

Stay Connected For As Low As \$9.99/Month

Subscribe Now
(<https://offers.usatoday.com/BENB?gps-source=BENB999>)

Canucks forward Derek Dorsett retires because of neck injury

Kevin Allen, USA TODAY Sports Published 1:12 p.m. ET Nov. 30, 2017 | Updated 3:27 p.m. ET Nov. 30, 2017



(Photo: Sergei Belski, USA TODAY Sports)

Vancouver Canucks forward Derek Dorsett, a player known for his high energy physical play, has been told that he shouldn't play anymore because of health risks.

Dorsett, 30, is suffering from cervical disc herniation, and was evaluated by famed sports injury surgeon, Dr. Robert Watkins.

"I'm devastated by the news," Dorsett said in a retirement statement released by the team. "It will take a long time for this to truly sink in. As hard as it was to hear, Dr. Watkins' diagnosis is definitive. There is no grey area, and it gives me clarity to move forward."

Through the Canucks, Watkins said the herniation is "adjacent and separate" to his previous fusion. Watkins had performed cervical disc surgery on Dorsett in 2016.

"Given his current condition and the long-term significant health risk, I advised Derek not to return to play," Watkins said.

More: [Vatanen trade cements Devils GM's reputation \(https://www.usatoday.com/story/sports/nhl/columnist/allen/2017/11/30/sam-vatanen-trade-cements-devils-gm-ray-sheros-reputation-dealmaker/909440001/\)](https://www.usatoday.com/story/sports/nhl/columnist/allen/2017/11/30/sam-vatanen-trade-cements-devils-gm-ray-sheros-reputation-dealmaker/909440001/)

With seven goals in the first 20 games, Dorsett was on a pace for his best NHL season. In his 515-game NHL career, the most goals he ever scored in a season was 12.

"He's an example of what you can accomplish if you persevere," Vancouver general manager Jim Benning said.

Dorsett said he leaves the game proud of the way he played.

"What I can say for certain is that I left it all out on the ice," Dorsett said. "I gave my heart and soul to the teams I played for and never backed down from a challenge, including this one. It made me successful and a good teammate. Most of all I am truly honored and grateful to have lived the NHL dream."

YOUR EMAIL IS YOUR PASSPORT

Unlock exclusive access and special offers

CREATE FREE ACCOUNT
([HTTPS://LOGIN.USATODAY.COM/USAT-GUP-BX/AUTHENTICATE/?COOKIES=&FROM-STATE=METHOD-SELECT&WINDOW-MODE=POPUP&BYPASS-RETURNING-USER=TRUE&REQUESTED-STATE=CREATE-ACCOUNT&SOURCE=BEGWUSATREG®_MEDIUM=ONSITE®_CAMPAIGN=BOUNCE-EXCHANGE®_DELIVERY=GROWL](https://login.usatoday.com/usat-gup-bx/authenticate/?cookies=&from-state=method-select&window-mode=popup&bypass-returning-user=true&requested-state=create-account&source=begwusatreg&medium=onsite&campaign=bounce-exchange&delivery=growl))

[Fullscreen](#)

NHL 2017-18 photo of the night

**Stay Connected For As Low As
\$9.99/Month**

YOUR EMAIL IS YOUR PASSPORT

Unlock exclusive access and special offers.

Create Free Account
(https://login.usatoday.com/USAT-GUP-BX/authenticate/?cookies=&from-state=method-select&window-mode=popup&bypass-returning-user=true&requested-state=create-account&gps-source=beazusatreg&utm_medium=onsite®_campaign=bounce-exchange®_delivery=agilityzone)

YOUR EMAIL IS YOUR PASSPORT

Unlock exclusive access and special offers

CREATE FREE ACCOUNT
(HTTPS://LOGIN.USATODAY.COM/USAT-GUP-BX/AUTHENTICATE/?COOKIES=&FROM-STATE=METHOD-SELECT&WINDOW-MODE=POPUP&BYPASS-RETURNING-USER=TRUE&REQUESTED-STATE=CREATE-ACCOUNT®_SOURCE=BEGWUSATREG®_MEDIUM=ONSITE®_CAMPAIGN=BOUNCE-EXCHANGE®_DELIVERY=GROWL)