

Cleveland Browns hit hard by flu, will cut back practice today; plus video analysis by Tony Grossi, Mary Kay Cabot

By Mary Kay Cabot

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BEREA, Ohio -- About a dozen Browns players have been stricken with the flu, and Browns coach Eric Mangini will scale back practice today because the team is so shorthanded.

Players who will sit out today include Jerome Harrison, Alex Mack, Anthony Madison, Brodney Pool, Shaun Rogers, Robert Royal, Lawrence Vickers, Corey Williams and Kamerion Wimbley.

"We'll cut back on some reps, take some plays off, and increase the time between reps," said Mangini. "We'll try to get the guys some extra rest, just be as vigilant as possible with this. A lot of these (cases) were new this morning."

As for whether or not it's the H1N1 virus, Mangini said the team is looking into it, but might not be able to reveal those results because of medical laws.

"We're being really aggressive preventatively," said Mangini. "We're trying to minimize the effects on the player and the rest of the group."

He said all of the players with the flu have been sent home. Wimbley was sent home from Pittsburgh before the game Sunday because of the flu, and Rogers was stricken during the game. As of Monday, those were the only two cases.

Mangini said Houston had a similar situation and that the Browns are looking into certain roster provisions a team can



Chuck Crow/The Plain Dealer

Kamerion Wimbley, shown tackling Baltimore quarterback Joe Flacco, is one of about a dozen Cleveland Browns battling the flu.

make regarding bringing players up from the practice squad and such.

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