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*Jersey flag flap*

**Cager quits over threats**

SOUTH ORANGE, N.J. (AP) — Marco Lokar could deal with the booing and even the nastiness after he decided not to wear the American flag on his Seton Hall basketball uniform. The threatening telephone calls that upset his pregnant wife were another matter.

On Wednesday, Lokar quit the basketball team, withdrew from Seton Hall and announced plans to return to his native Italy.

"The consequences of my decision have been quite surprising to me," Lokar said in a statement released by the school. "I have received many threats, directed both toward me and my wife, Lara, so that our life has become very difficult here."

"In order to complete her pregnancy in tranquility and peace (which is more important than anything else to us) we have decided to return to our hometown, Trieste," said Lokar, who was not available to comment on the statement.

Coach P.J. Carlesimo and athletic director Larry Keating expressed sorrow that the flag flap prompted the sophomore guard to leave school, but said he would be welcome to return next year. The scholarship remains intact, they said.

"It's very disappointing and sad that the circumstances evolved and he has to go back," Carlesimo said Wednesday. "It's sad that he can't stay here and do what he wants to do because of concerns for the child."

The controversy surrounding Lokar had its roots in a decision by 12 members of the team in mid-January to put U.S. flags on their uniforms. Only Lokar, one of three foreigners on the team, refused.

From a Christian standpoint I cannot support any war, with no exception for the Persian Gulf War," Lokar said in his statement. "I have heard many people saying that the flag should be worn in support of the troops and not in support of the war."  
 "This is a foolish argument. The troops are in the gulf fighting a war!"

Lokar's refusal to wear the flag went unnoticed for four games, two of which he played in a substitute jersey after his was stolen.

People seemed to notice the flag's absence on his uniform on Jan. 29 at Providence.

Stories were written, and Lokar said only that it was a personal decision.

The flag flap escalated just before the Feb. 2 game against St. John's at Madison Square Garden in New York City.

The night before the game, Carlesimo said Lokar got a telephone call from his wife, saying that she had been receiving threatening calls.

The following day at the game, Lokar was heckled in warmups and on the bench.

When he got into the game, he was booed every time he touched the ball.

Lokar has averaged just 3.1 points per game.

Lokar made the trip with the Pirates to Pittsburgh two days later, but did not play.

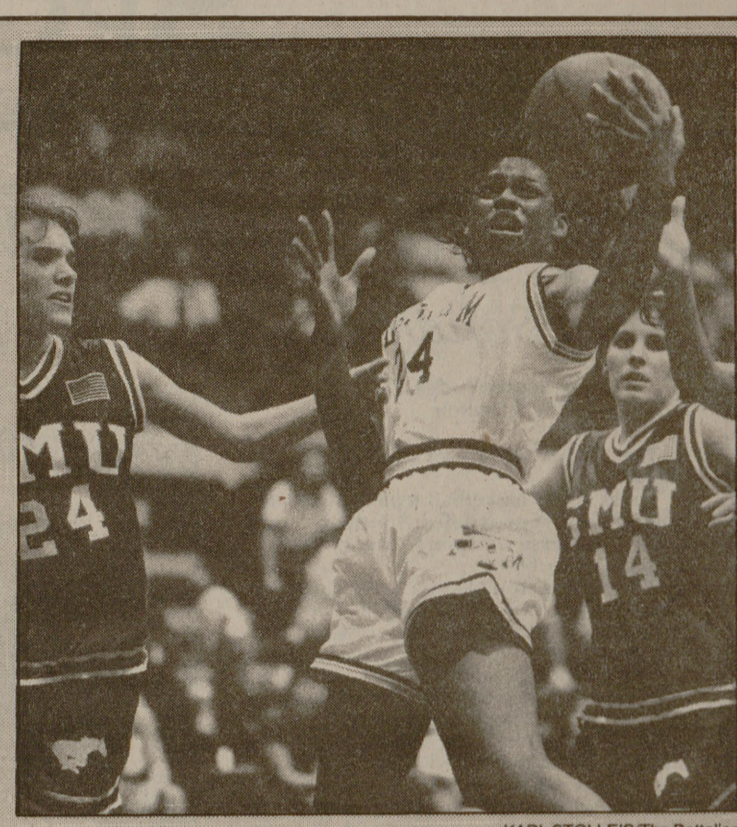
Carlesimo said there was no heckling.

