

Bomb victim also had ear, eye damage

Mia News (FH) 29 JUN 76 • 6A Col 3

Doctors say Milian to walk again

By DAVID HOLMBERG
Miami News Reporter



EMILIO MILIAN

Emilio Milian will walk again, his doctors say. Describing him as "a tough guy who's doing well," Jackson Memorial Hospital surgeons told a press conference yesterday that the militant anti-Castro Latin radio official will fulfill his own vow to walk back into station WQBA.

Milian — WQBA's news and program director and the driving force behind the station's hard-line, anti-Castro editorial policy — lost his legs below the knee in a dynamite blast in his car on April 30.

Dr. John Jennings, an orthopedic specialist at the hospital, said Milian was recovering "faster than the average persons with his injuries," and was already being fitted for prosthetic devices on both legs.

He said Milian has stood with the artificial limbs, but has not yet been able to walk.

Jennings said Milian will probably be out of the hospital — and walking — within several months.

He said Milian's attitude has been excellent since he arrived at the hospital.

Dr. Joseph Lester, chief of surgical emergency and

trauma services, said Milian's first words as he was wheeled into the emergency room were: "You all do what you can do. I'm not afraid."

Said Lester: "That kind of attitude is going to make a lot of difference in a patient's recovery."

The physicians noted that Milian also had injuries to his eyes and ear drums from the blast, adding that when he first entered the hospital he could only see light. His vision has improved to the point where he can now read, the doctors said, and his hearing is also better.

That surgeons were able to save Milian's knees is a factor in their optimistic appraisal of his chances of walking, the doctors said. "With the knees intact, the patient is more capable of using prosthetic devices," Jennings said. "They're important to the amount of energy he has in learning to get around again."

The doctors said Milian's recovery was also a tribute to the hospital's team approach in dealing with cases involving severe trauma and to the city's fire rescue squads.

"This is a good city to get shot in, or stand on a bomb in, for those of you who might have that opportunity," Lester said.