



January 15, 1992

DATELINE: GAINESVILLE, Fla.

Ted Williams is doing well after undergoing surgery at Shands Hospital, where he was treated last month after a minor stroke, a spokesman said.

Williams, 73, was listed in good condition today.

"He is expected to be OK," said Chris Smith, adding that the Boston Red Sox Hall of Famer should be released within a few days.

Dr. Arthur Day, a professor of neurosurgery at the University of Florida, performed a carotid arterectomy, surgery focused on an artery in the neck that leads to the brain. The operation lasted less than two hours.

Although Williams was kept overnight in the intensive care unit, it was merely for observation, Smith said. He was being moved to a regular hospital room today.

"He's doing fine," Smith said.

The procedure is a measure taken to prevent other strokes, and Williams suffered "no significant permanent damage" from his earlier minor stroke, Smith said.

Williams now lives in retirement near Crystal River, a prime sport-fishing area on the Gulf of Mexico west of Gainesville. He had earlier lived in the Florida Keys.

Williams, voted in to the Hall of Fame in his first year of eligibility in 1966, was the last major-league player to finish the season with a batting average that broke the .400 mark. He hit .406 in 1941, while playing for Boston.

Williams was the league leader in batting average and runs six times; in runs batted in and home runs four times and walks and doubles twice.

He had a batting average of .300 or more in 15 consecutive seasons.

Williams played from 1939 to 1942 and from 1946 to 1960, losing five seasons to military service in World War II and the Korean War.

Williams became the oldest player in major-league history to win a batting crown, when he won his fifth at the age of 39 in 1957. In 1958, at the age of 40, he won the batting title again.

In his final at bat at the age of 42 in 1960, he hit a home run.

"I'm so grateful for baseball and so grateful I'm the hell out of it," he later said.

The Associated Press

Ted Williams, the last major-leaguer to bat .400 over a season, underwent surgery Tuesday at Shands Hospital, where he was first treated after suffering a minor stroke last month.

Williams, 73, was listed in good condition Tuesday afternoon.

"He is out of the procedure and he is doing well," Shands Hospital spokesman Chris Smith said, adding that Williams should be released in a week to 10 days. "He is expected to be OK."

Dr. Arthur Day, a professor of neurosurgery at the University of Florida, performed the operation on Williams. It lasted just over two hours.

Day had several other operations scheduled Tuesday and was unavailable for comment, his office said.

Smith wouldn't discuss the type of procedure performed on the Hall of Famer and released no other details, saying that was at the family's request.

"His family said they would release a statement in a day or two," Smith said.

Williams, who spent his entire career with the Boston Red Sox, now lives in retirement near Crystal River, a sport-fishing area on the Gulf of Mexico west of Gainesville. He had earlier lived in the Florida Keys.

In a brief telephone interview from his hospital room Monday, Williams told the Citrus County Chronicle in Crystal River that, "I'm doing good. I think I'm going to be great."

Williams, who hit .406 in 1941, was the league leader in batting average and runs six times; in RBIs and home runs four times and walks and doubles twice. He had a batting average of .300 or more 15 consecutive seasons.

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