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[Kern lands 4-year deal](#)

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NIAGARA FALLS — After a season in which he ranked among the top 10 National Football League punters at pinning teams inside their own 10-yard line, the Tennessee Titans signed Grand Island punter Brett Kern to a four-year contract extension, the team announced Friday.

Financial terms of Kern's deal were not disclosed, but Brett's father, Cal, said the former University of Akron standout was hoping for a vote of confidence from a new coaching staff after coach Jeff Fisher left the organization.

"Despite everything that happened, he had faith," he said. "Me too. I just felt pretty good that it was all going to work out. I think there was some impatience, but what is he going to do? It's totally out of his control."

Kern completed his first full season with the Titans in 2010 and finished fifth in the AFC with a career-best 39.1-yard net average in all 16 games.

"The punting game is becoming so much more positional and situational, it's not just watching the ball down the field," Cal Kern said. "Look at Brian Moorman, he's athletic, and does what has to be done. That's what they've told Brett — do what you need to do, don't worry so much about that stats."

The Titans claimed Kern off waivers from Denver on Oct. 27, 2009. He was originally signed by the Broncos as a rookie free agent in 2008.

"It kind of rocked him when Denver let him go," Cal Kern said of his son's career path. "It was a shock. This gave him his confidence back.

"I'm so proud of him. I never pushed Brett to do what he's doing. He's self-taught."