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**Young may miss game after third concussion**

SANTA CLARA, Calif. (AP) — Steve Young's latest concussion could keep him on the sidelines this week, and he acknowledged Wednesday that he can't take many more shots to the head and continue playing football.

The two-time NFL MVP who led the 49ers to a Super Bowl title in 1994 sustained his third concussion in 10 months in San Francisco's season-opening loss Sunday at Tampa Bay. After an examination on Tuesday, Young's neurologist recommended the quarterback sit out Sunday's game at St. Louis.

Young, who was kneed in the head by Bucs linebacker Hardy Nickerson in the second quarter, came back to play the final quarter against Tampa Bay and initially was listed as probable for the St. Louis game.

He was downgraded to questionable Wednesday. With backup Jeff Brohm hampered by a chipped bone in the middle finger of his passing hand along with a lower back injury, all signs point to first-round draft pick Jim Druckenmiller making his first start at quarterback for the 49ers.

Offensive coordinator Marty Mornhinweg said the decision on who will start at quarterback hasn't been made yet and described both Young and Brohm as "day to day."

However, Druckenmiller took all the snaps with the first team at the 49ers' walkthrough on Wednesday with Young taking part in some scout team plays.

Before heading to the practice field, Young acknowledged the repeated concussions concerned him.

"I know this cannot continue and I can't keep getting hit in the head and continue to play football," Young said. "But I still feel like I want to play and there's a lot of professional opinion, that with rest, you can continue to play. That's kind of where we are now."

Young said he took the recommendation of neurologist Dr. Joseph Lacy seriously.

"I feel good," Young said. "I feel like I would do almost anything to help the 49ers win. Certainly, as you know, we've talked about this, at some points ad nauseum, about how concerned we are and how con-



cerned I am.

"I've talked to old 49ers, old college friends, coaches, family and everyone else trying to get a handle on exactly what we're facing. And you know the concern for me is not only for just for the near future but for my longterm health. Those are key issues for me. I intend to have another great career doing something else and I'm going to need all my senses to do that. So it's a concern of mine."

Injuries have forced Young to miss all or parts of 17 of his past 36 games since 1995. He had two concussions in a three-game span last season and also has dealt with a neck sprain, a shoulder injury that required surgery, a groin strain and three cracked ribs.

**Strickland charged with DWI**

WASHINGTON (AP) — Rod Strickland of the Washington Wizards was released from jail Wednesday after his arrest on charges of drunken driving and disorderly conduct.

The 31-year-old point guard appeared briefly in court and faces trial Jan. 21.

Strickland's lawyer, Billy Martin, said his client had been treated "unfairly" and should not have been jailed overnight.

"I think he was charged as a result of driving an expensive Mercedes-Benz," said Martin, adding Strickland will plead innocent. "He was charged because of who he is. Most people who are arrested

and charged with DUI or refusing to take a Breathalyzer are released from the station."

Police said Strickland was stopped early Wednesday after making an illegal left turn in downtown Washington and became a "little disorderly." He is also charged with failing to show his driver's license. Strickland refused a sobriety test.

In court, Strickland, wearing a gray, short-sleeved shirt and blue pants, stood with his hands clasped behind his back. When asked if he understood the charges, he responded "yes" in a low voice.

As Strickland waited his turn, a defendant in another case recog-

nized him and shook his hand. Strickland left by a back door and would not comment. He got into a black BMW with several other people.

Wizards general manager Wes Unseld, who has not spoken with his player, said the matter is not one the team would "take lightly."

"Until we have further information surrounding these events, we will have no other comment," he said.

Strickland was a first-round draft pick of the Knicks in 1988. After two seasons in New York he was traded to San Antonio. He left the Spurs in a dispute with management and signed as a free agent with Portland.

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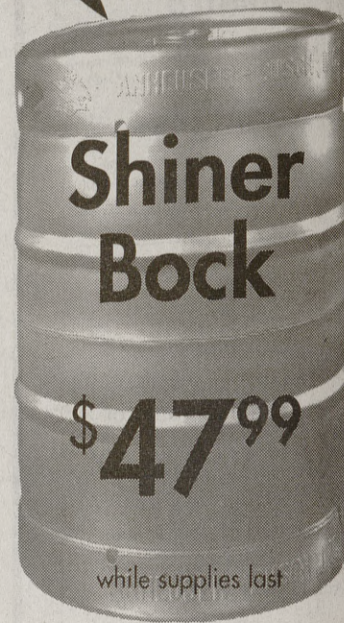
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