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By [Jorden Hampton](#) August 30, 2022 [No Comments](#) 2 Mins Read



*INDIANAPOLIS, INDIANA - NOVEMBER 10: Darius Leonard #53 of the Indianapolis Colts reacts after a play against the Miami Dolphins in the third quarter at Lucas Oil Stadium on November 10, 2019 in Indianapolis, Indiana. (Photo by Justin Casterline/Getty Images)*

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INDIANAPOLIS, INDIANA – NOVEMBER 10: Darius Leonard #53 of the Indianapolis Colts reacts after a play against the Miami Dolphins in the third quarter at Lucas Oil Stadium on November 10, 2019 in Indianapolis, Indiana. (Photo by Justin Casterline/Getty Images)

The Indianapolis Colts made final roster cuts and fans received a pleasant surprise. Colts linebacker Shaquille Leonard “maniac” was removed from the pup list. Colts fans should be happy that their defensive leader won’t start the season on the pup list.

## Leonard’s impact

Since being drafted in 2018 Shaquille Leonard has been the leader of Indy’s defense. Leonard is a great football player and he is always around the ball. He tackles well, moves sideline to sideline, has good coverage skills, and has helped the Colts’ defense create turnovers. Leonard uses the famous “peanut punch”. During his career, he has recorded 17 forced fumbles and 11 interceptions.

Leonard is a team captain who steers his team in the right direction. He pushes his defensive teammates to be great and always gives 100 percent on the gridiron. Fellow linebacker Bobby Okereke mentioned how the linebackers had to step up while Leonard was sidelined. Simply put, Leonard is the glue of the defense and Indy’s young roster.

## What does this mean for the Colts?

Leonard’s removal is great news for the Colts. Shaquille can start practicing and make up for the time he missed during training camp. If Leonard is ready to go for week 1 against Houston he can help the Colts kick off the season with a win. Over the last two seasons, Indianapolis is 0-2 on opening day. Let the season begin and let the “maniac” return to the gridiron.