

Hawks' depth hit again with McLeod sidelined

BYLINE: Jeffrey Denberg, Staff

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With Jim Jackson sidelined, the Hawks received more bad news Monday. Roshown McLeod suffered a groin injury during practice. McLeod's injury is expected to force him out of the lineup for one week, leaving Chris Crawford as the only healthy small forward on the roster.

As for Jackson, the first of three "shock therapy" treatments at the Sonorex Therapy Center in Toronto was successful. He expects to rejoin the team in time for Saturday's game in Cleveland, according to Jackson's agent, Mark Termini.

The treatments, designed to alleviate painful tendinitis in Jackson's knees, will continue Wednesday and Friday. Jackson was able to work out after Monday's session and apparently will be able to continue physical therapy as part of his regimen.

The Hawks will work under extreme short-handed conditions Wednesday against the Clippers and Friday against Golden State, with Crawford as the lone healthy small forward among the four on the roster. Crawford is averaging 4.3 points per game and shooting .404, a sharp drop from his performance as a starter over the final 30 games last season.

"This is a chance for Chris to get his rhythm back," coach Lenny Wilkens said.

McLeod suffered his injury in a bizarre manner following the team's practice. The second-year forward from Duke dunked from a standing start and felt something go in his left groin. Within minutes, he was hurting so much he had to go in for treatment.

"Something's bad wrong," he said. "I just went up to dunk and something pulled. I don't know what it is, but it can't be anything good."

He was right. His injury continues a run of bad luck that started in the Hawks' victory at Toronto last Tuesday when McLeod suffered an apparent concussion.

"I ran into (power forward) John Thomas head first," McLeod said. "By the next day, I was experiencing nausea and headaches. I was also coming down with the flu, so I wasn't exactly sure what it was."

He played only 11 minutes against Sacramento Thursday and said he was "sluggish and not feeling well at all." McLeod also had an aching right wrist, apparently stemming from an arthritic condition. "I broke my wrist when I was younger," he said. "Whenever it gets cold the wrist hurts. It makes a clicking sound."

LaPhonso Ellis' remains sidelined with a calf strain; the Hawks hope he will return by Christmas.

Jackson would not have stopped for treatment had his pain not been acute, Termini said. "Jim's always been very proud of his conditioning," the agent said. "Except for the severe ankle injury he suffered in Dallas (in 1994-95), he's only missed one game due to injury, and that was last season.

"He can't wait to get back," Termini said. "He's in a very positive relationship with his coach and the team

seems to be coming together.”

Averaging 16.6 points per game, Jackson scored 26 against the Kings and 33 against the Pistons in the Hawks' last two games.

ILLUSTRATIONS/PHOTOS: Roshown McLeod of the Hawks pulled a groin muscle while dunking in practice.
/ KEVIN FRAYER / Associated Press

NEXT

Opponent: Los Angeles Clippers.

When; where: 7:30 p.m, Wednesday; Philips Arena.

Records: Hawks 8-9; Clippers 4-12*.

TV; radio: Turner South; WSB-AM (750).

*record through Sunday

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