

Colleges find slippery agents hard to handle

n a business oozing with slime, Norby Walters and Lloyd Bloom were the worst. Acting as sports agents, they gave cash to at least 43 college athletes during the 1980s. They threatened uncooperative athletes with physical harm. Walters had ties to organized crime.

Due to their heavy-handed tactics, Walters and Bloom were convicted of felonies in federal court. But their convictions were overturned on technicalities. Walters and Bloom did not serve prison time. They did not pay a nickel in fines.

Still wondering why roguish agents ignore laws and NCAA rules?

The latest episode of agents improperly courting athletes is unfolding at Florida State, where seven football players allegedly accepted more than \$17,000 in cash and merchandise last year from Las Vegas-based agent Raul Bey and his associate, Nate Cebrun. Because the Seminoles won the 1993 national championship, the story is making headlines.

But this is hardly man-bites-dog stuff. Sports is crawling with unscrupulous agents desperate for business, and college teams are replete with athletes who need, or crave, money.

The combination is unseemly. Agents flock to college campuses. They harass athletes on the phone.

Their sales pitch is direct: I can negotiate a pro contract that assures your financial future. And here's a little bonus to tide you over until your college eligibility expires.

Consider how Bey and Cebrun hooked up with Florida State players. Cebrun was romantically involved with a Tallahassee woman, who introduced him to a former Tallahassee-area high school coach, who in turn introduced Cebrun to some players.

New England Patriots linebacker Chris Slade said the agent game was more daunting than being recruited by colleges out of high school. He said at least 100 agents called him.

Slade, a Tabb High and University of Virginia graduate, was the 31st player selected in the 1993 NFL draft. Imagine how many agents chase after football, baseball and basketball players certain to be top-five draft choices.

Slade said no one offered him money. But he's sure all he needed to do was

Gifts of any kind violate NCAA rules prohibiting extra benefits for athletes. Criminal prosecution of agents can be based on fraud and racketeering laws.

But the dealings of sports agents are hardly a law enforcement priority, and even when cases are pursued, obtaining convictions is difficult, witness Walters and Bloom.

The NCAA is also hamstrung. It can strip offending athletes of their remaining eligibility, but that's not a harsh sentence if the athlete is primed to turn pro. This time, Florida State is accused.

Next time, it may be your favorite team.

"I don't know how you regulate those guys," Virginia football administrator Gerry Capone said of agents. "They're very difficult to monitor, if at all. You try to set up a system whereby the kids tell you if so-and-so calls."

But, Capone added, some agents "are really sneaky."

Some are trustworthy. It's the sneaky ones who scare you.

Florida State coach Bobby Bowden and his staff know the score. Still, shenanigans occurred on their watch.

University and police investigations should determine whether the coaches ignored warning signals.

One thing is certain: Florida State's championship is secure. Since the Division I-A football title, unlike all other college sports, is awarded by news organizations, the NCAA lacks the power to strip a team of its championship.

Sports is equally powerless when it comes to agents. It's every athlete, every agent, for himself.

INSIDE

AIRWAVES. A week of memorable finishes and remarks is worth replaying. Sonny Dearth's TV/Radio column, B2.

GOLF. Veteran Dottie Mochrie is tied for the lead after one round of the LPGA Championship. Golf roundup, B5.

AUTO RACING. Drivers are already complaining about the changes NASCAR recently made in hopes of making Pontiacs more competitive. Al Pearce's Auto Racing Notebook, B6.

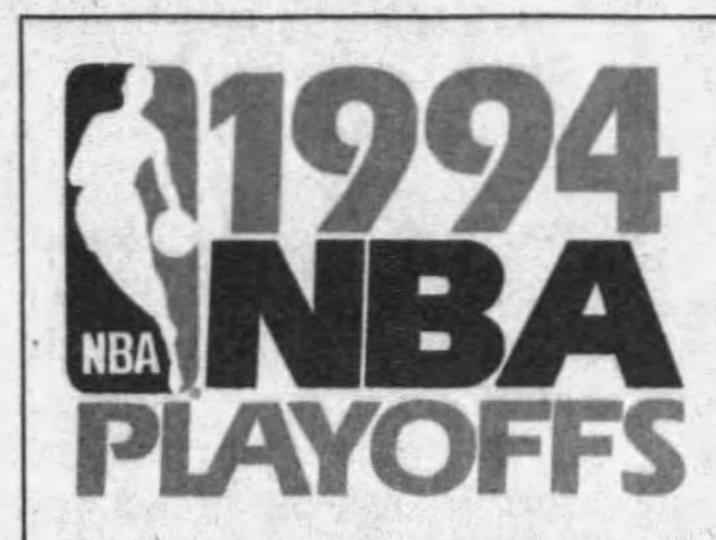
SCORELINE

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Hawks slow Pacers to a crawl



