

Flyers' LeClair has shoulder surgery

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John LeClair of the Philadelphia Flyers underwent successful shoulder surgery on Wednesday.

LeClair, 33, will be sidelined 10-12 weeks.

"Everything went well," said Flyers orthopedist Dr. Peter Deluca, who performed the operation with Dr. Paul Marchetto at Hahnemann University Hospital.

"There was a complete tear of the labrum and the ligament was tightened up appropriately."

It marked LeClair's second surgery in less than five months.

He had scar tissue removed from his back by Dr. Robert Watkins, a Los Angeles-based orthopedic surgeon, on July 9.

LeClair dislocated the shoulder in a first-period collision with Marc Bergevin during Philadelphia's 7-2 loss to the Pittsburgh Penguins on Nov. 27.

At the time of the injury, the left winger had 11 goals and six assists for 17 points in 21 games.

LeClair has 352 goals and 343 assists for 695 points in 784 games over 13 NHL seasons with the Montreal Canadiens and Flyers.

Montreal's second pick -- 33rd overall -- in the 1987 NHL Draft, he won a Stanley Cup with the Canadiens in 1993.

LeClair was traded to Philadelphia with Eric Desjardins and Gilbert Dionne for Mark Rechhi and a third-round draft pick on Feb. 9, 1995.

He scored 51, 50 and 51 goals in his first three-seasons for the Flyers and earned six straight all-star selections from 1995-2000.

LeClair dipped to 25 goals and 26 points for 51 points in 82 games last season after disc surgery limited him to just seven goals and 12 points in 16 games in 2000-01.

The native of St. Albans, Vt., signed a five-year, \$45 million US contract extension with the Flyers in July 2001.



John LeClair had his shoulder surgically repaired on Wednesday.(CP Photo)