Missouri unveils Haith’s contract

Deal includes bigger buyout, pool for assistant coaches.

By Steve Walentik

Missouri basketball Coach Frank Haith will receive a guaranteed $1.6 million in annual compensation under the terms of the contract he formally signed with the school on June 11.

But in the wake of predecessor Mike Anderson’s abrupt departure to take the same job at Arkansas, it is worth noting how much it will cost the coach to get out of the deal should he decide to leave before it runs its course.

Haith’s contract, which extends through April 2016 with an additional year to be automatically added on if he remains employed through next April, includes a buyout clause requiring the coach to pay the school $1.2 million should he leave after one season, $1 million after two seasons and continues dropping each year throughout the course of the contract. But not until after his fourth year, when the cost of the buyout would be $500,000, does it drop below the $550,000 it cost Anderson to walk away with five years remaining on his deal.

“One of the things we talked about was we wanted to make sure that those people that we were recruiting, that this is where they want to be,” MU Athletic Director Mike Alden said while discussing the buyout and other details of the contract during a media session Monday afternoon in the Stalcup Room at Mizzou Arena. “We felt that saying this is where they want to be, that certainly any kind of liquidated damages, that should be kind of a nonfactor.”

The buyout figures aren’t the only incentives that could help keep Haith in Columbia long-term. Part of his earnings come in the form of a $100,000 annual deferred payment, which he does not have access to until May 2013. What’s more, his contract calls for him to receive a guaranteed annual raises of $50,000 throughout the life of the deal.

Haith’s guaranteed annual compensation is slightly more than the $1.55 million Anderson was promised when he signed his re-negotiated contract in 2009, but it is less than the nearly $2 million package Anderson and the school were reportedly discussing in a planned extension last spring when he left to take the job in Fayetteville, Ark.

The contract puts Haith in the middle of the pack among Big 12 Conference coaches, behind Kansas’ Bill Self, Texas’ Rick Barnes, new Oklahoma Coach Lon Kruger and Oklahoma State’s Travis Ford. Self, Barnes and Kruger all earn in excess of $2 million per season.
The new Missouri coach is to be paid more than Kansas State’s Frank Martin, new Texas A&M Coach Billy Kennedy, new Texas Tech Coach Billy Gillispie and Iowa State’s Fred Hoiberg. Current contract figures for Baylor Coach Scott Drew were not available.

Haith also has an opportunity to cash in on the same performance bonuses that were in Anderson's contract. Among the incentives are $25,000 for winning the Big 12 regular-season or tournament titles, another $25,000 for qualifying for the NCAA Tournament and bigger payouts for advancing through the field with $150,000 awarded for a Final Four appearance and $350,000 for winning the national title. There are also bonuses for hitting victory totals or attendance goals and meeting academic and social goals set for him by the school. The maximum he can receive in annual bonuses is $825,000.

The coach isn’t the only one who will be well compensated under the terms of his contract. So too will be his three assistant coaches, strength and conditioning coach and director of basketball operations who will split up a pool of at least $750,000 per season. That figure represents an increase of $150,000 over the money set aside for staffers in Anderson’s contract.

Alden said that $750,000 means Missouri ranks among the top 20 or 25 college programs in the country in compensation for assistant coaches.

“I think no different than we’re trying to do for many of our sport programs — women’s basketball would be the case, football is the case, baseball, whatever that may be — we want to provide our head coaches with those resources where they believe that they can not only recruit but also retain some of the best coaches in the country,” Alden said.

Missouri soon should be getting an injection of cash from Anderson’s buyout to help cover some of the expenses in Haith’s contract. Alden and associate athletic director Tim Hickman said that rather than receive the $550,000 Anderson owes Missouri over five years, they have agreed to accept a one-time payment of approximately $510,000 and hope to receive it from Arkansas before the fiscal year ends on June 30. MU, meanwhile, will pay Miami, Haith’s former employer, $150,000 to buy him out of his contract.

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Missouri boosts buyout penalty in Haith contract

By The Associated Press  June 20, 2011  7:15 p.m. CDT

COLUMBIA — MU has made it much more expensive for its new men's basketball coach to leave before his contract is up.

The school that lost former head coach Mike Anderson to Arkansas two months ago has sharply increased the buyout penalty for Frank Haith, his successor.

The buyout starts at $1.2 million after one year and gradually decreases to $500,000 by year four. Anderson’s contract capped the buyout penalty at $550,000, an amount equal to two years of his base salary.

"We want to make sure we're surrounding ourselves with people who want to be at Mizzou," said athletic director Mike Alden.

MU released copies of Haith's contract Monday, nine days after it was signed by Haith, Alden and other university leaders. He will earn $1.5 million annually and an extra $100,000 in yearly deferred compensation starting in 2013. He can earn another $825,000 in incentives that range from $25,000 apiece for winning the Big 12 regular
season and its conference tournament to another $150,000 for taking MU to its first Final Four.

Meeting the team's academic and community involvement goals will net Haith another $100,000, as will exceeding 13,000 in average attendance at Mizzou Arena.

