

Panthers Get Olsen, Beason Signs Mega Deal

Written by Mike Kelly
Friday, 29 July 2011 08:24

The Carolina Panthers made Jon Beason the highest paid middle linebacker in the National Football League late Thursday night.

Beason received a five-year, \$50 million contract extension; \$25 million dollars of that money is guaranteed. Beason, who played at the University of Miami, has recorded at least 121 tackles in each of his first four NFL seasons. Beason also has eight career interceptions and four quarterback sacks. Beason had one year remaining on his rookie contract. The Panthers have also picked up tight end Greg Olsen from the Chicago Bears for a third-round draft pick in 2012. Olsen, who is 26-years-old, averaged nearly 50 catches, 500 receiving yards and five touchdowns a season in his four years with the Bears. He caught 41 passes for 404 yards and five touchdowns last season. Olsen and Jeremy Shockey, who signed with the Panthers before the NFL lockout, give the Panthers two legitimate receivers at tight end. Olsen, who was a first-round draft choice out of Miami in 2007, has received a four-year deal from the Panthers. The Panthers have also signed kicker Olindo Mare, defensive tackle Ray Edwards and safety Sean Considine. The Panthers report to training camp today at Wofford College in Spartanburg, SC; they play their pre-season opener at home against the New York Giants Saturday, August 13; they play their season opener at Arizona Sunday, September 11.