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SPORTS PEOPLE: HOCKEY; Lemieux Uncertain

Published: October 5, 1993

MARIO LEMIEUX has stepped up his off-ice rehabilitation program following back surgery but his return to the Pittsburgh Penguins' lineup remains uncertain.

Lemieux has skated only once since undergoing arthroscopic surgery -- his second back operation in four years -- in July. He has not said when he will skate again.

Lemieux, the National Hockey League's four-time scoring champion, is following a rehabilitation program designed by Dr. ROBERT G. WATKINS of Los Angeles. The program includes riding a stationary bike, stretching exercises, swimming and using a stair-climbing machine.

The Penguins have said only that Lemieux should play by late October. (AP)

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