Many of the pro golfers feel The Players Championship has not risen to major status yet # 3E Sports THE ATLANTA CONSTITUTION THURSDAY, MARCH 24, 1988. SECTION ** Chapman the undisputed top 'Cat Roy S. Johnson Kentucky guard holds key NCAA Tournament time

Knepper missed the call with remarks on women

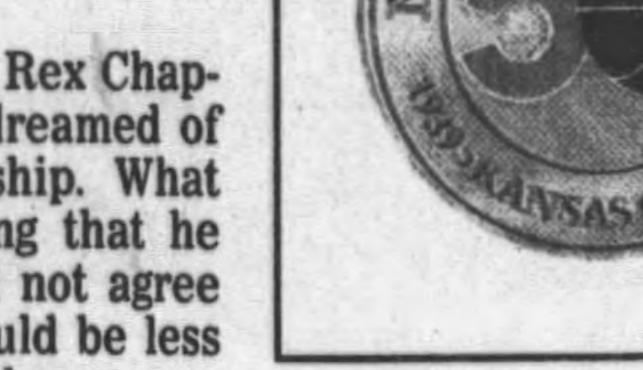
Several days ago, Mary Bea Porter, a professional golfer, was participating in the qualifying round of a tournament when she was interrupted by the sounds of desperation nearby.

As it turned out, a father was attempting to revive his son, who had tumbled accidentally into the family swimming pool. Porter dropped her clubs and ran to their aid, scurrying over a six-foot fence in the process. In minutes she revived the child using mouth-tomouth resuscitation. Witnesses said she saved his life. This touching story is mentioned in the wake of remarks made recently by Bob Knepper, a pitcher for the Houston Astros, concerning Pam Postema. After watching Postema, who is striving to become the first female umpire in major-league baseball history, work behind the plate during a spring training game, Knepper expressed the belief that she had no business in the profession. Not because she lacked umpiring skills, but because she's a woman. Indeed, it seems if Knepper had his way Mary Bea Porter would have been in the kitchen rather than on the golf course when that little boy's life began to slip away. In an amusing acknowledgement of **Knepper's insidious comments, the Houston** chapter of the National Organization of Women (NOW) presented the pitcher with a paper bag and a plaque nominating him for Neanderthal of the Year. According to Kathy Aubin, the chapter president, the bag is to 'put over his head, so he can express his beliefs to himself."

