

Gophers' Smith Extension Has Buyout Boost, Slight Pay Bump

MINNEAPOLIS (AP) — Minnesota's contract extension with coach Tubby Smith includes more incentives, a slight annual pay bump and a higher buyout the university must pay if he's fired after next season.

Smith's three-year extension through the 2016-17 season was finalized on July 23, and the school made the details available to reporters on Friday.

The 61-year-old Smith has the same annual pay structure, now close to \$2 million annually, with a \$600,000 base salary plus 5 percent annual raises he's been entitled to since 2008 and supplemental compensation of \$1.2 million for duties

like fundraising, community involvement and endorsements.

That figure is before any bonuses and excludes perks, benefits and the university's retirement contribution that are part of his contract. If Smith's deal is terminated between now and April 30, 2016, the university will pay one-half of his base salary and supplemental compensation for each of the remaining seasons on the contract. The total amount cannot exceed \$2.5 million.

Under the terms of his original deal, Smith was to be paid \$1.5 million if he were to be fired between now and April 30, 2013. But in another new wrinkle in

the extension, he can't be dismissed without cause during the season, defined as the span from the date of the Gophers' first game through the date of the last. The extension also calls for a postseason review of the contract next spring.

Also, if Smith wins a Big Ten regular season championship, a Big Ten tournament championship or reaches the round of 16 or further in the NCAA tournament in any given year, his deal will be automatically extended by a year.

Smith and school officials talked for about a year and a half before finishing the extension, and one of the reasons they took their time was sensitivity to-

ward the public perception of such a lucrative deal during a time of tight budgets, rising tuition and employee layoffs.

But no matter when this contract became public, it was going to look like a whole lot of money for a coach who has yet to win an NCAA tournament game since he came to Minnesota for the 2007-08 season with a national championship and several other awards and significant successes on his resume at Kentucky.

The Gophers finished with 23 victories, the most by the program since the 1996-97 Final Four season that was later erased by NCAA punishment, but they needed a run to the NIT championship

game to get there. They went 6-12 in Big Ten play for a second straight season.

Mere modest improvements will make Smith much richer, based on bonuses either already in or added to his contract for academic or on-court achievement by the team. For example, He still gets \$250,000 if the Gophers are regular season Big Ten champions, but he'll also get \$250,000 if they win the Big Ten tournament. That's up from a \$100,000 bonus in the original deal.

And if Minnesota wins the NCAA championship, Smith's prize is the \$1.5 million, up from \$500,000 in the previous contract.

Pro-Am

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main goal is to maintain my card throughout my career which I have been preparing for. So that's my goal."

And each tournament and tour he competes in is another stepping stone toward those goals, including the Dakotas Tour. Hillcrest, his first tournament on the tour, has been highly successful for Cook so far. After the first round of play, he finished three under par and tied at 14th.

"Yesterday (Thursday) I played good," he said. "It was my first tournament in a couple weeks I had kind of a rough finish so I hope to improve upon that today. Anything better I am happy with. I'm a day smarter so I should be a stroke or two better."

And a stroke or tour better each day of the four-day tournament should land him right he wants to be.

"I want to finish top five," he said. "I want to win no matter what but I'll be happy with anything to be honest. I just like being out here and playing golf. I'm happy to be here."

Cook tees off again today (Saturday) at 7:40 a.m. from tee number 10 at Hillcrest Golf & Country Club.



Professional golfer Jimmie Butler watches his chip shot Friday during the second round of the Hillcrest Pro-Am at Hillcrest Golf & Country Club.

JEREMY HOECK/PAID

Nebraska QB Martinez Has Highest Goal For Huskers

LINCOLN, Neb. (AP) — Nebraska quarterback Taylor Martinez has one goal for the 2012 season for the Cornhuskers that is to win a national championship.

That would be a giant step for Nebraska, which last played for a national championship after the 2001 season, losing to Miami 37-14 in the Rose Bowl.

