

McGwire signs for two-year contract extension

By Mark Long
The Associated Press

JUPITER, Fla. — Big Mac is getting some big bucks.

Still, it's nowhere near what he would command on the free-agent market.

Mark McGwire and the St. Louis Cardinals agreed Thursday to a two-year extension worth about \$30 million.

"We could not be more pleased," Cardinals chairman Bill DeWitt Jr. said. "From day one, it has been a real pleasure working with Mark. He offers a great perspective when it comes to contract negotiations, and he takes a real interest in securing a deal that

he believes to be fair not only for himself, but also for the team."

The new deal runs through 2003, the season McGwire could be approaching Hank Aaron's home-run record of 755.

"I had no desire to play anywhere other than St. Louis," McGwire said. "In my mind, there is no better place to be if you are a baseball player."

McGwire, 37, missed most of the second half of last season with a knee injury and had surgery during the off-season, but has been healthy this spring.

McGwire and the Cardinals were talking about an extension that

would pay him \$14 million in 2002 and \$16 million the following year, according to two baseball officials familiar with the negotiations who spoke on the condition they not be identified.

Big Mac is seventh on the career home-run list with 554, just 201 behind Aaron, and would have to average 67 homers in the next three seasons to tie the mark.

McGwire set the single-season record with 70 homers in 1998, then hit 65 the following year. He hit 32 last season in just 236 at-bats.

With an average salary of about \$15 million, McGwire will rank about eighth in baseball.

He could command far more money if he became a free agent after this season, perhaps even top the average salary record of \$25.2 million set by Alex Rodriguez in his \$252 million, 10-year contract with Texas.

But McGwire has never been interested in obtaining top dollar.

His current deal, agreed to after he was traded from Oakland to St. Louis in the 1997 season, originally guaranteed him \$28.5 million over three years: a \$1 million signing bonus, \$8 million in 1998, \$8.5 million in 1999, \$9 million in 2000 and a \$2 million buyout of a 2001 option.

McGwire could have become a

free agent in November, but chose not to, instead agreeing to exercise an \$11 million mutual option.

Disgusted with baseball's repeated work stoppages, McGwire said last year that he would retire if there's another one next winter after the expiration of the current labor contract. He has since softened that stance.

"I'd really have to weigh the situation," McGwire said last month. "If it does happen, I'd really have to see how long it lasted. If something happens and it lasts a couple of days or a week, it's not going to damage the game."

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Horoscope by Linda C. Black

TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (March 2). Your house looks like an interesting place to be this year — frustrating sometimes, but interesting. In March, use the pressure you're feeling as motivation to get something you've always wanted. Your boss has big ideas in April, so find a way to fit into them. Experience is your teacher in May — watch out! Love and business clash in July, but business can wait. Cruise through autumn on the strength of what you've already accomplished. A breakthrough at work in December creates new possibilities, including a challenging assignment in February.

To get the advantage, check the day's rating: 10 is the easiest day, 0 the most challenging.

ARIES (March 21-April 19)— Today is a 6— Everything seems to be going along fine, and then — WHAP! — you run into a problem you hadn't anticipated. It could be something you forgot all about. That's why it's good to be on a team. Check with teammates to make sure you're headed in the right direction.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)— Today is a 6— You could get a raise or some sort of a bonus today. But don't brag about it. One of your friends is in a delicate financial situation. That sad-eyed look will make it hard for you to keep from giving him a loan. And you just know a loan isn't going to be good for him, don't you?

GEMINI (May 21-June 21)— Today is a 6— You can have a lot of fun today. In fact, too much fun. Don't get too rowdy, even if you think you can. The odds of the boss coming back unexpectedly are too great. Just assume somebody important is watching you.

CANCER (June 22-July 22)— Today is a 5— You need to do some work for someone else, and you have a lot of chores on your own list. What about fun? Don't you get any time for that? Actually, no. Not until Sunday. Schedule a hot date for then.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)— Today is a 6— You're so popular that it's hard to make time for practical matters. But if you don't, you could accidentally get yourself too far into debt. It can happen so quickly, too, so you'd better balance your checkbook before you go out.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)— Today is a 5— If you think everybody around you is crazy, well, you're right. You're the only one exercising any common sense. Your first instinct is to lay low, but that may not work. At least remind them of what they're trying to accomplish. Nicely, of course.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)— Today is a 7— You may get an enticing invitation, and wouldn't you love to just drop everything and go? Unfortunately, you haven't finished your work ahead of schedule. But don't fret: If you finish tomorrow, you can go.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)— Today is a 6— There are ways to save that you haven't discovered. You could be wasting resources or paying too much interest. Go after those pennies with a magnifying glass. You'll be delighted at how many you find.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)— Today is a 6— Your roommate wants one thing and you want another. All you can agree on is that change is necessary. You care enough about each other to work out a compromise. Explain that to a concerned yet innocent bystander.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)— Today is a 6— You're a hard worker, and never more so than now. You may have to do a job over again due to someone else's mistake. The good news is, you should be paid well for the work you're doing. You deserve it, because it's interfering with your social life.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)— Today is a 7— You'd like to shower your loved ones with goodies, and you'd also like to fund a worthy cause. But you're not made of money. Don't worry: What they really want is your attention. Still, dividing that up between them will be hard enough.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)— Today is a 5— Do you feel like everybody's leaning on you and there's not enough of you to go around? Well, you're right. Guess it's about time for you to set some limits. If you don't, who will?

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There will be an informational meeting on Thursday, March 8th in the Football Theater located on the 2nd floor of the Casanova Center (next to Autzen Stadium). Meeting will begin at 7:00.

Pick up your application in the Football Office- 2nd floor of the Casanova Center (next to Autzen Stadium). Interviews will be held on March 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 2001. You may sign up for your interview time when you pick up your application.

APPLICATION DEADLINE IS MARCH 9th, 2001

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The Emerald is seeking a University student interested in joining its staff as a graphic designer. Applicants must be enrolled in classes at the University and be available to work about 25 hours a week. Knowledge of Quark Express, Freehand and basic writing experience is a must. Applications and job descriptions can be picked up in the Emerald office in Suite 300 of the EMU on the third floor. Deadline for applications is 5 p.m. Friday, March 9. Please include a resume and examples of your work. The Oregon Daily Emerald is an equal opportunity employer committed to a culturally diverse workplace.

The Emerald is seeking a University student interested in joining its staff as a freelance editor. Applicants must be enrolled in classes at the University and be available to work about 25-30 hours a week. The position requires applicants to have experience with writing, editing, Associated Press style and grammar. Applications and job descriptions can be picked up in the Emerald office in Suite 300 EMU on the third floor. Deadline for applications is Friday, March 2. Please include a resume and work samples. The Oregon Daily Emerald is an equal opportunity employer committed to a culturally diverse workplace.

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