for a run at the Final Four

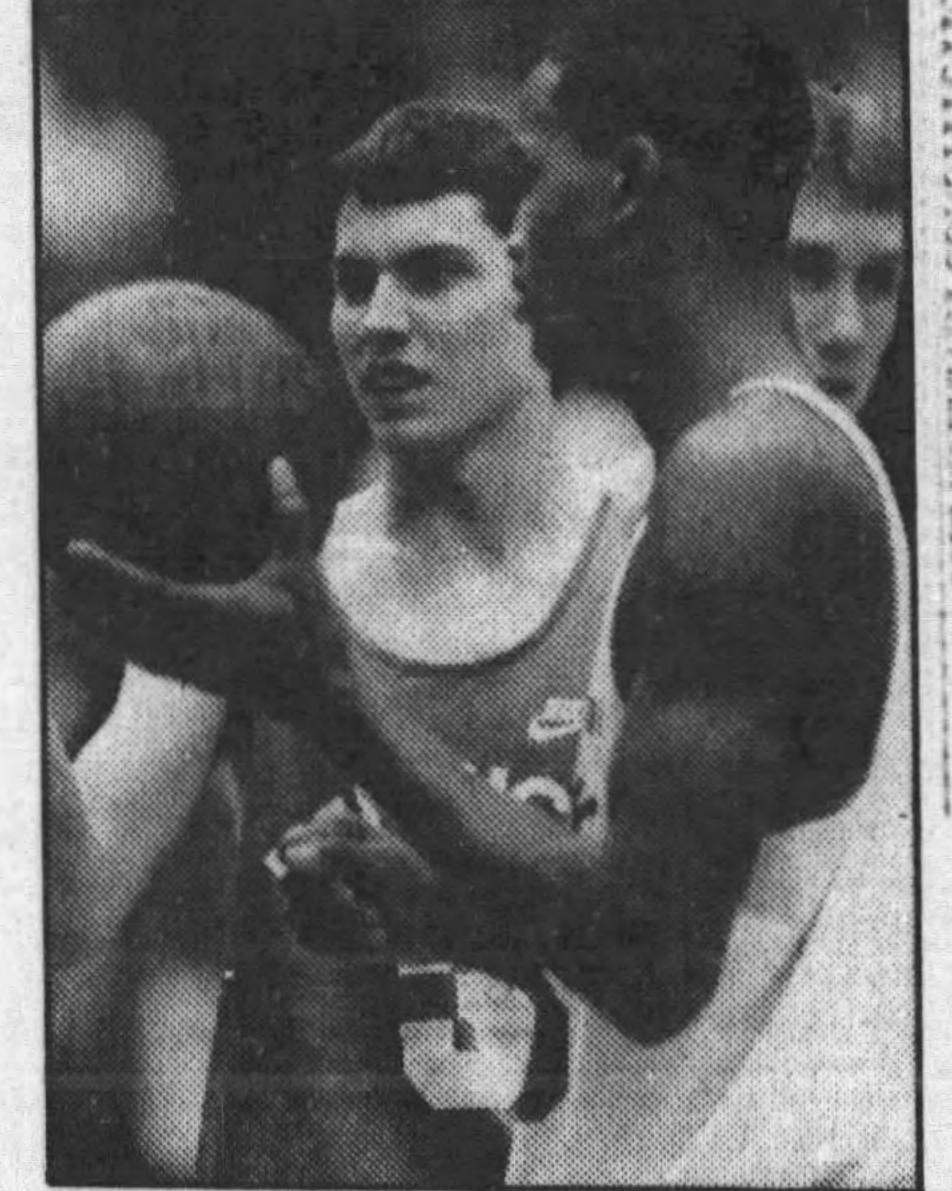
By Tony Barnhart Staff Writer

BIRMINGHAM, Ala. - Yes, Rex Chapman admitted, he has always dreamed of winning a national championship. What player doesn't? While admitting that he covets a ring, however, he will not agree with the suggestion that he would be less than complete as a basketball player - or



Southeast Regional: Birmingham fans are hungry for intrastate Kentucky-Louisville final. East Regional: Richmond and Rhode Island have nothing to lose against the big boys. Women's Mideast Regional: Georgia vs. third-ranked Auburn in semifinals in Athens.

Pages 4-5E



Initial reaction was to ignore comments

Knepper could find himself among dubious company. Past winners of the award are Gov. Bill Clements of Texas, who has vetoed several bills affecting women's rights, and a couple in West Texas lobbying to have all references to evolution stricken from textbooks. Postema has spent the last five seasons progressing through the ranks in Triple-A ball, just below the majors. She's been spat upon, kicked, propositioned and called every vulgarity in the book. As for battle scars, she's suffered a shattered collarbone from an errant pitch and a broken toe from a foul tip. Still, Postema says umpiring is a thrill. And now she stands, by merit, on the brink of obtaining one of the two openings in the big leagues. The initial reaction here was to ignore Knepper's insipid comments. After all, who cares what a baseball pitcher - and, no less, a mediocre baseball pitcher - thinks about such matters of sociology? Certainly, Knepper isn't Al Campanis, a corporate executive anointed with personnel responsibilities. He isn't Jimmy "The Greek" Snyder, a nationally prominent figure whose access to the airwaves makes him a pseudospokesman for the network he represents. And as an athlete, Knepper doesn't possess the kind of national aura that caused Isiah Thomas to be unduly villified for having the mettle to criticize the print and broadcast media for its continued dissemination of racial stereotypes.

as a person — should he someday leave the University of Kentucky without winning one.

