



****FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE****

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PAT RILEY DOESN'T BLAME WADE FOR NOT RE-SIGNING YET

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West Palm Beach, FL – Miami Heat team President **Pat Riley** tells ESPN 760 in West Palm Beach, FL, that if he were Dwyane Wade, he would have "probably done exactly what he's done" and wait until the summer of 2010 to sign a new contract.

Riley joined Evan Cohen (*M-F, 4p-7p*) on Tuesday, October 27, 2009, to discuss the Heat's 2009 offseason and the upcoming 2009-2010 campaign.

A partial transcript of the interview follows; an audio clip from the interview is attached. Audio from the full interview is available online at http://www.espn760.com/audiovault/evan_cohen.php

Please note that the following question is paraphrased.

If you were Dwyane Wade, would you have re-signed with the Heat this past summer?

If I was Dwyane Wade and I had his skill level and what he's done in the NBA and what he's facing in the future, I would have probably done exactly what he's done. You know, I mean, there's a risk to that.

But we've also prepared ourself, you know, for the best, which is to re-sign Dwyane at a max-max contract and also to re-sign other players that I know he's going to like. [...] Or, if the worst-case scenario were to happen and he were to leave, then we have more room than God to be able to sign five or six players. So we're very [...] positive in this process. It's happened before in the NBA. There are three or four other franchise players, or six or seven other franchise players, or nine or ten other franchise players basically out there that are going to do the same thing. So we're confident that we're positioned to re-sign him [Wade] and to be able to bring the talent in here that's going to help compliment him.

So would I have done it? I would have thought long and hard about it just like Dwyane has. Dwyane has thought long and hard about the extension we offered him -- and also that is still on the table and can be revisited at any time -- or that he will go into free agency next year. I mean, this is part of the business.

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