

Alouettes' speedster Hawkins remains on the limp

Appears to be on outside looking in

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THE GAZETTE

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It has been almost nine months since talented Andrew Hawkins sustained a fractured right ankle in the East Division final – long enough that he could have fathered a child in the interim.

But while that miracle of life could have occurred, it hasn't been enough time for Hawkins to recover and return to the Alouettes roster. He remains on the team's

disabled list, collecting 60 per cent of his salary, and is at practice on a daily basis, working out on the sideline with other injured players.

No time frame has been established for his potential return.

"The complexity of the human body," said Hawkins, who underwent surgery in early December for a broken fibula. He also sustained ligament damage in the ankle. A plate and six screws were inserted during the procedure.

"It's hard to say, but I think I'm extremely close to playing," said the 5-foot-8, 165-pound speedster. "The pieces will fall where they may. I hope to be out soon."

Hawkins, 24, dressed for only seven games as a rookie, but appeared on the precipice of greatness, providing the Als with speed and explosiveness. He caught 13 passes for 131 yards, while returning nine kickoffs for 163 yards. In the playoff game, against B.C., he caught four passes for 40 yards, while returning a pair of kickoffs for 33 yards.

Although it never was assumed Hawkins would be ready for the start of training camp, he was on the field and appeared to be making strides when he was placed on the disabled list. "The timing was the worst it could be," he admitted. "I was frustrated not to play in the Grey Cup."

But it seems that frustration goes further. At least it did last week.

Hawkins was spotted talking to his Montreal-based agent at last Friday's game, against Saskatchewan. Nothing unusual about that. However, two days later, Hawkins posted a message on his Twitter account, indicating he was finished with the Als.

"I am no longer apart (sic) of the Montreal Alouettes. Appreciate my time with the club, but I am excited about what the future holds."

After originally denying any knowledge of the tweet on Tuesday, Hawkins admitted yesterday to being the author. Even one of his surprised teammates, fullback Kerry Carter, responded to



JOHN MAHONEY THE GAZETTE

Injured Alouette Andrew Hawkins slips off blocking pad held by trainer Derek Della Rocca during practice this week.

THE SNAP

Alouettes backup quarterback Adrian McPherson might have torn his MCL, Herb Zurkowsky blogs at montrealgazette.com

the tweet, believing Hawkins had quit or was released.

"It was miscommunication, not frustration or animosity. And I would never quit," Hawkins said. "In ball, sometimes things are beyond your control. We worked out the situation, and did in the nick of time. I'm still with the team. That's resolved. That's the only thing I care about."

Like others, Fred Wein-

rauch, Hawkins's agent, thought his client would be on the roster by now.

"He's hurt. It's frustrating for everybody," Weinrauch said. "The guy wants to be playing. I know they want him in Montreal. At the end of the day, he's still with the Als."

True. But Hawkins, in the option year of his contract, appears to be on the outside looking in. Tim Maypray has performed more than adequately on special teams, returning a pair of missed field goals for touchdowns. And the Als have more than a full complement of receivers.

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