The Seattle Times | **Olympics**

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Corrected version
Olympics / Basketball

Storm's Jackson to be sidelined by ankle surgery after Olympics

Seattle Storm star Lauren Jackson will miss the rest of the WNBA regular season after undergoing arthroscopic surgery on her right ankle after the Olympic Games in Beijing.

By Jayda Evans
Seattle Times staff reporter

Storm star Lauren Jackson will miss the WNBA team's final eight games after the Olympic break to undergo surgery on her right ankle.

Jackson, now playing for Australia in Beijing, has reportedly received two cortisone injections in her ankle to continue playing. She's averaging 17.8 points while shooting 53 percent from the field, leading her team to a semifinal matchup against China on Thursday.

The arthroscopic surgery by Dr. Martin Sullivan in Sydney to alleviate swelling in the ankle is described by Basketball Australia as routine. Jackson is expected to take four to six weeks to heal.

Jackson, the Storm's leading scorer (20.2), will return to Seattle after the surgery. The WNBA postseason begins Sept. 18.

Seattle (17-9), seeded second in the Western Conference, went 3-2 without Jackson as she prepared for the Olympics.

The injury was discovered after an exhibition against Brazil in July. At the time, Jackson said it was an "overuse" injury and that she would

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Lauren Jackson received cortisone injections in her right ankle to continue playing, and will undergo what is described as "routine" surgery after the Olympics.

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be fine. An MRI in China later revealed an impingement at the front of the ankle from wear and tear.

Jackson, 27, had reconstructive surgery on the ankle in October 2004. She plays basketball year-round, with commitments in Seattle and Moscow.

"I look forward to returning to Seattle after my surgery to cheer on the Storm," Jackson said in a statement. "I'm disappointed that I won't be able to finish out the regular season, but I have confidence in my teammates. I'm hopeful that I can rejoin them for the WNBA Finals."

When asked Monday about Jackson's health, first-year Storm coach Brian Agler said he spoke with the two-time WNBA MVP on Sunday and hoped she'd be able to play. Seattle resumes play against Houston on Aug. 28 at KeyArena.

"She's had some issues all through the season and sat out some games during the preliminary tournament," Agler said of Australia, which could face the U.S. for gold if both teams win Thursday. "She's a competitor."

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Information in this article, originally published Aug. 20, 2008, was corrected Aug. 20, 2008. A previous version of this story incorrectly named the doctor that will perform arthroscopic surgery on Seattle storm star Lauren Jackson.

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