

NFL

# Sherman says move from Seahawks to 49ers adds fuel to his fire

By JOSH DUBOW  
Associated Press



Sherman

ALAMEDA, Calif. — Richard Sherman spent seven years tormenting the San Francisco 49ers with his lockdown coverage, colorful trash talk and celebratory turkey eating at midfield.

Now he has decided to join the enemy, signing a three-year contract with the 49ers almost immediately after being let go by the Seattle Seahawks last Friday.

"It's a little odd to put on a different jersey. I'm sure it will take some getting used to for me," Sherman said Monday. "I've spent a lot of time wearing a red jersey in the Bay so I'm sure I'll be able to figure it out."

The former Stanford star has returned to the Bay Area since he wanted to stay on the West Coast to be close to his parents in Los Angeles and his soon-to-be wife's family in Seattle.

Getting the chance to stay in the NFC West and play the Seahawks twice each year was an added bonus.

"It definitely had a part of it," he said. "I'd love to get to play in that stadium again in different colors. I'm going to try my best to ruin their day. I do want a chance to show what I can do out there."

Sherman, who turns 30 later this month, is coming off an Achilles tendon injury that cost him half of the 2017 season. Sherman also had a cleanup surgery on his opposite ankle during the offseason. That led to Seattle's decision that he wasn't worth his \$13 million salary for 2018.

Sherman became a star in Seattle, bringing a brash attitude and willingness to speak out on any topic to go along with his stellar play. His best seasons came in 2013 and 2014 when Seattle made two Super Bowl appearances.

Sherman still was one of the better cornerbacks the past three

seasons, ranking second in the NFL by allowing just 49.2 percent of passes against him to be caught, according to Pro Football Focus.

Getting cut only adds fuel to Sherman.

"It kind of reignited that gasoline fire that I always had burning," he said. "It just threw a lot more gas on it and I appreciate that and I'm thankful for this motivation and inspiration. I have a lot of people to show. I'm excited about those prospects."

That fire was always evident against the 49ers, most notably when he went on a postgame interview tirade after sealing the NFC championship in January 2014 by deflecting a pass that turned a potential game-winning touchdown for the 49ers into an interception for the Seahawks.

The following season Sherman celebrated a Thanksgiving night win at Levi's Stadium by eating a turkey leg at midfield, although he said that was prompted by NBC producers who told him to "eat the turkey" during the interview.

"You're excited after the game. You're winning. We weren't thinking anything else honestly. We were just enjoying the moment," he said. "We played pretty well that game. I honestly didn't think it was disrespectful. But people can take it any way they want to."

Sherman, who negotiated his own contract, described the few days after being released by Seattle as "chaos." He was at the NFLPA meetings in Las Vegas when the Seahawks gave him the news and he heard from 49ers GM John Lynch and coach Kyle Shanahan almost as soon as the transaction hit the waiver wire.

Sherman then flew to the Bay Area, where he had dinner with Shanahan on Friday night and met with defensive coordinator Robert Saleh, a former assistant in Seattle.

He underwent medical tests Saturday before going to the 49ers facility for five hours of negotiations. After coming to an agreement, Sherman called Seahawks general manager John Schneider to give him a chance to match. Schneider declined but told him it was a solid

deal, although he might want to tinker with the roster bonuses.

Sherman also called the Raiders and Lions to tell them he had made his decision and then signed the deal.

"Neither side wanted to walk away without a deal because we felt like there was a great relationship and great understanding and something both sides could benefit from," he said. "We came to an agreement and it was awesome."

Pro Football Talk reported that Sherman will get a \$3 million signing bonus, a \$2 million roster bonus if he passes a physical the first day of training camp and a \$2 million salary for 2018. He also has \$2 million in per-game roster bonuses, a \$1 million bonus if he plays 90 percent of the defensive snaps, a \$1 million incentive for making the Pro Bowl, and \$2 million for being an AP All-Pro.

He has a \$7 million base salary in the final two years of the deal, which goes to \$8 million if he makes the Pro Bowl the previous year. He also has per-game roster bonuses, playing time incentives.

# TIGERS: Three pitchers combine to throw no-hitter in victory

Continued from 1B

Stanfield (1-0) scored all of their runs in the second and fifth innings, using a mix of patience at the plate and aggressiveness on the base paths. The Tigers had only four hits for the game, but worked 10 walks, four hit-by-pitches and stole six bases.

Eight of the 12 runs came in the second inning when the Tigers sent 14 batters to the plate and worked through three different Bruins pitchers. Justin Keeney gave the Tigers their first lead at 2-1 with an RBI single up the middle and TJ Smith made it a 5-1 game with a two-RBI single that skipped past the third baseman.

Later in the inning, Damien Curiel — who finished 2 for 2 with two runs, three RBI, three stolen bases and two walks — busted it open to a 7-1 lead when he flipped a single into shallow right-center field that brought in a pair of runs. Makiah Blankenship's sacrifice fly brought home Shayne Keltz to close the scoring in the inning.

