

Thomas

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dream and I'm on the right road to the majors."

That road will not be easy, with rigorous spring training exercises that will give way to daily games for the entire season with only one day off per week, said Monty Clegg, assistant to director of player development.

"A minor leaguer's spring training day is long," Clegg said. "At 9 a.m. the players get here. They spend the first hour running, stretching and throwing, and then the next hour is devoted to refining their skills such as throwing to the cut-off man. Next they have batting practice, and then a game at 1."

Then the players must work in several hours of working out and training time on their own.

It has not been an entirely smooth transition from college to the minor leagues. Thomas cited some major differences between the two.

"At A&M the team was a lot closer. There was more team chemistry - everyone got along," he said. "Here in the minors it is a big business, almost cutthroat, with every man for himself."

"If I get hurt some other outfielder is thinking 'great-I get his spot.' It's all a competition for the big



Battalion file photo

Former Texas A&M Centerfielder **Brian Thomas** watches his home-run during an A&M-Concordia Lutheran game on Feb. 24, 1993. The Aggies won 17-3.

money."

But baseball is not the only thing in life, he says.

"I'm about 24 hours from getting my Recreation, Park and Tourism Sciences degree," he said. "I am really big into the outdoors, and I want to do something to do with the outdoors and people."

For now, baseball seems to be the

first order of business, however, and people in high places are counting on Thomas to be great, Johnson said.

"He has the ability," he said. "His work ethic and desire are good and he comes from a good college program. He's had the coaching and I'd say he has a good shot at playing in the big leagues."

Johnson to coach L.A.

The Associated Press

INGLEWOOD, Calif. (AP) — Magic Johnson returned to the NBA today, this time as coach of the struggling Los Angeles Lakers, the team he took to five championships before retiring with the virus that causes AIDS.

"Earvin Johnson will be the Lakers' coach for the remainder of the season," general manager Jerry West said today at a news conference in the Forum.

"Jerry Buse has always harbored the desire for Magic Johnson to coach this team," West said about the Lakers' owner.

"Oh, man. Well, I'm happy to be back for however long it is going to be," Johnson said.

"I'm just doing it for him," Johnson said about Buse.

"I don't need any medical advice," he said. "I'm healthy and ready to go."

Johnson, one of the most popular players in the history of the league, will try to revive a franchise that likely will miss the playoffs for the first time since 1975-76. The team is just 27-37 and in fifth place in the Pacific Division.

NFL owners change the game for better

During the last couple of weeks, the nation's sports eye has been trained toward the NCAA basketball tournament. Even here in the hoops wilderness of College Station, there is cause for excitement. The Lady Aggies have advanced into the round of 16 for the first time in school history. This is almost enough to make one forget about the 20-7 pistol-whipping our baseball team received from Texas on Sunday.

While all of this was taking place, the National Football League owners and coaches were holding their annual meeting in Orlando, Florida to discuss the state of the league and to ratify any possible rule changes. There were three significant changes made and they should make the 1994 NFL season an interesting one.

The most visible addition for this

coming season is a two-point conversion. The NFL has never had this option before (the AFL of the 1960s did) and this, combined with the overtime period that is already in place, will make for more down-to-the-wire finishes.

The ball will be spotted at the two yard line (as opposed to the three yard line for the college two-pointer), so it will be a very makeable play.

How many times have you witnessed this scenario: A team is behind 21-13 with less than a minute remaining in the game and they

score a touch-down.

Last year, all they could do was kick the extra point and still lose 21-20. This year,

that team could go for two and possibly tie the game up and force overtime.

As it stood, an eight point deficit with less than two minutes left was almost always a no-win proposition. This is no longer the case.

A second rule change moves back the spot of the kickoff from the 35 yard line to the 30 yard line and also lowered the kicking tee

from three inches to one inch. This may not seem like a very big deal, but it will make a huge difference in the number of kickoffs that are returned.

Over the last couple of decades, placekickers have increased their leg strength and kickoff distance. More than half of the kickoffs in the NFL last season resulted in touchbacks.

By moving the kickoff back five yards, only the very best kickers are going to get the ball deep enough for a touchback. This will place more of a premium on good kick returners.

