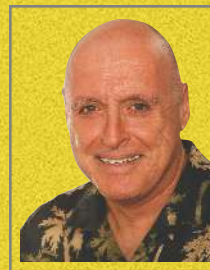


# THE EXTRA POINT

BY JERRY ROBERTS



## # 1120 What's in Your Contract?

One of the largest and strangest sports deals just got completed a few days ago, and as the language of the contract has been released to the public, tongues are wagging. I'm Jerry Roberts, and we'll tell you why, next, on The Extra Point.

The NFL's Arizona Cardinals and their star quarterback, Kyler Murray, have signed off on the second largest player contract in league history.

Murray, going into his fourth season, will receive \$230 million over five years, with \$160 Million of that guaranteed against lost time due to injury.

With player salaries across all major sports skyrocketing the past few years, teams have sought to protect their massive investments by writing language into the agreements that prohibit players from taking part in specific high-risk activities.

According to a 2015 story in the Washington Post, the standard NBA contract prohibits boxing, professional wrestling, motorcycling, moped-riding, auto-racing, sky-diving and hang-gliding. I'm sure mixed martial Arts is also now included.

The NFL's standard player contract isn't as specific, disallowing players from "any activity other than football which may involve a significant risk of personal injury."

I'm sure many players don't see a problem with many of those pursuits, but if that's what it's going to take to score the megabucks, then they'll make the sacrifice — right?

Kyler Murray's deal certainly had the safety restrictions included, no doubt. However, it also had some additional requirements, and that's why all the tongues were wagging among the writers and sportscasters.

One such clause is that Murray must study film for four hours per week during the season. It is termed "independent study", and will be in addition to mandatory team meetings; and be material provided to him by the team about upcoming opponents.

Quarterbacks spend a lot of time studying for each game, so it seems strange that Murray's contract would contain such wording. Wait, there's a reason.

In December of last year, Murray told the New York Times, "I think I was blessed with the cognitive skills to just go out there and see it before it happens," Murray said. "I'm not one of those guys that's going to sit there and kill myself watching film." That likely caught the attention of the Cardinals management.

It gets better. No credit will be earned if Murray does not "personally study the provided material in good faith." Good faith? What do they mean by that? Here's where it gets weird.

Murray will not get credit if he's not studying or watching the material while it plays on his tablet, or if he's doing something that can distract him or draw his attention elsewhere while the material is playing. What would that be? That would be playing video games, watching TV, or browsing the Internet.

Then, the agreement gets very real. It reads that failure to meet these requirements will mean Murray will be in default of his contract. In other words, they won't have to pay him.

If Arizona is winning and Murray is playing well, nobody will be thinking about the deal. However, if things go bad, you better believe the team will focus their attention on whether Murray violated the terms — just in case.

(Con't.)

Will the team resort to the use of software and webcams to record Murray watching the film? That would seem outrageous, but there are companies that do that kind of thing, to monitor if workers are engaged in their duties.

Requiring a player to study more outside of team meetings is unprecedented. You'd think if you were handing over \$230 million to a player over five years, none of this would be necessary.

So, now I'm going to put you in the Kyler Murray position. Your boss comes in and offers you a new contract, worth twice what you're now earning. They know you very well, including all of the things you do which they wish you wouldn't, and all of the things you don't do, that they wish you would.

When you look at the contract, your jaw drops when you see that they've written in a lot of that stuff, and they're going to make sure you live up to it if you want to get your money.

I'm curious, what was it they wrote in *your* contract?

That's the Extra Point. Be responsible and make something good happen today. For 93.3 and the Ray Gibson Show, I'm Jerry Roberts.

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