After going down quietly in the third and fourth innings, the Tigers got some offense going following an error on White Salmon to get Keeney on base. That brought up Brody Woods, Keltz and Curiel, all of whom worked walks to bring in one run and load the bases with two outs with a 8-1 lead.

Blankenship appeared to end the inning with a grounder to shortstop, but the throw short-hopped the first baseman and allowed Woods to score and Keltz and Curiel, too, after the throw to home got by the catcher to seal the victory.

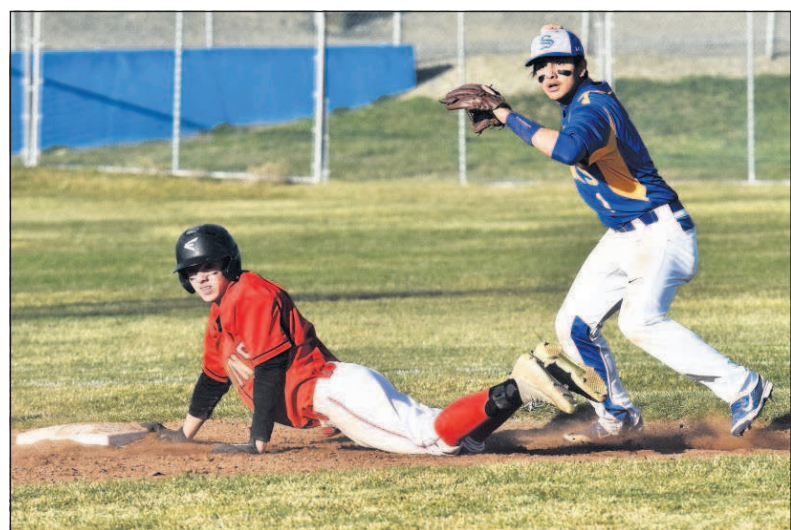
"This feels great," Rogers said of the victory. "I was just looking for us to come out and compete, and get better and have fun."

Stanfield's pitchers had a solid days' work on the mound, as Woods, Smith and Curiel combined to no-hit the Bruins.

Woods, Stanfield's lone returning pitcher with major varsity experience, got the start and allowed one run, struck out four and walked three in two innings. He struggled to command his fastball in the first inning, walking the first three batters of the game to load the bases. However, he induced an easy



Stanfield's Justin Keeney scores on a T.J. Smith single in the second inning of the Tigers' 12-2 win against White Salmon on Monday in Stanfield.



Stanfield's Damien Curiel looks to throw home after tagging White Salmon's Davis Koester out at second base in the Tigers' 21-2 win against the Bruins on Monday in Stanfield.

groundout and notched two strikeouts with his curveball to escape with only one run allowed.

He came back in the second inning locked in, breezing through a 1-2-3 inning with two strikeouts and a flyout on only 15 pitches.

"He's got that toughness," Rogers said of Woods. "To be honest, we're going to tell him he was coming out after the first with 30-ish pitches, but he said 'I want to go another (inning).' So we gave him another inning and he

came back and proved himself. "Kind of a slow start, but first game of the season, you're going to have some of that."

**ROGERS HAPPY TO BEAT ALMA MATER:** Aside from being the season opener of his second year as the varsity baseball coach at Stanfield, Monday's win also had a special meaning to Rogers on a personal level. Rogers is an alumnus of Columbia High School, and the current Bruins team featured several kids that are the children of Rogers' high school friends.

"That was pretty neat to see," Rogers said.

**UP NEXT**  
Stanfield travels north to take on Tri-Cities Prep for a doubleheader on Saturday beginning at 11 a.m.

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COLUMBIA — S. McMahon, J. Musgrove (2), D. Raether (2) and T. Webster. STANFIELD — B. Woods, T. Smith (3), D. Curiel (4) and A. Renner. W — B. Woods, L — S. McMahon.

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Prep Roundup

# Mac-Hi baseball gets walk-off win over Elgin in opener

East Oregonian

MILTON-FREEWATER — The Mac-Hi Pioneers rallied for three runs in the bottom of the seventh inning to defeat the Elgin Huskies

in the two teams' 2018 season opener on Monday afternoon.

Mac-Hi (1-0) trailed 5-3 heading into its last at-bat, but Jesus Vela and Eric Rencken both drew walks and Rudy Esparza

was hit by a pitch to load the bases with nobody out. An Elgin fielding error allowed Vela and Rencken to score to tie the game until Taylor Turner's bunt single brought home Rencken for the game-winning run.

Rencken also helped open the scoring on Monday, as his RBI single in the first inning gave the Pioneers a 2-0 lead. Mac-Hi pushed across its first run when Anthony Hardesty scored on a wild pitch.

Rencken had a solid day at the plate with two hits, one run and one RBI. Devon Cothey struck out seven Huskies (0-1) and allowed three hits and three runs in 4 2/3 innings to earn the win for the Pioneers.

**UP NEXT**  
Mac-Hi plays at Weston-McEwen on Thursday at 3:30 p.m.

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			200010	3	—	6 6 0

(EHS) C. Lathrop, J. Lathrop (3), B. Howes (6). (IM-H) M. Cunningham, D. Cothey (3), W — D. Cothey, L — B. Howes.

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