Nebraska hasn't won a conference championship since 1999, losing Big 12 championship games the last two years it was in the league. Picked as one of the favorites to play in last year's inaugural Big Ten championship, the Huskers fell short, finishing 5-3 in the league and just third in the Legends Division.

With fall camp starting Saturday, most of the talk from Nebraska was about winning a conference title. Martinez raised that another level.

"If we win that (the Big Ten)," he said, "we'll go to the national championship."

Martinez's goal reflects new confidence from the junior quarterback, who has been the subject of much fan and media criticism. He is now in the second year of an offensive system for the first time and tight end Ben Cotton said Martinez's increased confidence has been apparent during summer workouts.

"It comes with being the second year in the offense," Cotton said.

"It's a fun thing to see. Going through seven on seven all summer, he's just seeing his reads, sticking to his reads and getting the ball where it needs to go, whether it's deep downfield or in the backfield. He's doing a great job of getting the ball to the guy that's open and the guy that's going to gain yard and do positive things for us. I'm proud to say Taylor has come a long way."

A second reason for Martinez's confidence. Unlike last season, he's healthy.

"I was still hampered from my redshirt freshman year," Martinez said. "I was still a little dinged up."

Right now, this is the best I've felt since my redshirt freshman year."

That, Martinez said, should take the restrictions off his running, allowing him to return to the explosive form he showed during his freshman season when he ran for 965 yards and 12 touchdowns.

Nebraska's second year in the Big Ten also is providing some of Martinez's confidence. Last season, he said, the Huskers had to adapt on the fly to defenses they had never seen, never had a chance to prepare for.

"A lot of defenses kind of switched up on us from early (in the season) early on in the games," Martinez said. "We really didn't know how to prepare for them. We just knew our game plan. A lot of times when we went into a game, we had to change up our game plan. It was very difficult. This year we actually know what defenses are going to give us."

Martinez worked with a quarterback coach this summer for the first time and attended the Manning quarterback academy. That offseason work on his skills and the familiarity with the offense should help Martinez reach another goal: Complete 70 percent of his passes.

"I'm capable of doing that every game if they give me the chance to," said Martinez, who completed 56 percent of his throws last year. "I've proved that at Oklahoma State (in 2010), against Northwestern...I threw three picks at Wisconsin. Two were at the end of the half. I was passing well. It's just that one pick killed us."

Martinez's teammates are as confident in him as the QB appears to be in himself and his team.

"Taylor's made a lot of improvements," said wide receiver Tim Marlowe. "We're all excited for him to show it off. I know he is too. He goes through a lot of criticism being the quarterback at Nebraska. But he was just a sophomore last year...I think it's going to be a great season for Taylor, both running and passing."



Yankton shortstop Reid Sawatzke gloves a ground ball to get an out during the top of the fifth inning in Friday's pool play action at the 13-14 VFW Majors State Tournament at Bob Shelden Field in Brookings.

TROY MARONEY/THE BROOKINGS REGISTER

Lakers Win VFW Opener

BROOKINGS — Colin Muth singled twice and pitched seven strong innings as the Yankton Lakers beat Pierre 7-4 in Friday's opener at the S.D. State VFW Teeners 13-14 Majors Tournament in Brookings.

Yankton broke open a 4-3 game with three runs in the bottom of the fifth inning.

Five of Pierre's nine hits came in the fourth inning, when it scored three runs.

Tyler Guthmiller, Mason Townsend, Alex Withrow, Bradey Sorenson and Hunter Ryan all scored one single for Yankton.

The Lakers continue tournament action today (Saturday) in Brookings.

Tabor

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the little things you ask him to."

Jason Humpal (.325, 1 HR, 15 RBI, 9 SB), Rob Keppen (.269, 14 RBI) and Wes Kloucek (.244, 13 RBI) have also been run producers.

"A few of our young guys have played well. A few of our veterans have played well," Kortan said. "We're hoping to get everybody contributing at state."

