

Lomax may miss 3-4 weeks

Rehabilitation of injured knee won't begin for at least 10 days

By Scott Bordow
Tribune writer

Throughout this surprising season, Phoenix Cardinals coach Gene Stallings has partly credited his team's success to its good health.

Not any more. The Cardinals apparently will be without starting quarterback Neil Lomax on their upcoming three-game road swing to Houston, Philadelphia and New York.

Lomax injured his left knee during the third quarter of Phoenix's 24-17 victory over the Giants on Sunday, and original estimates have him out three to four weeks.

LOOKING BACK: Giants' play-calling leaves coach Bill Parcells open to second-guessing / C6

BIG RED WALL: The Cardinals had the best defense on the field Sunday afternoon / C7

After the game, Lomax said team doctor Russell Chick told him he suffered a partial ligament tear. Officially, the Cardinals are calling it a knee sprain until Lomax is re-evaluated today.

Whatever the extent of the injury, Lomax said he won't even begin rehabilitating the knee for 10 days, effec-

tively taking him out of Phoenix's next two games.

Lomax wasn't sure when he injured the knee. He believed it happened the play before he hit wide receiver Roy Green with a 44-yard touchdown pass with 13:16 left in the final quarter.

"I overthrew Roy and I got my knee twisted," said Lomax, who finished the day 23 of 35 for 353 yards and two touchdowns. "It didn't catch on the turf or anything. I just twisted it somehow.

"It's the same side as my (arthritis left) hip, so I won't be walking real

Please see **Lomax / C6**

NFL / Week 11

SUNDAY'S GAMES

Chicago 34 Washington 14
Kansas City 31 Cincinnati 28
Indianapolis 20 ... Green Bay 13
New England 14 N.Y. Jets 13
Philadelphia 27 Pittsburgh 26
San Diego 10 Atlanta 7
Tampa Bay 23 Detroit 20
L.A. Raiders 9 ... San Francisco 3
New Orleans 14 ... L.A. Rams 10
Phoenix 24 N.Y. Giants 17
Denver 30 Cleveland 7
Seattle 27 Houston 24
Minnesota 43 Dallas 3

TODAY'S GAME

Buffalo at Miami, 7 p.m.

Lomax

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good."

Lomax said after the game that his knee didn't feel "too bad," but that he has no idea how to gauge the pain since he's never suffered a knee injury.

"The doctor says three to four weeks; we'll see what God says about it," Lomax said. "I'll keep on keeping

on and pray a lot."

Stallings undoubtedly will be praying for a quick recovery as well. Lomax, who went to the Pro Bowl last season, was having another standout season. Including Sunday's contest, he was 202 of 335 (60.3 percent) for 2,736 yards and 19 TDs, with eight interceptions.

"Neil was playing extremely well," Stallings said.

Ten-year veteran Cliff Stoudt will replace Lomax. Stoudt played most of the fourth quarter Sunday, com-

pleting 2 of 3 passes for 19 yards. For the season, he's 17 of 35 for 245 yards and two TDs, with two interceptions.

Stoudt is used to this role. Lomax's ailing hip has forced him into two games already this season. He replaced Lomax at the beginning of the second half of Phoenix's game against Tampa Bay, and his 42-yard TD pass to Novacek gave the Cardinals a 30-24 victory.

Stoudt's relief appearance against Cleveland three weeks ago was less celebrated. He threw two fourth-quar-

ter interceptions as the Browns won, 29-21.

"We have confidence in Cliff," Green said. "We know he can do the job."

Stoudt is taking his sudden promotion — and increased importance — in stride.

"That's what being a backup is all about," he said. "I'll get in a lot more practice this week and try to get ready."

Will a week's worth of practice be enough to scrape away the rust?

"It'll have to be," Stoudt said.

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