to avoiding the dreaded sophomore slump and controlling his own narrative heading into Year 2.

He is coming off an impressive rookie campaign as an immediate starter at right tackle. The San Francisco 49ers 2018 first-round pick was rated as the best rookie run blocker and finished the season with the second-highest overall grade among all first-year offensive linemen according to Pro Football Focus. McGlinchey was also among the NFL's most dependable first-year offensive linemen in 2018. He was just one of only two rookie tackles to play 1000 snaps in 2018 and led the entire 49ers offense with 1,054.

Tasked with building on his Year 1 performance, McGlinchey believes that a full offseason without the restrictions of pre-draft and rookie obligations should serve him well in 2019.

"You don't get to really focus on being a traditional offensive lineman (as a rookie). You've got so many other things and hats to juggle," McGlinchey said. "Having a whole year under your belt makes things a lot easier for you when you hit the ground running on Day 1."

McGlinchey admitted to getting behind on his footwork towards the end of 2018. He's spent the offseason concentrating on consistency, grasping the offense and bulking up. He's added 15 pounds since the end of last season and is already starting to feel the benefits of his added strength at the start of OTAs.

Another benefit, or pair of benefits, to add to McGlinchey's growth this offseason is the 49ers additions of Nick Bosa and Dee Ford. McGlinchey will have the opportunity to protect the edge in practice against those two talented pass rushers.

Ford racked up 13 sacks in 2018. He's also known for having one of the quickest first steps off the line of scrimmage. That provides a welcomed challenge for McGlinchey.

"Dee's everything that he's advertised, man. He's in the elite class with his get off and his ability to get into people and take control of blocks," McGlinchey said. "He's just quicker, and he's strong as well. If the timing's off, normally I'm hitting on the second step just a little bit later, and I'm still in control of the block. With Dee, you've got to be as fast as humanly possible because he's that good at getting into you.

"I'm excited to get to work with him. It's only going to make me better (and) the rest of our tackles better. He's going to be special for us this year and I'm certainly glad he's on our side now."



## 49ers review: Mike McGlinchey's better 'Welcome to NFL' moment

By Cam Inman  
San Jose Mercury News  
November 9, 2018

Watching Mike McGlinchey race 50 yards down field as a lead blocker was phenomenal.

It spoke volumes not only about the 49ers rookie right tackle but how this year's top draft pick fits so well into coach Kyle Shanahan's scheme.

"That's what's fun about Kyle's offense – you get to show off your athletic ability with how we run and how we try and get out in front of guys," McGlinchey said.

While Monday night's visit by the New York Giants will showcase their Offensive Rookie of the Year favorite in Saquon Barkley, let's not forget about how well McGlinchey is faring as a promising cornerstone for the Niners.

What better way to examine that than looking deeper into McGlinchey's eye-opening escort on Raheem Mostert's 52-yard touchdown in last week's 34-3 rout of the Raiders:

McGlinchey and the 49ers lined up at their 48-yard line. Then came the snap to Nick Mullens, who faked a jet-sweep handoff to Marquise Goodwin. As McGlinchey backpedaled to the 44, Raheem Mostert took Nick Mullens' pitch at the 40.

What ensued was much more than McGlinchey's one-man caravan.

"We watched the film as a team," McGlinchey said, "and the backside guys are really the ones who sprung that play loose."

The backside guys: left tackle Joe Staley, center Weston Richburg and fullback Kyle Juszczyk, all of whom cleared out second-level blocks. Aiding and abetting were tight end Garrett Celek, left guard Laken Tomlinson and right guard Mike Person.

"That worked out perfect," Celek said. "We've ran it a few times (this season), it just hasn't turned out that good."

Celek, by the way, didn't want to divulge the specific play call in case Mullens needs to audible to it later this season.

As McGlinchey raced down the right sideline, Mostert was coming on fast at 20.9 mph, as clocked by the NFL's NextGen Stats. "Well, I had like a 20-yard head start," McGlinchey quipped.

McGlinchey said his job was to take out the widest defender on the play, "but normally he shows up a lot faster than that."

Raiders safety Marcus Gilchrist eventually entered the picture. Staley, upon reviewing film, told McGlinchey he should have cut block Gilchrist.

"He got you guys to notice him," Staley joked.

"I don't really like to cut block, especially when a guy is coming at me from the inside," McGlinchey said. "The worst thing in the world is to cut block and miss. I just wanted to get on him and make a play."



And so McGlinchey made like Forrest Gump and kept running.

“That was really cool,” Richburg said. “He could have made it easier by cutting the guy, but he wanted to be a hero.”

“Mike, he can move,” Celek said. “He beats me down field sometimes on celebrations.”

McGlinchey got a hand on Gilchrist at the Raiders 30, then zig-zagged to get out of Mostert’s way, nearly tangling legs with him at the 15. Finally, at the 5, McGlinchey cleared out Gilchrist and tumbled into the end zone while Mostert ran in untouched for his first career touchdown.

“Those are my favorite plays, because it allows us to do something different than just run downhill and block a defensive lineman,” McGlinchey said. “It’s a lot of fun.”

Said Staley: “Every play is designed to get a touchdown, and very rarely does it happen like it’s drawn up, because they’re good players, too.”

Was that really the way Shanahan drew it up for McGlinchey? Nope. “I think the O-Line gave him the showoff fine for trying to be on TV following him down the field for so long,” Shanahan quipped. “No, I’m just joking.

“He did a hell of a job. It was awesome.”

Notre Dame had its share of pin-and-pull blocking but nothing that ever got McGlinchey so far into the open field like Mostert’s 52-yard touchdown run.

“Mike McGlinchey’s been working his butt off all year long,” running back Matt Breida said. “You guys can see what type of player he’s going to be in this league. One day he’ll be a Pro Bowler.”

Such run-blocking agility and a highly professional approach was not what the 49ers got out of his predecessor, Trent Brown. Brown’s durability raised further questions as he entered his contract year, and his draft-day trade to New England has worked out for all parties involved.

McGlinchey hasn’t been perfect, and while he knows that, he’s also built off of his learning experiences.

Some three months ago, McGlinchey got planted on his backside by Houston Texans’ star J.J. Watt in a “Welcome To The NFL” scrimmage.

And now?

“I’m playing a lot faster and a little bit more free now that I have a full understanding of the offense,” McGlinchey said. “I’ve been pretty successful so far and still have a long way to go.”



## Mike McGlinchey thankful coin-toss fate put him on 49ers, not Raiders

By Jennifer Lee Chan  
NBC Sports Bay Area  
November 2, 2018

Mike McGlinchey recalls the coin toss that made him a 49er, and he couldn't be happier about it.

The offensive tackle was a coin toss away from potentially living on the other side of the Bay, wearing silver and black. He has thought about how different his life would be if 49ers general manager John Lynch had lost that first coin toss to the Raiders.

"I have," McGlinchey said. "I have. And I'm really, really lucky, and I think I'm fortunate to be here. Not that there's anything wrong with the Raiders, but I lucked into a great situation here. I love my head coach. I love my offensive line coach. I love my assistant offensive line coach. I love my teammates.

"I didn't think about it today, but I started thinking about it when I was buying a house in the area, which side of the Bay I could have been on and all that stuff."

The Raiders lost their second coin toss of the year to the 49ers on Thursday night. That loss forced them to receive the opening kickoff in the lopsided 34-3 game that gave the 49ers their second win of the season.

The more impactful coin toss, though, occurred in late February at the NFL Scouting Combine, where the Raiders' and 49ers' first-round draft pick was decided. That coin toss made drafting McGlinchey a reality for the 49ers, and they selected him with the ninth overall pick two months later.

McGlinchey has turned out to be an incredibly good pick for the 49ers. He is Pro Football Focus' top-rated right tackle in the NFL.

Rumors were that if the Raiders had won the toss, they would have drafted McGlinchey. Instead, they traded their 10th pick with the Cardinals and drafted tackle Kolton Miller with the 15th selection.

Miller left Thursday's game with a knee injury during the Raiders' opening drive and struggled while playing 25 snaps. The Raiders shuffled the remaining offensive line around while attempting to protect quarterback Derek Carr. They allowed eight sacks.

McGlinchey recognized the short-term challenges of a tough season, but he sees the long-term potential.

"It just couldn't be a better situation here, and I lucked out going to the Niners," McGlinchey said. "Obviously, we want a little bit more wins, but we're building something special here, and everybody can feel it.

"That's why we don't stop. We don't stop working, and we don't stop playing hard. That's exciting. It's been awesome to be here, and hopefully we're getting ready for something big in the future."

McGlinchey is very happy they way things unfolded and sees a solid future for himself on the 49ers' side of the Bay.

"It's obviously not even a guarantee that they would have picked me," McGlinchey said. "But that's what the rumors were. But, thank God. I love my situation here. I'm happy here, and I can't wait to be a Niner for a long time."



## 49ers' Mike McGlinchey born to protect, on and off the field

By Eric Branch  
San Francisco Chronicle  
September 8, 2018

Mike McGlinchey was an industrial-size baby who was the first of six siblings, making him, by size and birth order, a natural protector.

The 10-pound, 6-ounce infant grew into a 6-foot-8, 315-pound rookie right tackle who will make his NFL debut when the 49ers visit Minnesota in their season opener Sunday. His ability to shield others from harm made him a first-team All-American at Notre Dame and the No. 9 pick in the draft.

His elite skill to safeguard isn't limited to quarterbacks.

As the oldest sibling by three years, McGlinchey's protective instincts kick in with his gigantic and athletic family. It includes an uncle, brother and eight cousins, including Atlanta quarterback Matt Ryan, who have played college football.

And McGlinchey, who has 24 first cousins, is particularly fierce when it comes to two relatives who could not play organized sports.

McGlinchey's brother, Jim, 15, was diagnosed with autism at 18 months. And his cousin and best friend, Dan McCain, 26, continues to deal with significant health issues: He was born with microscopic holes in his lungs, had open heart surgery at 16 and underwent another procedure in February to replace the valve that was inserted 10 years earlier.

At one point when discussing his bond with Dan, McGlinchey, a genial giant with a passion for karaoke, politely but firmly made a request when it came to how his cousin would be portrayed: "As long as he's perceived as my biggest fan, best friend and coach," McGlinchey said, "and not the story that's heartwarming."

And when it comes to both Jim and Dan, McGlinchey protects them from potential pity. This story, he says, is not about what he's done for them.

"It's hard to put into words what the two of them have shaped me to be," McGlinchey said, "but they certainly have had their fair share in my development, that's for sure."

McGlinchey credits his brother and cousin for keeping him grounded and connected to his family-first, blue-collar suburban Philadelphia roots.

Last month, a few weeks after signing a four-year, \$18.4 million fully guaranteed contract, McGlinchey bought a house that remains largely vacant and undecorated. The only artwork is a framed picture that Jim, a talented artist, drew for him the day after he was drafted. It depicts them, together, celebrating his selection above the words, "Congratulations, Mike McGlinchey!"

A few weeks ago, Dan, after receiving permission from his cardiologist to fly, was the first of McGlinchey's brothers or cousins to visit him in the Bay Area. On an off day, Dan toured the 49ers' facility and met quarterback Jimmy Garoppolo, among others.

"They keep me tied back to home, which is where I should be," McGlinchey said. "They have given all of



us perspective on what to appreciate out of life and what's important to us. Like my grandfather always said, remember who you are and remember where you came from. And Jim and Dan are the anchors in which all that is experienced in our family."

In a family filled with accomplished athletes, McGlinchey stood out.

Despite his size, McGlinchey played eight positions, including quarterback and wide receiver, at William Penn Charter in Philadelphia. As a high school sophomore, he dunked on Ryan, then an NFL quarterback, during a driveway game that's part of family lore. And that same year, he took up the shot put to strengthen his lower body for football. The result: He won two state titles in the event.

"I figured out how to do it pretty good," he said.

At Notre Dame, McGlinchey was a two-time captain, and his blend of size, skill and character placed him on the 49ers' wish list. Adam Peters, the team's vice president of player personnel, acknowledges that background work on college prospects often yields varying degrees of positive feedback. McGlinchey was different.

"With Mike, it was superlatives, superlatives, superlatives, superlatives," Peters said. "And then you meet him, and he's everything that everyone described. ... He's more mature than a lot of the (veterans) we have. He might be more mature than I am."

In their digging, the 49ers presumably didn't track down the senior-citizen stadium ushers McGlinchey befriended at Notre Dame. Or the maintenance workers with whom he connected in high school. McGlinchey's mom, Janet, says Mike's upbringing is why her son's lofty accomplishments didn't cause him to elevate himself.

"Growing up, we called Mike 'Midas' — everything he did turned to gold," Janet said. "But Jim and Dan have helped him keep him grounded to know that there is another world out there. And some people aren't as gifted as you. So stay humble, remember where you came from, and remember to give back."

McGlinchey has given as much as he has gained in his relationships with Jim and Dan.

Like many with autism, Jim craves routine, which explains why he attended only four of his brother's games in college (Dan went to too many to count). Last season, when Notre Dame played in the Citrus Bowl in Orlando, the family tried to cajole Jim by explaining it was the home of Disney World. Jim wasn't interested. Moments after McGlinchey was drafted, Jim, who has not flown, made an announcement: He was never traveling to San Francisco.

McGlinchey's football prowess means little to Jim, who think he's at his best in another role.

"He's good at being my brother," Jim said in 2016 in a Bleacher Report video on their relationship. "He takes care of me."

Mike has done that since Janet sat down her older children shortly after Jim's diagnosis. At the time, they were told they would have to take particular care to look out for Jim as he grew up. In later years, it was explained they would care for Jim if there came a time when Janet and her husband, Mike Sr., no longer could.

"I explained this is our family," Janet said. "This is what happens."



And what has happened with Jim has been unexpected. He initially was not expected to talk, but now “he won’t shut up,” says Janet, laughing. He was an honor student in middle school, and the family has started rethinking whether he could live independently.

Jim still struggles with emotional control and social cues, and he has a very specific list of intense likes (hotel pools) and dislikes (being told what to draw). McGlinchey highlights his brother’s grades, spot-on drawings of Nickelodeon characters and gift for creating videos.

“Jimmy,” McGlinchey said, “is absolutely smarter than everybody in our family.”

Unlike Jim, Dan grew up as sports-crazed as his four younger brothers and collection of cousins. However, his health issues meant he couldn’t truly channel his competitive drive into athletics.

He was born with a heart murmur and a disorder that caused his lungs to leak oxygen. Dan slept with an oxygen tank growing up, and Mike, with his size, often would lug it upstairs when the family members gathered for their annual summer vacation in North Wildwood, N.J.

“Mike, from an early age, sensed that Dan had a tough time with things,” said Dan’s mother, Mary. “He’s always been that type that just wants to protect people. ... Mike isn’t happy until he gets Dan happy. He’s shared all his success with him.”

Mike and Dan grew up in the same neighborhood and were constant companions. In pickup football games, Dan was the all-time quarterback. In Wiffle ball, he was the all-time pitcher.

However, there were times he got carried away in a family in which the boys once played a tackle football game, in suits, at McGlinchey’s grandmother’s wake. As Mary says, even “Monopoly became fisticuffs.”

“Dan always went at it with them on our front lawn,” Mary said. “I couldn’t even watch. If I tried to hold him back, he’d get really mad at me.”

Mike and Dan were separated for the first time when Mike went to Notre Dame, but the pattern was established: Dan would remain in the game.

Through McGlinchey’s college career, Dan was a regular in South Bend and became friends with several of his Notre Dame teammates. Mike would FaceTime Dan the day after every game to “get his report,” which could include praise and critiques.

In 2015, after previously unbeaten Notre Dame lost 24-22 at Clemson, McGlinchey called Dan twice the day after the game. No response. He texted him. Nothing. Finally, Dan called back about four days later.

“He was like, ‘Sorry, I had to take some time to decompress from that one,’” McGlinchey said, laughing. “I told him, ‘Yeah, I hear ya.’”

For Dan, Mike’s setbacks and successes cause wild emotional swings.

“I definitely have that competitive drive,” Dan said. “I don’t think it’s as prevalent as it was back then (growing up) because I’m not playing. But I definitely like to consider with Notre Dame, and now all the way up to the 49ers, (Mike’s) wins are kind of like my wins in a way.”

Dan’s lung disorder eventually resolved itself, but for years, it stressed his other organs, particularly his heart. In February, the valve that was inserted when he was 16 was replaced. Doctors didn’t think his



body could withstand a second open-heart surgery, so they performed a TAVR procedure, which is less invasive and involves guiding a catheter through the leg to the heart to replace the valve.

However, it is a temporary fix. And it's unlikely the TAVR can be repeated when Dan requires another procedure in as soon as five years. The families are praying a medical advancement can resolve the issue.

The uncertainty is a reason the months after the surgery were difficult for Dan, and Mike hoped his recent visit to the Bay Area would raise his spirits. His plan worked. After Dan arrived home, it was clear he officially was part of his best friend's new team.

"He feels like he belongs," Mary said. "... It gives him a whole new kind of purpose."

For Mike, he has a specific purpose as he begins a journey that, if his Midas touch remains, will include fame to go along with rookie fortune. He wants to keep the proper perspective as a pro. And he thinks that those he has safeguarded the most will shield him from losing his way.

Postgame calls to his best friend, and a picture on his otherwise vacant wall, will protect him from forgetting who he is and where he came from.



## Big guy, strong roots: Why the 49ers zeroed in on Mike McGlinchey

By Matt Barrows  
Sacramento Bee  
May 12, 2018

Two items Mike McGlinchey's parents made sure they had before heading off to one of their son's youth basketball games: A water bottle and his birth certificate.

"Because people always questioned whether he belonged on the team or not," his mother, Janet, said.

You see, the McGlinchey's oldest child stood out among peers the way a tiger would in a room full of house cats. He was big out of the cradle, was called "Big Mike" while he was still a grade schooler and didn't stop growing until he went off to college.

His parents wouldn't let him play football at age eight, for example, because their town's weight-based league would have put him on the same field as eighth and ninth graders. "So that year he ended up playing soccer, which he hated dreadfully," Janet said.

Every six months mother and son had to go shopping because Mike had grown out of his shoes. Well, at least until he entered high school when Janet started ordering shoes online since the ones they sell in stores weren't big enough. Mike's topped out at size 17.

During warm-ups at youth-league games outside of Philadelphia, parents of the opposing players would look at McGlinchey and shout: "Yo, did No. 44 drive the bus here?" McGlinchey was 9 years old at the time, not just the youngest kid on the team but the youngest in the league.

All of which begins to explain why the 49ers used the ninth overall pick on the offensive tackle from Notre Dame. Sure, his size played a role. They love that someone who stands 6-8 and has massive 10-inch hands will be battling in the trenches and protecting quarterback Jimmy Garoppolo. But there's also a maturity and steadiness about McGlinchey that drew the 49ers.

One draft publication said he acts "like a CEO of a Fortune 500 company." Before the draft, analyst Mike Mayock rated McGlinchey as his top tackle because his work ethic and passion for the game were "unparalleled." "So I know what I'm getting with that kid," Mayock said. "And that's why I bang the table for him."

Said 49ers coach Kyle Shanahan a few hours after the 49ers selected McGlinchey: "To me what separates Mike from everyone else is the person you're getting."

No holding back

How did McGlinchey get that way? Parents and adults expect more from big kids because they instinctively think they're older than they are. They play with older children because they're so much larger than their peers and they aspire to be like their playmates.

When Mike was in kindergarten, he was on a team with third and fourth graders, prompting his coach to note that while some of his players were learning advanced multiplication and division in school, one of his players didn't know how to read or write.

"Even as a toddler he was always playing with 4 or 5 year olds because he was so much bigger," Janet said. "So I think he always gravitated to that mature level faster than most kids his age. His size sort of forced him to act more mature when he was still a young kid."

McGlinchey also is the oldest of six children and is among the oldest of what Janet described as a the



"second wave of cousins." There are 22 of them on her side of the family, the vast majority rough-and-tumble boys who sharpened Mike's sense of competition.

Her brother, John Loughery, was a quarterback at Boston College when Doug Flutie arrived there. She has nephews who played at Sacred Heart, Brown, Elon, Temple, and one, Matt Ryan, who was the third overall pick to the Atlanta Falcons in 2008.

The boys played basketball, lacrosse and any plenty of other sports. But in their family, football is king.

The cousins played it on the beach at the Jersey shore in the summers. Janet said the family used to watch the Thanksgiving Day parade in Philadelphia every year. To the chagrin of her and her sisters, however, that tradition was bumped aside by a late-morning turkey-bowl game in the park. A football game even broke out following -- immediately following -- their grandmother's wake. The boys were still in their suits.

"I think that's how she would have wanted it," Mike told the Chicago Tribune in 2015.

"We always joked that our basements should have had rubber floors and rubber walls," Janet said. "We've had many dings in the wall that my husband has had to re-spackle or re-dry wall. Whether it was somebody being shoved or the sofa went through or a lacrosse ball going through or anything like that. When they played together they played hard. There was no holding back. They just competed with one another all the time."

No mere brute

Some of the cousins, including Ryan, are as tall as 6-4. Mike was the biggest of the bunch, but he was no mere brute.

He was the center on his high school basketball team who was, as you would expect, an excellent rebounder, but who also had a smooth jump shot and was reliable from the free-throw line.

In football, he had soft hands like a tight end, served as the team's longsnapper and even could throw. One of his youth-league coaches suspected at the time that if McGlinchey were to play in college it would be as a quarterback. After all, he was tall and could throw the ball 60 yards when he was 12.

Another youth-league coach, Dave Armstrong, remembers watching McGlinchey when he was the only fourth grader on a team that had kids as old as 13. On one play, McGlinchey was lined up as nose tackle. When the center tried to undercut him, McGlinchey deftly leaped into the air, hurdled the blocker and came crashing down on both the quarterback and running back.

"He destroyed the whole thing," Armstrong said. "I coached many great kids over the last 30 years. But when I saw that, I had to get on the phone and call my son. I said, 'Wow! What I just saw this kid do was unbelievable!'"

McGlinchey had an invitation to attend the draft in Dallas. He declined. After all, the NFL wouldn't have allowed him to bring the 150 family and friends with whom he wanted to celebrate the occasion. Instead, they rented out a space at Giuseppe's, an Italian restaurant outside of Philadelphia.

After receiving a phone call from 49ers general manager John Lynch, McGlinchey got up and gave long hugs to his mom, dad and girlfriend. After that, it was a party until a car arrived at 5 a.m. to take him to the airport and his first trip to Santa Clara.

"I've got a huge, crazy family with a lot of people that are a lot of fun and very loud and very exciting," he said. "But it's something I've worked for and my family has helped me work for 20-something years now. It was a huge moment for us."



## Jerick McKinnon

### **Jerick McKinnon aims to return to 49ers next season as a better player**

By Matt Maiocco  
NBC Sports Bay Area  
September 3, 2018

The first part was the worst part for 49ers running back Jerick McKinnon after sustaining a torn ACL in his right knee on Saturday during a routine practice play.

He knew the injury was bad, but the first thing that crossed his mind was that he would not be available for his new team against his former team in Week 1 of the NFL regular season.

"I think I was more devastated, not at the fact when I found out I tore my ACL and was out for the season," McKinnon said on Monday, "I was more devastated when it happened with the feeling of knowing I wouldn't be all right for Week 1. I think this game probably meant a lot to me than anybody else, going against my former team."

McKinnon played his first four NFL seasons with the Minnesota Vikings. After signing a four-year, \$30 million contract with the 49ers on the first day of free agency, the NFL released its regular-schedule. The 49ers were set to open the regular season on the road, Sunday, Sept. 9, against the Vikings.

"That initial thought was, 'Dang, I'm not going to have a week to get my knee right,' " McKinnon said. "That was probably the worst feeling. And then once they told me what the injury was, it just kind of confirmed it."

McKinnon was placed on injured reserve on Monday. He will undergo surgery to repair to the torn ligament once the swelling goes down in his knee, he said.

Now, veteran Alfred Morris and second-year player Matt Breida will take over for McKinnon, who missed three weeks with a calf injury and was taking part in his first practice when he said he felt his cleat stick and his knee twist awkwardly.

"I think this is more of a mental battle than a physical battle, so for me it's about keeping a positive mindset and making sure I still bring energy to this locker room and to the guys around me," he said.

He said he will devote himself to being a good teammate and maintaining a positive attitude while being unable to make a contribution on the field.

"I can't sit here and be down about it the whole time or feel sorry for myself because that's not going to do anything but set me back even more," McKinnon said. "I'm here to root these guys on and make sure they stay straight and make sure we get our team goals that we've all been talking about since I got here."

McKinnon impressed those around the 49ers with his work ethic even before signing with the 49ers. Fullback Kyle Juszczyk reached out to McKinnon before free agency. At one point, McKinnon told Juszczyk he would call him back after he completed his second workout of the day.

Now, he will have to wait at least a year for the 49ers to receive any return on the investment they made in him.

"That was another tough pill to swallow, just because I know much work I put in, how much extra time I put in and coming to a new team, learning a new playbook and just me as a person how much I work," McKinnon said.

"You put in a lot of work, then not being able to let that work show."