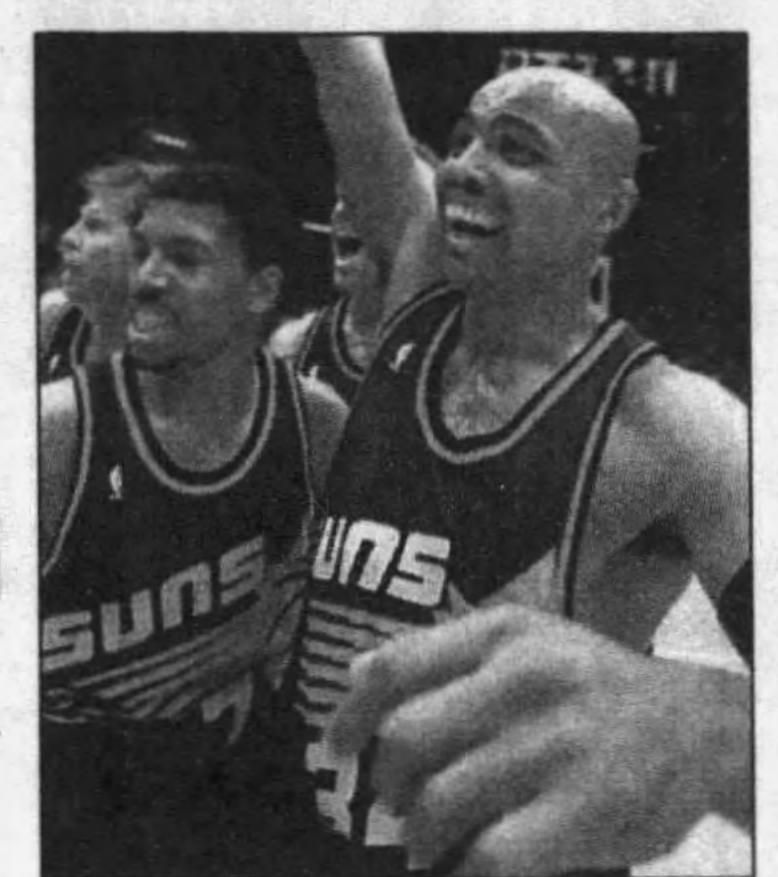
FRIDAY, MAY 13, 1994

THURSDAY'S SCORES

Atlanta 92, Indiana 69. Series tied 1-1. ■ Denver at Utah, late. Utah leads series 1-0.

TONIGHT'S GAMES

New York at Chicago, 8. ■ Houston at Phoenix, 10:30. TV: Both games on (TNT).



INSIDE. Charles Barkley, right, and Kevin Johnson enter tonight's Game 3 with a 2-0 lead after their improbable victory Wednesday in Houston. Story, more NBA, B5. AP

Indiana sinks low: just 69 points

The Associated Press

ATLANTA The key element Lenny Wilkens preached when he took over as Atlanta's coach last June was defense. That's what the Hawks stressed Thursday night, and the result was immediate and dramatic.

Holding Indiana to the fewest points in NBA playoff history, the Hawks got 20 points each from Danny Manning and Kevin Willis to beat the Pacers 92-69 and tie their Eastern Conference semifinal series 1-1.

"This was a huge turnaround for us after we were embarrassed the other night," Wilkens said of

Atlanta's 96-85 loss in the series opener Tuesday night. "All year long our team has been responsive and resilient, and we certainly did not want to go to Indiana down 0-2."

The 69 points by the Pacers broke the league-low mark of 70, shared by Golden State against Los Angeles in 1973 and Seattle against Houston in 1982.

The loss also snapped a 12game Indiana winning streak, including its last eight regularseason games, a three-game sweep of Orlando in the first round of the playoffs and a seriesopening defeat of Atlanta.

Mookie Blaylock added 11 points, 13 assists and 10 rebounds for the Hawks, the fourth triple double of his career.