The Bluebirds picked up veteran slugger Brett Scherschligt from Freeman, Scotland catcher Casey Comstock and Lesterville outfielder Cody Ulmer for the tournament.

"Brett's always played well when we've picked him up. He'll start in right and bat in the middle of the order for us," Kortan said. "Casey and Cody will give us some depth. If they're called

upon, they'll be ready."

The Bluebirds face a Renner Oldtimers team that features some of the top veterans in eastern South Dakota, players like Curt Cutler (.345), Don Hegge (.280) and Dave Mydland (.375). The Oldtimers also picked up Vermillion Grey Sox standout Travis Lee, Beresford's Tracy St. Pierre and Canton's Thad Meister.

"If half their guys aren't already in the (South Dakota Baseball) Hall of Fame, they should be," Kortan said. "They will put up a good test for us."

The Bluebirds hope to stay focused.

"We can't advance if we don't win that first one. Once we get past the first game, we'll see teams' second, third pitchers," Kortan said. "Hopefully we'll get that first one out of the way and go from there."

You can follow James D. Cimbrek on Twitter at twitter.com/ace-man904

Rodgers Sharp In Packers Scrimmage

GREEN BAY, Wis. (AP) — Aaron Rodgers was sharp in limited work and the NFL's replacement officials weren't shy about making calls — even unpopular ones — in the Green Bay Packers' "Family Night" scrimmage on Friday.

A crowd of 55,605 took in the sights at Lambeau Field, many of them getting their first look at the stadium's major ongoing construction project in the south end zone — including a massive new video board towering high over the field. The project won't be completed until 2013.

With the NFL involved in a labor dispute with its officials, Friday night's scrimmage featured some of the league's replacement officials, who came to Green Bay to work at Packers practices earlier in the week.

Class A

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"We made the plays defensively," Knetsch said. "Derek Ohme, you can't say enough about what he did. I think he threw 80 percent strikes on the game. I don't know how many shut outs that is in state tournament games for him, but it's definitely not his first one. I can think of five off the top of my head, so he is definitely a guy you want to give the ball to in any big game."

Both members of the Sioux Falls Empire League, the Saints and Monarchs have faced each other a couple of other times this season, each time ending in a Renner victory. But the Monarchs did not look at the matchup as a rivalry as much as just the first step in the long road ahead to the championship.

"You have to get the first one," Knetsch said. "We're trying to get them all, so you have to get the first one in order for that to happen. The first game it's always good to come out and get on the new field, knock some rust off, and try to set the tone for the



JEREMY HOECK/PAID

Renner Monarchs shortstop Brian McGuire fields a grounder during Friday night's opening round game against the Sioux Falls Saints at the S.D. State Class A Amateur Tournament at Riverside Field.

rest of the tournament."

Next up for Renner will be the winner of Mitchell versus Castlewood while Sioux Falls will face the loser today (Saturday).

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Crofton

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put in a number of good innings while I was out, but we had to try to put our best lineup on the field."

Mueller, Hegge and Thygeson each had two hits in the win.

For Garretson, Breittling and Bonte each had two of the team's five hits.

Brad Donavon, who pitched for the Vermillion Red Sox for four years, took the loss, striking out three and allowing seven runs in eight innings.

"I thought we made some good pitches, but they didn't miss them," Garretson manager Rob Schoenhard said after the contest. "They're a good hitting

team. You hope they just hit it at your guys, and it didn't work out."

Crofton now turns its attention to Larchwood in a second round matchup. The two squads face off on Monday at 8 p.m.

"They're always a good hitting team," Schieffer said. "They're going to bring in a lineup of nine good hitters. If we can keep them off balance, we should be in that game."

For a team that has played for the state championship each of the past two years, the key is to not get ahead of themselves.

"We need to look at everything one inning at a time, one game at a time," Donner said. "If you look past someone, you could be going home that day."

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