McKinnon is taking the approach that he will put in the work again after surgery to rehabilitate and learn more and more about the Kyle Shanahan's offense to return in 2019 as a better player.

"Everything happens for a reason," McKinnon said "I feel like this is part of the bigger plan. As devastating and disappointing as it was for me to come to grips with not playing this year, that just wasn't in God's plan for me this year. I'm ready for the process to rebuild this knee, this leg, get back to running and watch these guys go out and do what they need to do."



## Georgia on their minds: How Jerick McKinnon and Matt Breida emerged from Georgia Southern to form 49ers' 1-2 punch

By Brad Almquist

KNBR

June 14, 2018

Jerick McKinnon had just agreed to sign with the 49ers, marking one of the most significant days of his life. After spending the first four years of his career as a third-down back in Minnesota, he was paid to be a feature back in San Francisco, while moving to an area of the country he had only visited on occasional road trips.

McKinnon made two immediate calls to share the news. The first went to his mother, Frances. The second went to 49ers running back, Matt Breida.

On that May 14th morning, McKinnon and Breida celebrated, reminisced, and looked ahead to a re-established partnership. Five years earlier, they shared the same backfield at Georgia Southern, once an FCS program hardly established as an NFL pipeline.

"It felt like just yesterday we were at Georgia Southern," Breida said. "We were ready to get back together and bring greatness to the 49ers."

Out of the five Georgia Southern alums currently playing in the NFL, Breida and McKinnon, San Francisco's 1-2 punch entering the 2018 season, are the only running backs.

They first crossed paths in Statesboro, a small, southeast Georgia town and the home of Georgia Southern, in the fall of 2013. Breida was a freshman. McKinnon was a senior and the face of a budding program on the verge of making the leap to Division I.

Breida knew all about McKinnon, the team's starting quarterback, rotational running back, and occasional defensive back. The first time Breida encountered McKinnon, nicknamed 'Jet,' he was squatting 600 pounds — on a pulled hamstring.

"(I was like), 'Holy crap. This is crazy. I have never seen this before,'" Breida said. "Anything Jet did, I tried to follow."

It was a fitting introduction for a player who inspired Breida. The odds of an NFL career were inherently slim for Georgia Southern prospects, playing in a region infested with pro talent at bigger schools. The only Georgia Southern running back that McKinnon and Breida knew had made the NFL was eight-year Chicago Bears veteran Adrian Peterson— not to be confused with the longtime Vikings running back.

As McKinnon progressed as an upperclassman, it became clear he was next in line. McKinnon ran the triple-option as the team's starting quarterback, leading the team in rushing in both his junior and senior seasons.

Listen to his coaches and former teammates tell stories about his college career, and it starts sounding like a modern folktale.

During his sophomore year, injuries among the defensive backfield forced the Georgia Southern coaches to play him both ways, despite his inexperience on defense. In his first game at defensive back, he recorded three interceptions. Fast forward to the final game of his college career, and McKinnon led Georgia Southern to its biggest upset in program history. He scored the game-winning touchdown in a 26-20 win at Florida.

"Jerick really set the standard on the next wave of running backs to come through," Breida said. "I always



wanted to be like him. I knew he was going to go to the NFL, so that's how I wanted to get there— by following everything he did.”

McKinnon nurtured the younger backs by example. He was the strongest lifter of the group and consistently finished first in conditioning drills. At the 2014 NFL Combine, the 5-foot-9 McKinnon lifted 32 bench reps, the second-most ever for a running back at the event.

On May 9th, 2014, McKinnon's hard work culminated when the Minnesota Vikings selected him in the third round of the NFL Draft.

“When I was there, the thing that always came to my mind when I left school, was, ‘What did I want the coaches or the players who are younger than me, watching me, to remember me by?’” McKinnon said. “I worked my butt off to get to where I was. I didn't know that I would be in the league, or be in the league this long. I just knew where I wanted to go.”

Breida followed McKinnon's blueprint. After being delegated to special teams duties during his freshman season, Breida succeeded McKinnon as the team's starting running back one year later. In that 2014 season, Georgia Southern's first as a Division I team, the Eagles won the Sun Belt Conference.

Breida led the Sun Belt in rushing yards and was named a first-team all-conference player. He led the country with 8.78 yards per carry. As a junior, he did it all again. Breida ran for 1,608 yards, 17 touchdowns, and averaged 7.9 yards per carry — leading the nation for the second consecutive year.

Breida's numbers dipped during his senior season, partly due to a coaching change and roster turnover. He ran for nearly 1,000 yards fewer than his junior campaign, fading from NFL radars.

He had still produced one the most productive careers in recent Georgia Southern history. Perhaps most impressive, the running back group experienced little-to-no drop-off when Breida replaced McKinnon.

“Those two guys were very important in our transition from FCS to FBS and showed that Georgia Southern did belong in Division I football,” said Georgia Southern head coach Chad Lunsford.

Similar to his predecessor, Breida helped his pro prospects when he blew away his Pro Day. He lifted 23 bench press reps, ran a 4.38-second 40-yard dash, 42-inch vertical jump, and 142-inch broad jump — all numbers that would have put him in the top-three of all running backs invited to the Combine.

But he was not drafted. The 49ers signed him as an undrafted free agent one week later.

The similarities between McKinnon and Breida are vast. McKinnon is 5-foot-9, 205 pounds, compared to Breida's 5-foot-10, 190-pound frame. Neither were major recruits. Both were instrumental in transforming Georgia Southern into a respectable Division I program.

Both have spent their NFL careers primarily as third-down backs. McKinnon was stuck amid a revolving cycle in Minnesota, where Adrian Peterson, Latavius Murray, and Dalvin Cook were the featured runners on base downs throughout McKinnon's four years. Last year, in Breida's rookie season, he beat out Joe Williams for the No. 2 spot in the rotation and assumed a similar third-down role behind leading rusher Carlos Hyde.

Above all, McKinnon and Breida approach their craft with a similar relentless mindset they developed in the same place.

“We both play with that chip on our shoulder,” Breida said. “People say, ‘Oh you guys are from Georgia Southern, blah blah blah.’ But Georgia Southern, we will still beat you guys.”



“And we are not that big,” added McKinnon, sitting beside Breida. “We are not big backs. But, we play big. We play like giants.”

Neither player is getting comfortable despite promising roles entering the 2018 season. McKinnon wants to prove his lucrative four-year contract, which includes \$11.7 million guaranteed, was warranted. Breida wants to build off a solid rookie season, while fending off Williams as the No. 2 option for a second straight season.

“No matter what happens, stay humble,” McKinnon said. “Keep working. The work you put in, it’ll eventually show.”

That McKinnon and Breida get to enjoy their NFL journeys together adds excitement as they enter important seasons in their careers. Oddly enough, their current situation reminds them of college.

The San Francisco glitz could not contrast the southeast, Georgia grit any more, but that’s not how they see it. They view the 49ers as an organization filled with longstanding tradition, rooted in a place that loves football and treats its players like rock stars— just like Georgia Southern.

“It’s the same sense of feeling, just on a bigger scale,” McKinnon said.

“It’s a unique situation,” Breida said. “I feel like I am back in college, almost.”

In the nearly three months since McKinnon moved to the Bay Area, he and Breida have grown closer than ever before. They’re always together at the 49ers facilities. They haven’t been able to hang out away from football because Breida is married— McKinnon jokes Breida is “tied up”— but they are planning on it now that mini camp has concluded. Their growing friendship has acclimated McKinnon to a new team and city nearly 2,500 miles from his Atlanta hometown.

Neither McKinnon nor Breida has had time to revisit Georgia Southern since they left, yet they continue to indirectly promote their alma mater.

“For both of our guys to be on the 49ers, I think that is going to bring a lot of exposure to us,” Lunsford said.

Lunsford uses McKinnon and Breida as prime examples for the current Georgia Southern players pursuing their NFL goals. Breida says current seniors occasionally call him to thank him for paving the way to the league. He credits McKinnon for the same thing.

“I just go back and think, it started with (McKinnon),” Breida said. “I followed him, and now those guys look at me and keep on going.”

McKinnon and Breida’s college careers will forever be immortalized in a downstairs hallway next to the equipment room at Georgia Southern’s football facility, where every NFL alum has a shrine with his name and corresponding NFL team. Breida will soon be added alongside McKinnon, whose Vikings jersey will be changed to a 49ers one.

Georgia Southern’s influence on McKinnon is also evident.

When asked what his alma mater means to him, McKinnon pulls down the top of his shirt to reveal the tattoos on his chest. He points to the eagle, emblazoned across the middle as a tribute to his Georgia Southern roots, always resting at his core.



## Raheem Mostert

### **Meet Raheem Mostert, who once was offered a surfing contract and now might be starting for the 49ers this week**

By Matt Barrows  
The Athletic  
August 13, 2018

It takes guts to be a full-time gunner in the NFL, the same sort of courage it might take to routinely dangle your feet in the turbid waters off of New Smyrna Beach, Florida.

“The town where I grew up, it’s still to this day the shark-bite capital of the world,” 49ers running back Raheem Mostert noted on Sunday after practice. “We would go out there and surf and they’d bite on people and stuff. They were usually just small sharks. But they’d mistake us for food.”

Like a lot of NFL players, Mostert’s teenage years were spent playing football, running track and lifting weights. But because his house was a 15-minute walk from the beach in what is perhaps Florida’s top surf town, he had a couple of less common activities — surfing and skateboarding — on his athletic résumé. And he was talented enough at both to fetch a contract offer from surf and skate company Billabong when he was still in high school.

Mostert, now 26, said he and his buddies never officially participated in the events Billabong or other groups held in town. Instead, they’d watch and do their own thing on the side.

“I’d be out there surfing or skateboarding on my own, not really trying to make a scene or anything,” Mostert recalled. “And this guy came up to me and wanted to offer me a contract. He was intrigued, basically.”

The contract would have allowed Mostert to take part in events across the country, to be part of the circuit of competitions. It also would have put a level of change in his pocket that 17-years-olds from New Smyrna Beach rarely see.

Mostert, however, had grander plans. Two years later, he became the first person in his family to attend — and later graduate from — a four-year university when he went off to Purdue on a football scholarship. The speedy Mostert left the school as its all-time record holder with 2,289 kickoff return yards.

His NFL career, which began in 2015 with the Eagles, mostly has been built on his special teams ability as well. Last season, Mostert had only six carries for the 49ers but served as the team’s gunner — which entails running down the field on punt-coverage at breakneck speed and zeroing in on the return man — and was its leader in special teams tackles.

This week, his role is a bit different. Mostert promises to get plenty of opportunities not just as a ballcarrier, but as the 49ers’ primary running back.

That’s because the first two players at the position went down with injuries in recent days — starter Jerick McKinnon to a calf strain that knocked him out of Sunday’s practice, and his backup, Matt Breida, to a separated shoulder early in Thursday’s preseason win over the Dallas Cowboys.

Mostert was the next 49ers running back in the game after Breida, and he finished with a game-high 57 rushing yards and averaged 7.1 yards per carry. The stat line wasn’t all good, however. Though he insists he was down when the ball came loose in the scrum of a tackle, officials ruled that he lost a fumble in the third quarter, something he also did last year in one of his few offensive snaps for the 49ers.

“I just can’t leave it to the refs,” he said.



As for his surf-and-skate background, Mostert pointed to a number of parallels to football. Both require exquisite balance and tolerance for physical contact, whether it's being delivered by a 235-pound linebacker or a wrought-iron railing in a New Smyrna Beach park.

You also have to be able to process a lot of moving parts in an instant.

"You're in a wave and at that moment you want to make a decision whether you want to do a trick — flare up, do a nice trick and land — or just ride the wave out," he said. "That's the same thing with football: there are a lot of different angles. Sometimes, you have to split two defenders. Sometimes, you don't want to go out of bounds because you can get an extra three or four yards. So you plant a foot and head up field."

The various sports also demand a certain level of courage. In 2008, when Mostert was a high school sophomore and was in the water almost every weekend, there were 24 shark bites recorded in Volusia County, where New Smyrna Beach is located.

"It's the same thing in football — you try not to think about it," Mostert said. "We get concussions, injuries. I mean, you just go out there and play. And that's kind of like the same mentality you have to have with surfing. You have to go out there and have fun."

Mostert said he hadn't been surfing since he left New Smyrna Beach eight years ago. But he had a chance when he went to Hawaii in the spring for teammate DeForest Buckner's wedding.

"It came back to me," he said. "I had to take a couple of extra steps because my body had to get adjusted. But the long board is a lot easier than a surfboard."



### Nick Mullens

## **How the 49ers fell in love with Nick Mullens, a smallish quarterback whose college offense was nothing like the one they run**

By Matt Barrows  
The Athletic  
November 8, 2018

Most draft prospects wear casual clothing when they visit a prospective NFL team. Some don sweatpants. When Nick Mullens arrived for a pre-draft visit with the 49ers in April 2017 he was wearing a suit. A tan suit.

“He looked like he was about 17,” Rich Scangarello recalled this week. “He looked small. He went in and he met John (Lynch) and Kyle (Shanahan) and you could just tell what they were thinking: ‘Are you sure? This guy’s a little smaller (than typical).”

It was Scangarello, just a few months into his new job as 49ers quarterbacks coach, who championed Mullens during the draft process.

He had set out to watch film of another quarterback from the East-West Shrine Game practices from earlier that year, but his eye kept wandering toward the smaller prospect from Southern Mississippi. Mullens — whose exact height is 6 feet and 3/4 inches — simply looked like he knew what he was doing in those sessions. His mechanics were sharp. He threw receivers open. He was comfortable even when the weather got bad that week. At the end of the game when the outcome was in doubt, the coaches sent in Mullens, not the more heralded Cooper Rush from Central Michigan, to try to win the contest.

Intrigued, Scangarello started doing more research and liked what he found:

— Mullens had played at Spain Park High School outside of Birmingham and had been named the Gatorade Alabama Football Player of the Year, an award that’s gone to NFL players like Jameis Winston, Roc Thomas and Kerryon Johnson in other years.

— He was a four-year starter at Southern Miss, rare in college football these days.

— When he arrived there, the football team was coming off an 0-12 season. When he left they had gone to two straight bowl games.

— Against the nation’s most powerful teams, Mullens seemed to grow a little bigger. The Golden Eagles played LSU his senior season and, badly overmatched, lost, 45-10, in Baton Rouge.

“But they were tied at 10 at halftime and he was getting murdered,” Scangarello said. “And he hung in there and made plays. I thought he made people around him better, and you could just see it on the film. ... All of those things — they made you think that the guy’s a winner.”

What Scangarello didn’t know the first time he watched the LSU-Southern Miss game is that Mullens had suffered an injury — a gruesome one — in his previous outing against the University of Texas, San Antonio. During the third quarter, Mullens was knocked down, and when he went to the ground the thumb on his throwing hand dislocated and pushed through the skin.

The team’s head coach, Jay Hopson, walked over to the bench to find his senior quarterback’s hand dripping blood and the bone of his thumb sticking out.

“I looked at him and I thought, ‘Well, he’s out for the rest of the season. He’s done. It’s his throwing hand,’” Hopson said in a phone interview. “I remember he looked at me and said, ‘Coach, if you all can just push it back in and sew me up, I think I can play.’”



And that's what they did.

Mullens returned to the game with five stitches and the hand heavily bandaged. The next week against LSU he played with a white glove on his throwing hand.

"I laugh now because we told everybody he was 100 percent," Hopson said. "Because we didn't want them loading up on the run. But that just goes to show you the type of tough, fierce competitor that you're dealing with. I'm telling you, the bone was sticking straight out of the skin."

Scangarello eventually heard those stories, which only heightened his interest.

He first had a phone call with Mullens during which he asked the quarterback how, after taking snaps exclusively from the shotgun at Southern Miss, he learned how to take them from under center at the East-West Shrine Game, which was played a month after the Golden Eagles' season ended. Mullens told him he looked it up on YouTube.

After that conversation, the quarterback was invited to 49ers headquarters for what's known as an official draft visit, the only one that Mullens took that spring. Teams are allotted 30 and the invitations are doled out judiciously.

For prospective quarterbacks, however, they're essential. Coaches had to be reassured that Mullens, who wasn't invited to the scouting combine in February that year, could handle Shanahan's ambitious offense. He ran a spread system at Southern Miss, received the plays via hand signals from the sideline and never ran a huddle.

In the NFL, quarterbacks receive the play call through a radio receiver in their helmet, must visualize what that call means and then articulate it to their 10 teammates in the huddle, all of which is becoming a lost art outside the NFL. Scangarello, who spent 17 seasons coaching in college, noted that it's not just college football that's done away with the huddle. That trend has trickled down to high schools and even the Pop Warner level.

"Nobody gets in a huddle anymore. Nobody visualizes like they do in the NFL," he said. "So you've got to be creative with how you (assess) their learning style, how they retain information, how they process it and how they articulate it. Because one of the more underrated things about playing quarterback is your ability to articulate things clearly to everybody. It can be a huge stumbling block for quarterbacks who are otherwise good players. They just can't get that done. It holds them back."

During Mullens' visit, Shanahan and Scangarello asked him to chart plays on a white board, tested his recall and his ability to repeat plays back to them and came away convinced that he could learn how to run a pro-style offense. Mullens spent the rest of the 2017 season proving them right.

The reason why Mullens downloaded recordings of crowd noise on Apple Music and then blasted it into his headphones last season? So he could rehearse what it would be like to call Shanahan's plays in the din of an NFL stadium.

It was one of the aspects of Mullens' 262-yard, three-touchdown performance against the Raiders that afterward drew praise from Shanahan. Mullens got in and out of the huddle crisply and even got frustrated at Shanahan for continuing to talk over the headset when he was trying to relay the call to his teammates. They laughed at his one-way banter with the head coach, but were impressed with the quick pace and the mastery he showed.

"It was a good huddle," tight end George Kittle said. "He took good command of it and also got us a couple of laughs. It was awesome."

Said Scangarello: "He just had a great memory, quick processing ability. All the things that you see in a



quarterback who maybe doesn't have the biggest arm or the biggest stature but who get the most out of themselves."

After Mullens' visit, the 49ers stayed in contact with the quarterback and his agents until the draft. When it was over they still had to sweat a bit. There were several teams interested in signing him to a free-agent contract, including the Denver Broncos. The 49ers, however, were persistent, especially scout Darrell Moody. His purview includes Southern Miss and he peppered Mullens' agent, Donald Weatherell, with phone calls as the draft was ending.

"He would not let up," Weatherell said. "He was great. He worked it hard and you could tell that they wanted Nick."

So Mullens signed a free-agent contract that included a modest \$2,000 signing bonus. To say it's been money well spent would be a colossal understatement. The 49ers have two wins this year. One came with Jimmy Garoppolo, who is due to earn \$37 million this season, under center. The other was with Mullens, who counts \$395,290 against the salary cap and is the most inexpensive starting quarterback in the league.

As far as his initial meeting with Mullens, Shanahan admitted that the quarterback didn't exactly pass the eyeball test and that the tan suit seemed a little odd at first.

"Nick was buttoned up tight like he was coming in to interview for a quality control position," he joked. "... The first thing that stood out was that we thought he looked like Rich's younger son. We kind of gave (Rich) a lot of crap for it, 'Oh, that's why you like him so much.'"

But the fact that Mullens wasn't very tall, didn't have a huge arm and wasn't a dangerous runner simply reassured the 49ers that he was unlikely to get drafted and that they could grab him afterward. And the suit? It ended up being a natural fit for someone whose greatest strength is making sure he's ultra-ready for every situation.

"It threw me off a little bit. Then it was kind of what I expected," Shanahan said. "The guy's going to be prepared. I mean, that's how I was. I figured out how to play receiver by overly working on it and doing every little thing possible to where you get a chance to be better than what you really are. I have a lot of faith in people who are like that."



## Mark Nzeocha

### **How Germany helped flip the NBC Pro Bowl fan voting**

By Nick Wagoner  
ESPN.com  
December 18, 2018

San Francisco 49ers linebacker Mark Nzeocha isn't a household name. At least not in America.

But in his home country of Germany, Nzeocha's name is starting to ring out like the most famous German professional athlete in American sports: legendary Dallas Mavericks forward Dirk Nowitzki.

For proof of Nzeocha's blossoming fame in his home country, look at fan voting for this year's Pro Bowl. Amid the usual suspects topping the ballot, there sits Nzeocha as the leading vote-getter in the NFC for the special-teams spot.

Fan voting ended Thursday with Nzeocha racking up 183,150 votes, most among all special-teamers. According to the NFL, roughly 80 percent (146,520) of Nzeocha's votes came from Germany. Nzeocha had support from all over Germany, not just his tiny home municipality of Neusitz. Unless, of course, every person in Neusitz voted for Nzeocha roughly 71 times.

"Honestly, it means the world," Nzeocha said. "The football community in Germany is so small and it's such a tight-knit group, it's just like if one of us makes it, everyone is behind him. Which is super, super cool to see. ... It's still a new sport in Germany and the interest is growing, which is really cool to see. I guess they have shown all the Sunday games on free TV now and more and more people are really getting into the sport, which honestly can only help the sport in Germany and it helps the NFL, too, just expanding the platform. It's a great thing."

Nzeocha and the rest of this year's Pro Bowl hopefuls will find out Tuesday night if they made it into the annual all-star game. Under the current format, the fan voting accounts for one-third of the equation, with player and coach voting rounding out the rest. If Nzeocha is selected, he will take his own special place in history among Germans playing major American professional sports.

For the most part, NFL fans voting for the Pro Bowl don't have much of an idea who to vote for in the special-teams spot. Evidence of that can be found in the disparity between the leading vote-getters at, say, quarterback and the special-teams position.

At RanSport, a sports network in Germany, they're keeping tabs on Nzeocha, one of a few Germans to have made and stuck on an active NFL roster. RanSport and NFL Deutschland have made it a point to rock the vote for their homegrown linebacker.

One of the people leading that charge is Roman Motzkus, who played professionally for the Berlin Adler (Eagles) and German national team and now works as a football analyst for RanNFL, which is the network's American football show on a station called ProSieben Maxx. When voting for the Pro Bowl began, the campaign for Nzeocha began.

According to Motzkus, the broadcast for each week's games featured reports on Nzeocha and the network's website featured information on Nzeocha and Pro Bowl voting. Beyond that, RanSport and NFL Deutschland made regular use of their social media channels, putting out tweets that could be retweeted by fans, which would count as a vote for Nzeocha. One such tweet from RanSport on Nov. 29 garnered 805 retweets, good for as many votes.

"Mark gets the support of the whole football nation in Germany," Motzkus said. "We are very proud to have a player in the best football league of the world. He has a lot of supporters in his homeland."



Among them is the German fan organization that specifically supports the 49ers, known as "The Niners Empire Germany." That group also did extensive work to get out the vote for Nzeocha.

Of course, the grassroots efforts didn't necessarily make it all the way around Germany. One spot, in particular: the Nzeocha household.

"My brothers know all about it," Nzeocha said, laughing. "I don't know if my parents are that into it. They are definitely not on social media like that."

That Nzeocha is even in position to make it to a Pro Bowl is a testament to how quickly he learned American football. As a kid who was well aware of Nowitzki, who is from 39 miles north of where Nzeocha grew up, Nzeocha mostly was into basketball. One day when Nzeocha was 14, a former coach came to him and asked him to come to a football practice.

At the time, Nzeocha knew nothing about American football, which has a burgeoning following in Germany, and had never even seen it played on a video clip. All it took for Nzeocha to fall in love with the sport was that first practice. From there, Nzeocha would seek out football games and clips on YouTube because when games were broadcast in Germany, they were on past his bedtime because of the time difference.

Nzeocha proved a quick study and was voted to the junior German national team after playing with his school's club team. It was there that Nzeocha was introduced to international competition in 2008. He played in the European Championship and was voted first-team All Europe, which drew the attention of American coaches.

That interest helped Nzeocha realize the opportunities football could bring. He put highlight tapes together and reached out to schools. As it turned out, the University of Wyoming had German linebacker Oliver Schober, who had opened a pipeline from Germany to Division I college football. At one point, Wyoming had four Germans on the roster, including Nzeocha and his brother Eric.

Nzeocha bounced between safety and linebacker for Wyoming and had enough success to be a seventh-round pick of the Dallas Cowboys in 2015. His transition to pro sports was made easier by the fact that Dallas was already a Nowitzki town. Nowitzki invited Nzeocha to participate in his annual charity baseball game and offered advice on what it takes to make it as a pro.

"Right away we clicked," Nzeocha said. "He's big-time in Germany. There's not a lot of German guys playing U.S. sports professionally, so obviously that's something special to us, and if you meet a fellow German, there's big-time support there."

Indeed, although Nzeocha and Nowitzki haven't spoken in a while, there's still plenty of encouragement going in both directions. Nowitzki, who stunningly has never been voted an NBA All-Star starter in his 21-year career, recently joked about not having the voting campaign Nzeocha has received from their home country.

