

Chris Paul has verbally agreed to a five-year, \$107 million contract extension to remain with the Los Angeles Clippers. Paul can't sign his new contract until July 10 but could agree to terms as of 12:01 a.m. ET. He'll earn \$18.8 million in the first year of the deal.

Paul posted a message on his Twitter account Monday morning, saying "I'M IN!!! #CLIPPERNATION." Paul led the Clippers to their first Pacific Division title last season and his decision to stay is the second big victory for the longtime losers in this offseason, following the signing of Doc Rivers as their new coach.

Paul will become the second high-profile player to sign a long-term extension with the Clippers in the past two seasons. Blake Griffin signed a five-year, \$95 million extension last summer.

The two-time Olympic gold medalist has helped turn the Clippers franchise around in two seasons since coming in a trade from the New Orleans Hornets. They made the playoffs in both seasons, advancing to the second round in 2012, and went 56-26 this season, the best record in their history. Paul averaged 16.9 points, 9.7 assists and an NBA-best 2.4 steals per game. He was the Western Conference player of the month in December, when the Clippers went 16-0.

Written by Nicholas Norman Wednesday, 03 July 2013 00:00

