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Regehr refused to sit out

Blueliner wouldn't miss Game 7

By **TODD SAELHOF** -- Calgary Sun

Robyn Regehr plans to be healthy and happy for the World Cup of Hockey.

Never mind the torn ligaments in his left ankle. Nor the devastation of losing Game 7 of the Stanley Cup final.

When it comes to hockey, it's always No. 1 on the 23-year-old defenceman's priority list. Just look at his commitment to the Calgary Flames for the concluding two games of the final series.

"There was never a question of whether I was going to play or wasn't going to play," said Regehr of his decision to dress for Games 6 and 7 despite suffering an ankle injury in Game 5.

"I always knew that I was going to play. It's part of hockey and it's part of playoff hockey to be able to play well with distractions and also play well through the pain."

Regehr admitted yesterday to the ligament damage, adding it happened early in Thursday's 3-2 overtime win in Tampa. While trying to keep Martin St. Louis from scoring with 34 seconds left in the first period, the 6-ft. 3 in., 230-lb. defenceman got his feet tangled up with teammate Marcus Nilson to send Regehr falling into the boards.

On the play, St. Louis scored to tie the game 1-1, while Regehr came up hurting. Since then, the Flames assistant captain has been sporting a boot-cast.

"When it's ready, I'll start rehabbing and away we go," said Regehr, who can expect to wear the cast for about four weeks.

That should give him the following month to rehab the ankle before joining Team Canada at the World Cup. Of course, Wayne Gretzky and Co. are casting Regehr as a young Canadian star for the international event, slated to begin Aug. 31 and conclude Sept. 14.

"I should be (ready)," said Regehr, who can refer to the five-week recovery made by teammate Lynn Loynes, who suffered torn ligaments in his ankle during the playoffs.

"And the World Cup should be very exciting. It's something I can start thinking about now that the playoffs are over. I think the excitement will grow as that time gets closer."

http://www.canoe.ca/Slam040610/nhl_cal7-sun.html