



Packers sign kicker Crosby to 5-year, \$14.75 million deal

By *Tom Silverstein of the Journal Sentinel*

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The Green Bay Packers have retained one of their 11 unrestricted free agents, signing kicker Mason Crosby to a five-year deal.

Agent Mike McCartney informed the Journal Sentinel this morning of the news.

According to a source familiar with the negotiations, the deal is worth \$14.75 million and includes \$3 million of guaranteed money.

The contract puts Crosby in the upper echelon of kickers in the National Football League just below top-paid kicker Sebastian Janikowski of the Oakland Raiders, who signed a four-year, \$16 million contract last year.

"I expect a lot of series starting from the 20," McCartney said, referring to kickoffs being moved up to the 35-yard line. "I think it's going to be great for Mason. He'll be able to show off that powerful leg.

"When you kick from the 30, sometimes it's hard at Lambeau to just kick it out. You'll see a lot more touchbacks. It's hard to kick in that place. But he's thrilled. He's back with the Super Bowl champs."

The Packers cannot sign Crosby until Friday at 5 p.m. according to post-lockout rules. But they are able to come to terms with any free agents as well as those from other teams.

Signing Crosby was a priority for the Packers, and they weren't that far away from reaching a deal just before the lockout began in mid-March. McCartney negotiated linebacker A.J. Hawk's new deal just before the deadline, and the two sides ran out of time to get Crosby's deal completed.

"We were constrained by the 30 percent rule," McCartney said of doing a contract extension before Crosby's deal expired. "We couldn't do it before the lockout like many players. (Negotiator) Russ (Ball) made it clear he wanted Mason back.

"Sure enough, he called me right away yesterday. We had several conversations, and we got to a fair deal fairly quickly."

The Field House — Blogs — The Denver Post

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Ex-CU WR Travon Patterson signs with Chargers

By **NATALIE MEISLER** |  No Comments

Former Colorado wide receiver/return specialist Travon Patterson said Tuesday he will sign a rookie free agent contract with the San Diego Chargers tonight.

Patterson, who played last season for the Buffs after transferring from USC, caught 20 passes for 127 yards in eight game. He also led CU punt returning and averaged 20 yards on kick returns.

He has returned to his home in Long Beach, CA and said he only has to drive down the coast to report to camp.

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