"If he makes the Pro Bowl, that's a huge deal," said Nowitzki, a 13-time All-Star. "It's almost like back in the days when [former Houston Rockets center] Yao [Ming, of China] was a starter. That's what happens when voting gets people in, but I'd be happy for him. If you grew up in a country where that's not your sport --- I mean, our league over there is not very good I'm guessing, even though I never watched a football game in Germany -- it's hard."

Nzeocha came to San Francisco in September 2017 when the Niners signed him off the Dallas practice squad. He appeared in 10 games last season with most of his work coming as a special-teamer. His fearless approach has earned an expanded role and regular snaps at SAM linebacker.

"Mark's done a real good job for us," 49ers coach Kyle Shanahan said. "He's done a really good job on special teams. ... Mark runs and hits and usually if you run and hit, you're a pretty good special-teams player."



For as much as Nzeocha has enjoyed the support that could land him such an individual honor, he's equally pleased with what it means for the sport's growth in Germany. Football was popular in Germany in the days of the NFL Europe but that was mostly limited to stadiums on game days, according to Motzkus.

Since 2015, ProSieben Maxx has been broadcasting regular-season NFL games on free TV. Even with the time differential making it tough, Motzkus said there's between 500,000 and a million viewers every Sunday night and the Super Bowl reaches nearly two million people.

Many of those people have spent the better part of the past month voting for Nzeocha and reaching out to him on social media to let him know they're cheering for him. Nzeocha calls the past few weeks "surreal" and even taped a message in his native language to thank all those who voted for him.

Lest there be any doubt about how much the support means to Nzeocha, he took about 10 minutes to make sure he got his message just right before finally being satisfied enough to hand the phone back to a Niners staffer.

Whether it was all enough to actually land Nzeocha a Pro Bowl spot remains to be seen, but if it does, rest assured Nzeocha won't take any of it for granted.

"That would mean the world to me, especially since I've gotten all the support from back home," Nzeocha said. "To have the opportunity to represent Germany a little bit would be really, really cool."



## Dante Pettis

### **Dante Pettis no longer stressed out as he enters second 49ers season**

By Matt Maiocco  
NBC Sports Bay Area  
June 12, 2019

Wide receiver Dante Pettis is about the worst person to ask about any changes he has witnessed in quarterback Jimmy Garoppolo from a year ago.

That's because Pettis was way too preoccupied trying to figure out his own assignments as a rookie to even notice who was throwing the passes.

"He looks really good," Pettis said of Garoppolo on the 49ers Insider Podcast. "I was so lost last year, I don't remember what he was like at the beginning of the year. I was only worried about me. If the ball came to me, I was like, 'Cool, awesome. That's great.'

"(But) I didn't know who I was in with. As far as watching him now, he looks really good."

Pettis, a second-round pick in 2018 from Washington, appeared in 12 games last season, catching 27 passes for 467 yards and five touchdowns.

He missed three games early in the season with a knee injury. Pettis returned and had his two best games in Weeks 13 and 15 against Seattle, when things started to click for him. He caught 10 passes for 212 yards and two TDs, as the 49ers split those games against the Seahawks. He was sidelined for the season finale with another knee injury.

It was a process to learn Kyle Shanahan's offense, Pettis said, and he can totally relate to what the 49ers' rookie receivers, including Deebo Samuel and Jalen Hurd, are experiencing this offseason.

"I feel like I was just there, walking onto the field and not know what you're doing, at all," Pettis said. "Every time they call a play, you're looking back at the quarterback, 'What do I have here?'"

Pettis' advice to the young players is to remain in the playbook at keep grinding. Eventually, he said it all makes sense. And that's where Pettis feels most comfortable heading into his second NFL season.

"There's going to be a day where it all just clicks," he said. "I don't have to stress about this really anymore. ... I'm not out there stressed out and can play free."



## Dante Pettis A Rare Bright Spot In 49ers' Lost Season

By Vincent Frank  
Forbes.com  
December 7, 2018

The San Francisco 49ers will be playing out the final quarter of the 2018 season with nothing really on the line outside of a high pick in the 2019 NFL Draft.

On the field, the 49ers want to see progression from youngsters. That includes rookie second-round pick Dante Pettis, who is finally showing out after missing three games to injury earlier in the season.

The 6-foot-1 former Washington standout is coming off a career-best performance against Seattle that saw him put up five receptions for 129 yards and two touchdowns, including a score of 75 yards. This came on the heels of a Week 12 performance in which Pettis nabbed four catches for 77 yards and a score in a loss to Tampa Bay.

For those of us who scouted Pettis at Washington and saw him do his thing during both training camp and the preseason, it's in no way a surprise that he's performed at this level.

"He (Pettis) had a number of plays," head coach Kyle Shanahan said following last week's game. "I think he got in the end zone twice. It was two good routes on both of those. He did a good job when he had the opportunities."

With veteran Pierre Garcon still hobbled by injury, Pettis will almost assuredly start this week opposite Margquise Goodwin against the Denver Broncos. As Shanahan noted, he did a good job when he's had opportunities. Those opportunities should be more plentiful during the final quarter of the season.

Though, it's Shanahan's tough love that has played a vital role in Pettis' progression from wide-eyed rookie to boasting game-breaking ability.

"Yeah, he challenges me all the time," Pettis said of his head coach this week. "Every single play, I know that he expects more out of me. We've had a few talks about what he expects, so I guess you could say that kind of sparked something."

Expectations. That's something Pettis dealt with after showing out against the 49ers' defense during training camp. Whether it was Richard Sherman or other veterans, he continually put defenders on skates.

Again, this isn't a huge surprise. Pettis' has a ridiculously fast first move off the line of scrimmage and boasts that filthy initial cut in the route. It creates a ton of separation, as evidenced by the 75-yard touchdown we saw last week in Seattle.

Whether it's Nick Mullens or C.J. Beathard under center moving forward this season, that's a huge positive for the 49ers' offense. Neither quarterback figures to be a starter for the team moving forward. That role will be handed to Jimmy Garoppolo, once again, when he returns from the torn ACL that cost him all but three games this season.

That's where the expectations are going to be heightened. While Mullens and Beathard struggle with ball placement, this isn't an issue for Garoppolo. It will lead to a ton of yards after the catch for Pettis should he continue to progress and remain healthy.

Through the first nine games of his rookie season, Pettis has caught 16 passes for 314 yards and four touchdowns. He's also averaging a robust 19.6 yards per reception.



More consistency and an ability to remain healthy will be big time for the young receiver moving forward. Even with the 49ers simply playing out the string, the final four games of the season are going to be huge for the dynamic pass catcher and his team.

If Pettis can continue to shine during the final month, it will afford San Francisco not only the ability to move on from the above-mentioned Garcon, but to pencil Pettis in as a starter next season. Coupled with Marquise Goodwin, that's a solid wide receiver tandem in Santa Clara.

On the other hand, struggles with consistency and injury would force general manager John Lynch and Co. to potentially spend cash or draft capital on an exterior option opposite Goodwin.

Pettis' ability to continue this strong recent play will also enable the 49ers to give Goodwin a mulligan for what has been an injury-plagued season for the veteran pass catcher. If the powers to be strongly believe Pettis can be a 1,000-yard receiver as a sophomore, the need for a receiver drops dramatically.

For a team that's in need of a whole plethora of upgrades, this is no small thing.

"The more I've played, the more I've become comfortable with the offense, playing against NFL defensive backs," Pettis told 95.7 The Game in San Francisco this week.

Indeed, Mr. Pettis, the 49ers are relying on you becoming more comfortable in this offense and continuing the strong play we've seen recently.

It continues this week against a strong Denver Broncos defense.



## 49ers rookie receiver Dante Pettis finally has a healthy outlook

By Eric Branch  
San Francisco Chronicle  
October 24, 2018

It appears 49ers wide receiver Dante Pettis is ready to start a new streak.

On Wednesday, the rookie second-round pick spoke optimistically about potentially returning from a knee injury to play Sunday at Arizona. Pettis has missed the past three games, and standing on the sideline was an odd feeling.

"It sucks because it was the first time I ever missed a game in my entire life," Pettis said. "... It's something that, I guess, you have to learn at some point. Everyone gets hurts playing football."

Pettis was hurt when he was bent backward and his right knee twisted while returning a punt in a loss to the Chargers on Sept. 30. He initially feared his injury was more serious.

"I thought it was very bad," Pettis said, "because I couldn't move my leg at first."

In his first three games, Pettis had three receptions for 96 yards and a touchdown. Head coach Kyle Shanahan advocated for the 49ers to trade up 15 spots to take Pettis with the No. 44 pick.

"I know he's excited," Shanahan said, "and I'm excited to get him back out there."

Injury report: Running back Matt Breida (ankle) didn't practice, but Shanahan didn't rule him out for Sunday.

Breida has been playing with the injury he sustained against Arizona on Oct. 7, and he aggravated it on the 49ers' first play in Sunday's loss against the Rams and played just five snaps. After the game, Shanahan said the 49ers would consider giving Breida time off to allow him to heal.

"He's looking a lot better these last two days," Shanahan said. "We'll see how he is tomorrow. If he's good, we'll throw him in practice and evaluate him from there."

Wide receiver Pierre Garcon would "probably be doubtful" for Sunday because of a knee injury. He has dealt with it the past two games, Shanahan said. On Sunday, Garcon played 33 of 59 offensive snaps and had just one catch for 5 yards.

Starting cornerbacks Richard Sherman (calf) and Jimmie Ward (hamstring), both sidelined Sunday, were limited in practice.



## Dante Pettis is embracing his weirdness during impressive start with 49ers

By Chris Biderman  
Niners Wire  
August 1, 2018

Everything about Dante Pettis is just a little bit different, including the impact he's making on the 49ers practice field during his first week of an NFL training camp.

The rookie receiver is distinguishing himself in the earliest stages, which is something San Francisco hasn't seen from a young receiver in some time. He's the team's most highly-drafted wideout since former general manager Trent Baalke's famous whiff on 2012 first-round pick A.J. Jenkins.

Pettis has been a handful for San Francisco's secondary in six training camp practices. He was targeted on three straight snaps by Jimmy Garoppolo to end Wednesday's session, including a 40-yard touchdown connection on the final play when Pettis burst up the left sideline past second-year corner Ahkello Witherspoon.

Pettis' first impression as a pro football player has been distinct, matching his unique persona.

"Dante's a cool guy, definitely a different personality," fullback Kyle Juszczyk said. "One that you don't always see in every locker room."

Pettis has bright blue hair, an affinity for cats, music (he plays the ukulele and guitar), reading, and a unique way of beating defenders on the football field.

"I move weird and I know it," Pettis said. "People say I got crazy legs."

Pettis' legs have a tendency to flair to the side when he runs. His biomechanics are on the other side of the spectrum from his fellow receiver Marquise Goodwin, the former Olympian, who glides up and down the field as though his feet never touch grass.

"The way my body, my legs move, it's just not extremely normal. It's not how everybody runs and I know that," Pettis said.

Pettis has a baby deer-like cadence, not Goodwin's chiseled build or machine-like running form. But Pettis is efficient nonetheless. He can naturally stagger his steps, speed up and slow down, cut in and out of breaks and use his lateral agility to beat cornerbacks at the line of scrimmage.

Most importantly, he has been good at getting open. But that trait wasn't always evident when the 49ers were scouting Pettis at Washington. Some considered trading up to draft Pettis questionable given his 6-0, 186-pound frame. San Francisco sent a second- and third-round pick to Washington to move up 15 spots to land Pettis.

"It's sometimes hard to see in college because they don't see a lot of man-to-man coverage," 49ers coach Kyle Shanahan said. "It's so much zone and you don't have to be great with your feet when you're pretty talented because you can beat a lot of guys you're better than anyways."

What helped Pettis appear viable as a receiver is what he did as a punt returner. He set the NCAA record with nine punt return touchdowns for the Huskies.

"If you can make guys miss with your feet when you have the ball in your hand, you should be able to do it in routes, too," Shanahan said. "To combine that with his speed and his hands and his intelligence, which he is very smart, you feel pretty confident that he's going to continue to get better."

It's a bad cliché, but Pettis has made noticeable improvements each day during his first training camp. Well before beating Witherspoon for Wednesday's practice-ending touchdown, Pettis also beat Richard



Sherman on a crossing route when the second-team offense was going against the starting defense. Later, he came down with a sliding grab on a corner route between three defenders.

And Pettis has been on par with the team's top receivers, Goodwin and Pierre Garçon, during one-on-one sessions where he's been able to show off his speed.

"He has some long limbs, long arms, long legs and it helps him create space with defenders," Garoppolo said. "His body moves a certain way and he explodes out of the break and separates a foot from a guy. That's all you need. As a quarterback, you love to see that."

Also separating Pettis: that curly hair. It's currently a bright tinge of blue that only works because he bleached it beforehand. Previously, it was purple and gold to match his college colors. To be sure, Pettis is the only 49er willing to taste the rainbow when it comes to hairstyle. "What would look cool? Blue might be cool. So I dyed it blue and that's what happened," he said.

Pettis admitted he didn't fully embrace his weirdness until college, when he began to realize he wasn't like his classmates and teammates on the football team. "People were like, 'Yo, Dante, you're weird.' Alright, I guess I'm weird. I just kind of accepted it and that's when I really went all out."

Pettis' ability to go all out, on and off the field, has helped endear himself to his new employers. His work in practice is starting to generate high expectations for his rookie season, where he should have an opportunity to stand out in the rotation of receivers and cement a prominent role for the future.

But even the relatable Shanahan, the second-youngest coach in the NFL who listens to Drake and Lil Wayne, can't quite grasp some of Pettis' off-the-field tendencies.

"I still consider myself somewhat young, but that's definitely the sign of the difference in generations. My age, we didn't roll like that," Shanahan said.

"(But) I think guys accept people who are themselves and they're not trying to be someone they're not. What's really cool about Dante, yeah, he's got the blue hair, yeah he's artistic. That's who he is. He doesn't care what you think. He's not doing it for someone else. That's who he is and that's all you've got to be in this league. Just be yourself and guys respect you. He's the same person every day and he doesn't care what people think about him. I think people respect him a lot for that."



## Meet the 49ers' Dante Pettis. His dad played baseball; his brother was on a soap opera

By Matt Barrows  
Sacramento Bee  
May 9, 2018

It was 7:01 p.m. on April 27, nine minutes before the first pitch of the Astros-A's game in Houston. Gary Pettis was beginning to accept that he'd have to watch the start of his son's NFL career on replay.

Pettis, the former Gold Glove outfielder and current Astros third-base coach, figured Dante Pettis, the Washington receiver and his second son, would be selected on Day 2 of the draft. But when during the four-hour telecast?

As Round 2 got underway, Gary watched with four other coaches who had come to know Dante, a frequent visitor in the Houston clubhouse over the years who would effortlessly shag fly balls at batting practice next to the Astros players.

With the eighth pick in the round, the Broncos took a receiver ... but it was Courtland Sutton from SMU. At that point, Gary Pettis and the Astros coaches got up from their seats and hustled outside for the national anthem and the start of the game. As a high-school band played the final notes and the words "home of the brave" echoed in the stadium, Pettis looked up at the clock and figured — what the heck? — if he hurried, he could watch another few minutes of the draft. Maybe he'd get lucky.

"My fear was that he was going to get drafted and I wasn't going to be able to see it," Pettis recalled Tuesday. "And as I ran upstairs, I saw that the 49ers had made a trade. And in the back of my mind I had this feeling that this could be it. And sure enough, I heard them say his name. And, man, what a thrill that was."

The Pettises aren't just a talented family. They could air their own variety show.

Gary won five Gold Gloves during his 11 years as an outfielder and stole 56 bases for the California Angels in 1985. Dante's mother, Peggy, is a former Raiderette cheerleader. His older brother, Kyler, played Theo Carver, a character with autism, on the soap opera "Days of Our Lives." A cousin, Austin Pettis, played four seasons for the St. Louis Rams.

Then there's Dante, who did the usual sports as a kid — football, baseball, basketball and track — but who always had a lot more interests than that.

He can play the guitar and ukulele. Like his brother, he sang, danced and performed as a child. He likes to read and, while at Washington, could be seen around campus with a camera in his hand. Landscapes — a snowy valley here, a sandy shoreline there — and nature shots were his focus.

Gary Pettis began bringing his son to the stadium when he was maybe 4 or 5 years old, starting him out with a plastic ball and bat. Pretty soon Dante was running down pre-game fly balls in the same outfield as Albert Belle and meeting Ken Griffey Jr.

Slim at 186 pounds, Dante has the frame, fluidity and tracking ability of a center fielder. Gary thinks his son probably could have excelled at that sport if he had chosen it. But around his sophomore year of high school, football emerged as Dante's top pursuit.

"I think he kind of knew that football was where I was leaning to," Dante said of his dad. "I had had a lot of fun playing baseball and everything like that, but I don't know, there is something about football that is just different than every other sport. I think he saw that I had that kind of passion for the game."

Gary was able to see his son get drafted last month because the 49ers traded ahead 15 spots in the second round to get him.



Dante's 6-foot-1 height and soft hands appealed to coach Kyle Shanahan, a former receiver. So did Dante's ability as a punt returner. He brought back an NCAA-record nine punts for touchdowns at Washington, the record breaker coming just three days after the Astros won the World Series.

Mostly, the 49ers were impressed by Pettis' Renaissance-man traits on the field. He can play each of their receiver positions because he has such a tremendous feel for the game. In college, he was exceptional at setting up and moving past defensive backs with his body language or knowing precisely when to accelerate or cut as a returner.

"He's extremely talented, a very good route runner," Shanahan said. "He can separate and has extremely good hands – very quick, fast enough to run all the routes. And when you meet him, you see how smart he is, how hard he works, and you get why he's the full package."

When he saw the 49ers jumped ahead and were on the clock, Gary Pettis had a sense that's where Dante would land, in part because San Francisco was one of the teams he visited prior to the draft. But there also was something poetic about him becoming a 49er.

Gary is an Oakland native. The Astros are in the same division as the A's, which means regular trips to the Bay Area. Dante, for instance, spent Monday afternoon with his father at the stadium and took part in batting practice with his Astros buddies.

"He talks to a lot of the guys. They're all pretty friendly with him," Gary said. "They're on – what do they call it? – instant messaging or Instagram or whatever they call it. They reach out to him that way, and obviously when he's here, he goes around to the guys and they come around and visit with him as well."

The Pettises also live in Orange County, stemming from Gary's years with the Angels. He noted the 49ers will play 12 of their 16 games this season in the Pacific time zone, two of them in the Los Angeles area.

The only thing that could scuttle an autumn full of family reunions is if the Astros go deep into the playoffs again. Gary smiled at the prospect.

"I guess I'll trade that for missing a few of his games," he said.

**D.J. Reed Jr.****How 49ers rookie defensive back D.J. Reed turned his season around**

By Jennifer Lee Chan  
NBC Sports Bay Area  
December 20, 2018

Rookie defensive back D.J. Reed has turned his season around by playing fast and using his instincts. He is making the most of the valuable reps he's going to get in the final two games of the season.

It was just a month ago when Reed reluctantly spoke to NBC Sports Bay Area after a practice. He was disappointed with his progress in his first season and explained that he was his own toughest critic. Reed explained what was going through his mind at the time.

"I just wasn't really happy how I was playing throughout the whole year on special teams and on defense," Reed said. "And then I got my chance."

Fast forward a few weeks later, all of Reed's hard work paid off in a breakout game in the 49ers win over the Broncos. He registered 10 solo tackles and two tackle assists, three of which were for a loss. He also recorded the first sack and forced fumble of his NFL career.

"The Denver game was my best game by far," Reed said. "Seahawks, I thought I played OK. And we ended up winning as well so we've been doing good since the last time we talked. Obviously we won, which was the most important thing. And obviously it feels good knowing you contributed to a win."

Veteran cornerback Richard Sherman has been a valuable mentor and leader to everyone in the young secondary. Reed took Sherman's advice to heart: think less, play faster.

"I feel like when I started doing that, things started to happen, good things started to happen for me," Reed said. "I feel like our defense is starting to do that. Communicating more, flying around."

"Even though we're not getting the ball yet, we're still getting crucial stops, making big plays and we're a good third down defense. We're doing a lot of good things, we just got to get the ball."

Things have clearly turned around not only for Reed, but also the entire Niners defense. The rookie explained that the demoralizing 43-16 loss in Seattle on Dec. 2 may have had an effect on the entire team.

"Obviously they blew us out," Reed said. "I feel like that was just a wake up call. What they did to us. They embarrassed us, so I just feel like after that I feel like as a defensive unit we all just came together after that."

One thing that Reed says has helped his productivity is getting more consistent reps in live games. Similar to fellow rookies Marcell Harris and Tarvarius Moore, Reed has been getting valuable playing time, coming in for injured K'Waun Williams.

"I feel like that's the best way to learn," Reed said. "You can always chalk it up on the board, but if you're not out there, then you're not going to know how fast to do things. You just have to go out there and learn for yourself. You got to get thrown out there in the fire and see how you perform."

What does Reed want from the remainder of his rookie season?

"We have to make the most out of the situation. We have to make the best out of our last two games. Just taking advantage of every rep is what I'm trying to do."



## Rookie CB Reed: 49ers' unselfishness is not 'normal'

By Eric Branch  
San Francisco Chronicle  
May 21, 2018

The biggest surprise of rookie cornerback D.J. Reed's first days in the NFL: His new teammates care about the team.

On Friday, the fifth-round pick said he expected the business of the NFL to magnify divisions he'd seen during a college career that included stops at Fresno State, Cerritos College and Kansas State.

Instead, Reed, who could pose a threat to first-string nickel corner K'Waun Williams, shared that warm embraces — not cold shoulders — have greeted him in Santa Clara.

"I thought the veterans would not help you with the playbook because you're competing for their spot," Reed said. "It's nothing like that. If I ask A.C. (safety Adrian Colbert), if I ask (cornerback) Richard Sherman, if I ask any of those guys -- they want to help me so I can make the team better.

"It's really team-driven, which is different than basically everywhere I've been. Everyone is on board with the same thing. I haven't met one person that's selfish, which, to me, is not normal. I've never experienced that."

Rookie right tackle Mike McGlinchey had a similar observation last week, saying he felt fortunate because he hadn't "met a bad guy on our team. And the O-line room, specifically, is just filled with awesome dudes."

OK, that sound great, but let's stop the love-in to say this: In general, it's debatable how noteworthy such kumbaya talk is, particularly in May.

However, it's a positive sign for the 49ers, who are hoping last season's much-discussed chemistry carries over: In 2017, their ability to maintain a cohesive locker room was about the only impressive aspect of their 0-9 start.

The 49ers, of course, celebrated wildly after their first win over the Giants in November. And their togetherness in Kyle Shanahan's first season was reminiscent of the spirit in 2011 during Jim Harbaugh's first year, when they bought into his talk of the "the team, the team, the team."

Harbaugh got his "team" message from a famous speech delivered by Michigan head coach Bo Schembechler in 1983. In part, Schembechler told the Wolverines they would never play for a true team after college, saying: "You'll play for a contract. You'll play for this. You'll play for that. You'll play for everything except the team."

Let's not be naïve: The 49ers don't have a completely selfless team, but they do have something that struck veterans last year before rookies took notice this spring.

"I thought going to the NFL people would all be just thinking of themselves and their next contract," Reed said. "It's honestly not like that. This is really family based. Everyone wants to help you."



## Richard Sherman

### **The real Sherm? 49ers' pain-free cornerback feeling like old self**

By Eric Branch  
San Francisco Chronicle  
July 28, 2019

On Sunday, 366 days after Marquise Goodwin roasted Richard Sherman in a one-on-one drill that went viral, the wide receiver referenced the moment when asked about the All-Pro cornerback.

Goodwin blew past Sherman last year largely because it was Sherman's first padded practice in his return from a torn Achilles tendon he'd sustained eight months earlier.

"Of course I beat him," Goodwin said. "I can't wait to see what he does this year: being healthy, having that full year to play and now coming back with the confidence like, 'All right, I'm back. I'm Sherm now.'"

Yes, a year later, Sherman, 31, is far healthier entering the 49ers' first padded practice of training camp Monday. Now, if he faces Goodwin in a one-on-one drill, he'll do so without the pain that was a near constant in 2018.

Sherman was returning from procedures on both Achilles, and he played the season with sutures in his Achilles that was torn in November 2017. Sherman had those sutures removed in late February, and he discussed them when asked about his biggest challenge last year.

"It was pain; it was pain from sutures that were in my heel," Sherman said. "You work through them and the rest of my body got to a spot where everything was moving well, and then there's still a staple in your heel. ... Mechanically, I could do it. But it's like driving your car with a nail in the tire."

Last year, Sherman was leaking some air. He missed two games and was listed as questionable for three others because of calf and Achilles issues that did not fully disappear. He played just 40 of 73 snaps in the regular-season finale against the Rams because of Achilles soreness.

Still, Sherman, at less than full strength, was more than just a shadow of the corner who was voted to four Pro Bowls and led the NFL in interceptions (32) and pass-breakups (99) from 2011 through '17. Last year, Sherman didn't have an interception, but he allowed a reception every 20.2 snaps in pass coverage, which was the best rate in the NFL, per Pro Football Focus. The Chargers' Casey Hayward ranked second (18.8) and Arizona's Patrick Peterson was third (18.2).

