

DEAR ABBY

Write to Dear Abby online at [dearabby.com](http://dearabby.com)  
or by mail at P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069



**Dear Abby:** My 25-year-old son has been dating a girl for two or three months. She seems very nice. She has two children and is pregnant with her third child. She's due in three months. The child is not my son's.

I was told by some friends of my son that he's planning to sign the birth certificate as the father. He understands the implications. How do I convince him that this is a poor decision to make, especially because of the short length of time they have been dating?

— *Too Much, Too Soon*

**Dear Too Much, Too Soon:** Although it can be difficult to convince someone in the throes of new love, you and your son's friends should urge him to discuss this with a lawyer before signing ANYTHING. He needs input from someone who is not emotionally involved and can explain the legal ramifications of what he's considering.

Not all romances have storybook endings, but if this relationship leads to marriage in the future, he can always adopt or provide financially for the child if he wishes.

**Dear Abby:** My college-aged granddaughter is no longer speaking to me, answering my calls or allowing her other grandmother (who raised her) to post anything on Facebook where I can see what she's doing.

My granddaughter came to live with me last summer because she worked a summer job here. I asked her if she was gay, not because I think she is but as a prelude to a conversation about not allowing other girls to recruit her into a same-sex relationship as I saw in college and while teaching public school. Although I tried to explain, things have grown progressively worse.

My son and her mother married when she was 7 and divorced when she was 13. Over the years, I worked hard to develop and maintain a relationship with her. Now, she has told the other grandmother that she will never speak to me again. Was what I did so bad, and what should I do now?

— *Other Grandmother in North Carolina*

**Dear Other:** What you said wasn't "bad," but it was misinformed and heavy-handed. While same-sex relationships do happen in high school and college, young people don't usually indulge unless they are already at least bi-curious. Even then, straight people don't suddenly "turn gay."

Your granddaughter may still be trying to figure out her sexual orientation, which could be why she has reacted so strongly. If you are wise, you will allow her the time she needs to sort it out, rather than push or panic.

**Dear Abby:** My daughter and I have a wonderful relationship. But I am very upset because she listens in on the speaker phone to every conversation I have with my 11-year-old grandson. I really believe we should have privacy, and I think it's strange that she does this. Is she justified, since she knows I'm disturbed by speaker phones?

— *Concerned Nana in the East*

**Dear Concerned:** You wrote that you have a wonderful relationship with your daughter. Have you asked her why she feels monitoring your calls to your grandson is justified? From my perspective, her behavior may be hypervigilant, but whether it is justified isn't a question that someone who isn't familiar with your family dynamics can answer.

YOUR HOROSCOPE *By Madalyn Aslan*

Stars show the kind of day you'll have

★★★★★ DYNAMIC | ★★★★★ POSITIVE | ★★★ AVERAGE | ★★ SO-SO | ★ DIFFICULT

**HAPPY BIRTHDAY FOR WEDNESDAY, JAN. 20, 2021:** Intensely alive, improvisatory and kind, your resilience is all the stronger due to your good humor. This year, you stage a spectacular comeback, and it is extremely successful. Be patient, and it will do even better. If single, so free-wheeling are you that you're a better friend than a spouse. If attached, you share your hopes and dreams intimately, and it's a mutually generous bond. LIBRA enchants you.

**ARIES (March 21-April 19)**

★★★★★ Today should be especially happy and upbeat. You tend to act spontaneously, and business and pleasure combine gracefully. Pathways open to make life more comfortable and beautiful in many ways. Relationships stabilize. Tonight: A family member needs encouragement.

**TAURUS (April 20-May 20)**

★★★ Today finds you more introspective than usual. A dream brings insight. There is a strong focus on enhancing your public image and good name. Keep the importance of credibility in mind, and all will be well. Tonight: Enjoy a long herbal soak in the tub.

**GEMINI (May 21-June 20)**

★★★★★ Today introduces new and novel ideas as well as some intriguing and bright acquaintances. Travel and adventure will beckon. Your vitality and enthusiasm will be high. A controversial issue can be successfully addressed. Tonight: Easy, clever expression of ideas.

