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Price signs five-year deal with Cougars

PULLMAN, Wash. (AP) — Washington State football coach Mike Price, who has taken the Cougars to two post-season games in the past three years, has signed a new five-year contract, Athletic Director Rick Dickson said Thursday.

The base salary for Price, 49, will be \$110,000 a year, but total compensation could double that through endorsements, camps, television programs and other packages.

"It's a perfect contract," Price said in a telephone news conference. "One being I want to stay

here at Washington State University. And it looks to me like Washington State likes what we have done."

Price has compiled a 35-33 record in six years at Washington State since replacing Miami-bound Dennis Erickson in 1989. The Cougars last year posted an 8-4 record, beating Baylor in the Alamo Bowl at San Antonio. Price's 1992 team, led by quarterback Drew Bledsoe, finished 9-3 after winning the Copper Bowl.

Price and Dickson say they agreed in principle on the terms

of the contract during the Alamo Bowl week in December and have been fine-tuning it since then.

The contract contains a penalty clause should Price leave before the June 30, 2000, expiration date, Dickson and Price said.

But it also contains incentives, in the form of deferred annuities, for Price to stay through the end of the contract term, Dickson said. It also includes a clause calling for reopening contract discussions in 1998.

Price had 18 months left on a

contract extension signed in 1992.

Dickson said he has been "very pleased" with the direction and objectives of Price's football program during his 11 1/2-month tenure as WSU's athletic director.

He said the contract discussions proved "we can continue to build on what's been done and even work on some better things."

Price said the five-year term will help in recruiting and build continuity in the Cougar football program.

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