That is partly a reflection of the 49ers' lack of a dependable cornerback opposite Sherman, which allowed QBs to avoid him. But it is also a nod to his grit and ability to play through pain. In Seattle, Sherman didn't miss a snap in the 2017 season opener against the Packers despite tearing his hamstring early in the game. He didn't miss a game in 2016 despite playing most of the season with a sprained knee ligament.

"He brings a different element to this team," Goodwin said. "His energy, his focus, his relentlessness. He is just a dog."

Sherman's intangibles have been a topic recently as the 49ers have talked up their chances of reaching the playoffs for the first time since 2013. Left tackle Joe Staley said Sherman's verbosity and bravado have infused confidence in a locker room accustomed to losing. On Sunday, wide receiver Dante Pettis, a 2018 second-round pick, explained how Sherman, one of two players on the team to start in a Super Bowl win, exhorts teammates to reach his standard.

"That guy is unreal," Pettis said. "If I don't bring my best stuff every time, he knows and he's like, 'Hey.' He called me out today. He was like, 'Dude, that wasn't what you normally do' (on a route). So I was like, 'OK, that's true. I've got to bring something else. I've got to be better next time.'"



The early evidence is that Sherman can be better than he was in 2018. On Sunday, in coverage that tested his legs, he stayed with wide receiver Jordan Matthews on a long-developing crossing route, batted away Jimmy Garoppolo's pass to punctuate his 30-yard sprint and raised his arms in celebration.

Does a healthier Sherman mean Goodwin, one of the NFL's fastest wide receivers, won't be able to beat him this training camp in a one-on-one matchup?

"I plead the Fifth," Goodwin said, smiling.

It's likely Sherman will have something to say on the subject.



## Richard Sherman's body, mind in good spot heading into ninth NFL season

By Jennifer Lee Chan  
NBC Sports Bay Area  
July 26, 2019

After a season of playing with a sutures in his injured heel, 49ers cornerback Richard Sherman is excited to show what he can do without physical restrictions.

"I just feel really good, I feel really explosive," Sherman said. "I worked hard, I feel healthy. That goes a long way to having a great season, just not having that on your mind."

The sutures in Sherman's rehabilitated Achilles limited him physically in 2018 as he second guessed his body on the field. Sherman is known as a very cerebral player, but what has made him exceptional is the combination of his mental and physical game.

Sherman confirmed his sutures were removed in late February. He was already feeling better during OTAs and mandatory mini-camp. He explained how free he has felt since the procedure.

"Not thinking about it, not consciously being aware of what foot you're putting in the ground, what cuts you're making, how you're making them, how much speed you have going into a cut, etc, etc," Sherman said. "You can just go out there and cut like you know how, react like you know how."

"Football is a hard enough game as is without having to think about putting your injured foot in the ground and how much pressure you're going to put on it and how many cuts you have in it throughout the day."

Along with needing to rebuild confidence in how his body would perform, Sherman added that the physical discomfort was something he had to mentally prepare for and work through. He knew when he could make a play physically but also knew, at times, there would be a cost because of it.

"It was pain," Sherman said. "It was pain from sutures that were in my heel. I could work through them, and the rest of my body got to a spot where everything was moving well, and then there's still a staple in your heel."

"Mechanically I could do it, but it's like driving your car with a nail in the tire. Technically the car is still rolling but you still have a nail in the tire. Once we got that removed, it gave me peace of mind."

Sherman knows that the expectations for the defense are high this season with the additions of free agent pass-rusher Dee Ford and No. 2 overall pick of the NFL Draft, Nick Bosa. Sherman, however, looks at it simplistically.

"We just have to focus on the future, and focus on getting better."



## **Richard Sherman, George Kittle welcome LGBTQ 49ers fans to new team group**

By Jim Buzinski  
Outsports.com  
May 29, 2019

San Francisco 49ers' Richard Sherman and George Kittle are part of an official team announcement on the formation of a group for fans who identify as LGBTQ+.

"Forty-Niner faithful — you've helped us pioneer a group of dedicated fans for over 70 years. We're proud to announce 49ers Pride, the official community of 49ers fans who identify as LGBTQ+ and allies," Sherman, a cornerback, said in the team's video announcing the group.

"As we prepare for the upcoming football season, we want to celebrate the passion of all the faithful, no matter how they identify," said Kittle, the team's starting tight end. "If your team is the Red and Gold, you belong in the 49ers family."

The group is the first in the NFL specifically team-sanctioned for LGBTQ fans and it was a great move to have players part of the announcement. There are no openly gay players on the 49ers or anywhere in the NFL, though the 49ers do have an openly gay assistant coach, Katie Sowers. Having two name players participate gives the formation of the group more meaning.

The 49ers do have a historic legacy in the gay sports movement. Dave Kopay was a running back on the team from 1964-67 and came out after he retired and became an LGBTQ sports icon. An exhibit on Kopay is part of the 49ers' Hall of Fame at their stadium in Santa Clara.

49ers Pride is the first NFL team-sponsored group that officially recognizes its LGBTQ fans. The Chargers have held viewing parties in Los Angeles for that fan base and other teams have done one-offs.



## How Kobe Bryant became 'essential' in Richard Sherman's recovery

By Nick Wagoner  
ESPN.com  
September 3, 2018

The first question was quintessential Kobe.

"When I first called to check on him I said, 'Are you all right, I want to make sure you are not being a baby about it?'" Kobe Bryant recalls of a November 2017 phone call.

On the other end of the line was San Francisco 49ers cornerback Richard Sherman, one day removed from suffering the right Achilles tendon rupture that would end his 2017 season and, eventually, his seven-year tenure as the shutdown cornerback of the Seattle Seahawks' famed Legion of Boom defense.

As Sherman prepared to face one of the most difficult challenges of his NFL career, a conversation with Bryant served as a springboard to his recovery and set the stage for the second phase of Sherman's career, this time as a 49er. That begins Sunday against the Minnesota Vikings.

Long before Sherman's injury, he and Bryant forged a friendship. For Sherman, who said Bryant was "essential" in his rehabilitation, there was no better person to speak to about recovering from such an injury. Bryant suffered the same injury in 2013, and he and Sherman share the same me-against-the-world mentality that has taken each of them to lofty heights.

As Sherman, who to that point in his career had never missed a game because of injury, set about trying to attack his recovery, it was Bryant who often served as a sounding board, offering guidance and checking in throughout his rehabilitation.

"He and I had a previous relationship and talked and texted all the time," Sherman said. "So he gave me some pointers and things I needed to do early on in the process to make sure that I expedited the healing process and I was more proactive than reactive. I think that was one of the big things."

### Fast friends

Sherman and Bryant's friendship dates back to just after the Seahawks won Super Bowl XLVIII, when the pair met at a photo shoot Bryant was doing for Nike.

The groundwork for that friendship, though, actually began many years earlier. Sherman, who grew up in Compton, California, had long admired Bryant as he was leading the Lakers to multiple NBA championships. Sherman was 8 when Bryant started in the league, and though he has said he wasn't a huge basketball fan, he would watch games with his grandmother, who was.

Soon enough, Sherman identified Bryant as his favorite player, taking special care to note the unrelenting competitive drive, work ethic and determination that were hallmarks of Bryant's career. When the two finally met, Sherman told Bryant how much he appreciated what he brought to the game. In turn, Bryant told Sherman he was also a fan of his.

The pair exchanged numbers and stayed in contact with Bryant, providing guidance on any number of things, including the business side of the game. Bryant even played in Sherman's charity softball game in Seattle.

### Meeting the challenge

When Bryant launched his new Nike shoe last August, Sherman appeared in Bryant's "Mamba Mentality" ad campaign. Bryant subsequently challenged Sherman to break the Seahawks' season interception record of 10, a challenge Sherman readily accepted.



So, when Sherman suffered his Achilles injury in a game against the Arizona Cardinals on Nov. 9, 2017, it was only fitting that he followed Bryant's lead. Immediately after Bryant tore his Achilles during an April 2013 game against the Golden State Warriors, he still managed to stay in the game to shoot two free throws before walking off the court.

"I walked it off, just like he did," Sherman said. "That's what I told him."

As painful as that walk was, the hardest work was still ahead. While other more common injuries, such as torn ACLs, also require long, strenuous recoveries, those who have torn their Achilles will testify that it's one of the worst injuries you can have.

Nobody knows that better than Bryant, who made a career of relying on his mental strength to push past any test.

"This is the ultimate challenge," Bryant said. "I wouldn't wish this on my worst enemy. It's horrible."

When Bryant reached out to Sherman on that November day, he was prepared with plenty of advice on how to get through the grueling process. Bryant gave Sherman the name of a couple of doctors to reach out to about doing his surgery. He provided procedural advice on some of the day-to-day components of the recovery and laid out the different phases of rehab. Most of all, he wanted to make sure Sherman had his mind right for what was to come.

"The most important part is not looking at the finish line," Bryant said. "It's so far away, it's like starting at the base of Everest and you're looking up at the summit. That's big. That's what the Achilles injury is like, man, it's tough. You can't think about the finish line. You have to just think about the day that's right here in front of you now. You put one foot in front of the other and then next thing you know, time has gone by and you're at the top of the mountain. But you have got to just take it one step at a time."

For Bryant, the hardest part of the recovery was the day-to-day tedium of the endeavor. Any sort of misstep could result in a serious setback that could delay, or potentially kill, a return. Bryant learned all about how to do each day's activities without overstretching the tendon. From there, it became a waiting game. Unlike rebuilding a muscle, the tendon seems to work on its own schedule, which means you have to patiently work to strengthen it and then let it tighten again.

Sherman took that advice to heart and Bryant gave him some techniques to make sure that he didn't let the muscles in his foot atrophy while it was in a cast, for that would have only extended an already lengthy process.

Bryant also suggested finding ways to make some of the monotonous exercises into mini competitions. For example, one of the most common exercises for anyone coming off a serious foot, ankle or Achilles injury is to pick up marbles with your toes and place them in a bowl or bucket. Bryant pushed himself to try to pick up more marbles, and faster, than the day before. As he now says, he wanted to dominate those exercises.

"Every little thing is a challenge in and of itself that you have to approach as the most important thing in your life," Bryant said.

Sherman described his recovery as "three or four hours a day of constant motion and strengthening muscles that kind of die after you tear your Achilles." Heeding Bryant's advice and drawing on his own competitive drive, Sherman chose to view the challenge as another in a long line of them.

"You can look at it like, 'Damn, woe is me, why did this happen to me and oh my God, why did I have to go through this?'" Sherman said. "Or you can look at it as 'Man, I needed another great challenge and I needed another mountain to climb and I look forward to climbing that mountain.' So that's the way I treated it every day, as another step, another growth. Obviously, there are always setbacks both mentally



and physically and emotionally, but it's one of those things where you allow yourself to see what you're really made of when you go through things like this. And I appreciated that journey."

Back in action

Sherman said he felt at full strength about three or four months ago, and though he had a brief setback during training camp in the form of a hamstring injury, he made it through the preseason and is poised to start Sunday against the Vikings. Given a little perspective with the Achilles injury mostly behind him, Sherman even goes so far as to call it a "fun learning experience."

In addition to the opportunity to conquer something, Sherman also took solace in the extra time the injury allowed him to spend with his children, who helped spur him along in his rehab.

"I saw a side of myself that I never even knew I had," Sherman said. "It was one of those things where you don't know you have to be as strong as you have to be until you have to be that strong. ... Sometimes, I'm not saying it was complacent, but you get bored. It's a routine, you get out there, you play 16 games, you play at a high level, you do your best, you go against these guys and you enjoy it but sometimes throwing a wrench in the plans kind of helps you and it wakes you up and reignites a fire."

When Sherman steps on the field Sunday for his first regular-season game in 10 months, don't be surprised if he has some special footwear for the occasion. Sherman asked Bryant for a pair of Kobe football cleats, a request Bryant and Nike happily accommodated.

Now it's up to Sherman to put the injury behind him and play his usual, aggressive style without thinking about it. It's one final piece of the puzzle, and it's why Bryant isn't going offer another statistical challenge before this season.

"For him, I think it's just the mental aspect of forgetting the injury," Bryant said. "That's a challenge enough. When you come back from an Achilles injury, that really is the biggest challenge of just forgetting about it and understanding that there's nothing you can do about it."

Bryant was 35 when he suffered his injury. He returned after missing the first 19 games of the following season but had that return cut short by a knee injury. Injuries continued to plague him over his final two seasons, though he still averaged 17.6 points in the 2015-16 season. He retired after dropping 60 points on the Utah Jazz on April 13, 2016.

Whether Sherman can bounce back and return to his All-Pro form remains to be seen. Many top-level athletes were never the same after a ruptured Achilles. Sherman turned 30 in March and has heard from many of the same doubters who questioned whether Bryant could return to prominence.

Suffice to say, Bryant has no such questions about his friend's comeback.

"His mentality is what separates him," Bryant said. "From being overlooked, from being kind of thought of as someone who won't be able to maximize his potential, I think he uses that as fuel to drive him and propel him.

"I'm excited for him to come back and show the world what he's got, man. It's going to be awesome."



## **Of trash and treasure: Richard Sherman's grind inspired by the garbage man in his life**

By Matt Barrows  
The Athletic  
August 17, 2018

The first few notes in the soundtrack to Richard Sherman's high school years were the low rumble of a Cadillac starting up.

After the Shermans moved to a house in Compton in 1998 they converted the garage into what would become Richard's bedroom. That put him a few feet from his father's car that was parked outside and meant he knew exactly when the elder Sherman left for work.

"Every morning he'd turn his car on. It would be 3:50 in the morning," the 49ers cornerback said. "It was like clockwork. I could hear it every single day from ninth grade until I was a senior."

Kevin Sherman's destination was the Los Angeles sanitation department facility in San Pedro. When he arrived, he'd park his car and climb behind the wheel of a 25-ton garbage truck. Then it was: Load. Unload. Load. Unload. The same routine for 28 years.

Richard Sherman credits the whipped-fire intensity for which he's famous to both parents and to his brother, Branton, who constantly stoked it the way only needling older brothers know how. But his inner grind, the foundation for a career now entering its eighth season, comes from his father, who continued his garbage route after Sherman became an NFL draft pick and even after he became an NFL star and signed a second contract worth \$56 million.

Stop working? Everyone — especially Richard — pleaded that it was time to park the garbage truck for good. Kevin Sherman shook his head and said it made no sense when he was so close to his retirement benefits. Why should his son pay for his health-care costs?

"I told him, 'Hey, I'm at the finish line,'" Kevin said. "I said, 'When it's time, I'll know.'"

That stubbornness should sound familiar. Kevin Sherman, 53, has the same pride, the same confidence, even the same low voice his son has. It just comes out at the slower, more deliberate pace of an older man. The father also is every bit as sharp as the 49ers cornerback, who graduated from high school with a 4.2 grade-point average and went to Stanford on a football scholarship.

Kevin was an athlete, too, but a go-kart explosion when he was 14 cost him his right eye and any pro dream he may have had floating in his head. He also has two scars on his chest, which came when he was an 18-year-old who excelled at truancy and trouble. One day he was sitting on a porch with a group of gang members when a rival group started shooting. The bullets that struck him barely missed his heart.

When his kids were little, Kevin Sherman would raise his shirt and issue a warning: This is what happens when you run with the wrong crowd in Los Angeles.

When he recovered, he decided the dead-end days of hanging out in the neighborhood were over, that it was time to join the workforce. Eventually, he took a job as a garbage man, a punch-line profession in this country, one that exasperated parents warn their sons they might end up with if they don't buckle down and study harder.

Sherman said he never liked doing it, especially early on when all the bins had to be loaded by hand.

There was the smell, the monotony and the every-day anxiety of driving a 26-foot truck through neighborhoods in which you constantly had to watch for kids, dogs and cars darting out of driveways.

"You see everything the night people do," he said. "You see people doing drugs, people robbing, people stealing. All that. I used to get up at 3 o'clock in the morning. You see a lot."



There also were perks. The sanitation department didn't care how long drivers were on the clock as long as they completed their routes. On most days Kevin was home by 11 a.m., giving him plenty of time to help coach his sons' football practices. Sometimes he was back in time to see the kids off to school.

"There are nice people out there," Kevin said. "They give you gifts or whatever. They remember your birthday. There are people out there who take pride in saying hello to the trash man, the mailman, whoever."

Do people still give tips around the holidays?

"Yeah, they'll leave it on top of the trash can," he said. "They'll tape it to the lid."

Other gifts were unintentional. The elder Sherman said he always was surprised by what people threw out: a lamp that merely needed a new shade, a shop-vac with a bad wheel, a high-end vacuum cleaner with a broken belt. Sherman said he found one of the latter, a Kirby vacuum, years ago and still has it today.

"Oh, the Kirby," Richard said when told about his father's pride in some of his curb-side discoveries. "That was his favorite. My mom always wanted one. And we didn't have the money to afford one. So he brought one home one day from his route. My mom was freakin' juiced! Our carpets looked good, the house smelled better."

These days it's Richard Sherman who's being treated like damaged goods. After seven seasons in Seattle, he was discarded by the Seahawks in March with his own bad wheel, a right Achilles tendon that ruptured in November.

"Seven years and I didn't miss a game until my Achilles finally went," Sherman wrote in *The Players' Tribune*. "And this is what I get. At the first sign of adversity ... they let me go."

The question of the offseason has been whether he can remain a high-end cornerback after such a serious injury, and whether, at age 30, his fire still flashes like it did early in his career.

He has yet to go through a full practice with his new team. As soon as his snap count started to rise in training camp, he injured his hamstring. Sherman missed the team's first preseason game and, if coach Kyle Shanahan has his way, he won't play in Saturday's, either.

But he's always pushing, angling, petitioning to come back. After he was allowed to take part in the individual-drill portion of Monday's practice, Sherman stayed late for 15 minutes to run extra drills with young cornerbacks Greg Mabin and Tyvis Powell. Then he worked for another 15 minutes with strength coach Ray Wright. On Thursday in Houston he took post-practice repetitions against Texans receiver DeAndre Hopkins. The heat index at the time: 102 degrees.

Asked if Sherman has been lobbying coaches to get back on the field full time, defensive coordinator Robert Saleh smiled and said, "Constantly."

"Kyle has an inner-demon fight with himself to not listen to what Sherm is bringing to him," he said. "Sherm wants to be out here, especially coming on the road (to Houston) and practicing in another environment. He wants to be here. He wants to be with his teammates, and that's the type of man he is."

Kevin Sherman finally gave in to his son two years ago. He still works — he manages a trucking company — but his days of collecting trash bins are over.

Richard didn't exactly convince him to leave his job, but he bought his parents a home in Orange County a few years ago. It was a crafty move. His father continued to haul trash in San Pedro afterward, but his hour-long commute on Southern California freeways — that's what finally broke him.



So he traded in the trash truck for a recreational vehicle that he drove to the 49ers' first preseason game last week and that he plans to take to most of his son's games this season. That includes Seattle.

"It takes me 23 hours," he said. "I'll leave at 10, 11 o'clock at night. What that does for me is, as I start to get tired, day starts to break. When day breaks, it's like catching your second wind."

As for Richard Sherman, the grind continues. After all, he heard the sound of that Cadillac engine turning over for four years. It's etched in his brain. It always will be playing in the background.

"My dad drove a trash truck," he said. "It stunk. He would take me to work sometimes — you know, take-your-son-to-work day — and I'd be like, 'Dad, it stinks doing this all day.' And he did it for 28 years."

"That's not a fun job, that's not a glorious job," he continued. "That's not a 'Hey, look at me!' job. It's just what you've got to do. And that helped me understand at a young age, that's important stuff: Take care of your family, do what you have to do. Don't complain. And don't — excuse my language — don't bitch. Because you've got to do it."



## Joe Staley

### **Beers, bros and karaoke: Joe Staley, Mike McGlinchey are the heartbeat of the 49ers**

By Nick Wagoner  
ESPN.com  
August 15, 2019

It's a Thursday night just two weeks before the start of San Francisco 49ers training camp, and karaoke night at Khartoum Lounge in Campbell, California, has just taken an enormous and outlandish turn. Standing on stage are roughly 13 feet and 610 pounds of ballad-belted bookend offensive tackles.

Joe Staley and Mike McGlinchey generally prefer to compete at karaoke, flying solo on stage aside from the occasional dual foray into the Backstreet Boys.

Instead, they have something new and -- given the notes required to nail the performance -- risky in mind.

The song choice is "Shallow," the Bradley Cooper/Lady Gaga duet (the tackles repeatedly pronounce her name "Guh-gah") made famous by the 2018 movie "A Star is Born." Staley steps into the role of Cooper, dropping his voice to set the stage for McGlinchey.

"I set him up with a real low Bradley Cooper bar and then I stopped singing and I went, 'All right, blow them away,'" Staley says.

McGlinchey, whose go-to song is "Mr. Brightside" by The Killers, says he's rehearsed the song many times on his own, but it's different on stage when people notice, camera phones come out and it's time to put on a show. McGlinchey digs deep, attempting to take his voice to places it normally doesn't go.

On this night, it's just not happening.

"I just couldn't hit the high notes," McGlinchey says with genuine disappointment in his voice. "I was so upset with myself after that. I failed so hard at Lady Gaga. I thought I could do it. I just couldn't."

Although "Shallow" might have been a miss, the depths of Staley and McGlinchey's friendship go well beyond their musical stylings.

While wide receivers and defensive backs have earned a reputation for their big personalities (and egos), anyone who has spent time around a locker room knows it's often the offensive line that most effectively represents the heartbeat of a team. In San Francisco, the case can be made that Staley and McGlinchey best set the tone.

"They have a very unique relationship," quarterback Jimmy Garoppolo said. "The age difference is so different, but they're so similar in their personality. It's fun to be around those guys. They always keep it light. And when you get out there between the lines they're different people in the huddle and I love that. You've got to have guys like that who can know when to turn it on and know when to turn it off."

Joe Staley, left, may be 10 years older than Mike McGlinchey, right, but the two hit it off almost instantly, realizing that they are both "loud, obnoxious people." Courtesy of the San Francisco 49ers  
Bickering like brothers, laughing like friends

Sitting next to each other for an interview in the 49ers' public relations office, Staley and McGlinchey are 90 minutes removed from a training camp practice (Staley is fresh after a veterans' rest day) and have quickly shifted gears into what might as well be a stand-up comedy act.

Over the course of about 33 minutes, McGlinchey and Staley bicker like brothers and laugh like best friends while discussing everything from Staley's license to curse in front of McGlinchey's mother -- Staley



is a dad and McGlinchey is not, she reasons -- to their favorite karaoke tunes to how their fast and easy relationship has become integral in each other's careers and to the 49ers' building.

Long before Staley was even aware of McGlinchey, the second-year tackle had been keeping tabs on -- and looking up to -- the 12-year veteran. When McGlinchey was early in the college recruiting process, the Notre Dame strength coach was Paul Longo, who held the same position at Central Michigan when Staley was there.

Longo, who was part of the ND group recruiting McGlinchey to the Irish, told McGlinchey that he reminded him of Staley and, as McGlinchey began to realize that his path in football would be at offensive tackle, he decided it was time to study up. At the time, the Niners were one of the NFC's best teams and Staley was one of the key components of their run to Super Bowl XLVII, making him a natural starting point.

McGlinchey was blown away by Staley's combination of athleticism and technique and though the 49ers lost that game to the Baltimore Ravens, McGlinchey watched it on repeat and changed his high school number to Staley's 74.

"I knew everything about him before I got here and I've probably watched that Super Bowl on film, like 40 or 50 times," McGlinchey says. "I thought it was one of the best games I've ever seen a left tackle play."

(At this point, Staley stops McGlinchey. "You've never, ever complimented me like that," Staley says. "That was really nice.")

Staley, meanwhile, knew nothing of McGlinchey until the Niners used the No. 9 overall pick on him in the 2018 NFL draft. After sending a congratulatory text to McGlinchey, Staley quickly went searching for anything he could find on his new teammate and discovered videos of McGlinchey interviews from his time in South Bend.

The first thing Staley noticed was just how polished McGlinchey was in front of reporters, something McGlinchey attributes to getting weekly practice at Notre Dame and something Staley didn't get as much of at Central Michigan, a place McGlinchey likes to call "The Little Sisters of the Poor" as a jab at Staley.

"I never experienced the big shining lights like Mike did," Staley says. "That was my very first impression was like this kid is a politician. So, I was going to try to break him down and get to the real Mike. I was really shocked. Because I thought his personality was very square like, 'Hi, how are you, Mike McGlinchey here, let me tell you why I'm the best.' And really he's like, just 'Philly Mike.'"

Staley, who is 10 years McGlinchey's senior, says he never felt threatened by McGlinchey's arrival and related to coming in as a first-round pick with big expectations. Within a week, the two went to a nearby sports bar for burgers and beers, realized how much they had in common as self-described "loud, obnoxious people" and, not long after, how much they could help each other.

The ways that manifested in their first season together were quite different. For McGlinchey, it was important to have a veteran sounding board who could offer tips on pass-rushers and technique and, perhaps most importantly, lift him up when inevitable rookie struggles hit.