**CANCER (June 21-July 22)**

★★★ Expect some changes in your finances. Avoid risks. Seek bargains. If those around you are in need, offer advice and encouragement instead of financial resources. Make a game plan for your future work. Tonight: Reach out to fellow colleagues.

**LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)**

★★★★★ Problem solving and exchanging information are favored today. Meetings can be exceptionally productive. Attachments and relationships are in a state of transformation. Unexpected events are pending, perhaps an upcoming job change. Strong influences affect your sector of foreign places. Tonight: Especially memorable.

**VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)**

★★★ New long-term financial strategies are worth considering. A settlement could go your way. You'll feel pensive and ready for something fresh and novel. The ideas of others offer a shift in perspective. Tonight: Accents the value of cooperation and support.

**LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)**

★★★ A partner is unpredictable. Do not worry. Others voice positive thoughts and plans that impact you. Cooperate and examine opposing viewpoints. It's a good day for building relationships with friends and for expressing creative ideas. Tonight: Sorting it out with your partner.

**SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)**

★★★★ Old patterns are breaking. You might experience a sense of reinventing yourself. Dispel confusion with stronger light to work under. Getting organized is important as your daily agenda is busy. Others are more responsive to what you say. Tonight: Your social prospects brighten.

**SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)**

★★★ Passions are strong today. You may feel the need to right a wrong or to confront a problem. The past foreshadows the pattern of present events. Cultivate a creative outlet to focus your energy in a productive way. Tonight: A sense of déjà vu.

**CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)**

★★★ Today evokes sentiment and memories. This can involve contact with someone you knew long ago. A real estate transaction, home repair or decorating project needs your attention. Family members share their thoughts regarding the future. Listen closely to them. Tonight: Stay open.

**AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)**

★★★★ Today brings some restlessness. Double-check facts and instructions. Verify plans. There's a rushed quality prevailing. Much is happening simultaneously, yet you thrive on the fast pace. Tonight: Multitasking and examining new information affects your status quo.

**PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)**

★★★ Opportunities to add to your income are presented to you. Hone your salable job skills or learn a new trade to enhance your financial prospects. Shop for an item you've longed for. It will make you feel better. Tonight: Reach out to an elderly relative.

NFL

# 49ers aim for continuity with new coordinators

BY CHRIS BIDERMAN

The Sacramento Bee

SANTA CLARA, Calif. — The 49ers are aiming for continuity as they reshape their coaching staff this offseason now that some staffers are moving elsewhere.

San Francisco on Monday announced the expected promotions of linebackers coach DeMeco Ryans to defensive coordinator and run-game specialist Mike McDaniell to offensive coordinator.

The moves came in light of former defensive coordinator Robert Saleh taking the head coaching job with the New York Jets last week and bringing with him pass-game coordinator Mike LaFleur as his offensive coordinator.

According to an NFL Media report, the Jets are also tapping 49ers offensive line coach John Benton to join Saleh's staff as an O-line coach and run-game coordinator.

That would leave Chris Foerster to oversee San Francisco's offensive line after working as an assistant last season and a consultant the previous two seasons. Foerster has a close relationship with left tackle Trent Williams, who is the team's most important and high-profile free agent this spring.

The 49ers are also bringing back Rich Scangarello to the offensive staff, per the report. Scangarello served as the quarterbacks coach in 2017, helping integrate Jimmy Garoppolo into the system following the midseason trade from the Patriots and going 5-0 as the starter.

Scangarello took an offensive coordinator job in Denver in 2018 and worked as a senior offensive assistant with the Eagles the next season. The team is still hashing out the structure of the offensive staff, which could include current quarterbacks coach Shane Day in an expanded role filling the void left by LaFleur.

McDaniell, 37, joined the 49ers in 2017 under head coach Kyle Shanahan after working with him previously with Houston, Washington, Cleveland and Atlanta. He's regarded as one of the best offensive assistants in the NFL and was linked to other offensive coordinator openings this winter. But he elected to stick with Shanahan, one of his closest confidants and supporters.



