Free Agency

Additions

· Weston Richburg (C, NYG) – A fifth year veteran, Richburg was a surprising sign to a team that had just re-signed their starting center, Daniel Kilgore, to a three-year $12 million extension. Before last season, when he was placed on IR for a concussion, Richburg has been an average to above average center when healthy. He signed a five-year $47.5 million contact on March 14. Richburg is our starting center for 2018, and should prove to be an improvement over Kilgore

· Johnathon Cooper (G, DAL) – An oft-injured guard, Cooper has played in 42 games since his rookie year in 2013, out of a possible 80. He signed a one-year $4.95 million contract on March 20, expected to compete with Josh Garnett, a first round pick from 2016, for right guard.

· Jerick McKinnon (RB, MIN) – After four years of playing backup, first to Adrian Peterson, then to Dalvin Cook, McKinnon signed a four-year, $30 million contract with the Niners, making him the fourth-highest paid running back in the league. This may seem excessive for a RB with 14 career starts and 3.6 yards per carry over the past two years, but McKinnon is valuable in the passing game, top 20 in yards per route run among RBs in 2017, and more than capable in pass protection. This all fits into Shanahan's scheme, using quick, athletic players (McKinnon had an overall SPARQ score of 155.7, in the 100th percentile) who can contribute in the run and pass game.

· Richard Sherman (CB, SEA) – In perhaps the most difficult offseason move to accept for 49ers fans, Richard Sherman, who tormented the 49ers as part of the Legion of Boom for years, signed a three-year, $39 million contract just a single day after being released by the Seahawks. After undergoing two Achilles surgeries this offseason, Sherman may not be the same dominant player he was in Seattle, but should still be an improvement over the likes of Dontae Johnson or Rashard Robinson, but "Uncle Sherm" has taken a very young DB room under his wing and was on field coaching when he wasn't medically cleared to practice. I still can't stress enough how weird it is seeing him in the red and gold, but he seems to be nothing but a positive force for this team.

· Korey Toomer (LB, LAC) – Toomer will likely serve as a backup and rotational player, with a slim possibility to start while Reuben Foster serves his suspension, but has played under a similar defensive scheme before, and has seen an uptick in production over the past couple years. He signed a one-year, $790,000 contract, and as such, would not have a significant cap impact in the event that he was released.

· Jerry Attaochu (DE/OLB, LAC) – Attaochu could be a valuable addition to a pass rush if he can return to his pre-injury play from 2015, when he had 55.0 tackles and 6.0 sacks before a series of lower leg injuries in 2016. In 2017, he was a healthy scratch for 12 games, which is concerning, though the Pro Bowler pair Joey Bosa and Melvin Ingram is a difficult duo to surpass, and as they both played all 16 games last year, Attaochu was not particularly required. The front office has spoken highly of him, though with a one-year, $2.8 million contract, it would be easy to move on next year if he doesn't play well.

Departures

· Carlos Hyde (RB, Browns)

- Aaron Lynch (OLB, Bears)
- Brandon Fusco (G, Falcons)
- Tank Carradine (DE, Raiders)
- Logan Paulsen (TE, Falcons)
- Leon Hall (CB, Raiders)
- Eric Reid (S, FA)
- Asa Jackson (CB, FA)
- Dontae Johnson (CB, FA)
- Antone Exum (S, FA)
- Elvis Dumervil (DE, FA)
- Chris Jones (DT, FA)
- Leger Douzable (DT, FA)
- Tim Barnes (C, FA)
- Louis Murphy (WR, FA)

Over the past two years, the Niners organization has almost entirely replaced the roster. Of the 53 man roster in 2016, only 10 are still with the team, in not only changing scheme but also changing the culture of the team.
Significant Departures:
Carlos Hyde – not a scheme fit
Eric Reid – too expensive for someone who would probably be a backup
Elvis Dumervil – team leader in sacks last year, but the front office wants youth

THE DRAFT

Rd 1.09: Mike McGlinchey (OT, Notre Dame)

Grade: B

The best tackle in the draft, McGlinchey originally seemed like a reach and an unnecessary pick. People questioned using a top 10 pick on a tackle until the Raiders traded back from 10 and took OT Kolton Miller with the 15th overall pick, indicating that they were interested in McGlinchey with their original 10th pick. The day after drafting McGlinchey, the team announced that they had traded OT Trent Brown to New England for a third round pick. McGlinchey has fit in well in the locker room, in particular hitting it off with veteran LT Joe Staley.

Rd 2.59: Dante Pettis (WR, Washington)

Grade: B

In the second round, the Niners traded up to the 59th overall to select Dante Pettis, the NCAA all-time kick return touchdown leader, with nine over his career. An electric playmaker in the return game, Pettis will be valuable at any receiver position, though his size is most that of a slot receiver. Will likely begin the season as our punt returner and possibly kick returner, jumpstarting a return game that could be subpar at times last season.

Rd 3.70: Fred Warner (LB, BYU)

Grade: B+

Fred Warner joins the linebacking room backing up Reuben Foster and Malcolm Smith, but after a bit on the bench, could take up snaps at either MIKE or WILL, and in time replace Malcolm Smith as the starting WILL.

Rd 3.95: Tarvarius Moore (DB, Southern Mississippi)

Grade: B+

A very physical player, Tarvarius Moore played safety in college, but will likely switch to cornerback in the pros. He was not invited to the Combine, but still attracted national attention when he ran a 4.32 40 at his pro day. Although not a day 1 starter, he has tremendous upside, and joins a young defensive back room.

Rd 4.128: Kentavius Street (DE, NC State)

Grade: C

I don't quite understand this pick. Street was talked about as a late-third rounder or a fourth-rounder in the pre-draft process, up until he tore his ACL in a private workout with the New York Giants. He is a physical defender in the run game, but is not a great pass rusher, which is what it seems the team was missing the most last year.

Rd 5.142: DJ Reed (CB, Kansas State)

Grade: B-

Reed appears to be mostly a depth pick here, though he is also a very skilled returner, and could see some time as slot corner, though his size (5'9") would make it difficult for him to defend outside receivers.

Rd 6.184: Marcell Harris (S, Florida)

Grade: C+

Harris missed the 2017 season with an Achilles injury, but when healthy was a hard-hitting safety with decent special teams play.

Rd 7.223: Jullian Taylor (DT, Temple)

Grade: B-

Taylor is a pure upside pick. He is undersized, but has the athleticism to get off a block and push his way to the ball carrier at the college level. Probably won't make the team, but could be developmental on the practice squad.

Rd 7.240: Richie James (WR, Middle Tennessee State)

Grade: B

Another shifty receiver, James is most fitted to play slot, which isn't exactly a need for the Niners. Unlikely to make the 53-man.

Overall grade: B

The team appears to be confident in the edge rushers we currently have (in particular they've spoken highly of Cassius Marsh and Jeremiah Attaochu), as they did not draft a pure edge rusher. Instead, they made protecting Jimmy G their top priority, then bolstering the secondary. However, based on last years success, particularly in the later rounds (with George Kittle, Trent Taylor, and Adrian Colbert selected in the fifth round or later and outplaying their pedigree), I'm content to wait and see how this draft when turn out once the season starts.