In a game late last season McGlinchey was struggling. As the game was going on, Staley noticed and reminded his rookie teammate that the guys on the other side get paid to play, too.

"There's a lot of people in the position that he's in that would have viewed it kind of as a threat almost," McGlinchey said. "Luckily, Joe is a good enough guy and good enough teammate and comfortable enough in his own skin that he was pretty selfless. He was there for me 100 percent."

"They are both smart guys who really study their craft, who study each other," 49ers coach Mike Shanahan said of Staley (74) and McGlinchey (69). Courtesy of the San Francisco 49ers  
Balancing fun with success



For Staley, who has seen and done almost everything during his NFL career, McGlinchey's youthful exuberance has helped revitalize him. After a dreadful 2-14 season in 2016, Staley strongly considered retirement. Head coach Kyle Shanahan's arrival had given him some renewed vigor, but McGlinchey's arrival the following year has pushed that to another level. Staley even signed a two-year extension in June that takes him through the 2021 season and should allow him to retire with the only NFL team he's ever known.

Staley said he and McGlinchey are constantly bouncing ideas off each other and watch each other's reps in order to offer technique tips in real time.

"When he got drafted, I was getting to that point that I was going through a rough patch from Year 9 to 11 of like, do I want to keep playing football?" Staley said. "How long do I want to do this? And just having that kind of little brother-big brother relationship that he brought in and got along so well kind of really reinvigorated me a little bit."

While laughter might be a focal point of their friendship, it doesn't come without conflict. Some of it is good-natured -- such as the seven minutes and 11 seconds of arguing about what Staley calls McGlinchey's politician personality or the five-minute debate about whether McGlinchey didn't work out and hang out with Staley as much as promised in San Diego in the offseason -- but it can also turn serious, especially when those disagreements take place on the field.

In fact, just a couple of hours earlier, Staley and McGlinchey got into it over something on the practice field. They wouldn't disclose the specifics of what they disagreed on but both acknowledged that they were genuinely angry at each other.

"They are both smart guys who really study their craft, who study each other," Shanahan said. "They both compete more than anything even though they are, I joke BFFs, but they still are going to hate on each other too and try to get after each other because they definitely are competitive. I think that's something a veteran like Joe needs at this time in his career and I think it's great for a younger guy like McGlinchey to have a reminder on the other side that he doesn't have all the answers, that there's a lot more he can learn and he can get a lot better also."

Of course, that anger usually gets swept away in about an hour without apologies. After all, when practice and meetings are finished, it's time once again to bring a little levity to the locker room or head out for more burgers and beers, a round of karaoke, a sporting event (San Jose Sharks hockey games are a favorite) or a stop at Staley's house to hang out with his daughters, Grace and Audrey.

"I could not do another job, honestly," Staley said. "My personality would be really hard to work in a normal job."

On that, McGlinchey and Staley will always agree.

"I'd really struggle outside of the football realm," McGlinchey said. "But I think I think we just know what's important to us. It's like, we love to have fun. But we both want to be very good at what we do. And when it's time to play football and watch film and all that, it's serious. And when it's living life and being around your teammates, it's about having fun and enjoying the time that we spend together."



## With more talent, and good health, veteran Joe Staley sets goal for the 49ers

By Chris Biderman  
Sacramento Bee  
August 5, 2019

The 49ers have gone through a week of training camp and one theme has emerged rather quickly: Expectations are rising rapidly after finishing 4-12 in 2018.

"I think guys are feeling that," Joe Staley told The Bee. "I think it's good."

There's no more forthright player on San Francisco's roster than the veteran left tackle, who has played on Super Bowl-caliber teams and others that landed top-five draft picks. This year, the 49ers are coming off a campaign in which they earned the No. 2 overall choice, generally a sign of a club needing a massive reconstruction.

Yet Staley's team has lifted expectations because the roster doesn't resemble a cellar dweller. The failures last fall could be mostly attributed to losing franchise quarterback Jimmy Garoppolo to a season-ending knee injury in the third game.

After a week of competitive practices, with Garoppolo back and looking healthy, Staley's goal for the team is clear:

"I think we got to go to the playoffs," Staley said. "From there, I don't know. We'll see what happens."

A commonality from two-plus years of the Kyle Shanahan/John Lynch regime has been positive morale. The roster-wide rebuild led to a shift in culture. The overall mood in Santa Clara has been better than previous eras, which were largely defined by turmoil behind the scenes.

But, as Staley knows and a 10-22 record the past two seasons proves, good morale doesn't lead to victories on its own. It takes talent, cohesion and executing at critical times to play winning football.

"We have expectations for a lot of different guys, and a lot of different guys have proven to be very successful in the NFL," Staley said. "And so now it's about putting it together, and I'm excited."

The 49ers entered 2019 with questions about a defense that set an NFL record in futility with just two interceptions last season. They believe those have been answered with the addition of pass rushers Dee Ford and first-round pick Nick Bosa, who's off to a promising start, along with the development of other young players such as second-year linebacker Fred Warner, whom Staley mentioned specifically.

"He's going to be absolutely unbelievable. His intelligence, the way he plays the game, the speed," Staley said. "His career is just going to take off."

Staley was tepid in making a comparison about this year's team to when Jim Harbaugh took over as coach in 2011 and launched the first of three straight deep runs into the postseason. But Staley thinks the roster is in similar shape, though perhaps the biggest question could be availability, particularly after injuries were so prominent the past two seasons.

"Obviously, we had a ton of talent, but that talent stayed on the field (during the Harbaugh years)," Staley said. "I think that's what's been exciting about camp so far, is we've had no (significant) injuries to speak of. Guys have nicks and stuff, but we've had nothing like the last few years that we've dealt with in training camp."

To date, the most notable training camp injury is Ford's knee tendinitis. He received platelet-rich plasma injections this week, and the team is confident treatment and time off will ensure he's 100 percent for the start of the regular season. He's expected to miss a week, which means he could return for joint practices with the Denver Broncos on Aug. 16 and 17.



Otherwise, the new-look training staff has kept the most important players on the field, like Garoppolo and Bosa, who each only appeared in three games last season and will need to play definitive roles if the 49ers want to end their five-year playoff drought.

Sunday was one of the 49ers' most competitive practices. Garoppolo looked sharp, orchestrating a two-minute drive to set up a winning field goal as time expired. He hit fullback Kyle Juszczyk on a nifty wheel route for a big gain and connected with tight end George Kittle and Trent Taylor on passes in traffic.

But, as is customary early in camp, the defense has also had its bright spots.

The linebackers, led by Warner and newcomer Kwon Alexander, have played well against the run and pass. Rookie fifth-round pick Dre Greenlaw has the makings of a potential starter. Cornerback Richard Sherman seems far more healthy and spry than last season, when his Achilles injury was more fresh. And Jason Verrett appears to have more in the tank amid all the questions about his lengthy injury history.

Shanahan has taken notice of the increased level of competition and the way it has impacted expectations for the new season.

"I think you always want to think to win now. I want to be careful with those words and stuff, but I think we think that because we feel a lot more confident going into this year," Shanahan said. "Not just because it's year three and that's what we're supposed to say because of the people. Our players can tell when they're in line and they're looking at the guys in front of them and behind them. There's a lot more competition ... from this year compared to last year. We're better, we've got better people out there and the guys that we have around are better. We've got to keep them healthy."

If the 49ers can do that, perhaps Staley's goal of returning to the postseason can be reached.



## 49ers tackles McGlinchey and Staley are bookends on and off the field

By Eric Branch  
San Francisco Chronicle  
July 30, 2019

Mike McGlinchey was a two-time team captain at Notre Dame who doesn't carry himself like a typical 24-year-old.

Last year, 49ers executive Adam Peters joked he was likely less mature than McGlinchey. This week, head coach Kyle Shanahan recalled thinking McGlinchey acted like a CEO of a Fortune 500 company when he first met him before the 2018 draft.

"McGlinchey is very mature," Shanahan said before delivering the punchline: "Until you hang out with him outside of the football office."

Yes, since making McGlinchey the No. 9 overall pick, the 49ers have discovered the ultra-polished offensive tackle is also a karaoke-loving goofball.

McGlinchey, in fact, can match Pro Bowl left tackle Joe Staley, one of his best friends, when it comes to unapologetically bad singing voices. But the 49ers aren't complaining because he might eventually prove to be Staley's equal on the field.

McGlinchey flashed that potential in his NFL debut season when he started 16 games at right tackle and was named to the Pro Football Writers Association All-Rookie team. McGlinchey often was dominant as a run-blocker, but he allowed 40 quarterback pressures, according to Pro Football Focus.

This week, McGlinchey reflected on his pass-blocking in 2018 and said his biggest problem wasn't with his hands or feet, but his head. McGlinchey acknowledged he allowed some of his All-Pro foes to mess with his mind.

Remembering the Leslie Salt Mountain: Bay Area's odd, glistening landmark

"I think most of it last year was mental," McGlinchey said. "... I think it was a matter of names that kind of freaked me out more: Whether it was (Chicago's) Khalil Mack, or (Denver's) Von Miller, or (the Rams') Aaron Donald — whatever the hell it was. I wasn't really worried about what those guys did as much as who they were."

McGlinchey didn't always flourish, but he never was embarrassed.

Mack, for example, didn't have a sack against the 49ers, but did have at least one in nine of his other 13 games. And Miller had one sack against McGlinchey, although it came with an asterisk because the former Super Bowl MVP beat him as McGlinchey was being held by Broncos defensive tackle Derek Wolfe.

"I had ups and downs," McGlinchey said. "And it was a matter of 'OK, I've played those guys and they didn't crush me. They didn't hurt me. They didn't rush up the stat board. It was one of those things of where I know I can do it."

"It's a matter of just getting the job done now. It's a matter of being the best that I can be and, hopefully, eventually that's going to be the best in this league. It's a matter of not just getting the job done. But getting the job done and looking like I know what I'm doing."

The 49ers drafted McGlinchey and traded jumbo-sized right tackle Trent Brown last year partly because they prized McGlinchey's athleticism and movement skills. McGlinchey, listed at 6-foot-8 and 315 pounds, is similar in size and skill set to Staley, 34, who was an accomplished sprinter in high school. McGlinchey hasn't reached the level of the six-time Pro Bowler, but Shanahan says he has the proper mind-set.



“It’s easy to get on him hard; he’s not going to get sensitive,” Shanahan said. “You can tell him he looked (bad) and he’ll get pissed off, but he’s going to come back tomorrow and try to prove you wrong. If you don’t have that type of mentality, then you always have a sophomore slump. I don’t see that being in him, and it better not.”

McGlinchey and Staley are set up to be Jimmy Garoppolo’s primary protectors for the next few seasons after Staley recently signed a two-year extension that runs through 2021.

McGlinchey paid his buddy a compliment and, possibly, snuck in a crack about his age.

“He’s the heart and soul of our football team,” McGlinchey said, “and he has been since probably I was in sixth grade.”



## 49ers Joe Staley among Pro Football Focus' best left tackles this generation

By Jessica Kleinschmidt  
NBC Sports Bay Area  
July 6, 2019

49ers left tackle Joe Staley recently received a well-deserved two-year extension through 2021. This was designed to make sure the 34-year-old will spend the rest of his career as a member of the team.

Good news for the 49ers.

And what's even better is knowing how he's being viewed as one of the NFL's best tackles by Pro Football Focus.

Cameron Pezet wrote in April about the guy who will enter his 13th season with the 49ers, and called him "one of their highest-graded offensive players."

"For starters, Staley's career pass-blocking grade of 86.6 ranks 12th in the PFF era (2006-present) among left tackles with at least 100 career snaps," Pezet wrote. "However, it's been run-blocking where Staley has truly excelled, ranking second in the PFF era with a career run-block grade of 92.4.

"He also owns the third-highest single-season run-block grade in PFF history by a left tackle, accumulating a mark of 92.4 over 19 games (including postseason) in 2012, and on a game-by-game basis, Staley's name appears twice when looking at the top-15 graded games by a left tackle."

As far as examining Staley from year to year, Pezet noticed a fascinating turn in 2012. Don't get us wrong, his numbers prior to the season were good -- well, they were "respectable," but it was the Jim Harbaugh era where everything changed.

That's when Pezet writes he went from good to great.

"Staley broke out in the 2012 season by leading all tackles with a career-high 92.4 regular-season grade. He was particularly dominant in the run game that year, bulldozing his way to a 93.3 run-blocking grade that ranked first amongst all offensive linemen in the league. Staley hasn't looked back since, as he now ranks first in run-block grading (93.0) and ninth in pass-block grading (89.5) among all left tackles with at least 1000 snaps played from 2012 to 2018.

"During that span, Staley's overall grade of 94.2 ranks second only to former Cleveland Browns left tackle, Joe Thomas."

Joe freaking Thomas.

Staley's consistency is something that has separated him from the rest, and he's done it for a dozen years. As PFF writes, Staley entering this 13th season is when he will remain "as important as ever."



## Why Joe Staley still attends 49ers' voluntary workouts, even when he doesn't have to

By Chris Biderman  
Sacramento Bee  
April 19, 2019

Joe Staley could have stayed in sunny San Diego, continue his normal offseason workout routine that includes one-on-one yoga sessions and keep tabs on his 49ers teammates from afar.

That's what many notable NFL players do this time of year, when conditioning programs are voluntary. Tom Brady, Jadeveon Clowney, Jalen Ramsey, Frank Clark and others are staying away from their teams while the first phase of the offseason program begins.

But not Staley, who has plenty of reasons to remain away from the club and enjoy his wife and two young daughters. The six-time Pro Bowl tackle is the longest-tenured player on the team, perhaps the most respected voice in the locker room and the 49ers' only starter remaining from Super Bowl XLVII. He could have stayed home and no one in Santa Clara would have batted an eye.

"I just love being around everybody," Staley said this week. "I don't know – I'd much rather be here than somewhere else. For me, too, I need the structure. I'm used to the structure. .... Not to say that I can't manage my time away from here when I'm not, because I do when I'm down in San Diego. I just enjoy being around the guys. It was never a thought for me to be anywhere else."

Staley, 34, could have stayed away because he might be looking to extend his contract (like Clark and Clowney, who are looking for long-term deals after being given the franchise tag).

Staley is entering the final year of his six-year deal he signed in 2014, though he's undecided if he wants to continue playing beyond 2019 and into his late 30s. He hasn't had any discussions with 49ers coach Kyle Shanahan or general manager John Lynch about his future beyond the coming season. He's slated to earn nearly \$11 million this season, ranking 16th among left tackles, according to Overthecap.com.

"But I've made it very clear to everybody that I want to play as long as I can," Staley said. "I still love the game, still feel like I can play at a high level. Still feel like I'm valued on the football team. I know it's my last year under contract, but I'm not worried about that. I'm just going to go out there and try and do everything I can to help us win games with this team."

One of the daunting tasks awaiting San Francisco is finding Staley's eventual replacement. It could be last year's first-round draft pick, Mike McGlinchey, who started all 16 games at right tackle.

Staley and McGlinchey have become fast friends, of course, and Staley had no problem ribbing his "little brother" for not spending more time working out with him in San Diego this offseason. McGlinchey during his visit with Staley instead opted to work out at EXOS in Carlsbad, where he's spent time with his Notre Dame teammate and 2018 All-Pro Quenton Nelson, as well as Tennessee Titans tackle Taylor Lewan.

"So I don't know if there's something in the relationship that needs mending. Maybe (McGlinchey) just moved on," Staley cracked. "He's more of a guy that kind of likes to live the spotlight life. Who I train with down there, I've been training with for like four or five years and it's just me and him. It's not the glitz and glam of EXOS."

Staley's session with reporters Wednesday was part education and part stand-up comedy routine. Staley confirmed the front office sought his opinion of pass rusher Dee Ford before San Francisco acquired him in a trade with the Chiefs for a 2020 second-round draft pick. Ford got the best of Staley for a sack during the lopsided first half in Kansas City last September, using his quick first step that Lynch said is the fastest in the NFL.



“That’s a correct statement,” Staley said. “I think just the athleticism, the speed, he’s got a really unique ability to really time up the cadence. ... I was 100 percent certain that he was offsides (on the sack), it was that fast. Going back on the film, he just timed it up super (well). He was right on it.”

When Staley was asked if the front office looked for his opinion on other pass rushers, the sarcastic comedy routine began.

“So I gave a detailed scouting report of about 20 different pass rushers and inside three techniques this year,” he deadpanned. “Strengths, weaknesses, broke down their film, best games, worst games, I went out to where they were this offseason and worked out with them. Put them through the ringer and just trying to break them down, who’s really about football, who’s not. It was an exhausting offseason for me. I think, we were really able to land Dee Ford out of the whole process.”

None of that was true, of course. And surely teammates needing a laugh during the arduous conditioning program will be glad Staley decided to show up when he didn’t have to.



## 49ers Joe Staley and Mike McGlinchey are good — and good for each other

By Eric Branch  
San Francisco Chronicle  
January 11, 2018

There aren't many feel-good stories in a 4-12 year, but here was one from the 49ers' 2018 season: The bookends of their offensive line became best buddies.

It didn't take long for rookie right tackle Mike McGlinchey, 23, and left tackle Joe Staley, 34, to click as their "bromance" was a running joke long before training camp. In fact, the bond between the hyper-competitive goofballs might have been sealed in the spring when they were captured on video singing a Backstreet Boys hit at a karaoke bar. (They also sang together at a charity dinner, for a show on the team's website ...)

Last week, about six months after their, um, interesting karaoke-bar rendition of "Everybody," McGlinchey and Staley turned serious when reflecting on their connection.

McGlinchey, the No. 9 overall pick who started all 16 games, had someone who could relate to his pressure-filled NFL baptism. Staley, also a first-round pick, was a 16-game starter as a rookie in 2007.

"I'm just thankful that I had that opportunity, because this year wouldn't have gone the way it did without him," McGlinchey said. "He taught me a lot of different things early ... and then we started competing with each other: Trying to push each other to the best we could be. When you have somebody who can do that, that's what makes this job a lot of fun."

Meanwhile, Staley, who has contemplated retirement in recent years, repeatedly said he had a better year than he did in 2017. He noted he was healthier and was in his second season in head coach Kyle Shanahan's system, but he also credited McGlinchey's influence.

"Mike has been huge," Staley said. "I'd never tell this to his face ... how much I appreciate him. (I'm) always going to make sure he has a little bit of that trying to get his father's approval with me. But he's been huge for me this year just because we've gotten along so well from Day 1. And just the competitive nature of football kind of brings that out."

"I'm already super-competitive, but it's a challenge for me to compete with a guy that's 23 and just starting his career and trying to keep up with the stuff that he's doing. And challenge him in the same way."

The least surprising news of the offseason: Staley and McGlinchey won't stay apart for long.

McGlinchey, who is from suburban Philadelphia, plans to return to California around late February to train with Staley in San Diego, where he lives in the offseason. They will work together before reporting for the offseason program in mid-April.

Last year, Staley began incorporating twice-weekly yoga sessions into his routine to improve his flexibility and mobility. Is McGlinchey up for some downward facing dogs?

"Whatever he's got planned," McGlinchey said. "I guess he's a 13-year vet now. So whatever wisdom he's going to be channeling."

It's possible their first time training together in the offseason also will be the last time they do so.

Staley will be in the final year of his contract next season, and he hasn't committed to playing beyond 2019. The 49ers drafted McGlinchey with the idea he eventually would supplant Staley at left tackle.



McGlinchey's first season left little doubt he could handle the most glamorous spot on the offensive line, which has been occupied by his buddy for the past 12 seasons.

With Staley's help, he hopes eventually to be better than the five-time Pro Bowler.

"I'm not satisfied with the way I played this year," McGlinchey said. "Everyone says, 'Oh, it was a great rookie year.' I'm not playing to be a great rookie: I'm playing to be the best in the league.

"And, hopefully, in year two, I'll be able to take a huge step forward in accomplishing that goal. Going to have a hell of an offseason getting ready to do it."



## 49ers' Joe Staley excited about future for himself, team

By Eric Branch  
San Francisco Chronicle  
August 30, 2018

After each of his first nine years in the NFL, 49ers left tackle Joe Staley finished a season by looking ahead.

In 2016, however, the season ended, and he looked within.

The question he considered: Did he still want to play football?

The 49ers had finished a 2-14 season that ended with the firing of Chip Kelly, meaning Staley, then 32, was set to play for his fourth head coach in four years.

"I was just going through — you start getting older, and I'd finished up my 10th year," Staley said. "I wasn't considering retirement seriously at all, but it was kind of the first time it rolled through my mind."

It wouldn't be the last time.

On Tuesday, Staley discussed the eventful 19-month journey that began with that first thought of retirement. It's been a road filled with knee pain that discouraged him to the point that he seriously considered the end of his career during the first half of last season. Ultimately, though, he experienced healing, first of his knee, and then of his team, which followed a 1-10 start with a 5-0 finish.

Now, entering his 12th season, Staley, who turned 34 Thursday, has been rejuvenated by his improved health and the 49ers' improved prospects.

The team's longest-tenured player, Staley now jokes with his wife, Carrie, about starting the second half of a career that's included six Pro Bowls and 158 games, the seventh most in franchise history among offensive linemen. And this week, the father of two daughters, Grace, 4, and Audrey, 1, laughed when envisioning playing deep into his 40s.

"There were no conversations this offseason of like 'Hey, are going to come back? What are you thinking?'" Staley said. "Everyone knows that I'm 100 percent committed to football. And looking ahead, I'm not in the mind-set of retiring any time soon."

"I plan to play this year, next year and, hopefully, I won't want to have a conversation. It will be like I'm going into year 16 and it's just 'Hey, I'm starting to get old now. My kids are starting high school. I should probably quit this.'"

Staley is a big personality whose moods are easy to read.

He's been buoyant this offseason. In April, he brought back the shuttered "Joe Show," in which he delivers on the opening theme song's promise: "Gonna ask some stupid questions to teammates." On Tuesday night, at a charity dinner on the field at Levi's Stadium, he comically serenaded the crowd with a soulful rendition of "Hero" by Enrique Iglesias, and teamed with rookie Mike McGlinchey on another showstopper: The bookend tackles sang the Backstreet Boys' "Everybody."

Staley, gyrating in jeans and his jersey, was definitely rocking his body.

"He looks, physically, like he's in a great spot and he's having fun," general manager John Lynch said. "And Staley having fun is a good thing for everybody."

Said head coach Kyle Shanahan: "I will say, Joe is much more optimistic than he was when we got here."



Indeed, Staley was singing a different tune after 2016, which marked the seventh non-winning season in his first 10 years.

Shortly after being hired in January 2017, Lynch heard Staley, one of the few standouts on a talent-starved roster, was mulling his future.

“A lot of that was a lot of people telling us where (Staley) was at prior to us getting here,” Lynch said. “And saying ‘Hey, you better check with Joe. He’s made some inferences that he may not even do this.’ It was like ‘Wow, that’s a guy we were kind of counting on.’”

Staley’s uncertainty was short-lived. His initial talks with Lynch, a nine-time Pro Bowl safety, and Shanahan, an offensive coordinator he’d long admired from afar, convinced him the new men with six-year contracts would provide stability and competence while reshaping the culture.

Staley quickly determined he wasn’t leaving. But he came to find out his knee issues also weren’t going anywhere.

During last year’s offseason, Staley’s discomfort was manageable, but his pain intensified during the pounding of training camp and didn’t subside.

Staley had a hip impingement that weakened his quadriceps and placed more stress on his knees. Staley had three hours of treatment daily, checking in with trainer Manny Rivera before and after practice.

He was surviving on Sundays, but Staley, who doesn’t want to hang around the NFL as a backup, didn’t feel he was close to playing at his Pro Bowl standard. In addition, his extensive physical therapy meant he was seeing far less of his family in the short-term. In the long-term, he worried about how his health could impact his post-NFL life with his wife and daughters.

“That was the first time I was ever really like my body might not be able to do this and what cost am I doing to my future self?” Staley said. “Just putting myself through football and continuing to do this to my body? And I just wasn’t feeling like I was playing up to my potential. It was hard. It was the first time I really considered the possibility of football being done for me.”

With the 49ers at 0-7, Staley sought out Shanahan, 38, who is just four years older, for counsel in late October.

“I went to him like ‘Hey, man, I just need to talk. Not even like player to coach, I just need to talk to someone right now,’” Staley said. “That one session was probably ... I say ‘session’ like he’s my psychiatrist ... but the meeting we had was like an hour or so. I don’t want to get too much into what it was, but it was really beneficial and kind of got my mind right.”

Said Shanahan: “Joe’s played a long time, and his body was hurting. And it sure didn’t look like we were going to the Super Bowl.”

It turned out to be an eventful week for Staley. Shortly after meeting with Shanahan, he had a breakthrough in his therapy when his hip finally loosened, an experience he likened to a chiropractor cracking a back.