The telephone calls to his home continued, and Lokar last Wednesday asked Carlesimo for time to consider his options.

He did not attend recent practices or either of the teams' last two games.

"This hasn't been something off the top of his head," Keating said. "Some kids do that. Not Marco. This is something consistent with his philosophy. It doesn't surprise me."

"I know the team supports Marco's right to make a stand," Carlesimo said. "I know they believe in Marco's sincerity. I believe they will support his decision."



KARL STOLLEIS/The Battalion

**Rebound Ruckus**

Lady Aggie forward Yvonne Hill fights for a rebound early in the second half of Tuesday night's 84-77 win over SMU.

**Texas inks Palmeiro**

ARLINGTON (AP) — The Texas Rangers reached agreement Tuesday with first baseman Rafael Palmeiro on a one-year contract worth \$1,475,000, avoiding an arbitration hearing scheduled on Friday.

Palmeiro had asked for \$1.6 million and the Rangers had offered \$1.15 million. The raise more than quadruples Palmeiro's salary last year of \$345,000.

The 26-year-old batted .319 last year with 14 home runs and 89 RBIs in 154 games. Palmeiro, the Rangers Player of the Year in 1990, led the American League with 191 hits and 136 singles and tied for eighth in RBI.

Three Rangers remain eligible for arbitration — third baseman Steve Buechele and outfielders Pete Inaviglia and Ruben Sierra.

Also Tuesday, the Rangers signed rookie third baseman Dean Palmer to a one-year contract. Palmer split his time in the minor leagues last season, playing for Tulsa and Oklahoma City. Terms of the deal were not disclosed.

With the agreement, the Rangers have 21 of the 40 players on their major league roster under contract for 1991.

**Lendl outlasts France's Raoux**

PHILADELPHIA (AP) — Top-seeded Ivan Lendl outlasted a determined Guillaume Raoux of France 6-1, 7-5 Wednesday in the \$1 million U.S. Pro Indoor tennis tournament.

After winning the first game of the match and then losing six straight, Raoux made Lendl work to win in straight sets and advance to the third round.

Lendl said he was satisfied with his start. "Then later on I lost my rhythm, so it was difficult for me," Lendl said.

Lendl served an ace to reach 5-4, but lost the next game after holding a 30-15 lead. In the 11th game, Lendl served two aces to go ahead 6-5. He lost one match point in the 12th game, reached another with an

overhead smash and won on Raoux's fifth double-fault of the match.

Earlier, MaliVai Washington upset McEnroe's brother Patrick, the No. 16 seed, 6-0, 6-3 to advance to the third round. Washington will play defending champion Pete Sampras on Thursday.

Patrick McEnroe had earned a wild-card entry after reaching the semifinals of the Australian Open.

In third-round matches, ninth-seeded Petr Korda of Czechoslovakia defeated Wayne Ferreira of South Africa 7-5, 7-6 (7-3); Aki Rahunen of Finland defeated Jim Grabb 6-7 (3-7), 6-1, 6-3; and Kevin Curren upset 11th-seeded Darren Cahill of Australia 6-7 (7-9), 6-3, 7-6 (7-2).

Korda won his first set after trail-

ing 1-3. He ended the match by winning the final three points in the tie-break.

Rahunen broke Grabb's service in the third set for a 5-3 lead, then served out the match as Grabb hit a forehand long.

Curren recovered from a first-set loss to outlast Cahill in a closely fought display of placement shots and well-angled volleys. Cahill's double-fault ended the match after he had fought off one match point.

