

The World Through Your Eyes

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Applications must be turned in by Wednesday, May 12, 1993. For more information, call Jake at 346-5511.

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Lewis given OK to resume career

BOSTON (AP) — Boston Celtics star Reggie Lewis was cleared to resume his basketball career Monday after doctors discounted an earlier diagnosis of a possibly life-threatening heart ailment.

Doctors now say Lewis suffers from a neural condition in which the nerves become confused in trying to signal the heart to speed up or slow down. The condition can be treated with medication.

Dr. Gilbert Mudge, director of clinical cardiology at Brigham and Women's Hospital, said Lewis has a "normal athlete's heart with normal function." "I am optimistic that under medical supervision, Mr. Reggie Lewis will be able to return to professional basketball without limitation," Mudge said.

Lewis, 27, had undergone tests since he collapsed during a playoff game April 29. He was initially taken to New England Baptist Hospital, where the Celtics assembled a team of heart specialists.

They diagnosed Lewis with cardiomyopathy — a potentially life-threatening disease of the heart muscle that causes the heart to beat less vigorously.

Faced with the prospect of his career ending, Lewis switched to Brigham and Women's Hospital. Lewis said Monday he made the move "just to get a second opinion."

Mudge said his medical team conducted more tests and viewed the data collected at New England Baptist. Some tests indicated there might be heart abnormalities, while other tests showed no problems.

"There is conflicting data that we've had to resolve," Mudge said.

After more analysis, Mudge said doctors concluded Lewis has neurocardiogenic syncope.

Mudge called it a "poorly understood" neural reflex in which the heart rate falls instead of increasing during peak exercise.

"The nerves are perfectly normal. The heart is perfectly normal," said Dr. Mark Creager, one of the doctors who tested Lewis. "The nerves just get con-

fused."

Doctors said the condition can be treated with medication, and it's not life threatening. They said Lewis had felt lightheaded at times during the past couple of months.

Lewis, who appeared with his wife and the doctors, appeared relaxed and relieved.

"I'm just glad it's finally come to an end," he said. Lewis was discharged from the hospital and said he plans to play next season.

Boston Celtics vice president Dave Gavitt also was elated.

"This is the best news I've had in a long time," he said.

Dr. Arnold Scheller, the team doctor, had indicated last week that Lewis' career might be over. He said Lewis had "dodged a bullet" in the playoff game. Scheller did not immediately return phone calls seeking comment Monday.

Jim Rattray, a spokesman for New England Baptist, said the hospital couldn't comment on the conclusions reached at Brigham and Women's.

"They had the luxury of an additional week of studies," he said, noting Lewis had been under evaluation for only about 48 hours when he switched hospitals. "Our evaluation was incomplete when he left."

The team of experts convened by the Celtics at New England Baptist included some of the top heart specialists in the city, including some from Brigham and Women's, Rattray said.

Mudge said he wasn't casting judgment on the other doctors' diagnosis. But he said there is no evidence Lewis has any form of cardiomyopathy.

The Brigham and Women's doctors said they confirmed their conclusion about the neural condition by subjecting Lewis to "tilt tests," in which a device would quickly move him from a horizontal to a vertical position.

Mudge said he also presented his findings to three prominent cardiologists who weren't previously involved in Lewis' care, and they agreed with the diagnosis.

Cougars end track season

PULLMAN, Wash. (AP) — Washington State's dual-meet victory over Washington was an odd ending to a disappointing year.

Instead of trying to qualify a few more athletes for upcoming Pacific-10 Conference and NCAA meets, the Cougars accepted their 88-74 win and hung up their spikes until next season.

Because of financial-aid violations, Washington State was forbidden by the NCAA from competing in postseason events, a penalty that didn't sit well with the team's seniors.

"We're definitely being punished for something we didn't do," Michael Joubert said before his 400-meter victory Sunday.

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before signing the contract. In order for Harris to collect the full amount of his contract (\$100,000, the NFL minimum salary), he must remain on the Patriots' roster past the final cut Sept. 3.

Harris said his mini-camp with the Patriots went well.

"I got a chance to catch some punts," Harris said. "They need a punt returner, so that helps my chances of making the team."

Harris didn't say how much his signing bonus was worth, but it's speculated that he and his wife Chris will soon be moving out of student housing.

Aim at Michael Joubert Next Time — The "jogger"

who was struck with an errant (or very accurate) water balloon on campus a few weeks ago (see the *Emerald* police beat from April 23) turned out to be Steve Placencia, a 10,000-meter runner on the 1992 U.S. Olympic team.

Although the missile did enough damage to send Placencia to the doctor, he apparently doesn't hold a grudge, as he was back on campus training at Hayward Field last week.

Proof That Truth is Indeed Stranger Than Fiction — The National Hockey League's expansion Anaheim franchise will be nicknamed the "Mighty Ducks," and the Oregon football marketing slogan is "Stand By Your Mallard."

Erick Studenicka is a sports reporter for the Emerald.

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