Since this is the NFL, however, it wasn’t quite healthy ever after. In Staley’s next game, he sustained an orbital fracture in a loss at Philadelphia (“Yeah, then I broke my face,” he said, laughing). But the 49ers traded for quarterback Jimmy Garoppolo a day after the defeat, and Staley’s uptick in performance roughly coincided with that of the 49ers. He went to the Pro Bowl as an alternate and was ranked second among offensive tackles by Pro Football Focus.

Shortly after the season, the 49ers began discussions to give Staley a raise. In April, they restructured the final two years of his contract and he now can earn a maximum of \$17.5 million instead of \$11 million.



Still, he remains underpaid. His average annual salary of \$8.75 million ranks 18th among offensive tackles, though he said he doesn't feel underappreciated.

"They felt like my salary wasn't matched with where my value was," Staley said. "They didn't have to (do anything). And then you would have heard groaning on my end and then it would have become a big deal. They didn't want to do that. They took care of it and I stayed out of the media world, pitting two sides against each other. I thought it was handled professionally, and I'm very happy."

Despite Staley's age, Shanahan thinks Staley can improve as a player and leader this season.

Shanahan, who reviewed 2016 video of Staley when he was hired, believes Staley is even better now, and can take another step in his second season in his offense. As a leader, Staley sets a tone with his performance, commitment and toughness, but Shanahan has pushed him to become a steadier presence.

"When you've been one of the better players, when you've been one of the longest-tenured guys here, people look to you a lot," Shanahan said. "And it's important that he isn't always up and down. I think he realizes that more and more, and he's tried to do better in that area. But I think he also feels better, which makes it a lot easier."

In the offseason, Staley introduced yoga to his training, and he credits the twice-weekly sessions for helping improve his flexibility and mobility. He says he's entering the season "the healthiest I've felt in a while," and the same could be said for the 49ers offense.

Last year, despite just five starts with Garoppolo, the 49ers ranked 12th in total offense, which marked just the second time they've cracked the top 20 in Staley's career.

With less knee pain, and increased team expectations, Staley is in a far different place than he was in the first half of last season. He's gone from considering retirement to joking — to his wife and reporters — about reaching the midpoint of an NFL journey.

"It's reinvigorated me," Staley said, "for the last half of my career here."



## 49ers' Joe Staley does his job the way he lives his life — 'the right way'

By Grant Cohn  
Santa Rosa Press Democrat  
December 25, 2017

Just what kind of a good sport is offensive lineman Joe Staley?

The day after the 49ers announced Staley was a finalist for the NFL's Art Rooney Sportsmanship Award, to be announced Feb. 3, Staley met with reporters in the locker room to discuss the honor of the nomination and his good sportsmanship.

Reporters were looking for a serious story, a humorous anecdote, any example they could use in their articles of Staley being a good sport and a swell guy.

"Didn't you try to break up a fight a few years ago when you guys were in Tennessee playing the Titans?" a reporter asked.

"No, I started it," Staley said with a sly grin. "Yeah, what a good sport. Great sport. Just making sure everybody's energy levels were up during the game. Felt like there was a lull. Fans weren't getting a show. So yeah, started a fight. Forgot about that. Bernard Pollard. That was when Jim Harbaugh jumped in the middle of it."

That was 2013. Staley was 29. Still developing his sportsmanship.

In 2014, the NFL created the Art Rooney Award, which annually honors the "player who best demonstrates the qualities of on-field sportsmanship, including fair play, respect for the game and opponents, and integrity in competition." The award was named for the late founder of the Pittsburgh Steelers, a man who spent much of his youth as a brawling amateur boxer and later purchased his football franchise with winnings from a racetrack.

Staley has been one of eight finalists for this award each of the past three seasons.

What would it mean to him to win the award?

"It's nice to be recognized," Staley said. "It's about playing the game the right way. People recognize that, just being professional and carrying yourself the right way on and off the field.

"I know it's entertainment for fans and everybody, but it's also a job for us. I approach it every single day as a professional. You're supposed to live up to a certain standard, whether that be Wednesday in the meeting rooms and on the practice field or on game day. There's a certain way to play the game. I don't know if it's something I consciously try to do, but I always try to put my head down and do the right thing."

How did Staley learn these values?

"Definitely started at home," Staley said. "And then, I had a great high school football coach — Ralph Munger. He was pretty instrumental in terms of teaching me work ethic. Because I was really crappy when I started playing football.

"I started when I was 9, and I was always crappy. I was third string all the way until I was a junior in high school. But I loved playing football. Coach Munger ingrained that work ethic in me, that if I wanted to be good at something, I have to work for it. That stayed with me throughout my whole career."

Munger coached Staley at Rockford High School in Rockford, Michigan, back when Staley allegedly was a "crappy" player. Munger laughed at that.



“Joe was very good,” Munger said on the phone. “He was blessed with size and speed. And he’s got all those personal traits that you appreciate, because he was always a team guy, always unselfish.

“For us, he played tight end, but we also split him out. He could play wide receiver. He could do a lot of different things. You could see that his best years were yet to come.

“He was a fun-loving young man. Very inwardly competitive. Well respected by his peers and by our faculty. Joe is special. High integrity. Great character. Has a great smile. I think his father and him could do a comedy act anywhere, any place for anyone and be well received. Joe is just a guy who’s full of life. A fun guy to be around. And yet at the same time, he’s an intense competitor, a talented athlete that takes his role extremely seriously.”

Munger and Staley still text each other. And when Staley visits home, he goes to Rockford High School to use the weight room and jog around the track.

“The thing I’m most proud of is he’s still the same guy,” Munger said. “He has never, ever forgotten his roots. He hasn’t been spoiled by his status. He continues to represent himself and his family in an extremely positive manner.”

Sunday, Staley faced the Jacksonville Jaguars, whose head coach, Doug Marrone, is a former offensive lineman and offensive line coach. Marrone doesn’t know Staley personally but observes him professionally.

“He plays with great tenacity, great grit,” Marrone said of Staley. “To be able to go out there for as long as he has and play at the level that he’s been playing and the consistency in his performance is something that all young players should look up to.”

Staley, the role model, said he occasionally encounters bad behavior from opponents during games.

“I’ve been cursed at a lot,” Staley said. “And I’ve cursed back. I’m competitive. I’m not Mr. Choirboy out there.

“I used to talk more when I was younger. I don’t really talk much anymore. And if I do talk to an opponent, I’m usually like, ‘Man that was a good move!’ That’s my little anecdote of being a good sport.”

Does Staley congratulate opponents if they beat him?

“Yeah,” Staley said. “I had a really rough game in Chicago two years ago against Willie Young. He beat me for one and a half sacks. I sought him out after the game and told him, ‘Hey man, great game. I didn’t know what to do against you.’ Because some days you’re not going to have a good game. That’s part of respecting the game. You’re not just going to be on top of it every single time.”

Staley’s lowest moment may have come in 2014. The 49ers had just lost in the NFC championship game to the Seattle Seahawks, and Staley was angry. Former Press Democrat sports columnist Lowell Cohn asked Staley a series of questions at his locker and Staley gave terse answers. He wasn’t rude, but he wasn’t his typical expansive, helpful, fun-loving self.

Cohn left and walked into the interview room waiting for Coach Jim Harbaugh. While Cohn waited, Staley did something professional athletes almost never do. He walked into the interview room, sought out Cohn, and apologized.

“I remember that,” Staley said.

“Why did you do that?” a reporter asked.

“In the moment, I was upset and had a lot of emotions going,” Staley said. “He didn’t deserve cruel treatment.”



“Lowell didn’t think you did anything wrong,” the reporter said.

“I did,” Staley said.



## Jaquiski Tartt

### **Jaquiski Tartt brings football, life lessons to Ladd-Peebles Stadium**

By Mark Inabinett  
AL.com  
July 9, 2018

When the Jaquiski Tartt Next Level Football Camp started at Ladd-Peebles Stadium in Mobile on Saturday, a thunderstorm could be seen in the sky to the south. But the storm blew away from the football field, and the San Francisco 49ers safety's second annual free camp went on.

"I love Mobile, but the weather in San Fran is a whole lot different," Tartt said. "When I first got here, I was looking at the weather it seemed like every hour to make sure the chance of precipitation was going down, and it actually was, and today it turned out pretty good."

While Tartt provided the means for the football camp, Jeremy Towns provided the passion. Tartt and Towns were teammates at Samford. Towns is now in medical school at South Alabama after spending time as a defensive tackle with the Washington Redskins and Buffalo Bills of the NFL.

The threatening weather provided one of the messages that Towns delivered during the camp. He told the youngsters as the event opened that they might get in only 45 minutes of camp because of the storm, but that was a lot like life. You might not get as much time as you'd like or you might only get one chance. Because of that, you have to bring high energy to everything you do all the time.

Tartt said he hoped the youngsters got more out of his camp than football.

"I want to encourage them about God and having faith and being disciplined, able to listen and being responsible," Tartt said.

Tartt is on his summer break between the end of the 49ers' offseason program and the beginning of training camp. Tartt is scheduled to report for his third training camp with San Francisco on July 27.

"It's great to give back to the kids," Tartt said about spending part of his vacation sweating with kids back home. "I know when I was little there wasn't too many NFL football camps going around, and I just thought that would be a great idea to have a football camp."

In addition to Towns, Tartt had Tennessee Titans fullback Jalston Fowler and Oakland Raiders defensive end Chris Casher among those on the coaching staff for the camp.



## Trent Taylor

### **For 49ers' wide receiver Trent Taylor, it's not personal, it's strictly business**

Eric Branch  
San Francisco Chronicle  
August 2, 2019

Trent Taylor's parents live in Nashville.

And two of the wide receiver's teammates and best friends, 49ers tight end George Kittle and quarterback C.J. Beathard, trained in Nashville in the weeks before training camp.

So guess where Taylor worked out this summer?

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Wrong.

Taylor, determined to rebound from a frustrating second NFL season, stayed in Santa Clara to train — free from distractions at the team facility, which is located about a mile from where he lives.

"I just liked the fact that I was isolated out here, by myself. No family. No friends," Taylor said. "All I had to focus on was work. That's all I wanted to focus on. So I enjoyed it. My parents were worried about me that I was getting a little lonely out here."

Taylor's decision appears to be paying off in the early stages of training camp.

During the first six practices, the slot receiver has flashed the quickness he displayed during his 43-catch, 430-yard rookie season in 2017. Last year, after undergoing offseason back surgery, Taylor had just 26 catches for 215 yards.

"Just to struggle like that and to not be moving the way I know I can move, it was really tough," Taylor said. "I kept that in the back of my head all through the offseason. And I put in all the work that I possibly could."

Taylor's decision meant saying no to his buddies. Kittle said the lack of a hot and cold tub for recovery was a reason Taylor didn't join them in Nashville.

There are no hot and cold tubs in Music City?

"Not at our training facility," Kittle said, smiling. (Trent's) "pretty high maintenance."

And Taylor's decision also meant passing up family time. Were his parents offended? Taylor's dad, Greg, laughed during a phone interview Friday.

"Nah, shoot, I told my boys when they were 16, 'It's time for y'all to go,'" Greg said. "I want my (wife) back, and y'all are wearing her out."

However, Greg Taylor quickly turned serious when discussing his son's offseason improvement plan.

"In life, if you're pursuing something worthwhile and you get hit with adversity, it's going to ask you a question: 'How bad do you want this?'" Greg said. "So I'm proud of him that he seized the moment, he owned it and went to do something about it."



Taylor didn't play in agony last year. But his rehab sidelined him through the offseason and into the early stages of training camp.

When he returned, the 5-foot-8, 180-pounder lacked his trademark explosiveness. And he never fully recaptured it in a season in which he had more than two catches in just four of 14 games.

"It was just not having the time to build the strength back in my legs that I need to last through an NFL season," Taylor said. "Whenever a guy my size doesn't have an offseason to train and get ready for an NFL season it's tough to do it. I'm not (Falcons All-Pro wide receiver) Julio Jones who can just walk out there and make stuff happen. So the offseason is crucial for me."

On Friday, Taylor had another strong practice, at one point catching three passes in an 11-play span.

He had a deep over-the-middle grab in traffic on a perfect pass from Jimmy Garoppolo that safety Jaquiski Tartt just missed deflecting. Taylor also ran aggressively upfield after catching a short pass, bounced off two defenders and briefly went helmet-to-helmet with cornerback Emmanuel Moseley after they collided at the end of the play.

Taylor's impressive stretch inspired pats on the pads from assistants Wes Welker, Mike LaFleur and Mike McDaniel, along with Kittle, who has presumably gotten over the summer snub.

"Yeah, George was a little offended that I didn't go hang out with him in Nashville," Taylor said. "But it's a business. Friendship can wait until later."



## 49ers' Trent Taylor — now a Wes Welker protege — hopes to regain form from 2017

Eric Branch  
San Francisco Chronicle  
June 10, 2019

He's small, quick, productive and white, which means 49ers slot receiver Trent Taylor has forever been compared to Wes Welker.

One example: When he was a freshman at Louisiana Tech, Taylor's teammates immediately linked him to the five-time Pro Bowler.

"I don't think they knew my real name," Taylor said. "I think it was just 'Wes.'"

Taylor obviously hasn't been able to escape Welker.

And now that's the case in a different sense.

Welker, 38, is in his first season as the 49ers' wide receivers coach, and Taylor says he has endured plenty of razzing from teammates and coaches since the 12-year NFL veteran was hired in February.

However, Welker and Taylor are teaming on a serious task: to get Taylor back to where he's inspiring those familiar comparisons to Welker.

After a promising rookie season, Taylor, a 2017 fifth-round pick, failed to recapture his form last year following offseason back surgery.

He had just 26 receptions for 215 yards following a 43-catch, 430-yard NFL debut that featured a strong finish: Taylor had more receiving yards (226) in the final six games of his first season than he managed in all of his second.

Taylor's numbers fell last year after he had a procedure to shave down scar tissue in his lower back.

"I was trying to make it happen, but I didn't have the strength to make it happen," Taylor said. "So being able to have the whole offseason to gain that strength back and feel that explosiveness all over again, it's been really good. ... What makes me successful is my quickness and explosiveness."

In addition to improved health, Taylor, 5-foot-8 and 180 pounds, now has a position coach who used quickness and explosiveness to overcome his lack of size. Listed at 5-9 and 185 pounds during his career, Welker ranks 22nd in NFL history in career receptions (903).

"It's been extremely helpful, honestly, the type of perspective that he brings," Taylor said. "You can hear the way he thought through his routes, and that's something that no one else can emulate. No matter how hard they tried or how hard they studied an offense: You wouldn't be able to get those types of tips to find that edge that he played with. It's pretty special stuff."

Welker, who spent the previous two seasons as an assistant with the Texans, knew about Taylor before he arrived in Santa Clara. Welker studied him before the 2017 draft and appreciated how his instincts helped him lead the nation in receiving yards (1,803) as a senior and leave Louisiana Tech ranked fifth in Division I history in receptions (327).

"Trent has been really fun to coach," Welker said. "That's probably the easiest guy for me to coach not only because of his skill set, but (he's a) smart kid. He understands the game. Understands space — all those different things.

"He's been healthy this whole spring, which has really helped him, and he's been doing a really great job."



Welker, who went undrafted, maximized his ability. And Taylor, 25, said he learned something about doing just that as he endured a trying second NFL season.

Taylor expected to recapture his elusiveness once he was medically cleared, but he suggested the way he rehabbed from his surgery was a factor in him being largely a nonfactor in 2018.

“I didn’t realize how serious of a problem ... it was going to be to come back from that,” Taylor said. “And how much I would have to put into it to really bring myself back to 100 percent. It was a growing experience for me just to realize how big of a deal it is taking care of your body and paying attention to every little detail when it comes to treatment and workouts.”



## 49ers' Trent Taylor raising his profile

Eric Branch  
San Francisco Chronicle  
December 8, 2018

Trent Taylor, who stands 5-foot-8 and weighs 181 pounds, has recently been mentioned in the same breath as two giants: Michael Jordan and Randy Moss.

OK, no one is suggesting the 49ers' diminutive rookie wide receiver has reached such heights, but his performance in a 15-14 win over the Bears on Sunday raised his stature during what had been a quiet debut season.

Taylor, a fifth-round pick, had career bests in catches (six) and yards (92) while playing with a stomach illness so severe that he was still nursing chicken noodle soup at his locker Wednesday. Head coach Kyle Shanahan was among those to invoke Jordan's off-his-sickbed 38-point performance in the 1997 NBA Finals on Taylor's big day.

"The coaches were already mentioning that before the game," Taylor said. "It was the kind of the standard for me to have a good game at that point. They already put the pressure on me."

Meanwhile, Taylor has quickly earned the respect of quarterback Jimmy Garoppolo, who declined this week to compare him to his former teammates, Patriots wideouts Julian Edelman and Danny Amendola. The comparison isn't new: Taylor, Edelman and Amendola are all white, height-challenged, shifty slot receivers.

Garoppolo, who completed every pass he threw to Taylor, including a 33-yarder on the winning drive, seems to want Taylor to carve out his own niche: "He's more like a Randy Moss," Garoppolo cracked. "No, he's a really good player, though."

Taylor, who was sporting puffy eyes and a nasally voice this week, brightened when he heard the comparison.

"Yeah, he's probably right," Taylor said, smiling. "Me and Randy Moss have got a lot in common. He's the guy I try to (emulate) the most, for sure."

Shanahan never evoked Moss — a former Raider and 49er who ranks third in NFL history in career receiving yards — but he acknowledged in the offseason that Taylor was his favorite player in the draft after he led the nation in receiving yards (1,803) last year at Louisiana Tech.

Taylor had shown flashes of what attracted Shanahan, but he had just 26 catches for 239 yards entering Sunday's game.

Of course, elevated quarterback play benefits pass-catchers and it's likely no coincidence that Taylor's breakthrough game coincided with Garoppolo's starting debut with the team.

"He's a master of his craft," fullback Kyle Juszczyk said of Taylor. "He does a great job of running his routes in the slot."

Taylor does a particularly good job at running slants: 49ers quarterbacks are 13-for-13 for 160 yards and have a 143.6 passer rating when targeting Taylor on those routes this season, according to Pro Football Focus.

Taylor ran a deep slant on his career-long, 33-yard catch on 3rd-and-9 that set the stage for Robbie Gould's 24-yard field goal with four seconds left in Chicago. It capped a day in which he was connected to



another legendary name — his 92 yards were the most by a 49ers rookie since Terrell Owens in 1996 — despite feeling like he didn't want to move.

"When I was on the sideline, I was just trying to stay still," Taylor said. "Take deep breaths. Just try to be as calm as possible and not let my stomach start to turn. I just had to sit there and calm down. Make sure I got my breath back. Get ready for the next play."

After gutting out four quarters, Taylor faced another significant challenge shortly after the game: turbulence.

"That was probably one of the longest plane rides of my life," Taylor said. "But we survived. We made it through. ... It was all worth it."



## Like Mike: The Legend of Trent Taylor's 'Flu Game' in MJ's City

Joe Fann  
49ers.com  
December 6, 2017

Trent Taylor heeded a quick warning before meeting with reporters on Wednesday.

"I'm still kind of sick so y'all might want to watch out," Taylor said through an apparent stuffy nose.

He was sort of kidding but still mostly serious.

The San Francisco 49ers starting slot receiver had just polished off a bowl of chicken noodle soup at his locker. Taylor's diet remains fairly rudimentary as he's just three days removed from a crippling stomach bug. Despite the illness, Taylor went on to post six receptions for 92 yards in Sunday's win against the Chicago Bears. It was easily the rookie's best performance in 2017.

Taylor went to bed on Saturday night feeling fine before things took a grotesque turn for the worst. He woke up around 1:30 a.m. and started puking. Taylor fell back asleep before Wave 2 had him sprinting for the bathroom again at 4:00 a.m. He then spent several sleepless hours staring at the ceiling, wondering how he was going to make it through the 49ers road game at Soldier Field.

"Regardless of what was happening, I was definitely going to give it a shot," Taylor said. "I knew I was going to be able to play. I wanted to win that game, and I wanted to be out there with my teammates. I wasn't going to let that hold me back."

That was easier said than done.

San Francisco's medical staff infused Taylor with three IV bags, containing a mixture of various vitamins and sugars. That helped marginally, but there was no denying the reality: Trent Taylor had the flu.

A few coaches made a quick cross-sport connection to give their ailing wideout some encouragement. One of Michael Jordan's fabled performances came when "MJ" was severely under the weather. To set the scene, the Chicago Bulls were playing in the 1997 NBA Finals against the Utah Jazz. The series was tied 2-2, and Jordan caught some sort of virus before Game 5. And yet, Jordan propelled the Bulls to a win in a 38-point heroic effort.

Sure, Week 13 of an NFL season for a 1-10 football team doesn't quite match the stakes of an NBA Finals, but those details were irrelevant. This was still Taylor's chance to have his own "flu game".

"The coaches were mentioning (Jordan) before the game," Taylor said. "It was the standard for me to have a good game at that point."

No pressure, right?

Taylor delivered in a big way. His six receptions and 92 yards were both career-highs. Until Sunday, the rookie hadn't even reached 50 yards in a game this season. What's more impressive is that Taylor caught all six of his targets, five of which coming on crucial third downs.

Adrenaline got him through each play, but Taylor still battled exhaustion and full-body fatigue on his way back to the huddle. In between series, he'd find a spot on the sideline and desperately try to find his Zen.

"I was just trying to stay still and take deep breaths," Taylor said. "I tried to stay as calm as possible and not let my stomach start to turn. It was all about getting my breath back and preparing for the next series."

"When the next snap came, it was full-go again."



Taylor's marquee moment came on 3rd-and-8 in the final minutes of the fourth quarter. Taylor, who thrives in 1-on-1 matchups, beat his man on a deep in-cut and was hit in stride by Jimmy Garoppolo. The 33-yard catch-and-run moved the 49ers offense into field goal range and ultimately set up Robbie Gould's game-winner.

Unfortunately, there would be no solace for Taylor on the plane ride home. He described the flight as "the longest of his life" as he was unable to find a wink of sleep. The good news is that the stomach bug has passed, but the bad news is that it's evolved into a gnarly head cold.

Even so, the dramatic 15-14 win marked San Francisco's second win of the season and provided Taylor with a story he'll get to share with his future grandkids.

For one afternoon, in Jordan's city no less, the 5-foot-8, 181-pound rookie got to be "Like Mike".

"It was all worth it," Taylor said.



## 49ers' Trent Taylor makes big impact as receiver

Grant Cohn  
Santa Rosa Press Democrat  
October 7, 2017

How do little guys survive and flourish in a giants' league?

Meet Trent Taylor. At 5 feet 7 inches, he's the 49ers' shortest player. He's not a starter on the offense, but he plays a crucial role — slot receiver. On third downs, he's the little guy who lines up in the middle of the field between the outside receiver and the offensive line, and he's the guy who often makes the crucial catch. Through four games, he has caught 11 passes — more than every other player on the 49ers except Pierre Garcon.

The Niners drafted Taylor in the fifth round this year. He was the 26th of 32 wide receivers taken. Out of all those rookie receivers in the NFL, he currently ranks second in catches. The only rookie receiver who has caught more passes than Taylor is another slot specialist — Cooper Kupp of the Los Angeles Rams.

Taylor is part of a growing NFL trend — the small slot receiver. Bill Walsh didn't use one in the '70s and '80s, but Bill Belichick has used small slot receivers for more than a decade — from Wes Welker (5 feet 8 inches) to Julian Edelman (5-10) to Danny Amendola (5-10). The Patriots are at the forefront of popularizing this trend.

"I can't sit here and act like I don't fall into that category," Taylor said at 49ers headquarter the other day. "We have the same body types and we're white. That's a big way to compare us all. It's easy to put us in the same category. But we're all definitely our own person. We all have our own different strengths and skills."

What are Taylor's strengths and skills?

"Quickness, route-running, having an understanding of defenses and how to read them," he said. "That's what gives me the edge over a lot of other guys."

"For the most part, I'm used as a possession receiver, short-yardage stuff, finding the open holes in the defense. The NFL has become more of a passing game lately. To be able to get short yardage in the passing game, you've got to have a guy that's quick and understands the defense and just has that feel for the game. I think that's what this game has grown into. On third down, you have a guy that's reliable over the middle instead of just having the same concepts on the outside."

Being little is an advantage for Taylor. If he were taller and higher-cut with longer limbs, it's possible he wouldn't be quick enough to get open and squeeze through defenders to pick up extra yards after a catch.

"Guys in the slot, you need a certain type of quickness to separate," said 49ers head coach Kyle Shanahan. "When you get into the red zone, when guys aren't defending the go-route, they can squat on you. They don't have to back up. When that's the case, you've got to be able to break people off and double people up and have kind of more like point-guard basketball movements."

"You need your feet under you. Scientifically, it's easier if you're a smaller guy. You're quicker. Same with running backs. Same with point guards. Just that type of movement — quicker, shifty guys tend to be that way."

But small slot receivers must be more than quick. They must be tough and fearless, too. Or else they wouldn't get up after taking a hit from someone twice their size.

What makes Taylor get up? "Just to prove that I can hang," he said. "Those hits don't mean anything to me. Taking shots like that, that's just part of the game. That's what comes with it, and I love football."



