

Mourning out for year with kidney ailment

By Mark Long
The Associated Press

MIAMI — A common but serious kidney ailment will keep Alonzo Mourning sidelined for the entire season, depriving the Miami Heat of their biggest star and the key to their quest for an NBA title.

Doctors said Monday that the illness, first spotted just after Mourning helped the U.S. team to the basketball gold medal earlier this month, was focal glomerulosclerosis, which leads to kidney failure in about half the cases.

They said there were no immediate plans for a kidney transplant or dialysis.

"I feel great right now. We've pretty much got a hold on it, the whole situation right now," Mourning said at a news conference in which he discussed his ailment publicly for the first time. "The main objective is to get me healthy so I can live my life normally, so I can see my babies grow up, and so I can enjoy my family."

"And, at the same time, possibly do the things that I know and love

— and that's the game of basketball. But the key right now is to get me healthy."

Pat Riley, the Heat coach who spent the offseason signing free agents and redesigning the team to complement Mourning's talents, said his star center was following the proper course.

"Alonzo Mourning will not be playing professional basketball this season, and we're totally convinced that the only thing that should be on his mind is getting healthy," Riley said.

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**Alonzo Mourning
Miami Heat**

The 30-year-old center made his first public appearance since Oct. 3, when he attended the team's media day. Training camp began

without him the following day, and he has not practiced because of his condition, which was discovered during a routine physical two weeks ago.

Sean Elliott, who had a kidney transplant last year and is back playing for the San Antonio Spurs, has spoken with Mourning.

"There's a lot of questions that he had, basically," Elliott said. "I know how he feels right now as far as fatigue-wise. When I first went to the doctor, I felt terrible. I can sympathize with him."

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Horoscope by Linda C. Black

TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (Oct. 17). You've got the advantage this year, so use it. Talk your way into or out of anything in October. Provide for a moody person to gain status and a raise in November. Something you never expected brings a lucky break in December. Let a fix-it person tune you up in February. Money you've saved comes in handy in May. Travel farther than you have ever gone before in June. Know where the money is in July and let an upset motivate you in September.

To get the advantage, check the day's rating: 10 is the easiest day, 0 the most challenging.

ARIES (March 21-April 19) — Today is a 7 — You and a close friend or relative have a lot to talk about. Don't let it happen on company time, however. A co-worker's liable to snitch even if the boss isn't around. Later should be excellent for partying, so all's not lost.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20) — Today is a 6 — Bring in more money, rather than spend it. Something a loved one's been nagging you about is your motivation. A tedious chore could be your means to the end. If it's something you love doing, so much the better!

GEMINI (May 21-June 21) — Today is an 8 — A mess at home could get you off on the wrong foot. As the day goes on, your luck improves. Remember that exotic restaurant you've been thinking about visiting? Well, somebody else would love to go there, too. Voila! Another beautiful encounter!

CANCER (June 22-July 22) — Today is an 8 — If you can't get to your errands first thing, don't worry; you will eventually. Find the perfect thing for dinner, too. A private conversation by candlelight could lead to forever romance. All it takes is planning, and you're great at that.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22) — Today is a 5 — A friend's risky scheme isn't ready. You can help by pointing out an obvious problem. Then, help find the answer. A book you've been reading or a skill you've been learning could give you the clue. Offer a Plan B that will work.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) — Today is a 7 — A quiz is likely, so you'd better know what you're doing. Luckily, you do. Right? Well, now that you've been tipped off, do some research and find out. If you get all the answers right, you could get a bonus.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22) — Today is a 7 — A minor mishap pertaining to travel is possible, but you'll handle it well. Just steer around it. You're agile, both mentally and physically. Pay attention to where you're going, however, and wear your safety belt.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21) — Today is a 7 — People are talking in private, and you should find out what they're saying. Ask your favorite informants. They'll sing like birds for a few crumbs. If your informants are kids or men, cookies work well. If women, chocolate.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21) — Today is a 6 — Your competition, partner or mate has a slight advantage. Well, OK, a big one. Pick the battles you can win and save your energy. Relax, chill out and maybe even hide out. Whatever works.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) — Today is an 8 — Things are running more smoothly now. Is that due to your intervention? If so, you can bet someone notices. You could profit nicely for your efforts. Your stock is going up.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18) — Today is an 8 — Are you worried that you can't afford a gift you'd like to buy? Does your sweetheart or child want something that you'd have to pay dearly for? Don't say no yet. Look around. Maybe something would be even better, a little farther away.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20) — Today is a 7 — Do you want something that your house mate keeps vetoing for your house? No doesn't mean never; it just means not now. Try again. You can find something everybody can live with if you keep looking — together would be nice.

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