

49ers re-sign Steve Young, Hearst, clear salary cap room

10 teams prepared for Friday's opening of the free agent signing period by locking in big name players

The Associated Press

Steve Young signed a record contract on Thursday that made the San Francisco 49ers happy, too.

On the eve of the NFL's two-month free-agent signing period, Young remained the league's highest-paid player with a \$49.175 million, six-year deal. The contract is more salary-cap friendly than Young's old \$45 million, six-year deal, which the 49ers tore up.

In another contract restructuring, the 49ers

signed running back Garrison Hearst to a five-year, \$15.1 million contract. Hearst, the 49ers' first 1,000-yard rusher in five years, received a \$3.25 million signing bonus.

Among other signings Thursday, the Minnesota Vikings made Todd Steussie the highest-paid offensive lineman in NFL history with a \$22 million, five-year contract; Brian Mitchell became the highest-paid kick return specialist with an \$8.4 million, five-year deal with the Washington Redskins; the New England Patriots signed All-Pro defensive lineman Bruce Armstrong and defensive end Willie McGinest; and the Green Bay Packers signed wide receiver Robert Brooks to a \$15.1 million, five-year contract. The Super Bowl champion Denver Bron-

cos signed veteran cornerback Ray Crockett and tight end Dwayne Carswell. The Broncos also signed wide receiver Darrick Branch and defensive end Dameian Jeffries and released cornerback Randy Hilliard.

The New York Giants released tight end Aaron Pierce, waived tight end Brandon Jessie and center Marc Lamb, and rewrote wide receiver Chris Calloway's contract.

Young, 36, had his annual average salary increase \$700,000 to \$8.2 million, and he gets a \$7.5 million signing bonus. The bonus can be pro-rated against the cap during the life of the contract, softening the impact on the team's player payroll.

"Obviously, this has the effect of relieving some of the 49ers cap problems," said

Young's agent, Leigh Steinberg. "And it also is by far the largest package in NFL history, averaging \$8.2 million."

Under his new contract, Young will have a 1998 cap figure of \$3.5 million, compared to \$10 million under the previous deal.

In other moves, the Detroit Lions signed wide receiver Johnnie Morton and tackle Ray Roberts, while the Chicago Bears signed defensive tackle Jim Flanigan and free safety John Mangum.

The Buffalo Bills designated Ted Washington as their franchise player, and the nose tackle threatened to sit out the first 10 games of the season. The franchise designation guarantees Washington, 29, a raise but effectively makes him a restricted free agent.

Oregon Daily Emerald

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Horoscope by Frances Drake

For Friday, Feb. 13, 1998

ARIES

(March 21 to April 19)
Stop being so superstitious! A date on a calendar is merely that. If you look for troubles, you'll surely find them.

TAURUS

(April 20 to May 20)
You're not pleased with what a co-worker has been saying behind your back. Rectify this situation. If not, this person could succeed in undermining you.

GEMINI

(May 21 to June 20)
You're floating on a cloud, but you need to come back down to earth. There are assignments to fulfill. If you don't apply yourself, you could end up putting in some extra hours on the job.

CANCER

(June 21 to July 22)
You make the right decision concerning a family matter. In fact, you are so firm and sure about it, others naturally follow your lead. Advice you receive about a work matter could be off the mark.

LEO

(July 23 to Aug. 22)
You can't simply wish things done. You have to roll up your sleeves and get to work. Once you do this, you end the day feeling satisfied with what you've accomplished.

VIRGO

(Aug. 23 to Sept. 22)
A situation at work requires your particular style of management. Once you've straightened this out, everyone works together in a rare spirit of cooperation.

LIBRA

(Sept. 23 to Oct. 22)
You'll get more done if you stop looking over your shoulder. Don't worry that others are watching you. You know exactly how to get that job

done.

SCORPIO

(Oct. 23 to Nov. 21)
You're unprepared for the situation that crops up on the job. With some quick thinking, you can soon address this. Later in the day, a social outing takes your mind off things.

SAGITTARIUS

(Nov. 22 to Dec. 21)
You need to exercise some self-control when a testy co-worker tries your patience. Simply let this person stew in his own juices. Later, harmony reigns once again.

CAPRICORN

(Dec. 22 to Jan. 19)
Don't fall for that alarmist talk. Nothing tragic is going on and there's no conspiracy against you. Trust your own intuition instead.

AQUARIUS

(Jan. 20 to Feb. 18)
Some experience a stroke of luck, such as winning a game or contest. Others go along on a comfortably even keel. The evening favors a romantic tryst.

PISCES

(Feb. 19 to March 20)
You'll get more done if you simply slow down. Racing through your chores could lead to sloppy mistakes. By day's end, you're looking forward to some relaxation.

YOU BORN TODAY are given to some hyperbole when relating a story. Your vast imagination knows no bounds. Whether writing or speaking, you can weave quite the tale. A field that allows you freedom to unleash this talent promises the most success. On the other hand, you need to be able to discern fantasy from reality. Once you can do this, your popularity soars.

Birthdate of: Stockard Channing, actress; Peter Dinklage, musician; Eileen Farrell, opera singer.

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By Scott Adams

