

## Johnson should stay retired . . . for his own sake

I never rejoice when a sports legend, whose time has come and gone, continues to play the game that he loves and that we loved to see him play.



**K. LEE DAVIS**  
Sports Writer

Magic Johnson is a decent man and perhaps the greatest basketball player of this or any other generation. But his return to the game is foolish pride rather than a desire to finish a strong career.

Johnson will easily make the Hall of Fame, as he should, and he should be remembered forever as one of the men who resurrected a near-dead basketball league.

His skills have not diminished much, but they have diminished. A part-time career seems like a parody of his past heroics.

What I fear is that his greatness will be obscured by his last year of trying to hold on to a dream that should have ended on top of the medal stand in Barcelona.

Sugar Ray Leonard has come back to fight after retiring on three occasions. With each punch that was landed to his head, I grimaced hoping that it would not be the blow that turned a detached retina into total blindness in his left eye.

George Brett is desperately clinging to a declining career in the hopes that he can get 3,000 hits. Thankfully and mercifully, he is only four hits short and should get those in time to retire at season's end and patiently wait five years to join the Hall of

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RICHARD S. JAMES/The Battalion

Strong safety Michael Hendricks, who replaced starter Steve Kenney, has made 25 tackles in four games. He ranks fifth on the team in total tackles.

## Hendricks takes his place as Aggies' strong safety

By K. LEE DAVIS  
Sports Writer of THE BATTALION

When starting strong safety Steve Kenney suffered a season-ending knee injury in the first quarter of the Stanford game, backup Michael Hendricks knew he was ready to take over.

Hendricks stepped onto the field and helped the rest of the Aggie defense stuff Steve Stenstrom, the highly regarded Stanford quarterback, on the way to the first of four victories that Hendricks has had a hand in.

"When Kenney went down, we were really concerned about our strong safety position," said defensive backs coach Trent Walters. "Michael was our backup, so we weren't sure he was ready to play a major role at strong safety."

"When I talked to him before the Louisiana State game, he wasn't sure that we thought he could do it, but he came on and played well."

Hendricks said he didn't think twice during the Stanford contest about his ascension.

"I didn't really feel the pressure in the Stanford ballgame," Hendricks said. "I think I felt a lot of pressure at LSU because I was coming to the reality that I would have to perform."

Hendricks has performed, with 15 unassisted tackles and 25 tackles in all to go with a pass-broken-up this season. He ranks fifth on the entire team in tackles, and only two behind the second slot.

"Michael Hendricks is a piece of work, he's a great individual, he's very intelligent and enjoys getting better," said Walters.

Hendricks has played well enough to earn the respect of his teammates as well.

"When a guy like Steve Kenney goes

### Kickoff changed

The starting time for Saturday's Texas A&M-Texas Tech game in Kyle Field has been changed to noon to accommodate television. It was originally scheduled for 2:00 p.m. The game will be carried by Raycom television.

down, it's good to know you have a Michael Hendricks there to step in and compete," said senior cornerback Derrick Frazier.

Hendricks came to Texas A&M from Converse Judson High, where he had played in the state championship game his senior season. He was later recruited by many top college programs, including the University of Florida.

He chose A&M over all others after coming to a football game and seeing the campus and the fans.

"I had heard so many great things

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## Lady Aggies culminate grueling road trip with match against Rice

By DON NORWOOD  
Sports Writer of THE BATTALION

The Texas A&M volleyball team knew that their current road series would be tough. But the past three matches might have been a little tougher than anyone expected.

The Lady Aggies dropped consecutive matches to nationally-ranked Texas Tech and Florida, as well as Florida State, in

the span of four days. They won only one game on Sept. 23 against Tech, with the latter two schools sweeping A&M in each match.

Grueling, yes. But A&M head coach Al Givens said that the matches themselves were only half the story.

"There is no easy way to get from Lubbock to anywhere," Givens said Tuesday. "We went from Lubbock to Dallas to Nashville to Tallahassee, then took a bus

down to Gainesville. We finally got there around 12:30 or 1:00 a.m."

"It was tough, but we knew that going in."

Despite their 0-3 record on the trip going into tonight's match against Rice in Houston, the Lady Aggies recognize that three straight losses sometimes helps.

"It was a little rough," middle blocker Amy Kisling said. "We showed a lot of good things, though."

"We played good defense. We haven't played that well on defense (this season). And there were some bright spots in the hitting, too."

The Tech game, in particular, proved to be the most frustrating. The 15th-ranked Lady Raiders' first Southwest Conference victory of the season was not a piece of cake. They had to pull out

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# CONGRATULATIONS US MARINE CORPS OCS GRADUATES



1st Row (Seniors) K. Cambell, J. Mendez, J. McDonald, J. Daniels, A. Chalkley  
2nd Row (Seniors) J. Miller, K. Heartwell (Honor Grad), J. Hicks, E. Hastings, C. Williams, M. Avila (Junior)  
3rd Row (Juniors) M. Ferrell, W. Spaid, M. Aymond, R. Cantor, E. Vargas  
4th Row (Juniors) Msgt. Purry (OST), P. Fitzgerald, J. Fleming, B. Knaup, S. Luckie, B. James, K. Thomas, Lt. Harding (Officer Selection Officer)  
Not Pictured: J. Day, T. Dentry, R. Martinez, J. Martinko, K. Pfeiffer, B. Segura, S. Sitterle, J. Thurman, J. Vandaveer, M. Verna, B. Wild

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