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12:51
Reid, Goff have most to prove in Divisional Round

Marcus Mariota needs “some time to get healthy” but no surgery

Posted by Charean Williams on December 31, 2018, 3:47 PM EST

Marcus Mariota sought a second opinion on his neck injury last week. While Dr. Robert Watkins, a leading spine specialist based in Los Angeles, recommended the Titans quarterback sit out Sunday’s game, Watkins also told Mariota rest should solve his problem.



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"There is no surgical procedure," Mariota told reporters Monday. "Just with the nerves and some of the other things, it's just going to take some time to get healthy."

Mariota played only 27 snaps in Week 16 against Washington because of a stinger. He ended up missing or being knocked out of five games this season, including the Week 17 win-or-go-home finale against the Titans.

"It was a combination of several people, and when it came down to it, the decision was ultimately between the team and myself," Mariota said. "For what it's worth, I wasn't able to get to a point where I was ready to go. It sucks, and it hurts, man. When you're not able to be out there with your guys, it definitely takes a toll on you, but at the same time, man, I just want to be there for my guys and unfortunately I wasn't able to do that."

Titans backup **Blaine Gabbert** completed 18 of 29 passes for 165 yards with a touchdown and two interceptions in the 33-17 loss.

"Well, what it came down to is when you have an opportunity to play a game that you love and someone tells you you shouldn't, that's one of the hardest things I think any athlete has to go through," Mariota said. "Unfortunately, I had to deal with that, and for what it's worth, I'll learn from it; I'll grow from it and just this as part of my process and find ways to get healthy and get ready to go."

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by Taboola

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MTLighthouse69 says:

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December 31, 2018 at 3:59 pm

I feel bad for Mariota. You sneeze on the guy and he ends up on IR. He appears to be incredibly fragile.

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BloodwerK says:
December 31, 2018 at 4:01 pm

So it's a NECK injury?! That makes way more sense than it being his elbow.

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jasons81 says:
December 31, 2018 at 4:09 pm

Great guy, decent QB (considering the awful offensive playcalling) but he has the durability of Leonard Fournette or Sean Lee. Bob Sanders says this guy misses too many games.

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patsfan4lifeshchamps says:
December 31, 2018 at 4:13 pm

The Titans need to draft a QB

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jhorton83 says:
December 31, 2018 at 4:18 pm

Given how injury prone he is, maybe the Titans will finally invest in a quality backup now instead of Blaine friggin Gabbert? One would think what happened last night in a must-win game would convey that message.

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tennesseeoilers says:
December 31, 2018 at 4:44 pm

Fun fact: On average, Steve McNair missed two games per season due to injuries. Guess how many Marcus Mariota has missed on average through his first four seasons? ... Yep, the exact same!

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archieluxury says:
December 31, 2018 at 10:00 pm

"Quality backup" QB is an oxymoron.

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patriotwayrules says:
December 31, 2018 at 10:09 pm

MarkusGlass

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dreamurwonders says:
January 1, 2019 at 6:33 pm

I like the guy ... but we need a realistic chance of who we will get to at least compete . Along the lines of McCarron, McGloin, or any other Mc . I'd like Flacco, but that's not going to happen . Bring Jay Cutler back, he can't be worse than Gabbert.

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