

## P Verlander, C Posey Get \$347 Million In New Deals

NEW YORK (AP) — After leading their teams to last year's World Series, Justin Verlander and Buster Posey cashed in just hours apart Friday.

The All-Star pitcher and MVP catcher were guaranteed nearly \$350 million in contracts by the Tigers and Giants, a sure sign of the baseball times: Teams are awash with revenue from television and high-priced tickets.

Verlander, an AL MVP and Cy Young Award winner for Detroit, agreed to a \$180 million, seven-year deal with the Tigers that is the richest for a pitcher and prevents him from becoming a free agent after the 2014 season.

Posey, the batting champion who led San Francisco to a pair of World Series titles in the last three years, received \$167 million, nine-year deal from the Giants. The catcher could not have gone on the market until after the 2016 season.

"Contracts like that that you're seeing are a product of really strong revenue growth in the industry," said Rob Manfred, Major League Baseball's executive vice president of economics and league affairs.

And the spending might not be done yet.

Clayton Kershaw, who can go free after the 2014 season, could get a new deal from the Los Angeles Dodgers. The 2011 NL Cy Young winner said he won't talk contract during the season; the Dodgers would want to hold off announcing any agreement until after opening day so that it would not add to their 2013 luxury tax bill.

Where is all the money coming from?

Baseball Commissioner Bud Selig expects revenue to top \$8 billion for the first time this year.

"It's quite a story when you think back in 1992 it was \$1.2 billion," he said this week. "We've come a long way. It's a manifestation of how popular this sport is in every way."

MLB last year agreed to eight-year contracts with News Corp's Fox and with Turner Sports that run from 2014-21 and increase average annual revenue from about \$500 million to roughly \$800 million. ESPN and MLB reached a deal covering 2014-21 that hikes the average yearly payment from about \$360 million to approximately \$700 million.

And then there are big-money local deals. The Dodgers are creating a cable network with Time Warner Cable that assures the team more than \$7 billion over 25 years. News Corp. is paying the Yankees' owners \$500 million as part of a deal that could allow it up to 80 percent ownership of the YES Network.

Teams are rushing to lock up prized players. Earlier this week, St. Louis gave pitcher Adam Wainwright, a \$97.5 million deal covering 2014-18 that raises his guaranteed income to \$109.5 million over the next six seasons.

At a lower level, Arizona is nearing agreement with Paul Goldschmidt on a \$32 million, five-year contract that would run from 2014-18. The first baseman has less than 1 1/2 years in the big leagues.

Verlander's deal broke the standard for pitchers set just a month earlier when Seattle's Felix Hernandez agreed to a \$175 million, seven-year contract. The 30-year-old right-hander didn't feel a need to wait two seasons, become a free agent and find out how much baseball's biggest spenders would offer.

"I wondered what it would be like to test free agency, but the pull of Detroit was too much," he

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## Commentary | USD Women Season Review

# 'Yotes Had 'A Great Run'

BY CHRIS RILEY  
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VERMILLION — Coming into the 2012-13 season last fall with a brand new coach, three new starters and only 10 active players on the roster, the USD women not only met, but surpassed the expectations in place as the Coyotes surged down the stretch to extend their season to the very end of March.

In their first year of full Division I eligibility, the Coyotes were full of questions marks as Amy Williams took over the head coaching reigns from Ryun Williams (no relation) after the latter took the head women's job at Colorado State. In addition to a new coach, the Coyotes saw a number of new faces, especially in the starting lineup after the graduation of Amber Hegge, Annie Roche and Jodie Boss from the 2011-12 squad. Those three accounted for almost 60 percent of the previous team's offensive production, so in other words, the new faces in the lineup would need to bring some talent along with.

After a 1-4 start to the year, USD finished with a 18-12 run, including wins in seven of their final nine games. Included in that final surge through late February and March were a pair of Summit League tourney wins (leading up to a near miss in the championship game against rival SDSU) and two road wins in the Women's Basketball Invitational (WBI) Tournament. USD finally saw their season come to a close after letting a second-half lead slip away against McNeese State in the WBI semifinal on Thursday night in the DakotaDome — one last opportunity for the USD seniors to play in front of their family and friends.

"We were excited that we got to extend our careers a little bit longer," Coyote senior point guard Alexis Yackley said. "To go on the road and win two games and get one last chance to get to play in front of the Coyote fans and in front of our parents — we had a great run."

Right off the bat in November it was obvious that this USD team was capable of putting a dynamic



Chris RILEY

something that can obviously be attributed to a new coach and the meshing of new teammates, but the amount of inconsistency to go along with spurts of fantastic play surprised even the first-year coach.

"I would say there were way more ups and downs than I was expecting," Williams said.

Williams, a Spearfish native who played collegiately at Nebraska, came to USD after a five-year stint as head coach at NAIA startup Rogers State (Okla.). The former Division I assistant at Oklahoma State (2001-05) and Tulsa (2005-07) formed an immediate bond with her new team, as her players on the court echoed the emotion of their coach on the sidelines during contests all season long.

"I could not be more proud of this group and the run that we made," Williams added. "They are just a tremendous group of young women that I had the privilege to coach and I'm sure going to miss this team."

