



DOUG FOSTER
Sportswriter

Ashe presents new awareness of AIDS problem

The plague of the '90s has struck once again. And, as it did early in November, the epidemic struck one of our nation's sports heroes.

On November 7, when Earvin "Magic" Johnson, one of the greatest basketball players to ever set foot on the court, retired from the Los Angeles Lakers after he announced he had contracted HIV, the virus that leads to the AIDS disease.

Magic's announcement shocked the world. The man had, after all, seemed invincible in a basketball uniform. And the only thing that could get him out of the game was a deadly disease. A disease that he had, however, brought upon himself.

Johnson said he contracted the virus through heterosexual intercourse. He was living the life of a famous sports hero, sleeping with women throughout the country as his Lakers toured the NBA. He had, in a sense, been the cause of his own downfall.

Arthur Ashe, however, was the victim of another type of fate.

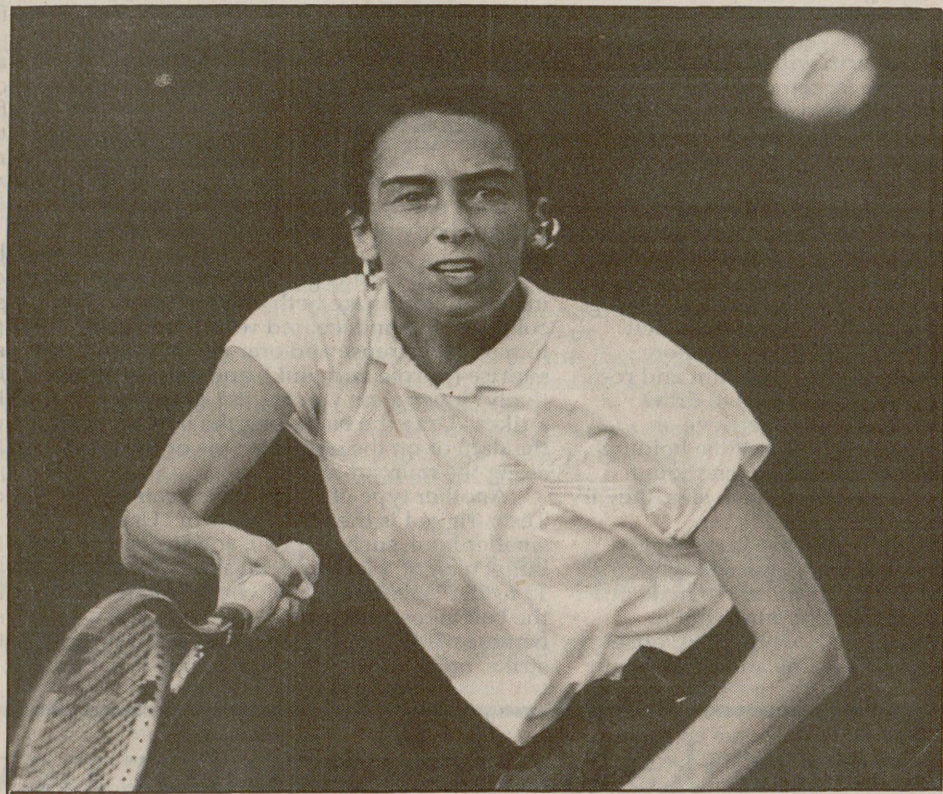
Ashe, the only black man to ever win Wimbledon, announced Wednesday that he, too, had been tested HIV positive. He was the top-ranked tennis player in the world in 1968 and 1975, but now he will be the second most famous AIDS patient in the world.

As was the case in Johnson's press conference, reporter's questions concerning Ashe's future came in a direct, yet somber manner. Ashe answered in the same, confident but concerned, way that Johnson did.

They are both recognizable sports figures who will now fight this virus in front of the entire world. But that's where the similarities of the two situations end.

Johnson is not to be completely blamed for his situation. There are many men who, given the opportunity to be one of the biggest sports heroes in the world, would jump at the chance to fill Johnson's shoes. Having the choice of almost any available woman in every city in America is something most males would die for. But Johnson wasn't careful. Sure,

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BILLY MORAN/The Battalion

A&M's Christine DiNardo returns a serve Wednesday in the Lady Aggies 8-1 loss to the third-ranked Texas Lady Longhorns at the Omar Smith Tennis Center.