AP

New 49ers offensive coordinator Mike McDaniell.

McDaniell dealt with alcohol-related issues in the past, which led to spending roughly three weeks at an in-patient treatment facility during his stint with the Falcons.

"Everyone's always said the same thing about me: how talented I am, how smart I am — 'but,'" McDaniell told The USA TODAY leading up to Super Bowl LI after the 2016 season. "And I wanted to figure out why I kept sabotaging myself and what I was missing."

McDaniell credited support from coaches and the front office in Atlanta for getting him on the right track.

"I didn't learn until I stopped drinking that people actually like me better when I don't drink," said McDaniell, who hadn't had a drink since a year before the story was written.

McDaniell and LaFleur served as Shanahan's right-hand men during his game-plan meetings early in the week with San Francisco.

McDaniell focused on the running game while LaFleur's title was passing game coordinator. McDaniell, known for his creativity with X's and O's, has worked previously as a receivers coach.

He's spent games with San Francisco in the upstairs coaching booth offering Shanahan an extra set of eyes from above the action.

The Shanahan-McDaniell-LaFleur trio would often give players 80 new plays to learn for installation each week before games. Some would be the same plays out

of new formations while others would be entirely new concepts.

Shanahan acknowledged back in November the reality that he would lose assistants to promotions elsewhere. He's employed current head coaches Sean McVay and Matt LaFleur (Mike's brother) on his staffs previously.

"You think about it all the time," Shanahan said. "That's why you're always trying to train people. You can't speak enough about, one, having talented people, but just the time and the experience of working with people. You can't make that up in one year. So, you're always trying to get guys with you and train in the best way, and you want to hold onto them as long as possible, but we've got a number of really good coaches and I understand you can't do that forever."

McDaniell on Monday received a strong endorsement from fullback Kyle Juszczyk, another one of San Francisco's high-profile free agents this offseason.

However, McDaniell is not expected to assume play-calling duties. That will likely remain Shanahan's responsibility. McDaniell may have been given those obligations with another team had he taken a coordinator position elsewhere.

Ryans, meanwhile, will take on calling plays on defense for the first time in his coaching career. The 36-year-old had a 10-year playing career as a linebacker with the Houston Texans and Philadelphia following a successful stint at the University of Alabama.

He was the first pick of the second round in the 2006 draft by Houston and received defensive rookie of the year honors. He joined San Francisco's staff working for Saleh as a quality control coach in 2017 before getting promoted to coach linebackers in 2018.

"It's only as a matter of time before DeMeco is a coordinator in this league. It's a matter of time before DeMeco will be a head coach," Shanahan said earlier this month in his season-ending press conference.

If Ryans and McDaniell continue their trajectories, the 49ers might have to find their replacements in the coming seasons as they have this winter for Saleh and LaFleur.

## Blazers

Continued from A5

Portland has Lillard guaranteed under contract for this season plus three more. After that, he's going to be a 35-year guard holding a \$54.3 million player option. That's a bill the franchise should only be happy to pay if it can do better than bowing out in the first or second round of the playoffs.

It's why I'm paying careful attention to Olshey's actions in the coming months. You should, too. Because if the Blazers do what they've always done under his command, they'll try to skate through the next couple of months on guts and qualify for the playoffs. Then, they'll celebrate avoiding the Draft Lottery as a major accomplishment. McCollum and Nurkic will return to the court and the team might play enough spirited basketball in a play-off series to fool us all into thinking they're much closer to competing than they really are.

This is a franchise that has some short-term issues to address. It needs to figure out how to compete without McCollum and Nurkic in uniform for the next month or two.

But what it especially struggles with is big-picture identity and trajectory. I'm not sure, beyond Lillard's theatrics, what the Trail Blazers really are anymore.

I like Gary Trent Jr.'s game. Keep him around. I'm curious what Anfernee Simons (21 years old), Harry Giles (22) and Derrick Jones Jr. (23) might one-day become. I'll bet you are, too. But if throwing them into a deal helps accelerate the Blazers' timeline, you wouldn't flinch either.



