

SPORTS

THE BATTALION

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SPORTS IN BRIEF

A&M-Tech game to start at 9 p.m.

The Texas A&M-Texas Tech football game on Saturday Oct. 4 will kickoff at 9 p.m. The game was selected to be shown nationally by Fox Sports Net.

The game will be one of four Big 12 contests to be televised that day. Colorado-Baylor, Kansas State-Texas and Oklahoma-Iowa State will also be televised.

The 9 p.m. start time will be the latest an A&M game has started since 1980, when the Aggies played Houston in the Astrodome.

The two teams had to wait for a Houston Astros playoff game to be completed. The game went into extra innings, and time was needed to convert the surface from baseball to football, and the two teams did not begin play until 11:33 p.m. The game, which ended in a 17-13 Houston win, did not finish until 2:41 a.m.

Volleyball breaks into AVCA poll

The Texas A&M volleyball team on Monday broke into the USA Today/American Volleyball Coaches Association poll for the first time this season. The Aggies are ranked 25th.

A&M (8-3, 0-1 Big 12) had been receiving votes in every previous poll, including being listed at 26th last week.

Two other Big 12 teams are in the latest Top 25 poll: No. 7 Nebraska and No. 9 Kansas State. Missouri is listed as 28th.

A&M, which defeated Houston over the weekend, returns to league play Wednesday night in a home match against Colorado. First serve is set for 8 p.m.

Two of a kind

Jamaar, Earvin Taylor following similar paths to A&M, success

By Dallas Shipp
THE BATTALION

The late-night backyard basketball games never seemed to end. Neither one of the brothers could accept losing, especially not to each other. They couldn't agree on fouls late in the games, fouls that usually served as a desperate attempt by Jamaar and Earvin Taylor to extend the game rather than accept defeat.

The Texas A&M receiving duo grew up competing in anything and everything, but more often than not, their competitions revolved around basketball, not football.

"We had a light in the backyard and would play basketball at night," Jamaar said. "We were real competitive. Almost to the point we had to be separated."

But despite being competitive, Earvin said he has always admired his big brother.

"I tried to (imitate him)," he said. "He was the one I always looked up to because he showed me a lot of things. Around the neighborhood all the kids looked up to him because he played the best basketball."

The duo had no choice but to love basketball. Earvin, who was named after Magic Johnson by his father, Henry Taylor, has been called Magic from an early age.

Henry played basketball for UT-Pan American and had a short stint with the San Antonio Spurs before playing overseas, while their uncle, Jeff Taylor, played for Texas Tech and the Houston Rockets.

Basketball provided the first opportunity for the two to play on the same team for the first time, but it wasn't quite like putting on the maroon and white in front of 87,000 people at Kyle Field.

"We were on the same team in Boys and Girls Club basketball in the 6-to-8-year-old league," Jamaar said. "My brother was only five, but he got to play because my dad was the coach. That was the first time we got to play together."



JOHN C. LIVAS • THE BATTALION

Texas A&M wide receiver Jamaar Taylor makes a catch against Utah on Sept. 6. Taylor and his brother Earvin grew up competing against each other, but now both play as receivers for A&M.

And it was the last time until this year. When they weren't competing in sports, Jamaar and Earvin were always on the same team.

Their mother, Rachel Taylor, said she will always be grateful for the role Jamaar accepted after she and their father divorced.

"Jamaar has been a big part of Earvin's life," she said. "I don't know how to thank him enough for always being there."

"Me and his dad have been divorced since Jamaar was in the ninth grade and he always played the father figure for Earvin. They could have both gone astray but they didn't, and I'm real happy for that."

However, when Earvin faced the daunting task of choosing which college to play football for, Jamaar stayed out of the decision-making process all together.

"He would have found his place to go to school but he saw all the positives that A&M had to offer: the new facilities, the new coaching staff and a chance to play his freshman year," Jamaar said.

His mom didn't keep her feelings quite as silent.

"I was pushing for A&M the whole time," she said. "I knew that Jamaar had gone all the way to Notre Dame and came back. I didn't want Earvin to make that same mistake."

Earvin watched Jamaar thrive at wide out for the Aggies last year, but no other game compared to the atmosphere Earvin experienced during the Aggies' 30-26 win over No. 1 Oklahoma.

"That was the icing on the cake," Rachel said. "He saw Reggie McNeal out there and saw all the fans. (Then) Reggie called him and said A&M would be good for him and he would work

with him. That had a lot to do with it."

Since joining the Aggies, Earvin has learned a lot from his older brother, who said he doesn't try to compete with his brother like he used to — at least not on the gridiron.

