

# Sports

## Twins' Niekro: manicure on mound is needed

ANAHEIM, Calif. (AP) — Those pesky fingernails can be a real problem for a knuckleball pitcher, Joe Niekro says.

Thus he always has taken his personal manicure set to the mound. "I'll be honest with you, I always carry two things out there with me, an emery board and a small piece of sandpaper," the Minnesota Twins pitcher said after the umpires searched him on the mound at Anaheim Stadium Monday night and discovered his grooming aids. He was thrown out of the game for defacing the ball. "I've done that ever since I started throwing the knuckleball," Niekro

said. "Being a knuckleball pitcher, I sometimes have to file my nails between innings, so I carry an emery board with me to the mound."

He needs the small piece of sandpaper, the 42-year-old Niekro explained, in case the emery board gets soggy.

"Sometimes I sweat a lot and the emery board gets wet," he said. "I use the other as a backup."

Some pitchers in the past have been accused of doctoring the baseball to give it erratic movement and make it harder to hit. In 1980, Rick Honeycutt was suspended for 10 days when a thumbtack was discovered taped to a finger.

Niekro was searched and ejected in the fourth inning of the Twins' 11-3 victory over the California Angels, and now faces the prospect of a 10-day suspension and a fine.

The umpires confiscated the baseball that was in play at the time, plus five others that had been used earlier in the game, and are shipping them to American League President Bobby Brown.

Bob Fishel, the league's executive vice president, said Tuesday that it would be a couple of days until the balls are examined and any action taken.

California Manager Gene Mauch predictably suggested that Niekro

was using the emery board and sandpaper on more than his fingernails.

"Those balls weren't roughed up," Mauch said. "Those balls were borderline mutilated. He did a job on a couple of 'em. I mean, those balls were hurting."

"I noticed Palermo (second base umpire Steve Palermo) pocketed a ball earlier in the game and I thought, 'They must know something,'" Mauch said.

Home plate umpire Tim Tschida halted play in the bottom of the fourth and first examined Niekro's glove. Then, as 39,983 fans watched at Anaheim Stadium, Niekro was or-

dered to empty his pockets. Surrounded by the umpiring crew, he flipped his back pockets inside out, bringing his hands over his head in the process.

The umpires then saw the emery board lying on the grass.

"The balls are checked after every inning of every major league game," umpiring crew chief Davey Phillips said. "We were aware of what we might have because we had collected several balls that had been scuffed in the same manner at the same place."

Despite the ejection of Niekro, who was replaced by Dan Schatzzler, the Twins went on to handily beat the Angels.

## Simmons undergoes knee surgery

Texas A&M freshman running back Randy Simmons underwent arthroscopic knee surgery Monday at St. Joseph Hospital.

Simmons, one of the top incoming backs in the country, is expected to miss three weeks of practice as freshmen Aggie football players begin fall drills Monday.

The injury may have been caused by his participation in the Whataburger All-Star game in Fort Worth last Tuesday.

The surgery was performed by A&M Team Physician Dr. L.W. Coleman to repair damaged cartilage in Simmons' right knee.

"We're glad the injury was not as serious as it might have been," A&M Coach Jackie Sherrill said. "Being an incoming freshman, it will set him back a little bit. But the injury was minor enough that he should be able to come back and contribute."

## Horns' Lott ineligible after taking payments

AUSTIN (AP) — The University of Texas declared defensive back James Lott, a likely Longhorn starter, ineligible Tuesday, saying he had accepted a cash loan from sports agent Lloyd Bloom.

UT Athletic Director DeLoss Dodds said Lott, a senior, is ineligible to play football pending a review of his case by the National Collegiate Athletic Association.

In a letter to the NCAA, Dodds said Lott admitted signing a promissory note for an \$800 loan from Bloom. The letter asked that the NCAA review the case to determine whether there was a violation of its rules.

"James' situation is different from those of other players who have been publicly tied to those agents," Dodds said. "As best we can determine, he did not sign a contract or negotiate a contract."

Bloom and partner Norby Walters are being investigated by a Chicago grand jury that has been looking into their dealings with more than 60 college athletes.

Lott, of Refugio, was projected as a starter for the 1987 Longhorns at cornerback. Although he was redshirted last year in football, the 6-foot, 184-pound senior competed in

track and field, where he is considered a world class athlete. He is a two-time NCAA indoor high jump champion and won the NCAA's outdoor high jump in 1986.