In other second-round matches Wednesday, seventh-seeded Michael Stich of Germany defeated Christian Caratti of Italy 6-2, 6-4 and 14th-seeded Paul Haarhuis of the Netherlands defeated Udo Riglewski of Germany 6-1, 6-3.

*Hoops coach overcomes injury*

GRAPELAND, Texas (AP) — Think of Chuck Daly, Bob Knight and Chuck Bailey.

All are basketball coaches. All have won coveted championships in their respective leagues. They all work the summer camp circuit.

Daly has seen his team win two NBA championships, while four of Knight's teams have won NCAA tournaments. Bailey is known throughout this state's coaching ranks for his 1989 Class 2A girls championship team.

Which one's coaching style this season could be considered the most unconventional?

Daly and Knight stalk the sidelines and the officials, sometimes standing eye to eye with referees to make a point about a foul call.

Bailey stalks the sidelines and the officials, sometimes rolling onto the court during a timeout to make a point about a foul call.

He used to long for the return of the six-foot coaching box in front of the bench. Now he looks for gyms with ramps and wide sidelines.

Your perspective changes when you coach high school basketball from a wheelchair.

It's been six months since a car wreck sent Bailey into a different world, where movements that once were taken for granted now have become gauges of success. The wreck caused partial paralysis. It claimed his ability to walk and weakened his ability to write, but opened a world of friends and support he never expected.

"Weight, to me, is a heavy Texas history book, where it used to be 150 and 200 pounds," Bailey said. "Improvement, to me, is small twinges and twitches that were not there before."

"I guess the most upbeat thing is in every facet of life, my dealings with the community, the school, the students and the athletes are upbeat. Everybody is glad I'm back, glad to help. All the barriers in front of me here, they've removed them all. It's made this a lot easier."

This is Bailey's return, not just to the gym but to the classroom and to the home he shares with his wife, Ramona, and their two young daughters.

He still commutes to Tyler three times a week for therapy, with the help of his wife and friends from the community who volunteer to drive him there. He has also returned to the classroom to teach Texas history and to the gym to coach the Grapeland Sandiettes.

Teaching history is not much different than before, he said, despite his limited hand use. Lectures are still standard fare, and the students still help grade each other's homework, which Bailey then records. A student aide also helps with some of the grading, he said.

"The use of my legs has limited me, but the use of my arms has limited me more," he said. "Things slow down. I've gotten the ability to write left-handed, but it's still slower."

The biggest adjustments have come in the gym.

Bailey can no longer grab a basketball and show a player how to post up for a rebound, how to put the proper spin on a crisp bounce pass, how to dribble between the legs to evade a defender.

Now his assistant coaches — Felicia Meador and Natalie Ferrell — have become those arms and legs.

"Everything coaching-wise has taken on a different perspective," Bailey said. "Instead of being a demonstrator, I have to verbalize more. It's more visualization (for the players). You have to discuss more. Natalie and Felicia have become my legs."

Getting around to ball games and navigating his electric wheelchair into and around the gyms have brought support from the team's parents and fans, who take turns shuttling him to and from the games and therapy. And in the Grapeland gym, the school board installed a new door from the gym floor to the coach's office last week, allowing Bailey easy access to practices.

The hardest thing to take this season, he said, has been the team's off year. Instead of contending for the District 23-2A title and anticipating playoff action, Bailey's team has struggled. But the future outlook is bright, he said, since most of his players are freshmen and sophomores getting their first real taste of varsity ball.

"I'd give anything to have an outstanding season, but this is just a year in transition," Bailey said. "Future-wise, we're very positive. Our younger kids are doing well. Our junior varsity is 14-3. Our young kids are gaining experience. We just lack experience and we lack height. We may not be doing so well, but our kids are outstanding people."

Opposing coaches haven't noticed much difference in Bailey's style.

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