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BASEBALL; Winfield Feels Better After Back Surgery

By MICHAEL MARTINEZ, SPECIAL TO THE NEW YORK TIMES

LEAD: Dave Winfield, the Yankees' injured right fielder, underwent surgery this morning to remove a herniated disk in his lower back and is expected to remain hospitalized for several days. Jeff Klein, the player's attorney, said it was not known when Winfield would begin a rehabilitation program or how soon he might expect to return to the team.

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The four-hour operation was performed by a team headed by Dr. Robert Watkins at Centinela Hospital Medical Center in Inglewood, Calif.

Klein said Winfield could be released from the hospital as early as Monday. He is expected to remain in the Los Angeles area during the rehabilitation process.

"No one is giving any estimates at this point," Klein said. "The doctors indicated he came through the surgery with flying colors. They're pleased with the results." Blausen Deal Dead

Meanwhile, the proposed trade that would have brought the Yankees the everyday shortstop Jeff Blausen has apparently died. Bobby Cox, the Atlanta Braves' general manager, met with Syd Thrift of the Yankees late today, but the talks produced nothing.

Cox was reportedly unimpressed with Roberto Kelly, the Yankee center fielder, in a game Thursday night against the Braves. The Yankees were reluctant to make the deal anyway because Kelly is their leading candidate to start the season.

"We wrapped it up and decided not to make the deal," Cox said. "We're very happy with Blausen."

The Yankees still need a shortstop because Rafael Santana has a bone chip in his right elbow and will probably undergo surgery next week in Los Angeles. He would probably be unable to return for at least two months.

In a statement released after the Winfield operation today, Watkins said that the 37-year-old outfielder suffered "a very large central disk herniation at the level 2-3 of his lumbar spine. There was a total blockage of the spinal canal and intense pressure on the spinal nerve." Feels Less Pain

Klein, who was in New York, spoke with Winfield after the operation and reported: "He's still a bit groggy but was resting comfortably. He was in much less pain. Even under the anesthesia, he was reasonably full of questions and full of pep."

Winfield first reported back spasms on Feb. 28, then left the spring camp last Sunday to seek medical advice on the West Coast. Because the Yankees were uncertain how long he would be out, they acquired Mel Hall, an outfielder, from the Cleveland Indians.

They addressed the shortstop problem Thursday by trading Charles Hudson, a pitcher, to Detroit for Tom Brookens, a veteran infielder. But the position remains cloudy now that the deal for Blausner has come and gone.

Cox said he had soured on the deal because "our coaching staff voted it down this morning. It seems to me they need our guy worse than we need theirs."

Cox also said he had grown reluctant to give up Blausner because the rookie has enjoyed an encouraging spring, batting .318 in his first 13 games and making just two errors on a field in West Palm Beach that is regarded as less than major league quality. LEITER IMPRESSIVE

Al Leiter might have won a spot in Manager Dallas Green's rotation when he pitched six innings, gave up one run and struck out six Braves Friday. But Atlanta won in 13 innings, 3-2. Hipolito Pena struck out the first two batters he faced in the 13th, then allowed a double to Dion James and a run-scoring single to Tom Gregg. Alvaro Espinoza, the Yankee shortstop, had three hits. . . . Don Slaught, the Yankee catcher, has thrown out 9 of 15 potential base stealers this spring, including 5 straight. Last season, Slaught caught only 12 of 72.