

# NFL player Lewis charged in deaths

■ Medical examiner says stab wounds indicate killer had knowledge of where to deliver fatal blows.

ATLANTA (AP) — The two men killed in a brawl that led to murder charges against NFL star Ray Lewis were stabbed to death by someone who "knew something about anatomy," a medical examiner said Wednesday.

The two victims' wounds were directly to major organs and both men quickly bled to death, said Dr. John Parker, a Fulton County associate medical examiner.

"A lot of times in a fight with a knife, we'll see just mayhem, people swinging wildly, abrasions, light cuts, things like that," Parke said. "This wasn't like that. These were well-directed wounds into vital areas. They knew what they were doing."

Lewis is charged with two counts of murder in the Monday stabbing deaths of Richard Lollar, 24, and Jacinth "Shorty" Baker, 21.

The Baltimore Ravens linebacker is being held without bail until at least Feb. 24, and he faces life in prison or

the death penalty if convicted.

Lollar was declared dead at the scene by police responding to a fight call in the Buckhead bar district several hours after the Super Bowl ended seven miles away at the Georgia Dome. Baker was transported to a local hospital, but declared dead upon arrival.

Parker said Baker was wounded in his liver and heart, while Lollar's wounds were concentrated around his heart.

"A typical pocket knife could do this," Parker said. "Whoever did this knew exactly where to hit and do the damage ... you could say they knew something about anatomy."

Lewis' lawyer, Max Richardson Jr., has acknowledged that his client was at the scene but says Lewis did not kill the men.

A spokesman for the Fulton County district attorney said Wednesday it doesn't matter if Lewis actually held the knife — he can still be tried for murder if he helped the killer or was involved in the fight that preceded the slayings.

"When and if this case goes anywhere, there will be aggravated assault charges added," spokesman Erik Friedly said. "And someone died as a

*"A typical pocket knife could do this. Whoever did this knew exactly where to hit and do the damage."*

**Dr. John Parker**

Fulton County associate medical examiner

result of the assault, so felony murder charges are automatic."

Atlanta police on Wednesday would not disclose further details of their investigation. Officers reportedly are seeking arrest warrants for at least two of Lewis' friends who were with him Monday.

According to witnesses, the two victims were involved in a fight with six men who fled in a limousine.

Police have released limousine driver Duane Fossett, according to a spokeswoman for All Stretched Out Limousine Service of Glen Burnie, Md.

Fossett returned to the Baltimore area Wednesday and was "exhausted" after being questioned and kept in Atlanta Monday by investigators, said Lorena Cochran.

She said Fossett had been instruct-

ed not to speak to anyone about the case.

Cochran also said the company's owner Anthony Toskov accompanied the limousine back to Maryland on Wednesday but would not be available for comment. No one answered at Toskov's home.

In The (Baltimore) Sun on Wednesday, Toskov said Fossett had told him Lewis did not kill the two men.

Toskov also said Lewis had rented the limo and left Baltimore with some friends. The group stopped in Charlotte, N.C., to pick up a few more friends en route to Atlanta, where Lewis made several appearances leading to Sunday's Super Bowl.

Charlotte police said Wednesday that Atlanta police had not contacted them about any possible suspects.

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# NCAA eases academic criteria

INDIANAPOLIS (AP) — High school athletes will now have an easier time meeting academic standards that allow them to play college sports.

A new set of NCAA rules will let high schools determine whether athletes have fulfilled course requirements for college eligibility.

The decision means that many athletes who had been denied scholarships in the past will now be able to qualify for them.

A committee of the governing body recommended the change last spring, and the NCAA Division I and II membership recently approved the legislation.

The NCAA eliminated certain parts of the course requirements, giving high school principals more latitude in setting the agenda. The change takes effect immediately.

The old rules were much more stringent and allowed the NCAA to determine what were acceptable courses. For example, one previous regulation disqualified social studies courses that devoted more than 25 percent of classroom time to current affairs or independent study.

"We've become more generic in defining those academic criteria," Bob Oliver, director of NCAA membership services, said Wednesday.

*"The only time we'll investigate is if they send in a course titled 'woodworking' or 'drivers ed' or 'phys ed' or 'remedial reading.'"*

**Bob Oliver**

director of NCAA membership services

The new rules require several things: that a course be considered college preparatory, be taught at or above the high school's regular academic level and qualify for graduation credit in English, math, natural or physical science, social science, foreign language, computer science or non-doctrinal religion or philosophy.

Independent study, individual instruction and correspondence and Internet courses may now be part of the new criteria for core subjects.

Oliver said the changes came about after two years of discussions.

"In areas of science and English, for example, they do a lot of interdisciplinary work," he said. "We're saying, if you give a course in English credit at your high school and that's preparing the student for a four-year college, then that's meeting the intent of what we're trying to

do."

He said the intent is to prepare students to succeed in college. "Not are they able to use a computer to edit their term paper, but are they prepared to write a term paper?" he said.

Oliver said the NCAA in most cases will accept a principal's certification that a course satisfies requirements.

"The only time we'll investigate is if they send in a course titled 'woodworking' or 'drivers ed' or 'phys ed' or 'remedial reading,'" he said.

"That would throw up a red flag. Maybe those are gross exaggerations of what might come in, but in the instructions we have sent to high schools, we clarify the NCAA has the authority to ask about a course whose title is off in left field."

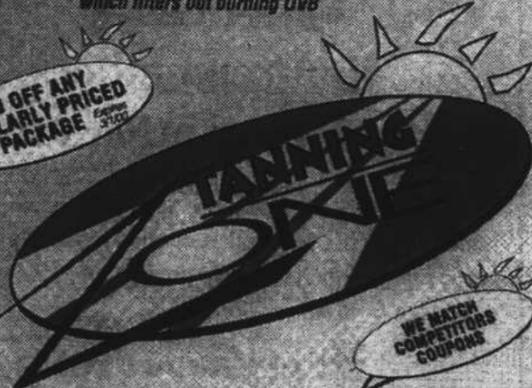
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