Bill Little, UT sports information director, said the loan was made last September. Dodds' letter to the NCAA said Lott accepted the loan from Bloom while the agent was in Austin to talk with another Texas player.

"Bloom loaned him \$800 and Lott signed a promissory note on the loan," Dodds said.

Lott has one year of eligibility remaining in both football and track. Dodds said that while the school's decision Tuesday applies to football, it would be extended to track if a rules violation is verified.

Texas is scheduled to open its season Sept. 5 at Auburn.

The *Austin American-Statesman*, in a story published Tuesday, quoted Lott as saying he did nothing wrong. Lott also reiterated his claim that he has had only phone conversations with Bloom and Walters.

"I knew they were writing a letter to the NCAA asking for (clarification)," Lott told the newspaper. "Did I accept a loan? No, man. . . . Did I sign a note? No."

## Notre Dame fills AD post

SOUTH BEND, Ind. (AP) — Richard Rosenthal, a retired banker with no experience as an athletics administrator, was named Notre Dame athletic director Tuesday.

Rosenthal, 54, of South Bend, played basketball at Notre Dame and captained the team in his senior year. He succeeds Gene Corrigan, who resigned last month to become commissioner of the Atlantic Coast Conference.

"I can assure you I think the most important thing I can do in this job is to ensure the integrity of a great, great athletic program," Rosenthal said. "If we do that, we need never apologize for losing."

The appointment was announced by the Rev. E. William Beauchamp, executive vice president of the university and chairman of Notre Dame's faculty board for athletics.

Beauchamp praised Rosenthal's long-standing support of the school and said his experience in business and personnel management will compensate for his inexperience while he learns the job. "Bottom line, I was looking for somebody I could work with comfortably, as well," Beauchamp said.

"There are many specific things in the athletic department that will be new to me," Rosenthal admitted. He acknowledged having no experience negotiating contracts such as the lucrative television rights deals the university routinely signs with networks for basketball and football games.

He condemned professional sports agents who contact college players, jeopardizing their eligibility, and said players should avoid such contacts.

Rosenthal praised the range of Notre Dame athletics, including money-making sports such as football and basketball, as well as non-revenue sports such as fencing, and the women's sports program.

The football team has greater strengths than its 5-6 season in 1986 indicates, said Coach Lou Holtz, who is entering his second season. The basketball team, coached by Digger Phelps, reached the third round of the 1987 NCAA tournament before losing to North Carolina.

"I know of no other university that has a more complete and total program," he said.

## Cowboys' Rohrer reports to camp

THOUSAND OAKS, Calif. (AP) — Holdout linebacker Jeff Rohrer reported to Dallas Cowboys' training camp on Tuesday but said he would leave again if he couldn't get the contract he wanted.

"I picked up my key so I guess you can call that reporting," Rohrer said. "I'm here and if they want to kick me out of camp they can. I want to get my contract settled and play football."

Rohrer reported to camp five days ago and is subject to the NFL's "John Riggins rule."

Rohrer, who is in the option year of his contract calling for \$192,000, reported to training camp last

Thursday then left.

If he had stayed out five days Dallas could place him on the reserve list and he couldn't play for any other team the remainder of the year.

"You need a slide rule to figure this out," said Rohrer, a six-year veteran from Yale. "It's complicated. I'm here because of the Riggins rule. I plan to stay around a few days and see if Joe Bailey can work me into his schedule."

Bailey, a team vice president, handles negotiations for the Cowboys.

"I hope we can get something done on the contract," Rohrer said. "I don't want to leave, then

comeback, then leave. I don't want to be a yo-yo on a string."

Club President Tex Schramm said Rohrer's sudden appearance "irritates me. I don't know if we'll negotiate."

Schramm added "a trade is a possibility and he (Rohrer) hasn't been on the market."

Schramm said he didn't think Rohrer could report and leave, report and leave.

"We're not interested in two-day players," Schramm said.

Asked if he would give Rohrer a better renegotiated deal, said "if we haven't made our last offer to him we have now."

## Top seeds advance in Volvo play

STRATTON MOUNTAIN, Vt. (AP) — Top-seeded Ivan Lendl, Wimbledon champion Pat Cash and No. 4-seed John McEnroe each advanced Tuesday with first-round victories in the \$315,000 Volvo International Tennis Tournament.

Lendl beat Vermont native Marc Flur 6-4, 6-3; Cash, seeded third, rallied past Kelly Evernden 6-7 (7-2), 6-2, 6-4; and McEnroe beat Jonathan Canter 6-3, 6-2.

