

Lewis dodges murder questions at Super Bowl

By Jim Litke
The Associated Press

TAMPA, Fla. — A year ago, Ray Lewis was wearing handcuffs and an orange prison jumpsuit. Tuesday, he wore a diamond-encrusted watch and a white Baltimore Ravens jersey.

Other than the change of outfits, Lewis kept insisting he was the same man.

A midday sun hovered over his left shoulder as he took a seat in front of several hundred reporters. He put an expensive pair of sunglasses down in front of him, folded his hands and for an hour, calm-

ly deflected every question that wasn't about football.

"I'm not here to justify what went on," Lewis said. "That's a story in my book that's closed."

Tuesday was media day at the Super Bowl. It's the day the National Football League normally revels in, but one officials have dreaded since it became apparent Lewis was talented and determined enough to get the Ravens to the championship game.

It's a day set aside for uncovering the personal stories of triumph and tribulation that converge in the finale. Lewis' journey from last Janu-

ary to this one featured more adversity, more twists, turns and tragedy than all the other players' stories laid end to end.

But he wasn't going to talk about it. It's easy to understand why.

In the early morning hours after last season's Super Bowl in Atlanta, two young men were stabbed to death outside a nightclub just miles from the stadium. As chaos reigned, Lewis, several friends and a half-dozen hangers-on piled into a limousine Lewis had chartered and fled.

Long considered one of pro football's best players, he was charged

with Christoffersen as a freshman, and knows that there's a lot of untapped potential in him.

"I know what Chris can do," Jones said. "He's a good player, and people don't know that yet. When you play with him every day, you know the type of skills he has. He's going to surprise a lot of people."

Miller's time to go
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June. Lewis got a year's probation. No one was convicted of the deaths of Jacinth Baker and Richard Lollar.

Even now, Lewis remains unrepentant. He is convinced prosecutors dragged him into the case because of his high profile and that the NFL tried to make an example of him because several other players were facing felony trials alleging murder and sexual assaults.

"It was never about those two kids lying dead in the street," Lewis said. "It was about Ray Lewis, and that's not right. Don't be mad at me because I'm at center stage."

Men's

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"So next week I can tell you whether we've grown up, or if we're back in the same boat."

A week ago at this time, Oregon was determined to beat Washington at home after falling to California and Stanford in a rather lethargic fashion. The poor play continued against the Huskies as the Ducks lost 72-71 in overtime in a game in which Oregon shot just 34.5 percent from the field.

The Ducks then held an encouraging meeting where players spoke about what needed to happen for them to return to the high level of play they had in December. The meeting seemed to help, as Oregon looked more poised and fluid in its victory against Washington State Saturday.

"It was a tale of two games,"

Kent said of the home stand. "One game you saw a team that played a lot of individual basketball and wasn't on the same page. And then Saturday you saw a team that had come back together and played well."

"Hopefully they can understand the difference."

Big Chris making a big presence

One of the biggest bright spots for the Ducks last weekend also happened to be their biggest player.

Junior center Chris Christoffersen, who towers over his teammates at 7-feet-2, scored a career-high 11 points in Oregon's 81-66 victory against the Cougars.

The Roenne, Denmark, native was all over the floor, setting solid screens, grabbing key rebounds, blocking shots and taking it strong to the hoop on offense.

Christoffersen hasn't played in five of Oregon's 15 games this season, but when asked if he'll play this weekend, Kent emphatically responded, "Oh yeah."

"He changes the game," Kent said. "Because of his size, people have a hard time matching up with him. He's had two good practices this week on top of the games, so that's encouraging to see."

Sure enough, at the end of Oregon's practice Tuesday, Christoffersen made his presence felt with back-to-back powerful dunks that brought a smile to the Great Dane's face.

"I'm having a lot of fun out there," Christoffersen said. "It's always more fun when you have your confidence going and the coaches believe in you. I would like to think that I bring a togetherness to the team."

Jones came into the program

with Christoffersen as a freshman, and knows that there's a lot of untapped potential in him.

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According to the Spokesman-Review, Miller was the "ringleader" in gathering five of his teammates and going out to Eugene's Rock N' Rodeo bar late Friday night after their hotel room had been checked by their coaches.

While at the bar, the six players —

all dressed in Cougar sweats — were spotted by Oregon sports information assistant director Greg Walker. Walker, a former Washington State employee, called Cougars head coach Paul Graham to notify him.

"Given my history with the team, I felt obligated to tell Paul," Walker said.


Graham cited a poor attitude toward team responsibilities as the main reason for taking the Cougars' second-leading scorer off the team.

"After discussions with my coaching staff, we have made the decision that Eddie Miller's basketball career at WSU is over," Graham said. "Eddie is a senior and has been given several chances, yet has failed to demonstrate a commitment to the program."

Washington State is 1-5 in the Pac-10 and 7-8 overall.

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Horoscope by Linda C. Black

TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (Jan. 24). You're creative, confident and powerful this year! Be compassionate, too, and you'll take home all the prizes. Don't let your magnificence blind you in February. Take care of a person who loves you in March. Provide the necessary security to yourself and to others who need you in May. Then, relax and enjoy your accomplishments in June. Gain again from past efforts in October and advance naturally in November. Stand up for friends who've stood by you in December, as pay back for all those past favors.

To get the advantage, check the day's rating: 10 is the easiest day, 0 the most challenging.

ARIES (March 21-April 19) — Today is an 8 — A strategy meeting with your team is required to produce the desired results. If you don't have a team, get one. This is too big a job for you to tackle on your own. Besides, some of them are going to figure out what you should do next.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20) — Today is a 7 — If you're struggling with rules and regulations, take heart. Your luck regarding money is about to change for the better. It may not be noticeable until tomorrow, but that's OK. Going along with another's agenda will be easier when you've got more coins in your pocket.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21) — Today is an 8 — The more phone calls you can return and old jobs you can finish, the better. Your energy will increase as you check things off your lists. Get busy. You need to make room on your workbench for a new project, soon.

CANCER (June 22-July 22) — Today is a 6 — If you can get enough time and money together in the next couple of days, you might get to take a trip on Friday. Make plans to do that by asking for Friday off. Then, immerse yourself in papers concerning other people's money.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22) — Today is a 6 — Don't argue with your partner, mate or legal adviser. Don't get into any major competitions, either. The other side has a huge advantage. Watch, look and listen. If the person who's representing you is sharp, you'll have nothing to worry about.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) — Today is a 5 —

Figure out how to be more efficient. You could get an assignment soon that's borderline impossible. With the old technology, it's way too hard. With the new technology, it's doable. Don't worry; you can learn what needs to be done.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22) — Today is a 10 — The barriers to true love are dissolving. You should see clearly now what action to take. You may have made a commitment recently; if you did, it will hold. If you haven't yet, keep going through your considerations.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21) — Today is a 6 — Commitments you make now pertaining to home, family or real estate should last for eternity. Watch what you say and to whom you say it. You want to start a dynasty? Or, build a cathedral? Lay your foundation, now.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21) — Today is a 7 — Your curiosity knows no bounds. Yet, you may find yourself lost in thought. This condition might cause a problem tomorrow, but today you can get away with it. Hide out in a quiet place, with plenty of reading material.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18) — Today is a 9 — You're being infused with super-human powers. A barrier is becoming a stepping stone. Your persistence is paying off. Others are waiting for your words of wisdom, so tell them what they want to hear.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20) — Today is a 6 — Your imagination is more active than usual. Your fantasies may have been even more bizarre than reality, too. Nothing to worry about; it's normal. It'll be over in a few days. By then, you should have some great new stories to tell.

095 PERSONALS

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