"If you think about it, there have been a lot of great players who never won one,' "When I came to Kentucky, I just wanted

to contribute to a team that had a chance to win a national championship."

Needing two more wins to reach the NCAA Final Four, Kentucky has a chance to win its sixth national championship. said the Wildcats' sophomore guard. Given the Wildcats' wealth of young talent, logic would dictate that they will com-

pete for another in Chapman's final two years in Lexington.

But heed the words of Kentucky coach Eddie Sutton, who has seen the slings and arrows of outrageous fortune in many an

See CHAPMAN, Back Page

NEIL BRAKE/Special Sophomore guard Rex Chapman (background) is close to realizing goal.

Atlanta is No. 2 on **USOC list**

By Bud Shaw Staff Writer

After entertaining U.S. Olympic Committee board members at the Winter Olympics and while continuing to lobby among sports federations, Minneapolis-St. Paul believes it has an edge over Atlanta in the race for the 1996 Summer Olympics bid.

"People aren't saying to me, 'You've got the Olympics,'" Paul Erickson, director of the Minnesota Amateur Sports Commission, said Wednesday. "But they're saying it looks very good."

In their quest to become the U.S. recommendation to the International Olympic Committee, Twin Cities officials rented apartments overlooking the Olympic Plaza in Calgary and invited USOC guests to watch the nightly medal ceremony. Their entourage included Minnesota Gov. **Rudy Perpich, Minneapolis Mayor Donald** Fraser and St. Paul Mayor George Latimer. In Calgary, Erickson said of the U.S. designation, "Word is, it's ours to lose." Billy Payne, chairman of the Georgia Amateur Athletics Foundation (GAAF), said Wednesday he believes Minneapolis-St. Paul has the lead in committed votes on the USOC executive board but that Atlanta has a "50-50 chance." "The great majority of votes are uncommitted," said Payne, who also made an appearance in Calgary. "The race has yet to be run and won."

Prejudices beneath his religious beliefs

No, Knepper is simply an ordinary lefthanded hurler who managed only eight victories against 17 defeats last season, while owning an embarrassing 5.27 ERA. (That's earned run average, not Equal Rights Amendment.)

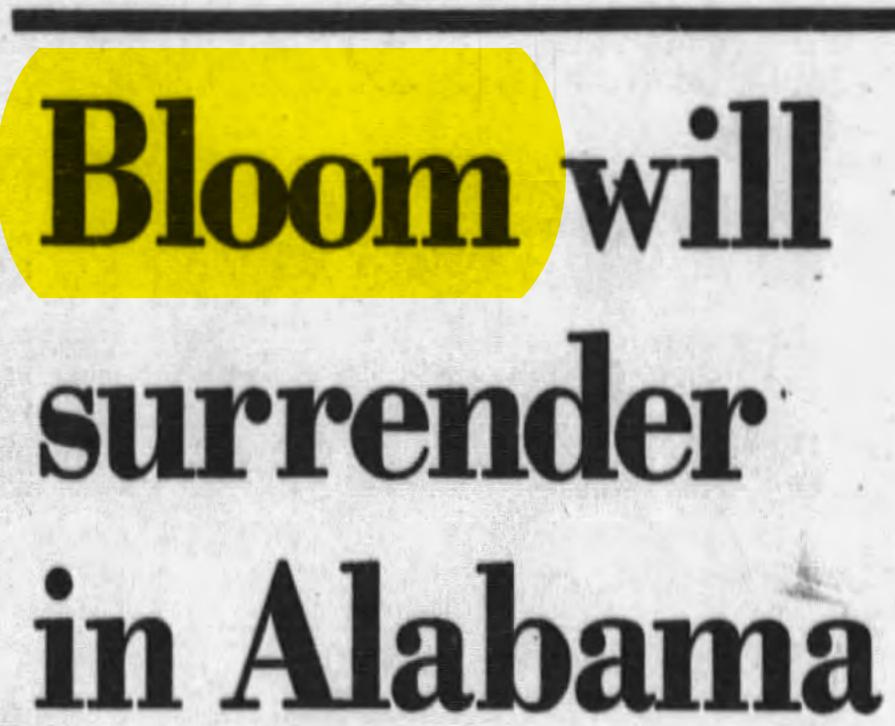
What is disturbing is that Knepper cloaked his prejudices beneath his religious beliefs, claiming that it was his "responsibility as a Christian to speak up, no matter the cost."