Atlanta surged to a 61-42 lead

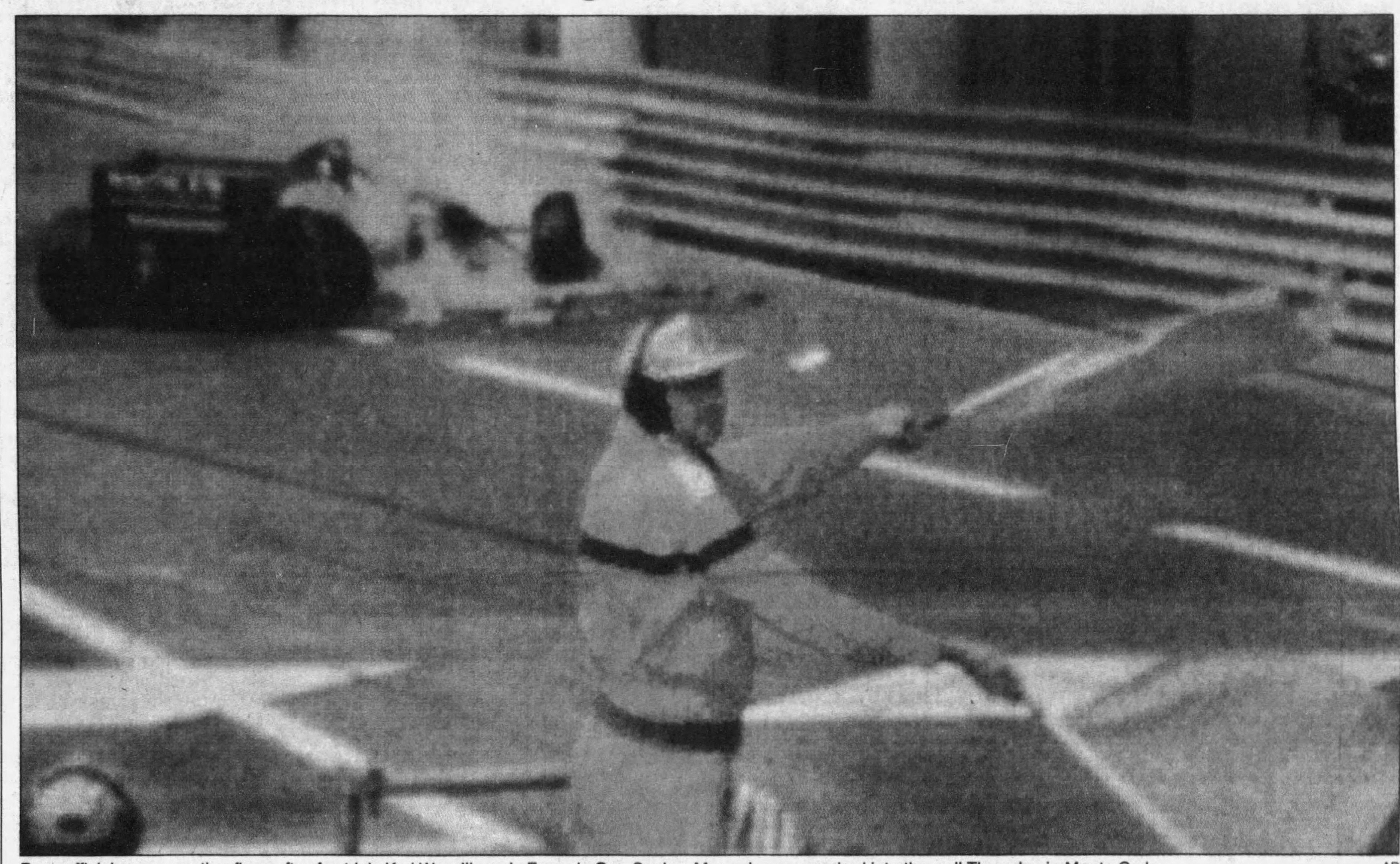
halfway through the third quarter, then withstood a Pacers comeback that closed them to 65-57 on Reggie Miller's 3-point basket with a second left in the peri-

Miller scored 12 points and Derrick McKey 11 for Indiana, which plays host to Games 3 and 4 on Saturday and Sunday.

"Atlanta didn't do much different on defense," Indiana's Haywoode Workman said. "We were right there going to the fourth. Ten down means nothing to us, but we made some lousy passes and missed a lot of shots we usually make."

The Pacers, who shot 31.8 percent for the game, hit only 29.4 percent in the final quarter, when they had seven of their 17 turnovers.