Taylor doesn't only take hits — he gives them. Last Sunday against the Arizona Cardinals, Taylor caught a pass near the sideline and, instead of running out of bounds, turned up field and ran over defensive back Tyrann Mathieu. "I wanted to let him know that I was going to be here, that I'm not going to shy away from anything. So, first chance I got to stick it to him, I went for it."

"I take pride in being a competitor. That's kind of how I've always played the game. That's something that my dad always instilled into me – being the fiercest competitor out there."

While Taylor certainly is fierce, he says he still feels fear. "Yeah, for sure. The fear of getting hit. The fear of failure. Those kind of fears are what makes me work harder."

"I've had a bunch of people come up to me like, 'Man, I don't know how you're doing it out there.' Everybody is shocked that I'm here. But this is what I've worked for, so I don't understand why I wouldn't be here. I don't see football as a giant's game. It's a game I like to play."



## One step ahead: Quickness isn't 49ers receiver Trent Taylor's only gift

By Matt Barrows  
Sacramento Bee  
September 30, 2017

The forehand shot was so well-struck and their opponents so far out of position that the doubles partners relaxed, turned around and started to walk back to their respective spots on the court.

Trent Taylor, however, hadn't conceded the point.

"All of a sudden the ball comes back over the net because Trent somehow, as quick as he was, got over there, barely got his racquet out and knocked the ball back over," his high school doubles partner, Dakota Duron, recalled. "It kind of just dribbled past them and they were just in shock. They turned around and were like, 'Did he just hit that ball back over?'"

That duo succumbed to Taylor and Duron during the state tournament in Louisiana in 2013. So did just about everyone else. Taylor and Duron were the state runners up that year, a remarkable feat considering they hadn't had any formal tennis training until they decided to team up that spring as their senior years drew to a close.

Instead the two had earned a reputation on the gridiron. Taylor was a wide receiver. Duron was his quarterback and had been since the seventh grade.

They approached tennis like football players. They blitzed the net after every serve and then relied on their quickness to get to any shots their opponents lofted over them. Their unorthodox style took the tournament by storm.

"I think we p---- a lot of tennis guys off because we changed their game," Duron said. "We didn't let them use their forehand and backhand. We were getting up on 'em and putting pressure on 'em."

Said Taylor: "We were a lot more athletic than a lot of the tennis guys were. They weren't used to a couple of scrappy guys running around the court. I think it threw most people off."

Taylor's brief but productive doubles experience highlighted all the traits that make him an NFL receiver: quickness, tenacity, smarts – and that he's a wiz when it comes to chemistry.

He's always had an easy partnership with his quarterbacks, beginning with his boyhood buddy, Duron.

At Louisiana Tech, Taylor had a revolving door of passers starting with Ryan Higgins in 2013, Cody Sokol in 2014, Jeff Driskel in 2015 and back to Higgins again last season. The two connected so often that Taylor led the nation in 2016 with 1,803 receiving yards.

"It's easy to find this statistically – he had a great relationship with all of (the quarterbacks)," Higgins said. "Because they always knew they could count on him and he'd work hard. I know I can speak for the other quarterbacks – third and short or any important down, you know where that guy is."

The 49ers quarterbacks have had the same experience.

After being drafted in the fifth round, Taylor began catching passes from fellow rookies C.J. Beathard and Nick Mullens before working his way up to starter Brian Hoyer by late August.

In their last game against the Rams, Hoyer looked to Taylor at several critical moments, including on a three-yard touchdown in the fourth quarter, a failed two-point conversion attempt with less than three minutes to play and a third-and-10 play on the 49ers' final, last-gasp possession. Taylor caught the ball for 11 yards, but was flagged for a controversial offensive pass-interference penalty that negated the gain.



"If you go back and watch that (touchdown) play you see how fast he can get in and out of cuts," Hoyer said of Taylor. "That's what you look for in a guy who's trying to get separation. Especially in man coverage. He's done a lot of hard work. The one thing about guys like that is they can get a little crazy with cuts and all that. He's kind of refined it and made it more smooth and more trustworthy."

The 49ers list Taylor at 5-foot-8, but he's not even that.

His official measurement in the run-up to the draft was 5-7 5/8 inches, making him one of the shortest players available. He had the smallest hands (8 1/4 inches) and the second-shortest arms (28 3/4 inches) of all the receivers invited to the scouting combine in February. Most draft observers figured he'd go in the seventh round or not get taken at all.

Taylor's exceptional coordination and balance, however, separate him from other small-sized receivers.

The rookie has been seen during informal portions of practice catching passes between his legs or punts behind his back. When he was in grade school playing baseball, he'd field grounders between his legs.

"No one's doing that in elementary school," Duron said. "But he could. He was timing up balls in center field just to make a diving catch. Because he could get under it if he wanted to."

Said Higgins: "Some of the things he's able to do and the tricks he pulls off ... he even does a trick where he kind of flip-kicks a football and it starts spinning, and then puts it through the upright. I just don't see a ceiling for his athleticism."

Duron and the other quarterbacks, however, said Taylor's physical gifts make him notable. It's the mental connection he's developed with them that have made their seasons special.

"I think it goes beyond being quick," Duron said. "He'd make his routes a little bit shorter if he needed to, would make the post route a little bit higher if he needed to. Whatever needed to be done, it seemed like he was seeing what I was seeing. He always seemed to be one step ahead that way."



## Trent Taylor: Not Your Typical Underdog Story

By Keiana Martin  
49ers.com  
May 9, 2017

Consider rookie wide receiver Trent Taylor your walking cliché. He's got the size of David but the mindset of Goliath.

Taylor has always been a stud athlete.

He compiled 2,700 receiving yards and 38 touchdowns over his final two years in high school. The wide receiver also starred in basketball, track and in an effort to build chemistry with his quarterback, picked up tennis as a senior. The doubles tandem made it all the way to the state finals.

The Shreveport, La., native made the most of what he was given - elite athletic ability without the size to turn heads. Being 5-foot-8 has its limits. Louisiana Tech was the only college program who decided that the 160-pound pass-catcher was worthy of a Division I scholarship.

"I understood why I wasn't getting offered," Taylor said. "I just knew that I needed an opportunity to go prove myself and Louisiana Tech gave me that opportunity and that's all I could ask for."

Taylor continued to put up gaudy numbers. As a senior in 2016, he led the nation with 1,803 receiving yards and added 12 touchdowns. Taylor finished his Bulldogs career with 4,179 yards and 32 touchdowns to go with his program record of 327 career receptions.

Despite the impressive production, Taylor still went unheralded throughout the pre-draft process. The San Francisco 49ers were pleased to land the diminutive wideout in the fifth round of the 2017 NFL Draft.

"I thought he was as good at the slot role as anyone that we were looking at in the draft," Kyle Shanahan said of his 'draft crush.' "What impressed me the most about him besides the separation ability is that when he did get the ball in his hands, he ran angry and pissed off. He got up the field. He's not scared to get hit. He's a very competitive, violent runner and those are the guys who keep you on the field and move the chains."

The physical disposition that caught coach Shanahan's eye emanates from Taylor's experience at cornerback and safety as a two-way player in high school.

Taylor's hard-hitting nature once broke an unlucky opponent's jaw.

"I love to hit. Playing defense, that's something I loved to do," Taylor said. "So anytime I got the ball on offense, I'm not scared to lay my head in there and get a hit. It's a part of the game and I love it."

Just as he's done his entire football career, Taylor will have to prove that his size is an asset rather than a limitation. He's one of 13 receivers currently on the 49ers 90-man roster in what is expected to be one of the most competitive position groups come training camp.

That uphill climb is something that Taylor will continue to embrace.

"People (have been) telling me my whole life that I'm not supposed to be here. So, anytime I get the ball, I want to prove them wrong," Taylor added. "Prove that I can compete with the best of them."



## Solomon Thomas

### **Solomon Thomas, a 'Dark Hole' and a Shot at Redemption**

By Joe Fann  
49ers.com  
July 10, 2019

"Ella's Sunflowers" congregated in Fort Mason on the evening of Saturday, June 8. The group, comprised of Solomon Thomas' family, friends and a large contingent from the San Francisco 49ers, all donned the same white long sleeve shirt featuring a sunflower on the left breast.

Thomas' mom came up with the catchphrase as a way to honor her late daughter (Thomas' sister) Ella, who took her own life in the spring of 2018. The Thomas family has been to hell and back in the year-plus since her death. Now their mission, in Ella's memory, is to create as much awareness as possible regarding mental health.

"Ella's Sunflowers" was one team among thousands of people in attendance at the bi-annual "Out of Darkness Walk" put on by the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention.

"That's what makes the walk so special, because you're around so many people who share a common struggle," Thomas said. "You feel so much more comfortable because you know everyone understands, at least to some extent, what your pain is."

Everyone who participated was given beads to signify their reason for walking. There were different colors for those who'd lost a parent, a sibling, a child, a friend or for those who were in attendance as an ally to help raise awareness.

The walk doesn't represent leaving your grief behind, but rather signifies that it's possible to walk with it. The Thomas family, along with countless others around the world, endures the relentless struggle of learning to live and move forward despite the torture of a void that can never be replaced.

Thomas is more comfortable sharing his story than he was a year ago. He spent time on the walk discussing his relationship with Ella – how they were the best of friends and spoke on a daily basis. Thomas also lent an ear to strangers and listened to their stories.

Maybe the most powerful moments of the night were when Thomas broke away from the group to be with his own thoughts. Overcoming grief and tragedy is like learning to walk all over again. Progress comes in baby steps. Still, in those internal moments, Thomas couldn't help but feel proud of how far he'd come.

"I feel like a totally different person – emotionally, mentally and physically," Thomas said. "I had to reevaluate everything and start over again. I had to find that passion and find my values and what I care about. I had to really learn how to love myself and learn how to build myself in order to be happy again." But it was an arduous process to get there. Thomas' rock bottom lasted several months. His enthusiasm for life had vanished. He dreaded each day and the only goal, proverbially speaking, was survival.

This stretch coincided with Thomas' second season in the NFL. He didn't record a sack until the 49ers ninth game of the season. Fans groaned as he failed to live up to expectations as the third-overall pick in 2017. But that didn't matter to Thomas. Nothing did.

"If I did good on something, I wouldn't care. If I did bad on something I wouldn't care," Thomas said. "I really didn't want to be around anyone. I'd say whatever I could to get through the day. It was a dark hole, and it took me a long time to get out of it."

What's wild is that Thomas' teammates were naïve to the magnitude of his suffering. With a smile here and a laugh there, Thomas accomplished his mission of disguising his own depression.



Thomas' recent offseason transformation exemplified the stark contrast between where he was in 2018 and how much progress he's made. He spent the winter in Dallas with a regimen that balanced training, treatment and time with friends. Thomas arrived to the 49ers offseason program noticeably "rocked up" (Dante Pettis' words) with a markedly improved disposition.

"I thought he was always smiling last year, but now he's really always smiling," said Pettis, who took part in the walk with Thomas. "It's the true him. When you talk to him, you can feel the more upbeat Solomon. It's pretty cool to see."

Thomas didn't feel himself turn a corner until John Lynch approached him just before the 49ers bye week in 2018. San Francisco's GM suggested to Thomas that the team would be happy to help him find a therapist to speak with. Thomas agreed and began to see immediate results.

It became evident that discussing his feelings and embracing his emotions was the only way through the darkness. It remains how Thomas gets through the hard days (there are still plenty of them). He attempts to instill that approach in others who are currently suffering from grief, mental illness or both.

"It's OK to not be OK," Thomas tells them. "Whatever you feel is perfectly normal. Try to be your authentic self. If you honor yourself and honor your emotions then you're going to see a change in your life."

In May, Thomas delivered a poignant speech to reporters about his renewed passion for football and his eagerness to reach his potential. The confidence and conviction in Thomas' voice was unmistakable.

"I know what I can do. I know what I'm going to do. I believe in myself, and I know who I am," Thomas said. "I'm getting ready to ball this season. I feel athletic and explosive again. I'm ready to be violent and wreak havoc. Now I've got to perfect my technique. That's going to make me a game-changing player."

The rest of the 49ers locker room anticipates a breakout season from the clear-minded Thomas.

"He showed a lot of courage, and I think he's very inspirational," Pettis said. "If you're not rooting for him, there's something wrong with you."

But Thomas will always be defined by more than the game of football. His dreams and expectations as a player will never get in the way of his duty as one of "Ella's Sunflowers."

He knows he has a platform, and he will continue to utilize his voice to speak up and raise awareness regarding mental health. Ella, Thomas says, left an impression on each person she met with her vibrant yet selfless personality. In her honor, Thomas knows he can change lives just the same.

"I want to live how she did. She had intent with everything she did," Thomas said. "She wanted to impact other people. She made whoever she was talking to feel like the most important person in the room. That's how I want to live."



## After sister's death, 49ers' Solomon Thomas says: 'I'm just ready to move forward'

By Chris Biderman  
Sacramento Bee  
May 23, 2019

The bottom-line business of the NFL can sometimes forget there are people beneath those shiny helmets. Fans are wrapped up in numbers and production, often omitting how real life gets in the way of football.

Which is why 49ers defensive lineman Solomon Thomas was wiping sweat off his brow and speaking quickly during his scrum with reporters Tuesday. As the No. 3 pick in the 2017 NFL Draft, Thomas is forced to deal with tough questions about his low sack total and why he hasn't lived up to the sky-high expectations coming out of Stanford.

"I had probably the worst season ever in my life last year and I'm the most confident I've ever been in my career like right now. And that says a lot," said Thomas. "And I'm just ready to move forward and to show everyone who Solomon Thomas is, who I am, and what I'm about to bring to the table for this team."

It's an awkward dynamic, particularly when human subjects are broached in a game played by millionaires.

Thomas has been dealing with something that could overwhelm anyone – the death by suicide of his older sister, Ella, early in 2018 at the age of 24 – that has eaten away at his life and has affected his football career.

The word "bust" is sometimes thrown around in regards to Thomas. He has just four sacks in two seasons, including just one in 2018. The pass rush has been considered a significant weaknesses of San Francisco's defense – and he was drafted to help solve it. The 49ers again tried to bolster their pass rush this offseason, adding defensive ends Dee Ford and Nick Bosa to offer upgrades toward playoff contention.

And while the defensive line is now considered a strength thanks to those additions paired with star defensive tackle DeForest Buckner, Thomas has been an afterthought, largely because his production hasn't lived up to his draft status.

But he's eager to change that. He said he's "mentally healthy" entering his third season, after taking on the impossible task of dealing with the death of his sister, whom he considered his best friend. Thomas, who calls himself an "over-thinker," indicated football was no longer fun because his mind was elsewhere in 2018.

"I'm a perfectionist," said Thomas. "I want to be perfect in everything I do. And if not, I over think and I get in my head. That's my biggest fallout, one of my biggest weaknesses. And that's what I work on a lot, just going, just letting loose and just having fun."

Thomas mentioned the idea of resetting mentally and physically while regaining his confidence.

"Find a good balance of work and fun – and make it not a job anymore, but just something you get to do every day that you love," he said. "That's what it's been for me, and that's what's been working for me recently."

Thomas has since become a champion for mental health awareness. He penned an emotional essay for ESPN that included the horrific details of his sister's death and outlined how he wants to help. He raised money and walked for the American Foundation of Suicide Prevention, which he honored late last season with custom cleats for the "My Cause, My Cleats" initiative.



Thomas was open and expansive Tuesday while discussing the troubles he's gone through, while many athletes avoid those subjects publicly (though Thomas hopes he can help change that, citing the work done by Kevin Love and DeMar DeRozan of the NBA). He said seeing a therapist improved his state of mind dramatically after he initially struggled with the unimaginable tragedy.

"The first year was really hard for me," he said. "All the phases, the anger, depression, the sadness, guilt, grief, all that kind of stuff. ... (It was) hard for me to get healthy. And once I was, I was a different person.

"It was like I was light on my feet, I could finally walk and move again. But it took a while, seeing a therapist, being open with my emotions and everything. But, just finding a way to find a new outlook on life. Life won't get easier, but find a way to adjust with it and keep moving."

Adding to the rough patch of Thomas' personal life was a trade rumor that popped up during the week of the draft last month, right before the 49ers took Bosa with the No. 2 selection. General manager John Lynch quickly shot down the report, which indicated San Francisco was trying to move on after two seasons with Thomas. He met with Thomas to let him know where things stood.

"John pulled me in his office and we just had a good, nice, organic, healthy talk," Thomas said. "I respect and love John. He's been nothing but amazing to me. So has Kyle and this whole organization. ... (We talked about) how we're excited about this new scheme, how it perfectly fits how I play and how we're excited for this next year to go."

The plan for 2019 is work Thomas more predominately as a defensive tackle rather than on the edge, where he struggled to provide a much-needed punch during his first two campaigns. That will be up to Ford and Bosa, allowing Thomas to rotate with Buckner, Arik Armstead, D.J. Jones and Sheldon Day along the interior on passing downs.

Thomas' renewed mindset hasn't been lost on others in the organization. Coach Kyle Shanahan said he's noticed Thomas' re-invigoration.

"I've totally seen with my own eyes," Shanahan said. "... He's got his aura back to him. You can see it in his eyes, you can feel his energy a little bit better and it definitely seems like he's in a better place. We all know grieving can be as hard as it gets and takes people a long time, but you can see he's doing better."

Added Richard Sherman, a fellow Stanford alum: "He's got a lot more pep in his step. He's smiling, he's walking around, he's working. He's got an energy about him, an infectious energy on the field. He's relentless."

The 49ers are rooting for Thomas, not only because reaching his goals will help the team improve, but because it will help him deal with the loss of his best friend, which is far bigger than football.



## 49ers Solomon Thomas honors late sister in suicide-prevention walk

By Cam Inman  
San Jose Mercury News  
May 22, 2018

Solomon Thomas lost his sister to suicide four months ago, and the 49ers defensive lineman will be honoring her on June 2 by walking with family and friends in a Dallas fundraiser.

Thomas opened up about his sister's death Tuesday in an emotional post to raise donations for The Out of the Darkness Overnight Walk, which benefits the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention. Ella Thomas was 24 when she died Jan. 23 in their hometown of Coppell, Texas.

Thomas, the 49ers' top draft pick last year out of Stanford and No. 3 overall selection, wrote:

"On June 2nd, I will be walking to raise money for the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention. I lost one of the most important people in my world to suicide earlier this year. I will be walking for her and for everyone who suffers from the pain she felt.

"Ella was my sister. Ella was my best friend. She loved harder than she could breathe. She filled a room with such a strong presence that it would light up the room. She made my life go.

"Having Ella as my sister was the greatest gift this life has given me. She taught me to be myself, to make everyone feel loved, to appreciate everything in front of me, and so much more. She was so perceptive and so compassionate. I will live every day for my amazing sister.

"I walk not only because of what happened to Ella and our family; I walk because I want to help others. I want others to have better information and resources.

"It's time to talk about mental health. It's time to acknowledge that everyone is going through something that we don't know about and might not understand. It's time to have empathy for those things we don't understand. The funds raised at this walk will benefit the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention. Net proceeds will help those affected by suicide and mental health conditions by supporting research, advocacy, survivor resources, education and awareness programs.

"Be meaningful in every conversation, seek to show others you care. You never know what you could say that might save someone's life. I want to make this a better world. Please help me in support of those who suffer."

Thomas already had reached his \$1,000 goal within hours of Tuesday's post. He's been participating in the 49ers offseason program since April, and he lined up as the first-string defense's edge rusher in Tuesday's team drills.

When Thomas' mother, Martha, appealed Monday for \$1,000 in donation as part of Saturday's fundraiser, 49ers general manager John Lynch tweeted the organization's support and pledged \$5,000 in Ella Thomas' honor.

Martha Thomas, on her fundraising page, shared cherished memories of her daughter and her understandable grief.

Martha Thomas wrote:

"I am joining the Out of the Darkness Overnight Walk because on January 23 my world was rocked. Our daughter, Ella, died by suicide that morning. I still don't understand.

"Ella was about love. She exuded love to everyone around her. She was strong and tough, unbelievably



hilarious, honest to her core, gifted with people, and stunningly gorgeous. She was the kind of woman who made every person feel like the most important person to her. She was a gift to all of us who knew and loved her, and there are so many of us.

"I'm fundraising to benefit the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention. Net proceeds will help those affected by suicide and mental health conditions by supporting research, advocacy, survivor resources, education, and awareness programs.

"I walk not only because of what has happened to Ella and our family; I walk because I want to help others, I want others to have better information and resources, I want to make this a better world. Please help me in support of those who suffer."



## World's biggest Jedi? Solomon Thomas excited for new 'Star Wars'

By Nick Wagoner  
ESPN.com  
December 14, 2017

Sith lords attending screenings of "Star Wars: The Last Jedi" at Bay Area theaters on Friday night, beware: You might come across the world's biggest Jedi knight.

That would be San Francisco 49ers defensive lineman Solomon Thomas, breaking from his day job and taking in the movie he's been looking forward to seeing for most of the past two years.

"I already have my tickets," Thomas said. "I'm not going to say where I'm going to go see it yet but me and my buddies, we're going to go get dressed up and ready to go.

"I'll be a full-on Jedi, Jedi Knight, Jedi Master."

Of course, this won't be the first time that avid Star Wars fan Thomas is dressed as a Jedi. It's actually been his go-to costume for years. When Thomas was a child living with his family in Australia, his family first turned him on to the movie franchise.

Like many newer Star Wars fans, Thomas actually started with the prequel trilogy, though he didn't see the movies in sequential order. Thomas saw Episodes I and II before skipping ahead to see the original trilogy and finishing with Episode III.

Thomas was instantly taken by the galactic drama and the first character to catch his eye was Jedi Mace Windu, who was the first to boast a purple light saber on the big screen. Thomas also counts Yoda and Chewbacca among his favorite characters.

With Thomas' love for the movies developing, his mother Martha made him a Jedi cloak that he could wear on Halloween, though he occasionally switched things up and painted his face like the villainous Darth Maul. Thomas' love for Star Wars turned into a passion and he even used to send ideas for future films to George Lucas.

To this day, Thomas still breaks out the cloak and wears it for Halloween or on special occasions, such as when he and the Stanford football team went on a group outing to "The Force Awakens" in 2015. Thomas documented that trip on video and spent the video speaking in Yoda's patented jumbled word order for much of it.

Thomas will again break out the costume on Friday night when he finally gets some answers to the many questions he still has from "The Force Awakens."

"The trailer looks so crazy, I'm so excited," Thomas said. "There's so much stuff to find out, so much stuff to reveal and what's going to happen. I'm just excited.

"Everyone is like freaking out over who is Rey and who does she belong to and Kylo Ren and all that stuff, but I'm more excited to see the Darth master. Is it Plagueis, who is Snoke, where did he come from, who is his apprentice and master? All that kind of stuff."

To get ready for his initial viewing on Friday, Thomas recently got a personal tour of the downtown San Francisco location of LucasFilms. There, Thomas got to see many props from the "Star Wars" movies as well as a behind-the-scenes look at how some of the movies are created.

After Friday's first watch has come and gone, Thomas said he will watch the movie in theaters at least twice more.



"I have got to see it in theaters at least three times and get the full theater effect with the large popcorn tub in my hands," Thomas said.



## For 49ers' Solomon Thomas, 10 Books A Home's cause hits close to home

By Nick Wagoner  
ESPN  
November 30, 2017

Hidden somewhere in Chris and Martha Thomas' garage in Coppell, Texas, is a giant poster board that to many would look like nothing more than a school project long since abandoned.

The poster, a handmade decision chart belonging to their son, San Francisco 49ers defensive lineman Solomon Thomas, represents so much more. In trying to choose where he would play college football, Thomas took it upon himself to make the poster.

Among the categories are things most teenage boys don't spend much time thinking about. Sure, the quality of the football program and potential playing time were accounted for, but academics, alumni networking opportunities and tutoring programs took up the bulk of the space.

That poster ultimately led Thomas to Stanford and Palo Alto, California, though perhaps that wasn't too difficult of a decision, given his concurrent passions for football and education.

"There were, like, five or six things that were on that criteria board that he used for deciding among all the schools he was considering," Chris Thomas said. "I have got to believe that all of the reading and things he did before went into that process to help him make a very smart decision."

That poster also represents a background heavily rooted in the importance of education and the subsequent opportunities Thomas was afforded that others without similar advantages might not have had.

For proof, look no further than the cleats Thomas will wear in Sunday's game against the Chicago Bears as part of the NFL's "My Cleats, My Cause" initiative. He will wear cleats representing Ten Books a Home, a nonprofit in East Palo Alto, which helps promote early childhood learning.

### An emphasis on education

Growing up in a family his mother describes as full "of teachers and preachers," Thomas was never far from a book. His interests ran the gamut of subjects from horses to dinosaurs to Star Wars to The Hunger Games. He also had an affinity for cookbooks, and his parents ensured that he read plenty about civil rights.

