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No-show safety Michael Lewis is released by San Francisco 49ers

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Strong safety Michael Lewis, who walked out on the 49ers on Friday after learning rookie Taylor Mays was replacing him in the starting lineup, was released by the team Monday.

At his weekly news conference earlier in the day, coach Mike Singletary indicated the 49ers hadn't yet made a decision on Lewis but that one was forthcoming.

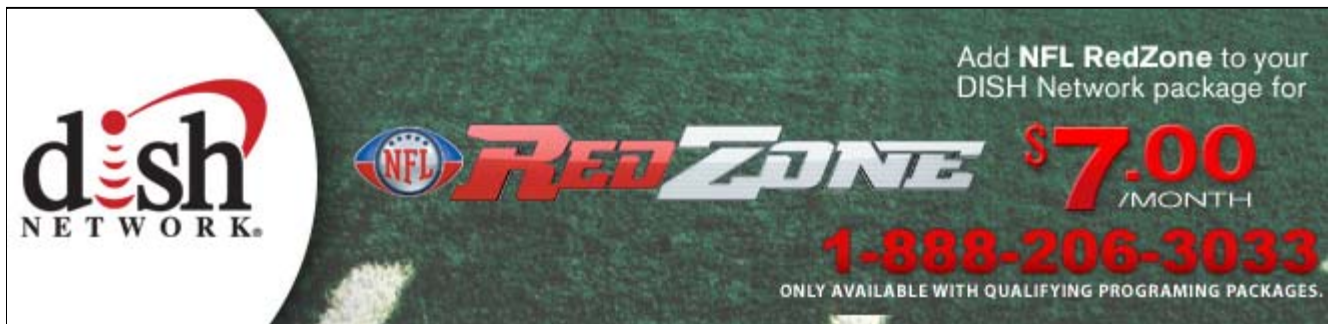
"There's never a time that a player -- I don't care who he is -- is going to say, 'You're right, that's a great idea,' " Singletary said of his decision to demote Lewis. "Michael is a competitor. Michael has a lot of pride. The fact that he feels that way, that's where it's at. We have to deal with it and go from there."

Signed as a free agent in 2007, the nine-year veteran played in 50 games for the 49ers, totaling 292 tackles, 41/2 sacks, three interceptions, four forced fumbles, three fumble recoveries and 13 passes defended. He had started the first three games of the season at strong safety before Singletary decided late last week to make Mays, a second-round draft pick out of USC, the starter.

Cornerback Nate Clements said he had contacted Lewis by text message through the weekend and was disappointed by the turn of events with his secondary mate.

"To lose a player of that caliber, a vet who knows what he's doing who's also contributing to this defense, it's tough," Clements said.

Lewis, 30, did not accompany the team on its trip to Atlanta on Sunday.



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Niners grant veteran safety Lewis his release

NFL.com

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The [San Francisco 49ers](#) have parted with [Michael Lewis](#), two days after the veteran safety reportedly requested his release.

Lewis did not travel with the team to Atlanta this weekend, having left the team Friday for what coach Mike Singletary deemed personal reasons.

The team announced Lewis' release Monday in a press release.

"I want to thank Michael for his hard work and leadership as a 49er," Singletary said. "We wish him and his family all the best."

Lewis and the 49ers' divorce began when the safety lost trust in the 49ers organization, according to [a report Saturday in The Sacramento Bee](#). That mistrust may stem from an NFL Network report last Wednesday that Lewis and veteran LB [Takeo Spikes](#) were on the verge of being benched. Singletary denied the report, saying there would be no lineup changes vs. the Falcons, and stayed true to his word, starting Spikes.

Rookie S [Taylor Mays](#) started in place of Lewis and made his presence felt. He recovered a blocked Falcons punt in the end zone in the first quarter for a touchdown.

Lewis, 30, has started all 50 games in which he has appeared with the 49ers. He took a pay cut to remain with San Francisco for a fourth season. He played his first five seasons with the [Philadelphia Eagles](#).

San Francisco 49ers

[Michael Lewis](#)
SS



2010 Statistics

Tackles: 10

Sacks: 0.0