

Jackson in Canada for knee therapy

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Now that the Hawks have given Atlanta a tantalizing glimpse of a lethal one-two punch, they're going to have to get along without one half of their poisonous combination. Jim Jackson, who played 17 games with painful tendinitis in his knees, is in Toronto today to undergo a revolutionary procedure called "shock wave" therapy that may relieve his symptoms.

Jackson, who scored 59 points on 23-of-35 shooting in the last two of the Hawks' four consecutive victories, might only miss a week, team physician Mike Bernot said Saturday night. What Jackson wants is to return pain free, he said.

"You haven't really seen him play like he can," Isaiah Rider said after scoring 30 in support of Jackson's 33 as the Hawks beat the Pistons 112-110 Saturday.

"What I've been doing for the team I've accomplished while not being able to jump or really dig in and play defense," the 6-foot-6 forward said. "People in Atlanta haven't seen the real Jim Jackson, yet. So, that's why I'm doing this. I've got an opportunity here to really play like I know I'm capable. (Coach) Lenny (Wilkins) has given me that chance, but if we're going to be the really good team I know we can be, I've got to get right."

Jackson will be treated today and perhaps again on Wednesday. Bernot said that will be determined by the effectiveness of the first treatment and the power of the blast that is similar to a procedure used to break up kidney stones.

The "shock wave" procedure has not been approved in the United States, Bernot said, but has been performed on numerous athletes in Europe and in Canada.

"In effect, it blasts the tissue and stimulates the growth of healthy tissue and that promotes healing," Bernot said.

Jackson initially believed he would be out up to four weeks, but Bernot said it might be a matter of days. With the Los Angeles Clippers here Wednesday and Golden State on Friday, the Hawks are in position to improve on their 8-9 record. But they must find some offense with Jackson out. Most likely, Roshown McLeod will move into the lineup with Chris Crawford behind him.

ILLUSTRATIONS/PHOTOS: HOT STRETCH

Jim Jackson has been a key player for the Hawks during the past three games, all victories:

Opponent.. Pts. Rebs. Result

Toronto.... 15.... 6..Hawks, 107-89

Sacramento..26.... 6..Hawks, 110-100

Detroit.... 33.... 7..Hawks, 112-110

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