Gone to graduation after this spring will be a pair of guards who started all 35 games, Yackley and Tempestt Wilson. Yackley struggled shooting the ball this season by her own admission (30 percent) but the former Sully Buttes star recorded 187 assists to move to finish her career fourth on USD's all-time leaderboard and consistently put her teammates in position to make plays.

"I may not be the tallest or the fastest or the most athletic but you can always play the hardest

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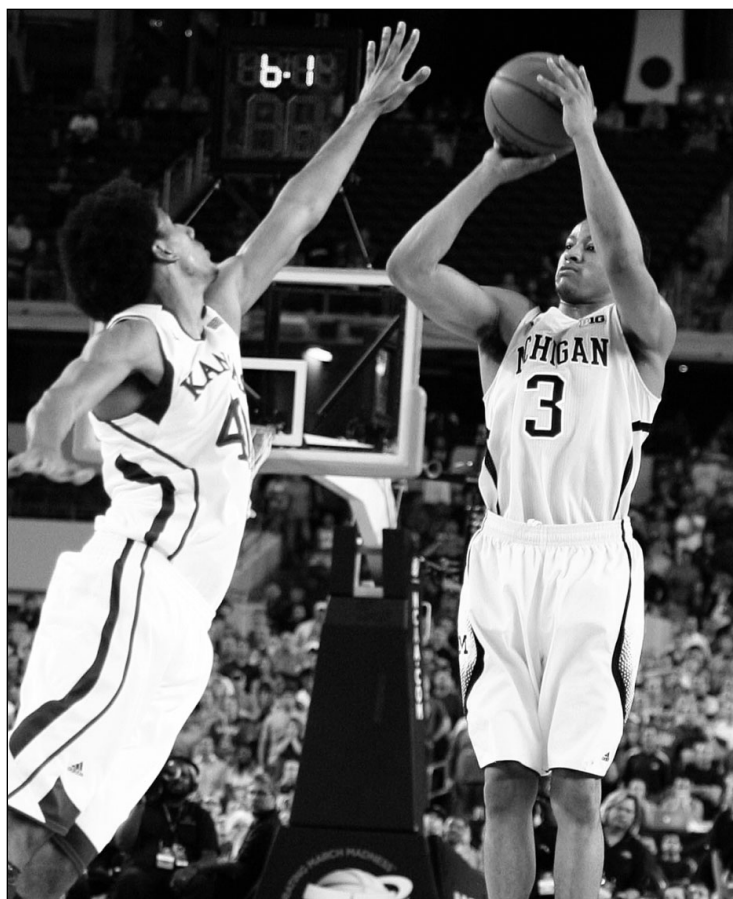
offense on the floor at stretches to go along with outstanding rebounding and solid defense, but the Coyotes also routinely hit long dry spells from the field. This is



South Dakota's Nicole Seekamp (35) drives past a McNeese State defender during Thursday's semifinal Women's Basketball Invitational action in the DakotaDome. Seekamp led the Coyote offense with 20 points.

DAVID LIAS/VERMILLION PLAIN TALK

## NCAA: Burke, Michigan Rally Past Kansas In OT



Michigan's Trey Burke hits a 3-point shot to send the game into overtime against Kansas in the NCAA Tournament's Sweet 16 at Cowboys Stadium in Arlington, Texas on Friday. Michigan knocked off Kansas, 87-85, in OT.

STEPHEN M. DOWELL/ORLANDO SENTINEL/MCT

ARLINGTON, Texas (AP) — Trey Burke scored all 23 of his points after halftime, including a long, tying 3-pointer in the final seconds of regulation, and Michigan rallied to beat Kansas 87-85 in the South Regional semifinals Friday night.

The fourth-seeded Wolverines wiped out a 10-point Kansas lead in the last 3 minutes of regulation, and Burke gave them their first lead since early in the game with another long 3 to open Michigan's scoring in overtime.

Michigan (29-7) reached the regional finals for the first time since the Fab Five era 19 years ago, the last time they were in the round of 16.

Ben McLemore had 20 points to lead the Jayhawks (31-6), who looked to be on their way to a third straight regional final before Michigan's improbable rally.

The Wolverines were down five when Tim Hardaway Jr. missed a 3-pointer with 35 seconds left, but Glenn Robinson III won a scramble for the ball and hit a reverse layup to force Kansas to win the game at the free throw line.

The Jayhawks couldn't do it. Burke's tying shot came after Elijah Johnson missed a free throw moments after hitting two to keep the Kansas lead at five. Burke hit a layup to get Michigan within three.

The lead changed hands five times in overtime — the first OT game of the tournament — the last when Mitch McGary, who led Michigan with 25 points and 14 rebounds, hit a short jumper with Johnson in his face to put Michigan ahead for good 83-82.

The Jayhawks got a stop and had about 9 seconds to tie or win, but a jumbled possession ended with Naadir Tharpe missing a running jumper at the buzzer.

The Wolverines wiped out a 10-point Kansas lead on a 14-4 run in the final 2:52 of regulation. Burke had eight points, including two 3-pointers, in the stretch.