Another Formula One tragedy



Race officials wave caution flags after Austria's Karl Wendlinger's Formula One Sauber-Mercedes car crashed into the wall Thursday in Monte Carlo.

Monaco crash leaves Austrian in coma

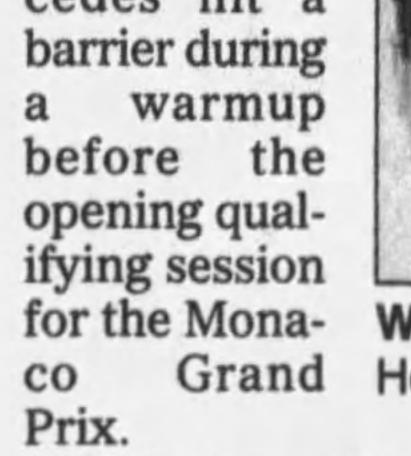
Wendlinger, 25, might not survive

The Associated Press

MONTE CARLO, Monaco Tragedy struck Formula One racing again Thursday, as an Austrian driver lay in critical condition after a crash on the co Grand Head injuries. first day of racing since the Prix. death of Ayrton Senna 11 days

Karl Wendlinger, 25, was in a "very serious coma" with severe head injuries suffered

Sauber-Mercedes hit a barrier during a warmup before the opening qualifying session



Quet, director of public relations at the Saint Roch Hospital in Nice. "We don't know if he will live. Right now the doctors are



speaking with his family and girlfriend." The accident came as the

sport was still reeling from the deaths of Senna, a legendary champion from Brazil, and another Austrian, Roland Ratzenberger, during the San Marino Grand Prix weekend, April 30-May 1.

"It seems there's a period of "It's very serious," said Robi luck together, and a period of unluck together," said Austrian driver Gerhard Berger, who wrestled with thoughts of retirement in the wake of Senna's

death. "And it seems the luck period is finished."

Wendlinger, coming out of the Loews tunnel on the fastest part of the street circuit, hit the barriers side-on as he braked going into a curve.

The Sauber team said telemetry data from the car failed to noted that Wendlinger braked 40 feet later than he had on the previous lap.

Coming out of the tunnel, drivers usually reach a speed of about 186 mph before slowing

down to less than 37 mph for the curve.

"Out of the tunnel, the braking into the chicane where Wendlinger had his accident, the road is wrong," said Berger, who had already called for a drivers meeting on Friday to discuss safety issues. "Somehow in the reveal a technical defect, but last years, we have accepted it and it is wrong."

Earlier in the practice session, Wendlinger had made a pit stop for an adjustment to the car's

Please see Accident/B6

Bethel fills coaching jobs

Assistant from Norfolk school gets boys varsity position By Mike Keech Daily Press

Bethel's search for three new basketball coaches ended Thursday with the selection of a veteran high school assistant from Norfolk's Eastern District and two former college assis-

