

Jury acquits teen charged in fatal shooting

By <u>Bruce Vielmetti</u> of the Journal Sentinel Oct. 21, 2011

A jury late Thursday acquitted a 19-year-old Milwaukee man in the 2010 fatal shooting of another teenager on the city's north side.

Kendray E. Lewis, 19, who had been jailed since his arrest nearly a year ago, was freed Thursday night.

"The jury fulfilled its duty and put the state to its burden of proof," said his attorney, Craig Powell. He said the verdict shows the jury "had some real serious questions about Mr. Lewis being the shooter."

Daniel Seybold, 18, died Sept. 13, 2010 after being shot once in the chest outside a relative's home in the 5400 block of N. 41st St. Witnesses told police Seybold and some friends were outside the home talking when three other males walked up. One had a long-barreled handgun which he pointed at Seybold before demanding, "Lay it down."

After Seybold refused, he was shot once. The bullet entered his upper left chest not far from his neck tattoo that read, 'To Die For."

About a month after the crime, a person from the neighborhood told police he could get them the gun used to kill Seybold in exchange for consideration on his pending drug case. He turned over a .22-caliber revolver, with a wooden handle and a barrel nearly a foot long.

Two other men were also charged in the incident. Marcus D. Powell, 19, is charged with felony murder. Troy Hines, 19, is charged with armed robbery and being a felon in possession of a firearm. According to the complaint against Powell, two months earlier he had told Seybold he was taking over his block, and would shoot him if he challenged Powell.

At a preliminary hearing, Powell testified that Hines had the gun initially, but gave it to Lewis and the plan was to scare Seybold. Both Powell and Hines testified against Lewis, each also expecting help on his own case in exchange for the cooperation.

"I suspect the jury had some trouble with their testimony," Craig Powell said.

Powell said Lewis was not even there. He said a witness description of the shooter didn't match Lewis, and two police officers who had seen Marcus Powell and Hines with a third man earlier in the evening. Officers' description of that third person matched the one by the shooting witness, attorney Powell said.