Biggens tries cornerback during spring

By Anthony Andro
The Battalion

Now that Kevin Smith and Chris Crooms have departed from the secondary of the Texas A&M football team, the torch has been passed to players like Patrick Bates, Derrick Frazier and Wilbert Biggens.

Wilbert Biggens? Biggens spent all of last season playing on offense and special teams. The freshman saw some action as a back-up wide receiver and was also the Aggies' leading kickoff return man.

For the season, Biggens averaged 11 yards a punt return and just over 17 yards a kickoff return.

But this spring, Biggens approached the A&M coaching staff and asked if he could give the secondary a shot. The coaching staff said yes.

"He's a great athlete and he's a great kid, a hard-nosed kid," said defensive coordinator Bob Davie. "His whole thing is going to be learning the system."

"He's coming over there to help our defense, not as a guy to fill in."

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No. 3 Longhorns whip Lady Aggies

By Chris Whitley
The Battalion

The Lady Aggie tennis team had the effort, but Texas' third-ranked Lady Longhorns had the talent.

Texas A&M was no match for the Southwest Conference leaders, who barreled through the dual match with an 8-1 victory Wednesday at Omar Smith Tennis Center.

Texas' top five seeds won their singles matches, four of them winning in straight sets. A&M's Nicole Monsul was the lone exception, coming from behind to beat Texas' Jennifer Nasser, 2-6, 7-6, 6-4.

All three doubles matches went to Texas. Lynn Staley and Christine DiNardo came closest to a second A&M victory but faltered to Carla Cossa and Kelly Pace, 3-6, 6-4, 6-1.

Lady Aggie head coach Bobby Kleinecke said Texas' squad just had too much for A&M to handle.

"What can you say? Texas is that

good," Kleinecke said. "They're third in the country, and I feel like, depending on their play, they would have a shot at the national title. For us to be playing against them is a tough situation for our girls."

"We just got beat by a better team."

A&M rallied in its last two singles matches, extending both to three sets, including Monsul's victory. In the other match, Anna Schlumpf was edged out by Cossa, 6-0, 5-7, 6-4.

Kleinecke was pleased with the effort that his players gave, especially Schlumpf and Monsul.

"Some of the bright spots was at No. 5 and 6," he said. "Carla Cossa is a two-time All-American playing No. 5 (seed). Anna goes three sets with her, and we're up 4-3 in the third. So we're right there in that."

"Nicole came through and played like she could play tonight. (Nasser) is ranked higher than her, so that was a great win for her."

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Texas Longhorns vs. Texas A&M Aggies

Byington's legend lives on . . .

Game-winning home runs memorable in UT-A&M clash

By Steve O'Brien
The Battalion

A&M third baseman John Byington became an Aggie legend on Sunday, April 16, 1989, with two swings of the bat.

Byington hit the winning homerun in each of the Aggies' two games against the Texas Longhorns, completing a series win over Texas for the first time since 1981.

"There was obviously a lot of drama to it," A&M head coach Mark Johnson said. "In both situations I thought he

Analysis

could do it. The whole team had done it all year."

But before the Longhorns arrived in College Station that weekend it was apparent the series would be something special. The Aggies were 40-1 and ranked No. 1 in the country, while the Longhorns were 36-10 and ranked tenth.

But things didn't start off so smoothly for the Aggies. After a rainout on Friday, Texas opened the series at Olsen Field on Saturday night with a 6-2 win behind the arm of right-hander Kirk Dressendorfer, who now pitches in the major leagues for the Oakland Athletics.

The game remained scoreless through five innings before Texas All-American Scott Bryant doubled and then scored on a double by Arthur Butcher to make it 1-0.



HUY NGUYEN/The Battalion

UT-A&M baseball games have been intense in past years.

Texas scored five more runs in the eighth, behind a grand slam by Craig Newkirk to make it 6-0.

But the Aggies came back to score a run in eighth and a run in ninth. Their late inning rally against Dressendorfer, who was 10-1 at the time, seemed to give them momentum going into Sunday's doubleheader.

Saturday night's game, for all its great pitching and defense, would pale in comparison to the events of the next day.

At first, though, the Aggies looked like they were going to

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