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Giants linebacker Mathias Kiwanuka expects to play again this year but has not timetable for return

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SABONNEWS

Giants defensive end/linebacker Mathias Kiwanuka plays in three games and records 11 tackles and four sacks, but he is now out indefinitely with a herniated disk in his neck.

There is no end yet in sight to [Mathias Kiwanuka's](#) injury situation.

The linebacker returned from [Los Angeles](#), where he met with spine specialist [Dr. Robert Watkins](#) and while he says he "absolutely" expects to play this year, there is no timetable on what he is now sure is a herniated disk in his neck, a diagnosis that is worse than the bulging disk originally reported.

"Indefinite," Kiwanuka said Thursday.

"Everybody's body reacts differently. The main thing now is we're waiting for the herniation to subside, and

they're optimistic it will happen on its own," he said. "I was always hoping to hear something else and that's why I stayed optimistic about playing week to week but deep down I understood it was going to take time and I'm ready for that."

Are the [Giants](#)? That may depend on whether they can avoid other injuries and not need Kiwanuka's roster spot.

"It is difficult for everyone, the player as well, because the player naturally starts to feel better," [Tom Coughlin](#) said. "He feels better, the symptoms aren't there.... 'Why can't I go? What's the issue here?'"

"The frustration is that it's not something that you can see with the naked eye."

COWBOY UP

Coughlin has set the tone for the week. He's not letting anyone talk about putting the Cowboys away.

"As far as our team is concerned, we are 0-0 going into the division and [Dallas](#) is 0-1 and that's the way we look at it," the coach said. "It's early in the season. They're a good football team. We're a good football team. I'm not worried about records. As I said, they're 0-1 in the division. We haven't played yet."

"They're one play (in each game) away from being 5-0," [Brandon Jacobs](#) said. "You can't put them in the rear-view mirror. You have to put them in front of you because they have a lot of talent. It's going to be a dogfight."

BACK IN BOOTHE

Offensive lineman [Kevin Boothe](#), who has been on the PUP list with a torn pectoral muscle, returned to practice Thursday. The Giants now have a three-week window to activate him, release him or put him on injured reserve....The Giants did not violate any rules when they placed [Victor Cruz](#) on season-ending injured reserve with a hamstring injury Saturday, according to a league spokesman, despite the fact that the wide receiver believed he would be healthy enough to return this week.

The [NFL](#) investigated and ordered the Giants to send Cruz to an independent doctor. According to a source, the doctor confirmed that Cruz's injury - which may be more than a strain - wouldn't be fully healed for at least six weeks. So Cruz, the undrafted rookie out of UMass and summer camp sensation, can stay on IR and remains property of the Giants.

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