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## Willingham back after 50 games

June 25, 2008 | By Craig Barnes Staff Writer

MIAMI GARDENS — Marlins left-fielder Josh Willingham was back in the lineup and batting cleanup for the first time in 50 games on Tuesday, and he is convinced more attention to his back will [improve](#) his chances of staying off the disabled list.

"In the past, I had not done mass exercises as consistently when I played," Willingham said.

"It was as much complacency as anything. It won't be that way anymore."

Willingham said his change about his exercise routine came after he visited Dr. Robert Watkins in Los Angeles to have his chronic back tightness evaluated.

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"One of the reasons that I didn't do the exercises as often when I played was my concern about being tired or fatigued," Willingham said, "but Watkins assured me that wouldn't happen."

Willingham was a late scratch on April 28 against the Los Angeles Dodgers with back stiffness and put on the disabled list on May 5.

He was hitting .341 with six homers and 16 RBI at the time.

"A couple of times, I thought that it was getting better," Willingham said, "but it just wasn't there."

Willingham went 1 for 5 with an RBI and two strikeouts in his return and also had a diving catch in the top of ninth.

Manager Fredi Gonzalez said that he might not play Willingham in Thursday's afternoon [game](#), but he has no other plans to rest him.

"Physically, he is good," Gonzalez said, "and rest doesn't affect the back. If it is going to bother him, it is going to bother him."

Hanley back on top

With a week left in the All-Star balloting, shortstop Hanley Ramirez has retaken first place from Houston's Miguel Tejada.

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Ramirez has 1,123,516 votes as compared to Tejada's total of 1,052,852, a lead of 70,304.

Second baseman Dan Uggla remained fourth in the balloting with 675,358 votes. He trails Philadelphia's Chase Utley, the National League's top vote getter at 2,179,006.

"Hanley and Danny should be on the team," Gonzalez said. "Hanley deserves to be the shortstop."

Rabelo out, Hoover in

Catcher Mike Rabelo was optioned to Triple-A Albuquerque, and catcher Paul Hoover was recalled. He started against the Rays.

"We want Mike to play five or six times a week, get some at-bats and see if we can get him going," said Gonzalez. Rabelo, who had a passed ball and defensive lapse in Sunday's defeat to Oakland, was hitting .201 with three homers and 10 RBI.

Hoover was recalled on June 3 from Albuquerque but was optioned on June 7.

Johnson closer

Right-hander Josh Johnson (elbow) made a rehab start for Double-A Carolina Tuesday, going 5 1/3 innings. He gave up two earned runs on six hits, struck out four and allowed no walks.

Anibal Sanchez (shoulder) will pitch in a simulated game on Saturday.

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