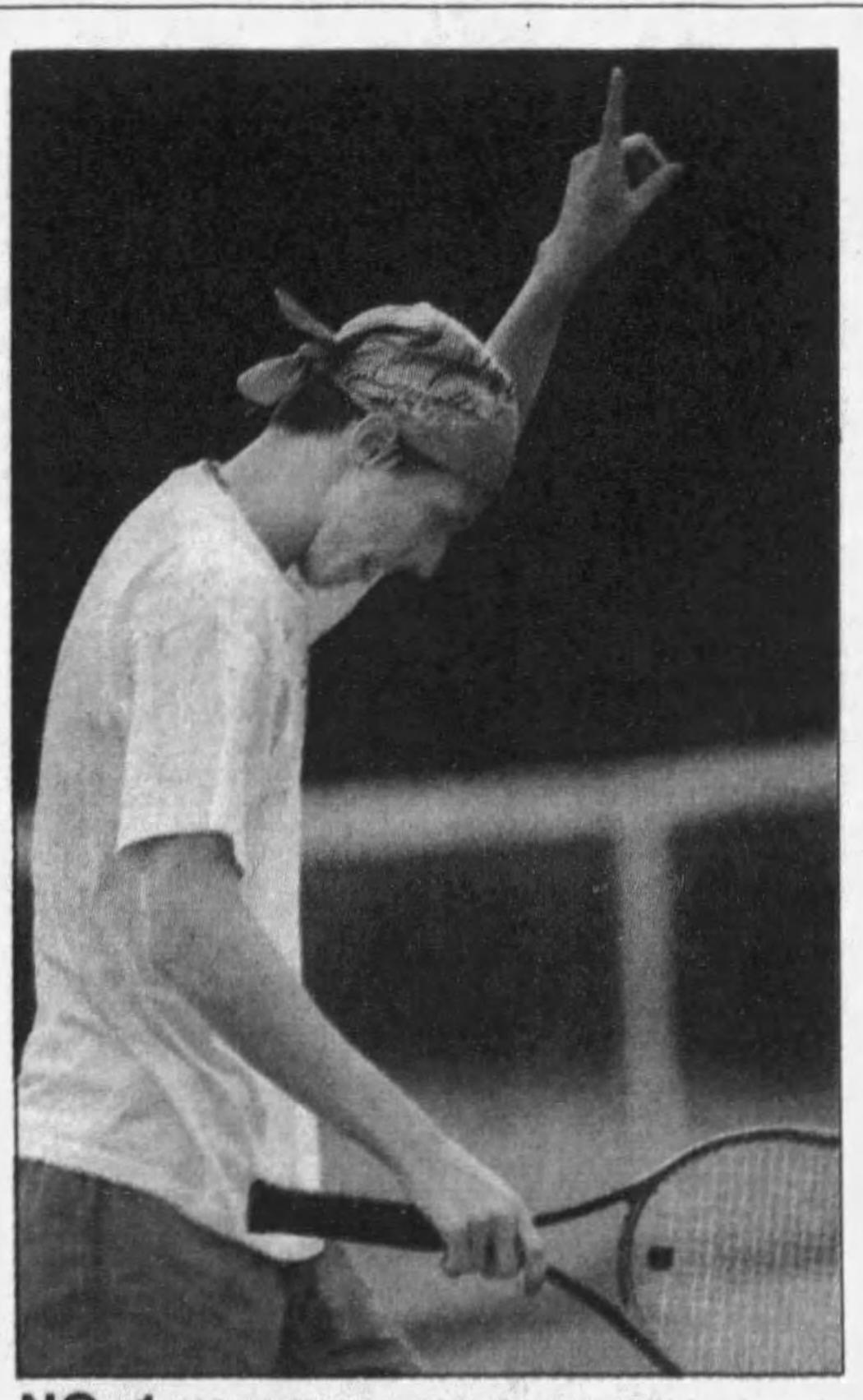
Craig Brehon, a varsity

■ The Peninsula District baseball race ends today, or does it? Story, B3.

assistant and head junior varsity coach at Maury High last season, takes the reins of the Bruins' boys varsity. Brehon, 30, has also coached at Booker T. Washington, Granby and his alma mater Lake Taylor in the same positions he did at Maury. He replaces Michael Bailey, who had a 103-99 record in nine seasons.

Vernon Claytor, who spent eight years as an assistant women's coach at Radford and Virginia Commonwealth University before coming to Bethel as a guidance counselor last fall, replaces 22-year veteran Jessie Pope as the varsity girls coach. James Daniel, who assisted Bailey in the 1992-

Please see Bethel/B3



NO. 1. Mark Tepes of Lafayette High signals that a ball hit by opponent Hugh Spain is out during Tepes' three-set victory in the Peninsula District singles final. Story, B3. Scott Kingsley/Daily Press

Ex-Lafayette coach fights against firing Hooker charges

discrimination By Jennifer L. Williams

Daily Press

Former Lafayette football losses in the coach Bubba Hooker has filed a final grievance with the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission coached. on the grounds that he was fired because of reverse racial discrimination.

His claim is based on the premise that black coaches with the comparable records in different sports have not been removed from their jobs.

Hooker filed the complaint March 31 with the EEOC in Norfolk. The suit names Williamsburg-James City County school superintendent Gayden Carruth, Lafayette principal Andy Cypress and Lafayette athletic director Betsy Thomas.

Hooker, who still teaches physical education at the school, was fired as head football coach

Dec. 3, 1993. He had com-HOOKER'S piled a record RECORD of 3-37 in four seasons at Lafayette, Football coach

Bubba Hooker's including record at Lafayette: games **1990 1991** A replace-**1992**

ment hasn't **1993** selected for ■ Total 3-37

which Hooker applied for, but an announce-

ment is expected soon. Meanwhile, Hooker's claim could sit dormant for as long as six months before any action is

"It's in a holding pattern," Hooker said. "Once we filed the EEOC had 10 days to send something to the school system, then the schools had 30 days to

Please see Hooker/B3

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