Thompson out for year

Bad news piles up: Jackson back on D.L.

BY RON BERGMAN Mercury News Staff Writer

SAN FRANCISCO — Robby Thompson threw in the towel Friday, and it must have hurt.

Less than 12 hours after Thompson said he wanted to play more this year, the Giants second baseman underwent arthroscopic surgery on his right rotator cuff and was declared "likely (out) for the rest of the season" by General Manager



Thompson



Jackson

Bob Quinn.

As if that weren't enough, set-up reliever Mike Jackson

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Thompson out for year; Jackson on D.L.

THOMPSON

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went back on the 15-day disabled list with what has become a chronically tender pitching elbow.

"There is no good news today," Manager Dusty Baker said before the Giants played the Philadelphia Phillies at Candlestick Park.

Thompson's surgery took place at Recovery Inn in Menlo Park. The 90-minute procedure by team physicians Warren King and Gordon Campbell repaired tendons in the front of the rotator cuff and removed damaged tissue and cartilage in the shoulder.

The loss of Thompson was a blow to the Giants organization, which decided before the season to let Will Clark go and pay Thompson, 32, a guaranteed minimum of \$12 million over four years starting this year.

King said Thompson hurt himself in mid-April diving for a groundball in Atlanta.

"The kind of injury Robby had is something I've seen in football players," King said. "Baseball players normally injure the rotator cuff throwing."

King said Thompson's right arm will be in a sling for three to four weeks and that he would need from three to six months to completely recover.

"If he were a pitcher, it would be in the six-to-nine-month range," King said.

Thompson first went on the disabled list May 9 and missed 43 games. He came back June 25 and even homered Sunday against Montreal. But when he crossed home plate, he accepted congratulations with his left hand only. He was back on the D.L. Wednes-

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- Dr. Warren King

day after playing in seven games.

"We never got him back to 100 percent but we got him back to where he could play," King said. "But his shoulder kept deteriorating. He was more depressed a week ago when he realized he couldn't compete at this level."

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The loss of Thompson and Jackson forced the Giants to juggle the roster again.

Darryl Strawberry has replaced Thompson. Right-hander Brad Brink, who was with the club as recently as last Saturday when Jackson first came off the disabled list, has been called up again from Triple-A Phoenix.

"Second base will be who I think is the best-suited that day, offensively and defensively," Baker said.

Steve Scarsone started at second Friday against left-hander Fernando Valenzuela and might be back again today when lefthander Danny Jackson pitches for the Phillies. John Patterson will play most days against righthanders and Mike Benjamin also will get a shot, Baker said.

Mike Jackson's duties, which consist mainly of working the eighth inning before giving way

to Rod Beck, will be apportioned to Dave Burba, Steve Frey and Rich Monteleone.

King said Jackson's tendinitis can't be cured by arthroscopic surgery because it is taking place outside the elbow joint. Jackson probably will be asked to pitch in the minors as part of a rehabilitation assignment before he tries it again at the major league level.

again at the major league level.

"I just want to make myself
100 percent before I come back,"
said Jackson, 29. "Maybe I'll
pitch a little in San Jose when I'm
better. This time, I'm going to
take it slow."

"It doesn't hurt him when he's warming up in the bullpen," King said. "But when he gets in a game, and puts a little extra behind it, in hurts."