

Chipper could be headed to DL

By Mark Bowman/MLB.com
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ATLANTA – The Braves are holding out hope, but it seems there is a strong possibility that Chipper Jones could be headed to the disabled list for the first time since the 1996 season.

Jones aggravated a strained right hamstring injury while attempting to run down Luis Castillo's long fly ball in Sunday afternoon's Braves victory over the Marlins at Turner Field. Jones will be further evaluated on Monday and according to Bobby Cox, won't play on Tuesday in Cincinnati.

When asked if he thought Jones may need to go on the disabled list, Braves trainer Jeff Porter said, "It's a possibility."

After crashing into the outfield wall, Jones clutched his right hamstring, which he originally injured last Sunday. He missed the first two games of this past week's Mets series.

Jones, who is hitting .314 with three homers this season, remained on the ground until Braves medical personnel arrived to help him up and place him on a cart that drove him back to the clubhouse.

"He's limping pretty good," Cox said. "He felt great last night. I had a chance to get him out of the ballgame [on Saturday] after [DeWayne] Wise pinch-hit and he said he was fine."

But even though his hamstring felt a little tight on Sunday morning, Jones didn't want Cox to remove him from the lineup. Part of his reasoning stemmed from the fact the team has been without right fielder J.D. Drew since he strained his left hamstring on Monday at Shea Stadium.

"Today, he came to the ballpark and said he wasn't feeling as good," Cox said. "I asked him if he wanted out of the game today and he said, 'No. But it feels funny.' And then he pulls it."

Jones was on the disabled list for the first six days of the 1996 season after having bone chips removed from his knee. He has played in at least 153 games each of the past eight seasons.

While Jones is unable to play, Wise, who is batting .286 with two triples, will fill in for him in left field.