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[Fantasy Games](#)

[SportsNation](#)

[Page 2](#)

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[NFL Front Page](#)

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[Fantasy Football](#)

[NFL Insider](#) 

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[RealTime Scores](#) 

[Schedule](#)

[Standings](#)

[Stats](#)

[Weekly Leaders](#)

[Teams](#)

[Players](#)

[Transactions](#)

[Injuries](#)

[2005 Playoffs](#)

[News Wire](#)

[Coach Ratings](#)

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[Michele Tafoya](#)

[Joe Theismann](#)

[Video Highlights](#)

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[Message Boards](#)

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[MLB Front Page](#)

[Fantasy Baseball](#)

[MLB Insider](#) 

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[RealTime Scores](#) 

[Schedule](#)

[Standings](#)

[Statistics](#)

[Teams](#)

[Players](#)

[Transactions](#)

[Injuries](#)

[Pitching Probables](#)

[News Wire](#)

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[Buster Olney](#)

[Jayson Stark](#)

[Video Highlights](#)

[MLB en español](#)

[Message Boards](#)

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[NBA Front Page](#)

[2006 Training Camp](#)

[2007 NBA Draft](#)

[2006 NBA Playoffs](#)

[NBA Finals](#)

[Eastern Conference](#)

[Western Conference](#)

[Fantasy Basketball](#)

[NBA Insider](#) 

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[Scoreboard](#)

[Schedule](#)

[Standings](#)

[Statistics](#)

[Hollinger Statistics](#) 

[Teams](#)

[Players](#)

[Transactions](#)

[Injuries](#)

[News Wire](#)

[WNBA](#)

[Columnists](#)

[Greg Anthony](#)

[Ric Bucher](#)

[Chad Ford](#)

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[F1](#)

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[IndyCar RaceCast](#)

[News Wire](#)

[Message Boards](#)

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[2006 NHL Draft](#)
[Fantasy Hockey](#)
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[Scoreboard](#)
[RealTime Scores](#) 
[Schedule](#)
[Standings](#)
[Statistics](#)
[Teams](#)
[Players](#)
[Transactions](#)
[News Wire](#)
[Message Boards](#)
[College](#)
[ESPNU Front Page](#)
[ESPN GamePlan](#)
[Football](#)
[Front Page](#)
[College Insider](#) 
[2005 College Bowls](#)
[Recruiting Insider](#) 
[Scoreboard](#)
[RealTime Scores](#) 
[Schedules](#)
[2006 ESPN TV](#)
[Rankings](#)
[Conference Standings](#)
[Statistics](#)
[Teams](#)
[Players](#)
[Heisman Watch](#)
[News Wire](#)
[RecruitTracker 2007](#)
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[Rod Gilmore](#)
[Kirk Herbstreit](#)
[Craig James](#)
[Mel Kiper Jr.](#)
[Ivan Maisel](#)
[Gene Wojciechowski](#)
[Men's Basketball](#)
[Front Page](#)
[2006 NCAA Tournament](#)
[College Insider](#) 
[Scoreboard](#)
[RealTime Scores](#) 
[Schedule](#)
[Rankings](#)
[Standings](#)
[Statistics](#)
[Teams](#)
[Players](#)
[News Wire](#)
[Video Highlights](#)
[Dick Vitale](#)
[Message Boards](#)
[Women's Basketball](#)
[Front Page](#)
[2006 Tournament](#)
[Scoreboard](#)
[Schedule](#)
[Rankings](#)
[Standings](#)
[Statistics](#)
[Teams](#)
[News Wire](#)
[Message Boards](#)
[College Sports](#)
[Front Page](#)
[Schools](#)

[Transactions](#)

[Rankings](#)

[Recruiting](#) 

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[World Rankings](#)

[Statistics](#)

[Players](#)

[News Wire](#)

[Golf en español](#)

[Message Boards](#)

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[Recruiting Insider](#)

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[NFL DraftTracker](#)

[NFL Free Agency](#)

Soccer

[ESPNsoccernet Front Page](#)

[Scoreboard](#)

[England](#)

[Europe](#)

[Champions League](#)

[World Cup 2006](#)

[USA](#)

[MLS](#)

Page 2

[Page 2 Front Page](#)

[Bill Simmons](#)

[Mary Buckheit](#)

[Jim Caple](#)

[Gregg Easterbrook](#)

[David Fleming](#)

[DJ Gallo](#)

[Patrick Hruby](#)

[Scoop Jackson](#)

[Bomani Jones](#)

[Tim Keown](#)

[Chuck Klosterman](#)

[Paul Lukas](#)

[Eric Neel](#)

[Kurt Snibbe](#)

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[SportsNation Front Page](#)

[Voice of the Fan](#)

[Insider](#)

[Insider Front Page](#) 

[Scouts Inc.](#)

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[Fantasy Baseball](#)

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[Fantasy Soccer](#)

[Fantasy Golf](#)

[Pigskin Pick'em](#)

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Updated: Oct. 24, 2006, 12:40 PM ET

Cowher will make decision on Big Ben later in week

Associated Press

PITTSBURGH -- [Ben Roethlisberger](#) is questionable for the [Pittsburgh Steelers'](#) game against Oakland after sustaining a concussion against Atlanta -- the second concussion for the Super Bowl-winning quarterback in slightly more than four months.

"He will be cleared  medically before we subject him to playing,"

Also See 
[Sources: Roethlisberger suffered concussion vs. Falcons](#)

Sources familiar with the ...

coach Bill Cowher said Tuesday. "We will take all necessary precautions."

Don't tie this concussion with Big Ben's motorcycle accident. Though he was fuzzy after the accident, Roethlisberger was told by doctors not to have any worries about future concussions just because of what happened to him during the offseason.



To read more of John Clayton's Quick Hits, [click here](#). 

Roethlisberger was briefly knocked unconscious during a helmet-to-helmet hit with the Falcons' [Chauncey Davis](#) midway through the third quarter after completing 16-of-22 passes for 238 yards and three touchdowns -- his best game of the season.

Roethlisberger was woozy and looked dazed a few minutes later while being taken to the locker room on a motorized cart but returned later to watch the rest of the game on the sideline. The Steelers lost 41-38, their fourth loss in five games, even though backup QB [Charlie Batch](#) came in to throw two touchdown passes.

Roethlisberger was judged well enough to fly home on the team plane Sunday night, and he drove his car to a team meeting Monday. Also Monday, he met with a neurologist and took the ImPACT concussion test that many NFL teams use to determine the severity of a concussion and when a player is fit to return.

The test measures a player's memory, attention, mental processing speed and reaction time. The results are compared to those when the player was healthy.

"We are very encouraged with the results,"



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Cowher said. "But it's too early to tell [if he will play Sunday]. ... If he's not cleared, he's not going to play."

Roethlisberger also sustained a concussion, and needed seven hours of surgery mostly to repair facial injuries, when his motorcycle collided with a car June 12 in Pittsburgh.

A football player receiving a second concussion in a relatively brief time can be susceptible to succeeding concussions, according to various concussion-related studies by doctors who have studied the issue for the NFL. Also, a player receiving multiple concussions in a brief time span may need a longer recovery time before playing again than one coming off his initial concussion.

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