



Williams agrees to return

Guard to sign for six years, \$52 million

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Posted: July 14, 2007

The Bucks management is taking the steps it believes are necessary to compete again and reach the playoffs.

Example No. 1 is the club's diligence in pursuing free-agent point guard Mo Williams, who has agreed in principle to a **six-year, \$52 million contract with the Bucks**, according to Priority Sports.

A breakthrough came when the Bucks **increased their offer from a five-year, \$42 million deal, adding an extra year and \$10 million. Williams has a player option for the fifth and sixth years of the contract.**

"Senator (Herb) Kohl and Larry Harris and the entire organization made it clear how important Mo was to them and their future," a Priority Sports spokesman said Saturday morning.

Kohl had a one-on-one meeting with Williams on Monday, countering a bid by the Miami Heat to land the 24-year-old Mississippi native.

Williams started 68 games for the Bucks last season and averaged 17.3 points, 4.8 rebounds and 6.1 assists, all career highs. His performance elevated him to become one of the top free agents this off-season.

The Heat had seriously courted Williams, offering a five-year, \$31.4 million deal, the maximum it could give under salary cap guidelines.

In the end, the Bucks had a huge advantage due to their salary cap situation and rules that favor teams attempting to re-sign their own free agents.

The contract averages \$8.67 million per year.