



Chargers sign OT Olivea to \$20 million extension

By **Len Pasquarelli**
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For the second time in less than three months, the San Diego Chargers have addressed the long-term stability of their offensive line, signing third-year veteran right tackle Shane Olivea on Wednesday to an extension through the 2011 season.



The deal, which makes Olivea the sixth-highest paid right tackle in the league when the so-called "new money" is calculated, is worth \$20 million and incentives could push the value to \$24 million. Between bonuses and salary, Olivea, 24, will earn \$8 million in the first year of the deal.

"When my agent called me to tell me that the deal was done, I was physically shaking," Olivea said in a statement released by the team. "Every sprint, every extra push-up, every extra lift and every time I decided to go workout instead of going to a party or something & everything was validated today. Today made it worth it."

"My father is turning 75 this year and I'm going to call my parents and tell them that they're retired. I'm going to buy my dad a car. I'm going to open a checking account for my parents and take care of them. My mom and dad made so many sacrifices for me. If I'm half the parents they are, I'll be doing alright. I'm pumped about getting to take care of them."

Olivea was entering the final season of the three-year, \$960,250 contract he signed with the Chargers as a rookie in 2004. Without the extension, he would have been eligible for restricted free agency next spring. San Diego officials have been negotiating the extension with agent Kenny Zuckerman for several weeks.

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