Thomas' focus on reading was the product of parents intent on driving home the need to learn. Chris and Martha Thomas met in the early 1980s at the College of Wooster (Ohio), considered one of the premiere liberal arts school in the country. There, both earned degrees, with Chris Thomas becoming the first in his family to attend college and earn a diploma. He now works as vice president of sales and marketing for a marketing company, as part of a long business career that included a five-year stop in Australia with his family while working for Procter & Gamble.

Martha Thomas came from a long line of educators, beginning with her grandmother. Each of her grandmother's kids, including Martha's mom, was a teacher. Now Martha teaches middle school, a job she has held for more than a dozen years all over the country.

Even though Solomon and his older sister, Ella, are out of college, that emphasis on education remains at the center of everything they do.

"I was very fortunate, blessed with two amazing parents and a beautiful household, and my dad didn't come from much but made his way through education, and seeing that example and seeing how



important it is really left a mark on me," Thomas said. "And to know that outside my box, not everyone is like me, and not every child has a parent who preaches education. To many people, that's common sense, but that's not true in every household. It's rare in a lot of households to preach education and have books, to be able to get a good education at a normal school. I just want to make sure that I take what I was fortunate with and give it back to the community and people who weren't."

#### Eye-opening statistics

At the beginning of this year, Martha Thomas attended a teachers' conference that left a lasting impression. One of Martha's takeaways from the conference was further knowledge of the "30 million-word gap," a study conducted by University of Kansas researchers that showed that children from lower-income families hear 30 million fewer words than children from higher-income families by the time they are 4 years old. Martha also learned about some of the correlations between childhood literacy and incarceration.

"I want to help with getting books in homes, getting kids to realize at a young age that education is important and that they really should find a way to make sure that that's their No. 1 priority instead of other things around them."

The Reading Partners program has research showing that children not reading at or above their grade level by the end of third grade are four times less likely to graduate from high school. That number increases to six times less likely for students from low-income families.

A 2009 study by Northeastern University found that high school dropouts were 63 times more likely to be incarcerated in their lifetime than college graduates. The National Adult Literacy Survey determined that 70 percent of incarcerated adults cannot read at a fourth-grade level.

Those are just some of the things Thomas has learned from conversations with his mother and from seeking information on his own.

"My mom started crying when she read some of those statistics to me because it's so sad," Thomas said. "It's been on my mind."

#### Root of the problem

Since well before the Niners used the No. 3 pick on Thomas in this year's draft, he had an idea that he wanted to use his platform to focus on early education.

While protests of racial inequality during the national anthem expanded earlier this season, Thomas did not kneel. He has, on multiple occasions, stood next to a kneeling teammate with a hand on a shoulder as a sign of support.

"We have talked to him about 'You can protest, but where is the meat of it?'" Martha Thomas said. "'Do you have anything to back up your protest?'"

When the Niners community relations team reached out to ask Thomas if he would like to participate in "My Cause, My Cleats," Thomas immediately said yes with an eye toward finding a cause he cares about that could get at the root of some of the issues being protested.

Like any Silicon Valley resident might, Thomas turned to Google with two themes for the cause he wanted to embrace: It had to be focused on education, and it had to be local.



"I went to school at Stanford, so I was right there in Palo Alto. You always hear about East Palo Alto and how it's a really hard area and they need a lot of help," Thomas said. "I wanted to be able to do something close to where I used to be and where I am now, and I thought I would start searching for nonprofits in East Palo Alto. Ten Books a Home stood out. I thought this was perfect because I wanted to

do something with children's literacy and young children starting to learn in high-poverty areas. It was perfect for me."

The cause

East Palo Alto sits next to Palo Alto, with the two cities separated largely by a major freeway. In the 1980s and early '90s, East Palo Alto was known for its crime and poverty, earning the label of murder capital of the United States in 1992.

It was right around that time that Paul Thiebaut III was 13 years old and running the streets of East Palo Alto, dealing drugs while trying to figure out how to avoid prison and stay alive. At various times over the next decade, Thiebaut would drop out of school and find himself either in juvenile detention centers or homeless.

After scraping by for about 10 years, Thiebaut began having conversations with another drug dealer who suggested Thiebaut read Malcolm X's autobiography.

According to Thiebaut, it was the first book he ever read. He was 23.

"It just opened something up in my mind that caused me to want more," Thiebaut said.

One night, as Thiebaut was driving a drug kingpin around the Bay Area, he ended up in a hotel room with about \$20,000 worth of ketamine on a table.

"It was like my moment when I knew this was wrong," Thiebaut said. "It was the wrong thing for me to be doing ... And I told him, 'I'm out, man.' So I left that hotel room with him screaming and waving his Glock in the air. I wasn't even sure if I was going to walk out alive. I had to go. I went to college."

Thiebaut attended San Jose State, earning a degree in economics with a minor in business at age 27. From there, he took up tutoring for kids from first grade through high school. He developed his own style to connect with kids. He began by asking each of them what they like to do. Once he learned what a child liked, he began building lesson plans around it.

In 2009, Thiebaut began a nonprofit in East Palo Alto, aiming to make a positive difference in his community. Although the crime rate has improved since Thiebaut's drug dealing days, statistics still show that the student poverty level in East Palo Alto is nearly 100 percent. Thiebaut's organization states that a majority of the students in the Ravenswood School District start kindergarten unprepared.

Now 10 Books a Home operates out of a tiny pink house on a residential street. Inside, Thiebaut keeps dozens of puzzles, games and just about any other learning tool you can imagine. He turned the garage into a children's library full of books, and when a child joins, he or she gets a personalized book case stocked with 10 books, a number that will grow as the child goes deeper into the program.

"I see these parents, I see these children, they are so capable, and they get written off," Thiebaut said. "Just because of geography and the biases and stereotypes that we have built up to associate with those kinds of communities. So when I walk in, it actually taught me that everywhere is East Palo Alto, in a sense. I want to see these kids prove the world wrong, and not because I want anyone to stick a tongue out but because I think that if they can prove the world wrong, the world will realize it can be a much better place."

Each child who joins 10 Books a Home receives one-on-one tutoring every week for two years from a group of volunteers. As part of the process, parents are asked to participate in every session.



At the heart of the program is what Thiebaut calls the "ILM" (Intrinsic Learning Motivation) method. In simple terms, each tutor is trained to talk to the child and the child's parents, find out what he or she likes and use that as a springboard for learning.

Thiebaut has homed in on working with preschool children, a nod to the 30 million-word gap and the importance of ensuring that children from lower-income families begin school with at least the same reading level as their peers, as well as a more diverse and expansive vocabulary.

"I was 23 when I woke up," Thiebaut said. "These kids are 3, and I'm like, 'Yeah, don't wait 20 years. Let's start now.' There's no 3-year-old gangster, there's no 3-year-old bully, there's no 3-year-old drug dealer. None of that. At 3, anything and everything is possible."

Designed by Terrell Nievera, these cleats will be worn by Solomon Thomas during the Niners' Week 13 game on Sunday at Chicago. San Francisco 49ers  
The cleats

After Thomas identified 10 Books a Home as his cause, the Niners reached out to Thiebaut. It took Thiebaut all of five seconds to agree and let the team know he had the perfect candidate to meet with Thomas at the team's introductory event.

On Oct. 24, the Niners hosted a handful of their players and representatives from each of their causes. It served as a brainstorming session for the players and the various organizations to come up with designs for their cleats.

It was there at Levi's Stadium that Thomas first met Danny Arrellin, 4, and his mother, Lucia Ledezma. Danny made an immediate impression on Thomas with his energy and enthusiasm, regularly taking off in a dead sprint and making Thomas chase after him like he does a quarterback on Sunday.

Eventually, the two bonded and began dreaming up ideas for the cleats. Danny, who is autistic, began drawing a variety of colors on the cleats, and Thiebaut shared Danny's love for trains as well as numbers and letters as additional inspiration.

"Danny is awesome," Thomas said. "He is energetic, and he's just a kid who is always learning and looks like he's loving life and having a good time. He's a great motivation for me and a great kid to be around."

From there, shoe designer Terrell Nievera was tasked with painting rainbow-colored cleats with numbers, letters and perhaps even a train. The finished product includes the 10 Books a Home slogan ("We don't close achievement gaps. We prevent them") and its logo.

Danny and Thomas reconnected Tuesday night for the unveiling of the cleats, and Danny helped Thomas open the gift-wrapped box of shoes.

"I thought this was the perfect way to start diving into what I'm passionate about, what I care about and what I want to get involved with in the future," Thomas said.

### Big plans ahead

At Stanford, Thomas attended a few speeches delivered by former U.S. Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice. Each time, Rice emphasized the importance of making a difference in your home community. For her, that meant East Palo Alto. For Thomas, who still calls the area home as a 49er, it does as well.

In his first offseason, Thomas hopes to visit 10 Books a Home and volunteer to tutor and share his story. He also hopes to use what he learns from 10 Books a Home to help establish his own foundation focused on childhood education.

"I want to help with getting books in homes, getting kids to realize at a young age that education is important and that they really should find a way to make sure that that's their No. 1 priority instead of



other things around them," Thomas said. "The goal is to try to get it to where it's as important to them as it was to me."

Thiebaut, meanwhile, is planning expansion to East San Jose in 2018, and Danny has already made such positive progress in his first year in the program that Thiebaut is excited to see what Year 2 will bring. Likewise, he adds that all four cohorts to go through the two-year program are currently performing at or above grade level. Those big plans are all at least a little way down the road but not so far that the wheels aren't already in motion.

"I'm in this community, and it's a place I can go and do physical work as well and not just get the name out there," Thomas said. "I can go back in the offseason and go work with kids and be part of this program and see what this organization is doing and put some of it into my own and make my own someday."

As Thomas is quick to point out, there's plenty of work to be done. But the chance to create awareness for an organization such as 10 Books a Home is a good place to begin taking one rainbow-colored step in the right direction.



## Laken Tomlinson

### **Guard Laken Tomlinson, a bust with Lions, finds success with 49ers**

By Eric Branch  
San Francisco Chronicle  
July 30, 2018

Last year, the 49ers traded for an offensive player who performed so well after learning the playbook on the fly that they handed him a hefty contract extension in the offseason.

No, this isn't another story about Jimmy Garoppolo.

Instead, it's about left guard Laken Tomlinson, 26, who might be the answer to this question: Whom did the 49ers acquire in their second-best trade of 2017?

In late August, 11 days before the season opener, the 49ers dealt a 2019 fifth-round pick to the Lions for Tomlinson, a 2015 first-round selection who had become a second-stringer in Detroit.

And the presumed bust blossomed in his new surroundings.

Last year, Tomlinson started 15 games, many while still digesting head coach Kyle Shanahan's complex playbook, and the 49ers' assessment of his performance became clear in June: They signed him to a three-year, \$18 million extension which includes the 11th-most guaranteed money (\$10 million) on the team.

"For Laken to improve that much throughout the year as an O-lineman in a totally different scheme than he's ever done was very encouraging to us," Shanahan said. "We saw the same thing throughout the offseason. ... That's why we were extremely excited to get him locked up here for a little bit before we got started."

The trade for Tomlinson didn't register as impactful at the time, but in retrospect, it was Shanahan's first significant step in overhauling the offensive line he inherited last year.

Shanahan seeks movement skills in offensive linemen, who are often tasked with running in his zone-blocking scheme. And this offseason, the 49ers traded two starters — center Daniel Kilgore and right tackle Trent Brown — and replaced them with more agile players in free-agent center Weston Richburg and rookie right tackle Mike McGlinchey.

The 49ers signed Richburg to a five-year deal with \$16.5 million fully guaranteed and spent the No. 9 pick on McGlinchey. And their offseason investment in Tomlinson suggests Shanahan gambled and won when he guessed Tomlinson was well-suited for his scheme despite having little hard evidence.

Before joining the 49ers, Tomlinson, 6-foot-3 and 312 pounds, had played in power-based schemes at Duke and Detroit. Shanahan, who said he studied Tomlinson closely before the 2015 draft as the Falcons' offensive coordinator, thought Tomlinson could "open up and run."

"That's stuff you couldn't really see (because) he didn't do it much in college," Shanahan said. "He didn't do in much in Detroit. But it's fit him well here. It takes guys a while to learn how to play a certain way that they've never done before. And that's what was so impressive about him."

The 49ers weren't relying solely on Shanahan. They also leaned on 49ers personnel executive Martin Mayhew, who drafted Tomlinson when he was the Lions' general manager.

Mayhew provided more personal background on Tomlinson, who was a double major at Duke (psychology, evolutionary anthropology) and four-time All-Academic ACC pick. Tomlinson is also



obviously a quick study when it comes to NFL playbooks, but he insists he's not close to being the smartest person in his family: His wife, Rachel, was also a double major (biology, psychology) at Duke and is pursuing a Ph.D. in clinical psychology at the University of Michigan.

Tomlinson credits his wife for supporting him through an NFL career that included two trying seasons with the Lions. In 2016, Tomlinson lost his starting job at left guard to Graham Glasgow, a rookie third-round pick, after five weeks, but he still started 10 games because of injuries to other linemen. Last year, he didn't start any of the first three preseason games before he was traded.

His tenure in Detroit is not a subject on which Tomlinson wishes to linger.

"I mean, it was a learning experience," Tomlinson said, "but I love it here."

Was it dispiriting? "It's a part of the game," he said. "That's what you sign up for. I definitely learned a lot when I was there."

Given his backup status in Detroit, Tomlinson viewed the trade to the 49ers as an opportunity to show why he was a No. 28 overall draft pick. However, he didn't prove much initially: His head was swimming when he started the second regular-season game at Seattle, and he relied on his on-field neighbor, left tackle Joe Staley, to help fill in the blanks for a few weeks.

"It wasn't perfect at first, but I kept working and working," Tomlinson said. "... In Week 2, I was still learning and (by) Week 17, when I could actually go out there and be confident in myself, it definitely felt different. And that confidence goes a long way."

Indeed, it has helped Tomlinson travel quite a distance — from presumed bust to big-money starter — in less than year.



### Jeff Wilson Jr.

#### **A tractor tire and some cement weights: How country-strong Jeff Wilson worked his way to the 49ers**

By Matt Barrows  
The Athletic  
December 6, 2018

There were no fancy gym memberships where Jeff Wilson Jr. grew up in East Texas. No personal trainers. No private coaches.

All he had was a tractor tire, a stone-age weight set and a dad with a stopwatch. And that was plenty.

“We’d go old school,” said Wilson, the 49ers’ latest undrafted revelation at running back. “We’d just hook up a tractor tire to a rope in the front yard, man, put a little loop around it and now I’m running with the tire. That was kind of like our little sled. And that’s why I love the country, man. There’s a lot of things you can do with a lot of different things. You can have fun with it.”

Wilson moved to tiny Elkhart, Texas — population, 1,329 — to stay with his father, Jeff Sr., when he was 13. He had been living with his mother in Dallas, which is about a two-hour drive to the northwest. But his mother, her ex-husband and her son all felt that if he truly was serious about football, living with dad, a former running back, was the best decision.

They were right.

The father didn’t make it easy on the son, the second youngest of six kids. Dad made him get up early, run long distances, catch passes at point-blank range and be able to recite the various gaps in the line of scrimmage like they were his ABCs.

“It would be, ‘Alright, let’s go work,’” Jeff Jr. recalled this week.

“No, dad, I’m tired.

“I don’t want to hear it. Let’s go!”

One of their rituals began with Jeff Jr. piling into senior’s 2005 GMC Yukon. The two would drive to Crockett Road in town, the part where the two-lane highway begins a steep incline. Jeff Jr. would get out at the bottom of the hill; Jeff Sr. continued driving another 200 meters or so to the top where he’d put the SUV in park and get out with stopwatch in hand.

Then he’d give a sharp whistle, the signal for his son to start sprinting up the side of the road.

“He’d run as hard as he could to get his body stronger, his legs stronger, his endurance stronger, make him be a stronger athlete,” Jeff Sr. said in a recent phone interview. “It’s easy to work with someone who wants to do it, you know? There’s a big difference with someone who doesn’t fight it, who wants to do it, who wants to get better.”

Jeff Jr. stood out in basketball and track at Elkhart High. But football was in his DNA from birth. His father had been a running back at the University of Texas-Arlington before the program was eliminated following the 1985 season.

“I used to hear the stories around town about how good he was and how strong he used to run and how powerful he used to be,” Jeff Jr. said. “And I just always put like a little thing in the back of my mind, like, ‘What is my goal? What is my purpose?’ And that became my purpose and my goal: to make everybody in my town say I was better than him. That’s what drove me.”



Wilson also had a famous neighbor for inspiration.

Adrian Peterson played football at Palestine High, about 18 miles away. The Wilsons have extended family there, they know Peterson, and their Friday night ritual was to pile the kids into the car and head to the high school stadium. They wouldn't buy tickets and go in — "We had all six (kids), so we'd just sit on the outside," Jeff Sr. said with a chuckle — but instead sat on the aluminum fence that rings the field and watch from there.

The players, including Peterson, would file past that fence on their way to the locker room and Jeff Jr. remembers shaking hands and slapping five with the players as they went by. The sounds, the bright lights, the smell of wet grass, the glory and adulation — all of it found its way into Jeff Jr.'s bloodstream.

"Me, my brothers, my dad, my uncles — everyone — we just hung around that fence and watched them play," he said. "We went to every home game. I feel like watching (Peterson) gave me a different kind of motivation as well. Because I used to watch him play. And I was like, 'Man, I want to feel what he's feeling. I want people to cheer for me like that.' He did a great thing for the game."

Years later, when Peterson had just begun his NFL career with the Minnesota Vikings, Wilson won a competition to take part in Peterson's football camp at the University of Oklahoma. Peterson's father picked up the boys who had earned invites and drove them to the Norman campus for the camp.

Now, Wilson, 23, is in the same league as Peterson, 33, who currently plays for Washington. Wilson actually out-gained the seven-time Pro Bowler in total yards from scrimmage this past week, 134 to 98.

It wasn't an easy arrival into the NFL for Wilson. After rushing for 3,205 yards at North Texas, Wilson figured to be at least a late-round pick in the 2018 draft. A foot injury at the end of his senior season, however, meant he had to watch from the sideline at the Scouting Combine while the other running backs showed off their skills. When North Texas held its pro day a month later, Wilson took part but felt like he flopped. His injury meant he had little time to prepare and he worried he had squandered all the hard work he and his father had done on the roads of Elkhart.

He cried when the workout was over.

"It was, 'Man, I probably just really hurt myself. I probably just X'ed myself out,'" he recalled. "And that's why I got a little emotional. Because I felt I kind of ruined everything, so to speak."

As he feared, Wilson fell out of the draft altogether. But being an undrafted free agent gave him some control over where he would end up. Throughout the draft process he was drawn to 49ers running backs coach Bobby Turner, who has a decades-long reputation for championing underdog running backs.

Turner had done so a year earlier with Matt Breida, who has developed into the 49ers' leading rusher this season. When Breida aggravated an ankle injury before Sunday's game in Seattle, Wilson filled in and delivered one of the team's most momentous plays, one in which he knocked Seahawks safety Tedric Thompson backward three yards as he picked up a first down early in the second quarter.

The 49ers offense had been sputtering until that point and the team ultimately was blown out in the contest. But the offense showed an element of fight that had been missing in previous trips to Seattle, and everyone agreed Wilson's thunderous hit provided the spark.

"I felt that kind of loosened everyone up a little bit," Kyle Shanahan said.

Said quarterback Nick Mullens: "I think the one play where he ran over that guy really brought a lot of juice to the whole team."

Wilson has a tall, slim frame that stands out in a league full of short, compact running backs and he's always had trouble putting on weight. He currently weighs a little more than 200 pounds.



But he runs with the power of a much bigger back, something his similarly built father taught him to do by stressing how to run with the right kind of bend and how to deliver blows with his shoulder. Jeff Sr. even built a makeshift weight room in their house to help his son get stronger.

When his little sister moved out to live with her mom, they converted her bedroom into the family gym.

“We had the cement weights,” Jeff Jr. said with a laugh. “It was basically a rock. If you dropped it on the ground, it would crack. We didn’t have a lot of big weights, so we would have, like, three or four 25s on the bar and two to four 10s. We used to make up stuff. That was the beauty of it.”

Jeff Jr. said he always was driven to surpass his father and he realizes he’s done that by making it into the NFL. But he also knows the same man he tried so hard to outdo is the one he must thank.

“He used to make me work out. He used to make me run,” Jeff Jr. said. “He used to make me do a lot of stuff that I really didn’t want to do. In a weird way, though, he made me love it. I feel like that’s what got me in this position. He embedded that in me. I didn’t want to do it. But over time I slowly just started to want to do it. And it reached a point where he didn’t have to tell me.”



## Ahkello Witherspoon

### **Muscled-up Ahkello Witherspoon aims to establish himself at cornerback**

By David Lombardi  
The Athletic  
October 25, 2017

It happened at the goal line in early August, during Ahkello Witherspoon's third training camp practice in the NFL.

The 49ers were running a goal line team drill, but they weren't in a live tackling period — meaning that defenders weren't allowed to take ballcarriers to the ground.

So, Witherspoon eased up after Carlos Hyde barreled through the line of scrimmage. He figured the play was wrapping up.

But easing up around the goal line during any part of training camp is tantamount to a toddler touching a stove, and the rookie learned a painful NFL lesson.

Hyde didn't slow down. He galloped onward and leveled Witherspoon.

"He ran a bit further than I was prepared to go," Witherspoon said, downplaying the collision when recalling it last week. "That was it."

But later in the same conversation, Witherspoon did acknowledge that the incident showed him that the rules of physicality are different at the NFL level, and that the moment accelerated his drive to master that part of the game.

Along with Chidobe Awuzie and Tedric Thompson — who now play for the Cowboys and Seahawks — Witherspoon formed one of college football's best secondaries at Colorado last year. The Buffaloes actually allowed the fewest yards per pass attempt in the nation in the 2016 regular season.

But Witherspoon's lankiness, which led to struggles in run support, fueled his detractors. At 6-foot-3, he's tall for a cornerback, and he came out of college thin. The 49ers are asking Witherspoon to eventually emulate Seattle's Richard Sherman — who packs the same height at the position — but that wasn't a plausible model until Witherspoon put on weight.

He has.

Witherspoon said he's added seven pounds of muscle — he now weighs 197 pounds — and that figure may even seem conservative to the naked eye.

"He looks huge on film," defensive coordinator Robert Saleh said. "He's gotten bigger, and he's turning into a man."

Witherspoon notched his first two tackles 10 days ago in Washington, showcasing the low, driving form that 49ers secondary coach Jeff Hafley has been preaching to him this offseason.

"It's a lot easier to tackle when you come in with a plan," Witherspoon said. "In college, I think I was taught generically. Technique didn't really apply to me specifically. Face up, chest out, and wrap up. I mean, that's never going to happen with me. I'm never going to hit a running back square up.

"Here, they teach techniques that can apply to you individually, that apply to different body types."

As the lead cornerback for the 49ers' scout team, Witherspoon has recently employed his new know-how against notoriously physical receiver Pierre Garçon in practice.

"That's really where I've gotten better the last four weeks," Witherspoon said.



It's been baptism-by-fire, as the 211-pound Garçon is particularly unforgiving against players lighter than him.

"He's unique in that he runs like a running back after the catch," Witherspoon said. "He's the one initiating contact. So just take out his thighs — don't even mess with him when he's doing all that head-butting — he can't run without his legs."

Saleh approved of the practice results enough to create a game-day cornerback rotation and thrust Witherspoon into it with Rashard Robinson and Dontae Johnson. The 49ers' Cover 3 scheme, which puts eight men in the box, needs more muscle to lock up receivers on the perimeter, so Witherspoon's chance to assert himself is now.

That became doubly apparent when Robinson committed his fourth pass interference penalty, the most of any player in the NFL, while surrendering a critical third-down conversion on Sunday.

This stronger version of Witherspoon, of course, is nowhere near a finished product. The rookie third-round pick has played 34 and 35 snaps, respectively, over the past two weeks, and he is still looking for his first pass breakup.

And Sunday's matchup against Dez Bryant, one of the best receivers in the NFL, was yet another trial-by-fire experience. Bryant beat Witherspoon for two catches, but the coverage wasn't bad on either of them.

In fact, Witherspoon thought he had an interception on Bryant's second reception, when he correctly read the receiver's fake out and broke on Dak Prescott's slant pass.

"I just didn't drive through him hard enough," Witherspoon said.

Bryant out-muscled him for the catch. It was another teaching moment for the rookie, who's had plenty of them since becoming a professional — but none more physically painful than Hyde's railroading almost three months ago.

Extra point: On Monday, Kyle Shanahan hinted that the 49ers might re-sign veteran cornerback Leon Hall so that they can keep Jimmie Ward at free safety while nickelback K'Waun Williams is hurt.

On Tuesday, the 49ers did just that, inking Hall after cutting him last week. They also signed defensive lineman Datone Jones, a first-round pick in the 2013 draft.

The 49ers released defensive lineman Xavier Cooper and tight end Logan Paulsen — who had already been cut last week only to be re-signed before Sunday's game — to make it work.

With George Kittle and Garrett Celek getting the tight end work, Paulsen seems to be an odd man out, especially since he's not the designated lead blocker when fullback Kyle Juszczyk is healthy.