Strangely, Knepper's religion conflicts with this nation's Constitution, which guarantees all of its citizens, regardless of sex, race or religion, the right to pursue any profession, to succeed to the level of their capabilities. Through history women were slowly accorded the right to vote, drive, pilot an airplane, own a business, become an attorney, a doctor, a Supreme Court justice, a sportswriter, even an umpire. But just as the remarks uttered by Campanis and Snyder confirmed the continued existence of archaic racial attitudes, so has Knepper reminded us that legislation cannot change the hearts of men. "He speaks of the sexism that still exists within all sectors of the community," says Aubin. "We know it exists because of the many telephone calls we receive with complaints of sexual harassment and discrimination. Bob Knepper said he felt good about the job she did but didn't think she should do it simply because she's a woman. "We don't challenge his right to his beliefs, and we realize that Al Campanis was an individual who made hiring decisions. But in a sense, Knepper is a spokesman for our city, a noted figure in sports that young people listen to more than their teachers or parents. Children look up to these people, and are influenced." No one is happier than that young boy's father that the existence of people such as Knepper, who are still blinded by their own prejudices, didn't hinder Mary Bea Porter in the pursuit of her chosen profession, the quest of her thrill.



San Francisco and Nashville have faded in the race, according to USOC sources. San Francisco's attempt to make

See OLYMPICS, Page 9E



Rick Mahler, shown here signing autographs at spring training, is 4-0 with three shutouts in opening-day starts.

Mahler will start Braves' opener

Zane Smith will follow in the five-man rotation, Tanner's first in Atlanta

Braves looking at Destrade, Page 2E Game report, Page 10E **By Gerry Fraley** Staff Writer

WEST PALM BEACH, Fla. — Rick Mahler, the National League's losingest pitcher over the last three years, will be the Atlanta Braves' opening-day pitcher this season.

Mahler will face Rick Sutcliffe of the Chicago Cubs in the April 5 game at Atlanta-Fulton County Stadium. It will be Mahler's fifth opening-day start. He is 4-0 with three shutouts and no runs allowed in 34 innings on opening day.

"He'll have pitched the most innings (in exhibitions) and has the experience," manager Chuck Tanner said. "I have faith in Mahler. I just know he can win."

	Braves' opening day Who: Cubs vs. Braves	
		Where: Atlanta-Fulton Stadium
	Tickets: \$9.50, \$8 and \$6.	

Mahler received the assignment Wednesday as the Braves' rotation fell into place. Zane Smith, bothered by a bone spur in his left elbow during camp, will start the second game of the season.

Smith, who led the Braves with 15 wins last year, will not start the opener because his innings have been limited during camp. It is also a psychologial move by Tanner. He is giving Mahler a vote of confidence and also wants to keep Smith from thinking he has to carry the staff.

"We need Mahler to have a good year," Tanner said. "It can't be all kids."

The rest of the rotation will be filled by kids. Kevin Coffman, Tom Glavine and Peter Smith will take the other spots. The Braves will begin with a five-man rotation for the first time in Tanner's three seasons. The Braves led the league last season by using starters 40 times on three days' rest.

The bullpen is also nearly set. Jim Acker, Paul Assenmacher, Chuck Cary and Charlie Puleo have spots. The final opening will go to either rookie Sid **Akins or Jeff Dedmon, with Bruce Sutter** lurking in the background.

The rotation was 28-32 with a 4.61 ERA in the majors last season. The rotation has 107 career wins, 102 by Mahler and Smith.