Burke gave Michigan its first lead since early in the game with his long 3-pointer to make it 79-78 early in overtime.

Burke was scoreless in the first half for the Wolverines, then got his team going by scoring eight straight points early in the second half to momentarily cut the deficit to two.

"In the second half, coach told me to be more aggressive so I looked for my shot more," he said. But Kansas restored a 10-point lead built on dominating inside in the first half, this time with a 3-pointer and a tomahawk dunk on a breakaway by McLemore and a three-point play from Johnson.

Johnson, who picked up three fouls in just three minutes of play-

ing time in the first half, gave Kansas its biggest lead at 68-54 with a 3-pointer from the corner with just under 7 minutes left.

Travis Releford had 16 points for the Jayhawks, while Jeff Withey had 12 points and eight rebounds.

Kansas pushed out to a 10-point lead early by dominating around the basket. McLemore's first basket was the first outside the paint as the Jayhawks scored 34 of their 40 first-half points from inside while shooting 69 percent.

Withey put Kansas ahead 29-19 with a turnaround shot that had McGary shrugging at a teammate and saying, "I'm trying."

McGary wasn't having nearly as much trouble on the offensive end, leading the Wolverines with 11 points and five rebounds in the first half. He picked up where he left off in the third round against Virginia Commonwealth, when he had season highs of 21 points and 14 rebounds.

Michigan pulled within 40-34 at the half when Nik Stauskas hit a 3-pointer and had chance for a four-point play when McLemore bumped him on the shot. But he missed the free throw.

The game was stopped less than 2 minutes in so officials could go to video review to call a flagrant foul against Johnson for a hit below the waist on McGary.

## 'The Shot' By Indiana's Smart Is Still Hot Topic 26 Years Later

WASHINGTON (AP) — No list of great NCAA championship game moments is complete unless Keith Smart's jumper for Indiana in 1987 is on it.

Known by Hoosiers fans to this day as "The Shot," and known in much less complimentary terms by Syracuse faithful, that 16-foot jumper from the left side with 5 seconds to play is a film clip staple throughout March.

The memory of "The Shot," which gave Indiana a 74-73 victory, is still with Smart, now the coach of the Sacramento Kings, while Jim Boeheim, still the coach at Syracuse, revisited it every day for 16 years.

"It's pretty much every day," Smart said Wednesday when asked how often he thinks about the jumper that made him a hero in Bloomington and a villain in Syracuse. "Probably every other day something happens. I'll go somewhere to eat, or when we travel, I check into

the hotel and somebody sees the name tag on the bag and they'll mention something about 'The Shot' then. Very seldom does a week go by without something that happens."

Boeheim knew exactly how long it took for him to stop thinking about Smart's play on a regular basis.

"We played very well in the game. When you lose a game like that, you really almost never get over it. I got over it in 2003," Boeheim said, referring to the Orange's first national championship, played in the same building — the New Orleans Super Dome. "I probably thought about it for those 16 years most of the time."

"I never think about it anymore. Coach (Bob) Knight was good after the game. He told me we would get back and win it, he just didn't tell me it would take 16 years. He's smart, just not that smart."

"The Shot" has been summoned from the archives even more than usual this week because Indiana and Syracuse will meet in the East Regional semifinal Thursday night, their fourth meeting since the national championship game, but the first in the NCAA tournament.

"Probably this year more than anything, you had more people talk about its significance," Smart said. "Even when I saw the brackets, I said, 'The possibility of them coming together is pretty high.' And lo and behold it came into play. You hear a little bit more conversation because of that now, because it happened against Syracuse."

A great championship game came down to the final minute. With 38 seconds left, Syracuse's Howard Triche — the uncle of current Orange guard Brandon Triche — made the first of two free throws for a 73-70 lead. Six seconds later Smart scored to cut the lead to one.

Four seconds later, Syracuse freshman Derrick Coleman, who finished with 19 rebounds, missed the front end of a 1-and-1. Boeheim had taken his players off the lane, conceding the rebound. Smart got the rebound. The play was supposed to go to Steve Alford, the current coach at New Mexico, who had already made six 3-pointers in the first NCAA tournament played with a 3-point line.

"It was designated for Steve, of course, but we moved the ball around," Indiana's Daryl Thomas said that Monday night. "It came to me and I kicked it out to Keith and he hit the basket."

Smart, one of the first junior college transfers to play for Knight, summed up the play at the postgame news conference.

"Tonight was my turn. ... I thank Daryl for not taking the last shot and passing out to me. ... It was a wise decision on his part."

Twenty-six years later Smart is still talking about "The Shot" because people keep asking him about it.

"I understand it. Every person, boy, girl, man or child, they want to talk about the moment or what they were doing when it happened," he said. "I don't know this person and this person comes up with all this excitement, what am I supposed to do? Nah, nah, I don't want to talk to you?" Nah. That's your moment and if you want to talk about, let's talk. It's going to be brief anyway. I won't rain on their parade or anything like that."

Smart is quick to recall the first time he spoke with Boeheim about it.

"When we were getting ready for the draft, kind of doing some background on different players, I called Jim Boeheim

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