Haith also gets a pool of $750,000 to pay his three assistant coaches as well as his director of basketball operations and the team's strength and conditioning coach. That's a $150,000 boost from the amount provided to Anderson.

Alden said the increase for Haith's assistants is designed in part to foster loyalty to the school and lessen the chances that an assistant would jump to another job.

Haith, 45, comes to Columbia after seven years at Miami. In his first head coaching job, Haith went 129-101 with the Hurricanes, including 43-69 in the Atlantic Coast Conference. Under Haith, the 'Canes made the NCAA tournament once, losing in the second round in 2008.

He replaces Anderson, who left MU after five seasons, three consecutive NCAA tournament appearances and a school-best 77 wins over the past three seasons. Anderson, who headed south to the school where he spent 17 years as a Nolan Richardson assistant, earned $1.55 million at MU, excluding incentives, but now earns $2.2 million annually at Arkansas.

Haith has a five-year deal at MU but will automatically earn a one-year extension on May 1, 2012. And his guaranteed salary will automatically increase by $50,000 each year.

MU also reduced the amount of money it would owe its men's basketball coach should he be fired.

In that instance, Haith would receive a payment equal to his base salary of $350,000 multiplied by the number of years remaining on his contract. Anderson's contract called for a minimum severance payment of $500,000.

MU is negotiating with Arkansas for payment of the $550,000 owed by Anderson, said Tim Hickman, senior associate athletic director for operations. MU expects to receive a lump sum payment less than the full amount owed in exchange for a quicker payout, he said.
Missouri swimmer Sasha Menu Courey dies

By THE TRIBUNE'S STAFF

University of Missouri swimmer Sasha Menu Courey died early Friday morning.

Sasha Menu Courey

An MU spokesman said the family has requested privacy regarding the cause of death, which did not happen in Columbia.

“Sasha was a very kind and intelligent young woman, and her smile and energy will be remembered and missed by everyone who knew her,” MU swim Coach Greg Rhodenbaugh said in a statement. “Our hearts are heavy and our prayers are with Sasha’s family as they cope with such a tragic loss.

“We have a very strong support system within our team, as well as the University, and we’ll definitely be leaning on each other.”

Menu Courey was a Toronto native who recently completed her sophomore year at MU. She is survived by her parents, Mike Menu and Lynn Courey, and a younger sister, Kayla Menu Courey. Her biography on the MU athletics website said she was majoring in psychology and aspired to be a psychologist and humanitarian aid worker.

An on-campus memorial service is planned, but the details were not complete at press time.
Should Prenatal Care Be Extended to Dads?

By Bonnie Rochman Tuesday, June 21, 2011 | Add a Comment

Perhaps it's because mom has the burgeoning belly, but dads have largely been left out of prenatal care. That could be damaging to the family's health, contends research in a recent issue of the Journal of Advanced Nursing.

Stressed-out, anxious pregnant women who don't receive adequate support are linked to less-than-ideal infant health outcomes. The role fathers-to-be play hasn't been studied nearly as much, but because pregnant women rely on them for support and care, researcher ManSoo Yu says it stands to reason that inattentive expectant fathers may also contribute to poorer infant health.

"When people hear about a pregnancy, they automatically think about women and the baby," says Yu, an assistant professor in the public health program at the University of Missouri. "It's never about men."

Yu, the study's lead author, analyzed 66 low-income Missouri couples, examining how stress and social support impacted men and women differently. To get a better hold on the emotions of both men and women during pregnancy, he administered the Prenatal Psychosocial Profile (PPP) to 132 expectant mothers and fathers. The PPP is typically given only to pregnant women to assess stress, self-esteem and how supportive they feel their partners are.

When confronted with pregnancy-related issues — things like bodily changes and wondering how life will change post-baby — Yu found that men respond in much the same way they do when dealing with financial stressors, while women view them as emotional stressors. "Men are thinking about how they are going to support their new family," says Yu. "They are trying to understand the role of the father and consider how they will parent."

While expectant mothers concentrate on the prenatal period, men tend to focus on the future, fretting about how they're going to afford diapers and child care. It's an important distinction and one that should be pointed out to doctors, nurses, midwives and social workers who take care of pregnant women, says Yu.

Whether or how the psychological well-being of men is associated with better pregnancy outcomes isn't clear, but Yu intends to investigate the association, suggesting that to start men should be more involved in prenatal doctor visits. Practitioners should engage them in caring for their partner during pregnancy and help men prepare for life after baby; men can be offered
resources that educate about substance abuse, for example, and help them manage stress and boost their communication skills.

"We have to provide prenatal care for fathers," says Yu. "Expectant fathers deserve attention and support as well."

Data from the research also revealed that men and women doled out support in different ways. Women gave their partners emotional support while men offered tangible support, helping with specific tasks.

If nothing else, that's encouraging news in light of a recent survey by ForbesWoman and the pregnancy website TheBump.com, which came down hard on dads for not helping out more at home. Sure, women want to feel supported and understood, but what they really want is help with household chores and with the kids.