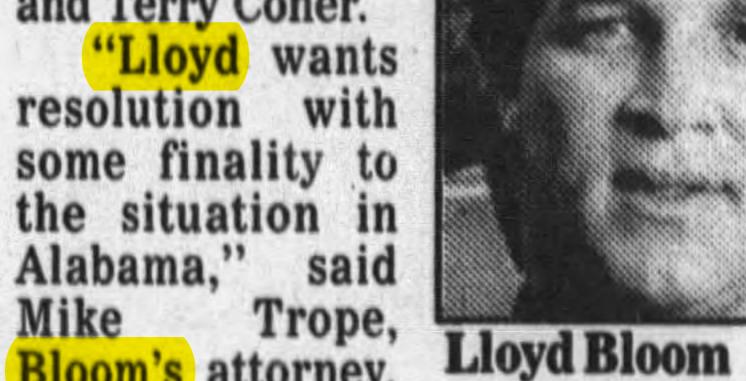
"We have a nice balance with the two veterans and the three kids," Tanner said. "If they have a problem or falter, somebody who's doing well down below

See BRAVES, Page 10E

By Chris Mortensen Staff Writer

Threatened with extradition, sports agent Lloyd Bloom of Los Angeles agreed Wednesday to surrender to Alabama officials to face charges for his dealings with

former University of Alabama basketball players Derrick McKey and Terry Coner.



attorney.

"He does not want a fugitive status hanging over his head."

Bloom failed to appear for his scheduled arraignment March 16 in Tuscaloosa, Ala., and Alabama Assistant Attorney General Don Valeska vowed to "track him down ... to all ends of the world." Valeska had given Bloom a deadline of Wednesday to commit himself or face the threatened extradition proceedings.

Bloom and former associate Norby Walters have been indicted on three misdemeanor charges — commercial bribery,

See BLOOM, Page 9E

Dogs limping into Blue-Gray Connors moves to semifinals

By Thomas O'Toole Staff Writer

ATHENS — Georgia's controversial homecourt advantage at the NCAA Tennis Tournament may be moot this year. The defending national champion, riddled with key injuries, is in danger of missing the 20-team field, according to head coach Dan Magill.

"We've gone from riches to rags," said Magill. "We've not given up, but we have a critical situation. This is a crucial time for us. You have to be lucky on injuries. We're having a rash of tough luck."

Georgia has played without No. 1 player Al Parker and No. 4 T.J. Middleton most of the winter. Both have back injuries and are out indefinitely, according to Magill.

On Monday, No. 3 player Trey Carter suffered a cut on his big toe which required stitches. He is

doubtful for the Blue-Gray Classic, which begins today in Montgomery, Ala.

Georgia (6-1) is seeded second in the tournament. based on its No. 3 ranking in the coaches' poll. The Bulldogs, though, figure to drop in the poll as they play matches against top-ranked teams.

Heading the field in Montgomery is top-ranked Southern Cal. The Trojans' coach, Dick Leach, was so outspoken about Georgia's homecourt advantage at the NCAA Tournament that the rules committee is considering another site for next year's event.

The Bulldogs have won two of the last three NCAA titles. This year's championships, the 12th straight time they will be in Athens, are scheduled May 20-28 at Henry Feild Stadium.

"It's very likely we'll be losing to some teams in the Blue-Gray Tournament, and that will put us behind them in the polls," said Magill.

, Thusday, March 24, 1988

United Press International

KEY BISCAYNE, Fla. - Second-seeded Jimmy Connors, who has yet to lose a set in the Lipton International Players Championships, routed Anders Jarryd Wednesday night to move into the semifinals of the \$2.1 million tournament.

TENNIS Connors, 35, beat Jarryd, the seventh seed from Sweden, 7-5, 6-3, 6-1, and will face defending champion Miloslav Mecir in Friday's semifinals. Mecir, the third seed, defeated Jay Berger 6-1, 2-6, 6-3, 7-6 (7-1).

The other semifinal has sixth-seeded Yannick Noah against No. 1 seed Mats Wilander. Noah looked impressive in beating Andrei Chesnokov, a winner two weeks ago in the DuPont Classic at Orlando, 6-1, 6-4, 6-4, while Wilander crushed Aaron Krickstein 6-1, 6-2, 6-0.

