

Publication: The Virginian-Pilot; Date: Apr 23, 2013; Section: Sports; Page: C1

Chancellor cashes in with new 4-year deal

Ex-Maury, Tech star gets his day in the sun with the Seahawks

The Associated Press

RENTON, WASH.

Kam Chancellor got the full treatment, from the use of the Seahawks' giant auditorium to standing on stage flanked by his head coach and general manager holding up a jersey with his name stitched across the back.

Chancellor never got such an opportunity when he was drafted in the fifth round out of Virginia Tech.

The former Maury High star became the first member of Seattle's standout secondary to be locked up for the long term. He signed a four-year extension with the Seahawks on Monday that will keep the safety under contract with the organization through the 2017 season.

"Obviously, this is a big deal and we're trying to make a big deal out of this day for Kam," Seattle general manager John Schneider said. "This is Kam's day. Kam was a fifth-round draft pick. He hasn't been able to experience something like this and hopefully he's here for the rest of his career."

Chancellor was Schneider's top priority this offseason when it came to take care of players in-house. The Seahawks made headlines with their trade for former Landstown High star Percy Harvin and the signings of Cliff Avril and Antoine Winfield, but Schneider insisted none of those deals would have been consummated had they affected Seattle's ability to get a long-term contract done with Chancellor.

"I've got so many words it's hard to throw them out there. I just feel great right now. The Seahawks organization has blessed me. It just feels good. I'm a happy person right now," Chancellor said.

"Negotiations are negotiations, things are going to be up and down, be a bumpy road. At the end of the day it's done. That's all that matters at the end."

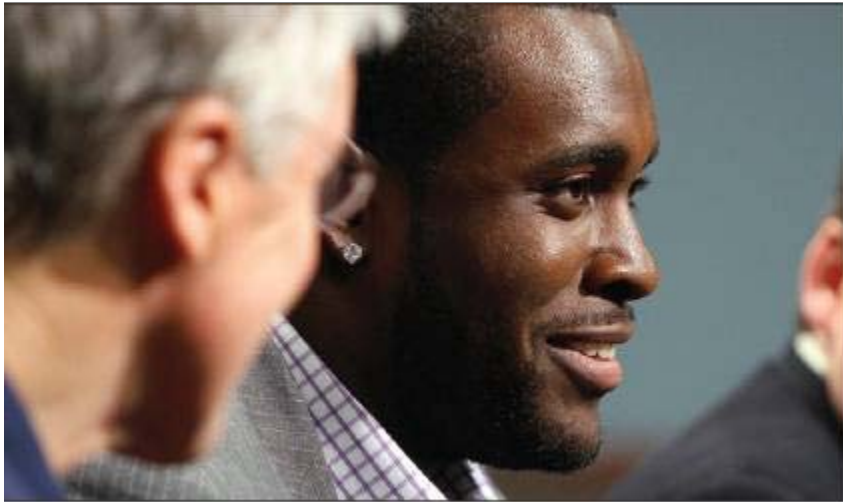
Chancellor, who turned 25 earlier this month, has become the hard-hitting anchor in Seattle's secondary. Last season, he recorded a career-high 92 tackles.

But it was as a rookie in 2010, when Chancellor was playing behind and learning from former All-Pro Lawyer Milloy, that head coach Pete Carroll saw his potential. Chancellor started at Virginia Tech as a quarterback before moving to cornerback and rover, and finally settling at safety. By the end of his rookie year, Chancellor was getting significant snaps on defense.

He took over the starting spot in 2011 when Seattle chose not to re-sign Milloy. Chancellor's play in his first season as a starter was rewarded with a Pro Bowl trip.

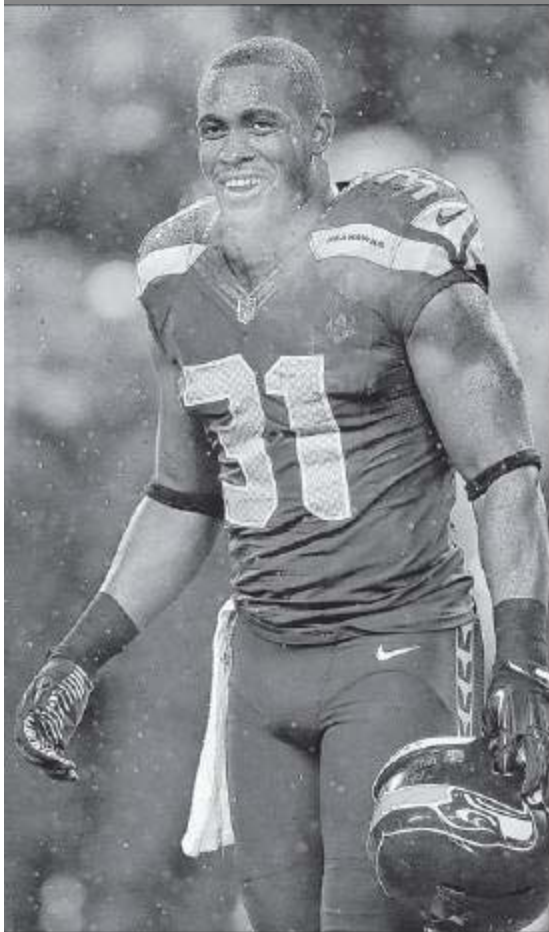
"It was a great upbringing for him. Lawyer was a fantastic football player to follow and Kam did everything in that same style of play," Carroll said. "It started with (special) teams but he's never taken a step back. He's a tremendous all-around athlete ... but all of that has fit together."

A year ago, the Seahawks' main inhouse goal was getting Marshawn Lynch re-signed. This year it was Chancellor and now Schneider and his staff can turn to other players that could be due big paydays. Two other members of Seattle's secondary – All-Pros Earl Thomas and Richard Sherman – have deals that expire after the 2014 season and could be looking at big-money extensions when the time comes.



JOHN LOK | THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Seattle safety Kam Chancellor meets the media after signing a four-year extension with the Seahawks.



ELAINE THOMPSON | THE AP

Maury High graduate Kam Chancellor had a career-high 92 tackles as Seattle earned a playoff berth last season.