

Clemson TV Scheduled

Football Games Set For Tape Delay Showing

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Tape-delayed broadcasts of next season's Clemson University football games will be carried on the ESPN cable network and five television stations in the Carolinas, says a network official.

A "multiple-year deal" has been made for the next two seasons, during which the Clemson football program has been banned from live television, said Raycom Network president Rick Ray.

The TV stations will carry Clemson's entire 11-game schedule, Ken Haines, Raycom vice president for network operations, said Wednesday.

However, ESPN will not carry all

11 games, said Chris LaPlaca, ESPN communications representative. He could not say how many the cable network will carry. "As of today, our tape-delayed football plans are not completely finalized," he said Wednesday.

The NCAA and Atlantic Coast Conference have restricted Clemson from live broadcasts due to rules violations.

Clemson athletic director Bill McLellan said he has received a letter about the deal.

Clemson is "going forward as far as we can," McLellan said Tuesday. "He (Ray) is a pro in this, and that's why we hired him, to get the best contract we can."

Each game will be trimmed to two

hours and "cost us in the neighborhood of \$18,000, so that's just under \$200,000 for the season," McLellan said.

"I'm hoping we can get sponsors and recapture some of that. Their anticipation is that we can be good, and if we become a hot item, that would make the package more valuable," he added.

The Clemson communications department will be directly involved in the taping. The department operates several cameras during each home game.

Clemson reached an initial agreement with the Charlotte-based Raycom Network in May and Raycom has negotiated for outlets, Ray said Tuesday.

"We have cleared every market in South Carolina as well as in Charlotte and are now scheduled to broadcast on ESPN," he said.

Raycom also has signed a contingency plan with the ACC for live football telecasts. The plan is dependent on a federal court ruling on the legality of the NCAA's multi-year contract with ABC, CBS and the Turner Broadcasting System.

Stations in Florence, Charleston, Spartanburg, Columbia and Charlotte will broadcast the delayed Clemson games on Saturdays at 11:30 p.m. The time slot for ESPN depends on the court decision, Ray said.

ESPN is also negotiating tape-delayed contracts on Notre Dame and UCLA games.