Women's semifinals are scheduled for today at

the International Tennis Center, when top seed and defending champion Steffi Graf takes on Stephanie Rehe, and Chris Evert faces Mary Joe Fernandez.

THE ATLANTA CONSTITUTION

Connors has won five straight matches at the Lipton, 15 straight sets, in reaching the semifinals for the third straight year. Wednesday night, in front of a partisan crowd, Connors improved as the match went on and raised his career record against Jarryd to 4-0. Connors has a 14-2 record in the Lipton, losing to Ivan Lendl in the semifinals in 1986 and 1987.

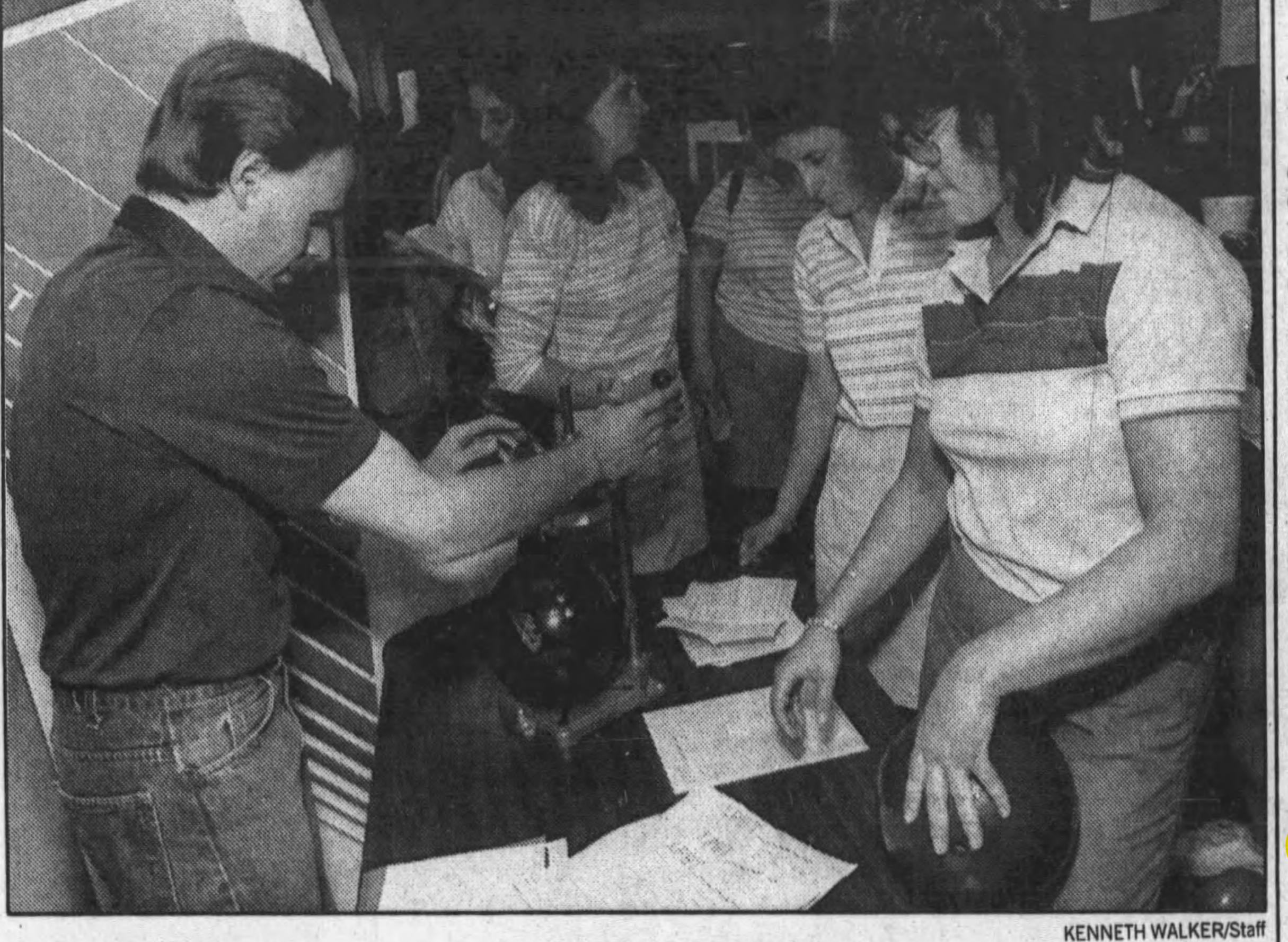
In 1986, Connors stalked off the court in a dispute with an official, and Lendl was awarded the match.