The final rule change worth noting for this season is a very subtle one. After a missed field goal attempt, the ball will be spotted from where it was kicked. Previously, the ball was spotted at the line of

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Willie Corrington
Sportswriter



University PLUS Workshops

SPECIAL INTEREST Landscaping

Wed. March 23 - April 27
6:30-8:30pm
\$20/student \$25/nonstudent

Backyard Gardening

Dates and times to be announced
Call 845-1631 for information

Diamond Buying

Wed. April 6, 13, 20
6:30-7:30pm
\$10/student \$15/nonstudent

Cake Decorating

Sat. Feb 5, 12, 19
10am-12noon
\$15/student \$20/nonstudent

Backyard Wildlife

Tues. March 22 - April 26
7:30-8:30pm
\$15/student \$20/nonstudent

Flyfishing

Tues. March 29, April 5, 12, 19
7-9pm
\$25/student \$30/nonstudent

Bike Maintenance

Tues. April 5, 12, 19, 26
7:30-9:30pm
\$20/student \$25/nonstudent

Intro To Falconry

Thurs. March 24, 31, April 7, 14, 21
6-7pm
\$18/student \$23/nonstudent

Electronics

Wed. March 30, April 6, 13, 20
6:30-9:30pm
\$22/student \$27/nonstudent

Drum Training

Wed. March 23 - April 27
6-7:30pm
\$20/student \$25/nonstudent

Job Interviewing

M/W, March 28, 30, April 4, 6
6:30-8pm
\$15/student \$20/nonstudent

Creative Writing

Tues. Mar 22, 29, Apr 5, 12, 19, 26
6:30-8:30pm
\$30/student \$35/nonstudent

Magazines & Books

Wed. March 23 - April 27
6-7:30pm
\$30/student \$35/nonstudent

Social Phenomenon of Spiritualism

Thurs. March 24 - April 28
7:30-9:30pm
\$18/student \$23/nonstudent

Wines of America

Tues. March 29, April 5, 12, 19
7-8:30pm
\$25/student \$30/nonstudent

Register Now
MSC Basement
845-1631

PHOTOGRAPHY

Video Camera Methods and Techniques

Thurs. March 24, 31, April 7, 14
7-9pm
\$15/student \$20/nonstudent

B&W Darkroom

Thurs. April 7, 14, 21
6-9pm
\$25/student \$30/nonstudent

Studio Portraiture

Sat. April 9
9am-12 & 1-4pm
\$15/student \$20/nonstudent

Color Printing

Sun. April 10
9am-12 & 1-4pm
\$15/student \$20/nonstudent

LANGUAGES

Spanish II

T/Th, March 22 - April 28
8-9:30pm
\$35/student \$40/nonstudent

Sign Language II

T/Th, March 22 - April 21
6-8pm
\$35/student \$40/nonstudent

ESL II

M/W, March 21 - April 27
6:30-8pm
\$35/student \$40/nonstudent

SELF HELP

Yoga

M/W, March 21 - April 27
6:30-8pm
\$35/student \$40/nonstudent

Defense Devices

Tues. March 22
6:30-9pm
\$16/student \$21/nonstudent

CPR

M/W, March 21, 23
6-10pm
\$18/student \$23/nonstudent

First Aid

M/W, March 28, 30, April 4, 6
7-9pm
\$18/student \$23/nonstudent

ARTS & CRAFTS

Matting & Framing

Thurs. March 24, 31, April 7
6:30-8:30pm
\$25/student \$30/nonstudent

Calligraphy

Wed. March 23 - May 4
7-9pm
\$28/student \$33/nonstudent

Stained Glass

Wed. March 30, April 6, 13, 20, 27
6-9pm
\$30/student \$35/nonstudent

Etched Glass

Tues. March 22
6-9pm
\$12/student \$17/nonstudent

Leaded Glass

Mon. March 28, April 4, 11, 18, 25
6-9pm
\$30/student \$35/nonstudent

Jewelry Casting

Sat. & Sun. March 26 & March 27
10am-1pm & 2pm-5pm each day
\$40/student \$45/nonstudent

