Dolphins sign WR Brian Hartline and QB Matt Moore prior to Free Agent Negotiating Period

Contributed by Dave Blake
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Dolphins make two moves before Saturday's FA Negotiating Period.Ireland has done some good work over the last two days by resigning WR Brian Hartline and backup QB Matt Moore. They're expensive but it was something that needed to be done.

The beans of the contracts are as follows:
- Brian Hartline: 5-year, $30.775 million contract, with $12.5 million fully guaranteed.

- Matt Moore: 2-year, $8 million contract.

Signing Matt Moore was a good move for the Dolphins.Signing Matt Moore was a good signing as the Dolphins valued him as a backup and mentor to Ryan Tannehill. I view Moore as a starter/backup tweener kind of a quarterback. A Jay Fiedler type of quarterback, if you'll excuse my comparison. Any team that would sign Moore would use him as a 1 year band-aid starter. I'm not sure what made him decide to not give it a shot as a starter, but I am very happy that he is comfortable backing up Tannehill.

Phinfever's Rich Rodriguez had this to say about Matt Moore:

"Speculation is when his agent spoke to teams with a need at QB, he didn't see a clear path for Moore to become a starter, which is surprising. He is certainly better than at least 20% of the QBs that started last year, probably more."

I guess the rumors that Ireland wanting Matt Moore to stay in Miami were true, but the rumors of teams wanting to sign him to start for them wasn't.

Dolphins refuse to move backwards with their Wide Receiver group.

With many Dolphins fans anxious to see whether the Dolphins bring in Mike Wallace or Greg Jennings to be their #1 wide receiver Tuesday afternoon when teams can sign free agents, it was very important for Ireland to keep free agent Brian Hartline a Dolphin. Otherwise, Ireland would be looking for two wide receivers instead of one. That would be a step backwards as Hartline has good chemistry with Ryan Tannehill and was his go-to receiver on third downs. He also has good upside and continues to improve each year.

But, is he worth $6 million a year? I'm not so sure about that, but if he is indeed a good #2 wide receiver then $6 million is probably a good price for his services. There were times that he disappeared in games and he didn't find the end zone hardly at all, but let's keep in mind that he was our best receiver last year which means that he faced the defense's top cornerback. Also, safeties kept an eye on him because of the good chemistry that he had with Tannehill.

So, once the Dolphins bring a true legit #1 receiver next week, expect Brian Hartline to look better as the #2 receiver. He has the best hands that I've seen since Orande Gadsden for the Dolphins, and he's very intelligent. I like the move.

Scout. com had this to say about Brian Hartline:

"With Hartline back in the fold, the Dolphins could find themselves with a very good top-three group at wide receiver if they can land the player perceived to be their top free agent, Pittsburgh Steelers wide receiver Mike Wallace."

{youtube}LUl9n65mfys{/youtube}

Wallace or Jennings? Stay tuned.Just about every media outlet is saying that Miami's #1 free agent target is Steelers WR Mike Wallace. The man is a playmaking machine, but on the short side. Size doesn't mean a lot. Ask Steve Smith of the Panthers. Still, the Sun Sentinel's Dave Hyde made 5 points in saying that Greg Jennings could be the better option for the Dolphins.
- Jennings is just as productive Wallace. And maybe moreso.

- Jennings is the more polished receiver - and can play every receiving position.

- Jennings has the kind of values this team covets.

- Jennings should be a better value.

- For a building team like the Dolphins, Jennings is a good fit.

I do believe that Jennings would make an immediate impact on our offense. While I am concerned about his recent injury issues, I would not be disappointed if the Dolphins did get Jennings instead of Wallace.

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