In a later match, No. 2 Jimmy Connors played Greg Holmes.

The weather atop Stratton Mountain was hot and windy, causing some problems for the top seeds.

"It was a bit hard," Lendl, the defending tournament champion, said. "I didn't control the ball very well. It kept flying."

Cash and Evernden also had trouble with volleys in the wind.

"It was difficult to get my timing at first, with the altitude (1,900 feet)," Cash said.

Both he and Evernden were able to hold serve throughout the first set, forcing the tiebreaker that Cash eventually lost by double-faulting on set point.

Cash took the second set easily and broke Evernden's serve twice in the third set to go up 4-1. Evernden fought within 5-4, but Cash scored four straight points, including a well-placed corner shot, to take the match.

"I just tried to keep the ball in my court," Cash said. "The balls were zinging around everywhere. I just tried to be consistent."

## Mavs' Alford happy to call Dallas home

DALLAS (AP) — "Mr. Basketball" of Indiana says he wants to make a home for himself in Dallas, but first he has to milk a cow in Indiana.

Steve Alford, a two-time All-American at Indiana University who led the Hoosiers to the NCAA crown last spring, came to Dallas Tuesday for the first time since he was chosen by the Mavericks as the 26th pick in the NBA draft.

The 6-foot, 2-inch guard said he has gained almost 10 pounds to make the transition to the professional ranks.

"I've got to work hard," Alford said. "Nothing would please me more than to make this my home."

Alford — accompanied by his wife, Tanya — said he was glad Dallas had drafted him after being bypassed by the Indiana Pacers in the first round because they felt he was too slow to be taken as the 11th overall pick.

"It's just a great break for me," he said. "This is a super organization — they know how to win. Top to bottom, all the people have been great. They've given us a warm Texas welcome."

Alford's been busy with basketball camps and producing a training video since graduation from college. And he's getting ready for cow-milking duties as part of his new contract representing the Indiana Dairy Council.

Alford averaged 22 points a game last season as the Big Ten's most valuable player and won Indiana's MVP award four times.

"He's gotten more out of his abilities as anybody I've seen play college basketball," IU Coach Bobby Knight said.

Alford said he went to Indiana because of Knight's program and

*"He's gotten more out of his abilities as anybody I've seen play college basketball."*

— Coach Bob Knight

now is looking forward to playing for Mavericks coach John MacLeod.

"He's from Indiana, so I know he's a great individual," MacLeod said.

"With all the negative vibes under Coach Knight, it'll be a great transition to Coach MacLeod's positive program," Alford said.

But like nearly all Hoosiers who successfully complete Knight's strict regimen, Alford values the experience.

Asked about the role as a point guard he'll likely be called on to fill if he makes the Dallas team, Alford said he wasn't really a shooting guard at Indiana. "Coach Knight doesn't really have that in his offense," he said. "He'd really rather play with five forwards."

"I took the shooting role that Randy Wittman (now with the Atlanta Hawks) had — I was the first 6-2 guy to play it," Alford said. "But I can handle the basketball; I'm excited about getting back to it."

## Hough tutors Candiotti on knuckleball

CLEVELAND (AP) — A simple piece of mechanical advice from Texas knuckleballer Charlie Hough has turned Tom Candiotti's season around.

"He noticed that my wrist was slipping off to the side as I threw, causing the knuckleball to move laterally," the Cleveland right-hander said. "He told me to straighten out my wrist, and he got it to float more up and down, in the strike zone."

That small adjustment, suggested by Hough just before the All-Star break, has helped Candiotti to a 2-1 record and 2.21 ERA in his last three starts. His latest was a one-hit, 2-0 victory over the New York Yankees Monday night that improved his record to 4-11.

"Charlie Hough has taken an interest in me, because there aren't many knuckleball pitchers left," said Candiotti, who has also taken knuckleball lessons from teammate Phil Niekro.

Candiotti, 29, used the knuckleball extensively for the first time during the 1986 season, and it revived his sagging career as he went 16-12 with an American League-leading 17 complete games.

Hitters wised up early this season, however, when they realized he was not throwing the pitch over the plate consistently.

"I was throwing ball, ball, ball," Candiotti said.

Since the All-Star break, he's been able to get the knuckleball over more regularly, and the Indians' new manager, Doc Edwards, has also given him more leverage by letting him mix in the fastball and some breaking pitches.

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