"Right now we're on the same side of the ball so it's more of a teaching thing," Jamaar said. "Teaching him the trade of being a wide receiver, making it easier on him in that transition from high school to college."

In the Aggies' opening game at Kyle Field against Arkansas State, the Taylor family got to see what it had been waiting for since Earvin signed his letter of intent — Jamaar and Earvin on the field at the same time.

"It was a dream come true, because I had been waiting for it all summer," their mother said. "I was crying and screaming. I was really excited."

Off the field, Earvin says one of his favorite things to do is visit his nephew, Jamaar's son Brandon Taylor, who turned 2 in August.

Rachel said Jamaar lives for Brandon.

"If (Jamaar) has a certain amount of yardage or catches when he comes out of the locker room he'll say 'that's money in the bank for daddy,'" she said. "He does everything for Brandon."

Jamaar, who is on pace to eclipse the A&M record for receptions and receiving yards, is the first Aggie receiver to enter his senior season with more than 80 receptions and 1,200 receiving yards.

Earvin said he wouldn't mind eclipsing the numbers put up by Jamaar.

"Those are high goals I would like to achieve one day," Earvin said. "But right now I just want to be my own person, and (Jamaar) wants me to be my own person."

But Jamaar doesn't see any limit to his little brother's potential.

"He's a playmaker," he said. "He'll be a guy to keep the Taylor name here for three more years after this. They've been calling him Magic forever, that's who my dad named him after. He's gonna be special. He's gonna be magic."

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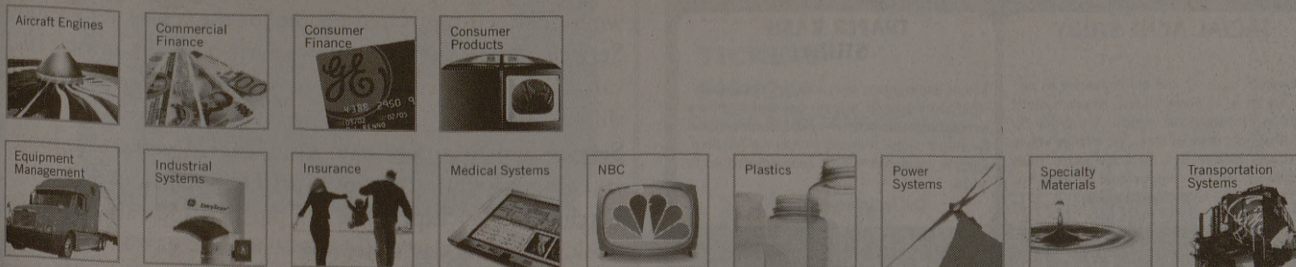
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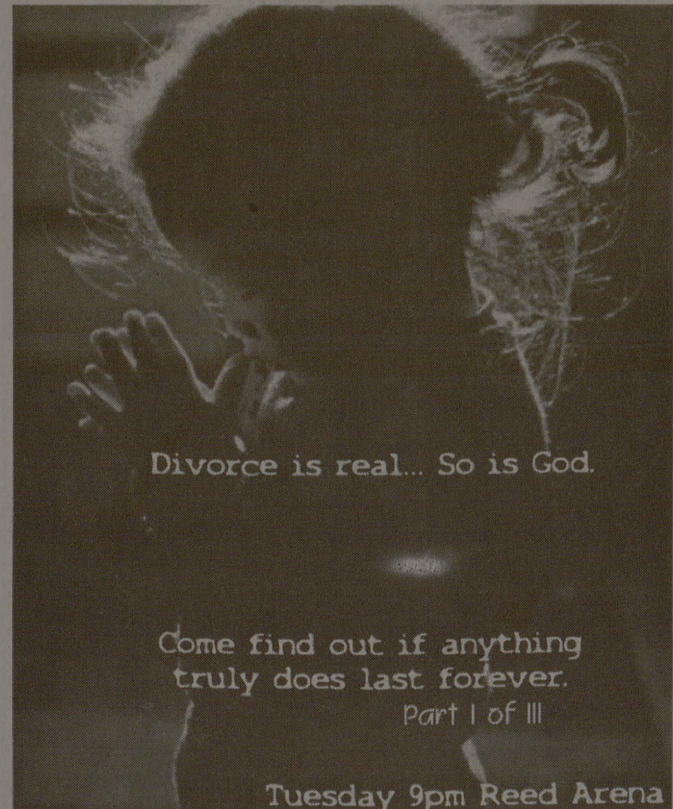


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