Garment Painting

Wed. March 23
6-9pm
\$10/student \$15/nonstudent

Heirloom Smoking

Thurs. March 28, April 4, 11, 18
6-9pm
\$22/student \$27/nonstudent

Flower Arranging

Tues. March 22, 29, April 5
6-9pm
\$17/student \$22/nonstudent

Potpourri

Tues. April 12
6-8pm
\$15/student \$20/nonstudent

PAINT & DRAW

Painting II

Thurs. March 24, 31, April 7, 14, 21
6-9pm
\$30/student \$35/nonstudent

Watercolor

Wed. March 23, 30, April 6, 13, 20
6-9pm
\$30/student \$35/nonstudent

Drawing II

Tues. March 22, 29, April 5, 12, 19
6-8pm
\$25/student \$30/nonstudent

DANCE

Adv C & W Dance

Wed. April 6, 13, 20, 27, May 4
6-7:15pm
\$20/student \$25/nonstudent

Jitterbug

Wed. April 13, 20, 27, May 4
7:30-8:45pm
\$20/student \$25/nonstudent

Ballroom Dance

Tues. March 22, 29, April 5, 12, 19
6-7:15pm
\$18/student \$23/nonstudent

Bellydance

Mon. March 21 - April 25
7-9pm
\$30/student \$35/nonstudent

Scottish

Tues. March 22, 29, April 5, 12, 19
7:30-8:45pm
\$20/student \$25/nonstudent

Country Dance

Tues. March 22, 29, April 5, 12, 19
7:30-8:45pm
\$20/student \$25/nonstudent

WOODWORKING

Woodworking I

Mon. March 21, 28, April 4, 11
6-8pm
\$30/student \$35/nonstudent

Woodworking II

Wed. April 6, 13, 20, 27
6-8pm
\$30/student \$35/nonstudent

Adv. Woodworking

Sun. April 10, 17, 24, May 1
6-8pm
\$30/student \$35/nonstudent

Indian Bow Making

Tues. March 29, April 5, 12, 19, 26
6-9pm
\$30/student \$35/nonstudent

POTTERY

Beginning Pottery

Tues. Mar 22, 29, Apr 5, 12, 19, 26
5:30-7:30pm
7:45-9:45pm

Pottery II

M/W, April 4, 6, 11, 13, 18, 20
5:30-7:30pm
\$30/student \$35/nonstudent

Hand Built Pottery

Thurs. Mar 24, 31, Apr 7, 14, 21, 28
5:30-7:30pm
\$30/student \$35/nonstudent



AGGIE RING ORDERS

THE ASSOCIATION OF FORMER STUDENTS
CLAYTON W. WILLIAMS, JR. ALUMNI CENTER
DEADLINE: MARCH 24, 1994

Undergraduate Student Requirements:

- You must be a degree seeking student and your degree audit must reflect a total of 95 credit hours. (A passed course, which is repeated, cannot count as credit hours.)
- If you were enrolled at Texas A&M University (College Station, Tx.) prior to January 1, 1994 and successfully completed one semester, 30 credit hours must have been completed in residence. Or if you did not successfully complete one semester at Texas A&M University prior to January 1, 1994, you must complete a minimum of 60 credit hours in residence. (This requirement will be waived if your degree is conferred and posted with less than 60 A&M hours.)
- You must have a 2.00 cumulative GPR at Texas A&M University.
- You must be in good standing with the University, including no registration or transcript blocks for past due fees, loans, parking tickets, returned checks, etc.

Graduate Student Requirements:

If you are a May 1994 degree candidate and have never purchased an Aggie ring from a prior degree year, you may place an order for a '94 ring after you meet the following requirements:

- Your degree is conferred and posted on the Texas A&M University Information Management System; and
- You are in good standing with the University, including no registration or transcript blocks for past due fees, loans, parking tickets, returned checks, etc.

Procedure to order a ring:

- If you meet the above requirements, you must visit the Ring Office no later than Thursday, March 24, 1994, to complete the application for eligibility verification, which is an overnight process.
- If your application is approved and you wish to receive your ring in May 1994, you must return to the Ring Office and pay in full by cash, check, Visa or Mastercard no later than March 25, 1994.

Men's 10KY - \$310.00	14KY - \$422.00
Women's 10KY - \$174.00	14KY - \$201.00

Add \$8.00 for Class of '93 or before. White Gold is available at an extra charge of \$10.83. The approximate date of the ring delivery is May 9, 1994.

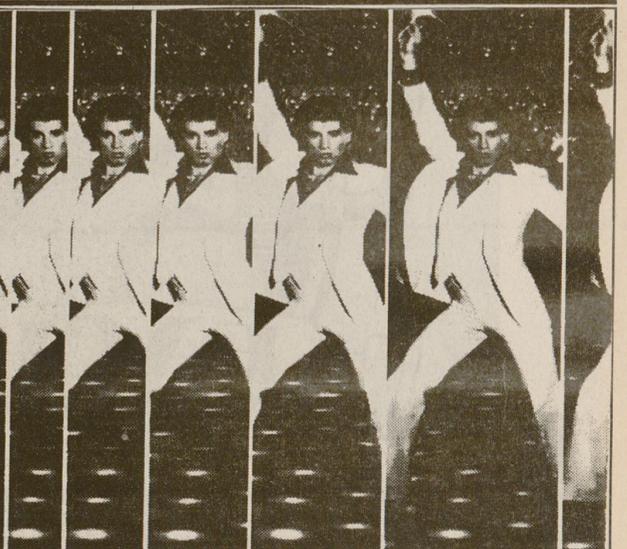
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PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES ARE ASKED TO INFORM US OF YOUR SPECIAL NEEDS IN ADVANCE BY PHONE.
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