"I've had pretty good results here. I've played well in the past. Some Liptons I finish, some I don't," he said laughing.

Jarryd said he has yet to discover a way to beat Connors.

Results, Page 8E

Johnson bowls to top spot in





From Page 1E

deceptive trade practice and tampering with a sports contest. The charges stem from contracts they signed with McKey and Coner during Alabama's 1986-87 season. The agents have been indicted on two counts of each charge. Tuscaloosa County Circuit Court Judge John M. Karrh will preside over the agents' May 9 trial. If found guilty on all three charges involving each of the two players, Walters and Bloom each face a maximum of six years in jail and \$12,000 in fines. ers appeared for last week's arraignment, entered a not-guilty plea and was released on a \$1,000 bond. When Bloom was a no-show, Alabama Attorney General Don Siegelman said, "If he doesn't come of his own accord, he will be brought back in handcuffs." Siegelman and Valeska gave Bloom one week to turn himself in when they learned that he no longer was represented by Walters' attorney, Robert Gold of New York. "Lloyd was never properly served a copy of the indictment in the state of California, and it wasn't until yesterday that I had a chance to review the Alabama statutes in question," said Trope. "There also is broader consideration given to the misdemeanor laws since will be in contact with other jurisdictions." Trope was referring to a federal grand jury in Chicago that is investigating Walters' and Bloom's dealings with college athletes. Trope had expressed doubt that Alabama would be successful in extraditing Bloom from California, where the agent lives, on a misdemeanor charge. Valeska said Bloom does not have to appear in Alabama immediately, as long as he attends a pretrial hearing April 26 at the Tuscaloosa County Courthouse. "I have no reason to suspect that Mr. Bloom and Mr. Trope won't keep their word," said Valeska. "This is a courtesy we have extended Mr. Bloom. We will not extend another one like it if he fails to appear. We will get him." om and Walters have declined to comment on their legal battles.

Lady Ebonite

By Darryl Maxie Staff Writer

Tish Johnson of Downey, Calif., got everything she needed and took great pains to avoid everything she didn't Wednesday in the \$40,000 Lady Ebonite Classic bowling tournament at Fair Lanes in Chamblee.

She needed seven wins in the final seven matches. She got them. She needed at least a tie with Lorrie Nichols of Algonquin, Ill., in their position-round match. She got it, 216-216.

She didn't need extra pressure from well-meaning fans while trying to come from 146 pins behind to catch Nichols. And she didn't need a 7-10 split on her final ball

Johnson managed to escape the first in the bowling center's lounge, the second on lane 28. Such is the wisdom a 25-year-old has gathered on the Ladies Pro **Bowlers** Tour.

"People kept telling me I was getting closer to her," Johnson said from a barstool, after finishing first by 12 pins. "In between match play and the position round, I hid right here in this seat. But not drinking."

Trailing Nichols by nine pins going into her final frame, Johnson soberly made sure the ball hooked left. Because it did, she goes into the finals today in good position after starting the day 12th. She leads Nichols; Leila Wagner of Dallas; Jeanne Maiden of Solon, Ohio; and Donna Adamek of Duarte, Calif.