Ashley Landis/AP file

Portland Trail Blazers guard Damian Lillard, right, fouls Los Angeles Lakers guard Dennis Schroeder (17) during a game last month in Los Angeles.

Because the point of any season with Lillard around has to be winning big.

Robert Covington is an Olshey experiment cut from the Evan Turner cloth. Carmelo Anthony is a good locker-room guy but he doesn't at all fit Portland's timeline. Enes Kanter is a good story, but also not a tentpole for a winning franchise.

Portland would be well served to utilize the next month to recalibrate its master plan. Lillard needs help by next season. Not a disjointed mishmash of young and aging castaways. Real on-court help. Because leaving Lillard out there on the court alone, trying to win games 50 points at a

time isn't going to get it done. He's a great player desperate for a team to be constructed around him.

It's become a tired refrain. McCollum has a hairline fracture in his left foot. Also, a mid-foot sprain. He'll be re-evaluated in four weeks. Feels like it's time for the organization to re-evaluate itself.

Houston has a plan. Brooklyn has a plan. The Lakers, Clippers and Jazz have plans. So does Denver, Memphis and some others. Right now, best I can tell, Portland's plan amounts to waiting. That's not really a plan at all.

## Golf

Continued from A5

There was only a tropical breeze, not the notorious trade wind, at Kapalua the previous week for the Sentry Tournament of Champions. Harris English and Niemann finished at 25-under par, and seven others finished at 20 under or better.

Golf has been that way for more than a century.

Instead of worrying how low the scores are getting, perhaps it's worth celebrating which records have stood the longest.

All of them probably deserve an asterisk because golf courses only look the same. They have become longer by various measures. Lawn mowers are better, too. Nothing is ever exactly how it was.

The oldest 72-hole record on PGA Tour courses remains at Riviera in 1985, when Lanny Wadkins shot 20-under 264 on a soggy course in Los Angeles. Wadkins is proud of that mark, and he surely is happy Dustin Johnson wasn't aware of the record — nor did he particularly care — when Johnson reached 20 under with 12 holes remaining in 2017, played it safe and shot 17-under 267 to win by five.

Right behind is Bay Hill, the course where Tiger Woods has won a record eight times. He still hasn't had a week like the late Payne Stewart did in 1987 when he shot 264. No one has come within five shots of Stewart's record.

Tom Lehman shot 268 at Muirfield Village to win the Memorial in 1994. Greg Norman, Woods and Patrick Cantlay all have come within a stroke of that record.

And yes, Woods still has a few scoring records to claim. One of them is at East Lake, where he shot 23-under 257 in 2007. Not even Johnson with a 10-shot head start in the new FedEx Cup scoring system could top that.

Those records surely will fall in time. That's how golf has evolved, much like other sports.

Sprinters have better shoes. Swimmers have better suits. That doesn't even account for players who are bigger, stronger and faster, and equipped with better training, more knowledge and video, perhaps the most underrated piece of technology.

Matt Kuchar spoke to this a year few years ago when he said, "It is what we should expect"

"Guys in any sport, any activity, have

figured out how to get better with all the extra work and study and whatever else," Kuchar said. "We see it everywhere, whether it's the track or the pool, the golf course, hoops."

Why hoops golf be any different? Mike Davis would love to wrap up the "Distance Insights Project" before he leaves as the USGA's chief executive. The concern by the USGA and R&A is that a century's worth of distance gains is not good for the game, forcing courses to get bigger and use more water and other resources. That's primarily at the elite level, only a fraction of golf.

That doesn't — or shouldn't — have anything to do with scoring. Then again, the USGA has denied for years that it's trying to protect par at the U.S. Open and no one seems to buy it.

The best players will find a way because they always have.

Rory McIlroy once said the game is changing but not necessarily for the worse. Every generation gets better with more knowledge and science — and yes, technology — at its disposal.

"So if we're not better," he concluded, "then we're doing a pretty bad job."