Well, sort of. The surveyed women complained about their partners not pitching in enough, yet many expressed reluctance to let their partners take over tasks. So it's a step in the right direction that the dads-to-be in Yu's study conveyed support by actually taking on domestic duties. Now it's up to mothers to ease up on trying to be Supermom.
Scientists share Alzheimer’s info

Caregivers get look at research center.

By Jodie Jackson Jr.

As he cares for his ailing wife of 42 years, Pete Davis looks toward the future for other families and caregivers of loved ones diagnosed with Alzheimer’s disease.

Davis and others in the local Alzheimer’s support group Men Emerging as Caregivers and Days of Our Lives, a women’s support group, heard from top brain-science researchers Thursday during a tour of the University of Missouri School of Medicine’s neuroscience research center.

“They indicated there is no therapy or treatment that cures it,” Davis said, repeating a fact he already knew. The overview of current research to prevent, treat and cure Alzheimer’s and other brain diseases “looks promising,” he said, “but they haven’t got it yet.”

“You’ve just got to think in terms of what are we going to be able to do 10 years from now that we can’t do now?” Davis said. “You’d hate to discover that this is going to be with us as long as human beings are on the earth.”

The show-and-tell of research projects in the 9,000-square-foot MU Center for Translational Neuroscience, on the seventh floor of the School of Medicine, took place just blocks away from the School of Law, where Davis is a professor emeritus. He estimates he has taught as many as one-quarter of the 8,000 to 10,000 law students who have attended there in the past 40 years.

Ralph Brendel of Jefferson City, whose wife was recently diagnosed with Alzheimer’s, said the presentations by researchers “simplified a lot of the minutia” of scientific studies.

The lab tour and research update were coordinated by David Oliver, assistant director of the MU Center for Aging. Oliver is president of the Alzheimer’s Association Mid-Missouri Chapter.

He said a lot of the basic information about Alzheimer’s and dementia probably was not new to most support-group members but that it was encouraging to see the vast range of research and nationwide collaboration among researchers.

“It just goes to show you that scientists do know how to talk to us,” he said.
Grace Sun, scientific director of the Center for Translational Neuroscience, said studies are focused as much on preventing Alzheimer’s as they are on finding a cure for the incurable, progressive and fatal brain disease.

Sun said the diet, nutrition, stress reduction and use of botanical supplements that have antioxidant and anti-inflammatory properties might hold the key to treatments that are more long-term than current medicines that only temporarily halt the progression of Alzheimer’s, dementia and other brain diseases.

Neuroscientist Dennis Miller gave support-group members an overview of brain physiology and how scientists believe Alzheimer’s disease develops. Another researcher, neuropathologist Douglas Miller, specializes in brain tumors. He emphasized the role of collaboration among researchers as a positive step toward understanding the dynamics of brain disorders.

“Twenty-first century science is no longer done inside silos,” he said, noting how research labs are open to sharing data and results.

Meanwhile, support-group members continue to provide care to their spouses, an act one member described as “a long goodbye.”

“I wouldn’t wish this on anybody,” said Davis, 74. His wife, Mary Lou, 70, was diagnosed with Alzheimer’s five years ago and has been bed-ridden since having a seizure two years ago. She still laughs at an occasional joke and sometimes gives one-word responses — and seems to enjoy operatic music — but Davis isn’t entirely sure what or how much his wife understands.

“There’s something going on in there, but I don’t have much of a clue what it is anymore,” he said, adding: “I get a smile once in a while.”

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Letters to the editor, June 21

From the criticisms of Gov. Jay Nixon you would think he stole candy from a baby, or worse, kicked a puppy. He didn't. He gave deference to common sense over political correctness ("Higher ed takes hit as Nixon cuts budget," June 11).

Cutting a bloated education budget when almost everyone else has to tighten his belt is common sense, good governance and good for our children.

Today, graduates of high schools and colleges leave with more paper than their diplomas. One way or another, every tax dollar spent on education is a dollar taxpayers — or future taxpayers — must make up. Adding state and local tax burdens to each child's share of the national debt, now more than $46,000, paints a bleak picture.

In short, high taxes and large debt are robbing our children of their liberty and their future.

That flies in the face of the purpose of publicly funded education, at least according to the Missouri Constitution. Anything that promotes education and undermines liberty — as does an inordinate tax burden — is antithetical to the constitutional purpose of public education.

Mr. Nixon got it right. Politicians using education funding as a political football need to get a life.

Ron Calzone • Dixon, Mo.

Director, Missouri First Inc.
COLUMBIA, Mo. — University of Missouri economists estimate about $85 million in potential crop value lost from blowing out the Birds Point levee on the Mississippi River.

The university’s Food and Agricultural Policy Research Institute said Monday that the economic loss climbs to about $156.7 million when other economic changes are factored in. FAPRI estimated current-year plantings and potential yields based on U.S. Department of Agriculture records.

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers blew up the Birds Point levee last month to reduce the flooding threat to Cairo, Ill. The levee breach flooded 130,000 acres and damaged or destroyed houses in southeastern Missouri.

Scott Brown, an economist with FAPRI, said the study applies to losses for the current year only and does not consider long-term impact or losses to infrastructure.