Nichols led after 34 games with 7,907 pins and an 11-4-1 match-play record. By then, Johnson had charged into second as a result of play Wednesday afternoon. Johnson had 7,761 pins:

But Nichols struggled in her final eight-game block

Keith Spears (left) tests bowling balls of Tish Johnson (right) and Lorrie Nichols (to her right) at

made a leader of Johnson, who rolled games of 243, 246

the winner advancing to play Wagner. The winner of

that match then plays Nichols. Johnson, 20-2-2 in match

play, will await the survivor of the stepladder format.

The finals will be taped by ESPN and shown next Mon-

University system. In contrast to the

Minneapolis bid, Payne said, the

GAAF is "not proposing to build

housing units to be funded out of

Olympic proceeds." In new con-

struction, Atlanta needs a track-

and-field stadium, a natatorium

(swimming and diving) and an in-

domed stadium is budgeted outside

the GAAF proposal.

door shooting range. Money for a

Beginning today at 7 p.m, Adamek will play Maiden,

and 258 during her charge.

Fair Lanes Chamblee. Johnson leads the Lady Ebonite Classic going into tonight's finals.

day at midnight. (4-3-1), and Johnson didn't. Getting 30 bonus pins for each win and a bonus pin for every pinfall over 200

"The worst J can get is second." Johnson said. "And I'll take a second-place paycheck (\$3,750) to the bank every week."

Nichols admitted she was helpless to stop Johnson, but doesn't consider herself out of the running for the \$7,500 first-place money.

Results, Page 8E



From Page 1E

city bid approval contingent on the **USOC's** acceptance of gay-oriented stipulations has effectively ruined its chances, the sources say. USOC Site Selection members have categorized Nashville as "impressive but too small."

After visiting Minneapolis-St. Paul this weekend, the Site Selection Committee will recommend candidate cities to USOC president Robert Helmick. Those cities, expected to be Atlanta and Minneapolis-St. Paul, are then invited to make a presentation April 29 in Washington, D.C.

A vote on which city should represent the U.S. in international bidding for the '96 Games follows immediately. While the Olympics coming to the U.S. so soon after 1984 is extremely unlikely, bid cities believe the designation stamps them as the next U.S. choice to host the Olympics. However, there is no guarantee the USOC will stick with its April choice indefinitely.

Getting the USOC's approval is the first step. Site Selection Committee chairman Jimmy Carnes won't comment on the competition until after the committee makes its recommendations. A formal announcement is expected Monday.

'I think we're in position to host the Olympics today. don't believe Minneapolis-St. Paul is in the same position.'

- Billy Payne **GAAF** chairman

rowing and canoeing at Callaway Gardens (70 miles).

"When the site selection committee visited," said Payne, "they had no problems with the venues being too spread out."

Minneapolis includes \$100 million in its budget for an athlete's village. Atlanta's bid utilizes Georgia Tech, Emory and the Atlanta

and a poll showing wide support for the Games. "We have tremendous political, corporate and public support for these Games, and that's what we hope to show the USOC," said

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Minneapolis-St. Paul believes its strengths are its moderate summer climate, existing facilities, proximity of venues and established working relationship with the USOC. Payne points to Atlanta's dynamic growth, airport and transit system, and solid political and corporate support.

"I think we're in position to host the Olympics today," said Payne. "I don't believe Minneapolis-St. Paul is in the same position."

The Twin Cities list a track-andfield stadium as the lone facility needed for 1996 that isn't already under construction or in the planning stage. Many of the facilities will be built in time to host the 1990 **U.S. Olympic Festival.**

"The fact we've already been awarded a Festival can't hurt us." said bid group spokesman Ken Brunsvold. "We have a relationship with the USOC. They know who we are."

Excluding yachting, the farthest venue in the Twin Cities bid is approximately 25 miles from the press center. The GAAF proposes tennis in Athens (65 miles) and equestrian,

outfitted anglers to do battle on ocean and stream. Now, as we reorganize our fishing department for exciting new directions, we thought that we'd pass the excitement on to you with 30% savings on an outstanding assortment of tackle whose names are legendary for performance and quality.

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