
October 8, 1999

HOCKEY -- RANGERS; Richter Out Tonight

By JASON DIAMOS

Mike Richter's visit to southern California to see Dr. Robert Watkins, a back specialist, has confirmed what Dr. Patrick O'Leary told Richter in New York earlier this week. The Ranger goalie has a slightly protruding disk in his lower back. It is not touching a nerve and it will not require surgery, but Richter will be out 7 to 10 days.

That means that Kirk McLean will again be in goal for the Rangers (0-2-1) tonight at Madison Square Garden against the Carolina Hurricanes. Richter is scheduled to fly back to New York today.

Watkins, who has treated Adam Graves, Wayne Gretzky, Mario Lemieux, Don Mattingly and Dave Winfield, prescribed a strengthening program to protect the area around the disk.

Richter has been out since last Saturday. He will probably miss the Rangers' afternoon game against Phoenix at the Garden on Sunday. The Rangers face the Islanders at Nassau Coliseum on Monday night before a home game against the Pittsburgh Penguins next Thursday.

Rangers Coach John Muckler said today that there is no sense in putting Richter on the disabled list. The Rangers might put Tim Taylor on that list, however. Taylor again failed post-practice tests to determine whether he can return from his concussion and play tonight. Without Taylor, the Rangers may recall another forward for the Carolina game. JASON DIAMOS