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Sid the Kid's Quiet Injury

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Written by [kylestack](#) on 2/10/2011 12:49 AM

Imagine if Tom Brady was sidelined for over a month with a concussion. Or if the same injury kept LeBron James or Albert Pujols out for just as long. The news coverage of any of those mega-star athletes missing time for an injury with such an uncertain timeline would be massive. Yet the NHL's biggest star is in this scenario, and the media seems to not give it a second thought. The NHL's lack of popularity could be why.

Sidney Crosby, the Pittsburgh Penguins' high-scoring, 23-year-old center, hasn't played in a game since January 5th. That's the day he exacerbated a head injury incurred during a vicious blindside hit days before. The hit roughed up Crosby, who returned to action; he was deemed fit to play on the 5th. A check into the boards during that contest resulted in a concussion diagnosis the following day.

The Penguins have been refreshingly apprehensive about sending their superstar back onto the ice, even if it's they who put him in that position by letting him play on the 5th. He ended up missing the NHL All-Star Game on January 30th, and there isn't a timeline for his return. I can't help but think how the sports world would react if it were Brady, James or Pujols in Crosby's position. Surely there would be SportsCenter segments or radio show talking points devoted to analyzing when they would return. There would be more discussion of the danger of concussions, in general.

Perhaps our sports-loving society doesn't care enough about hockey to make this Crosby situation the front-and-center topic on sports concussions. To have such a noteworthy player sidelined for so long with this kind of injury should make it clearer than ever how seriously concussions have to be treated. It is no longer good enough for teams to give players quick check-ups and send them back into action the following game.

If Crosby is out for the season, perhaps the media will take more seriously what happened to the guy.

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