

SPORTS

Daje Johnson chooses Texas over TCU

prised of the top high school players in the country against an IFAF World Team of premiere players 19 and under from outside of the United States. Both teams' rosters are set at 50 players. U. S. National Team players and coaches are selected by USA Football. The World Team was selected by International Federation of American Football.

Johnson changed his commitment, because there is where his heart is. According to Johnson the reason that Texas did not make him an offer or allow him to take an official visit earlier is because at the time, Texas did an available open scholarship to offer Johnson. Texas did not want to blow smoke at him and give him false hope.

Johnson had committed to TCU earlier this year and they just wished him good luck and I look forward to seeing you play.

At Texas Johnson said, "I am going to play running back,



Daje Johnson

wide receiver or cornerback. I am going to play the position that will that will get me on the field the quickest. I do not have a preference. I feel I am equal on both sides of the ball."

Johnson did have pressure from family and friends from both Texas fans and TCU fans to sign with their team. In the end the heart of Johnson had to choose the Longhorns.

played. Dentmon received the Most Valuable Player award at the Reno Showcase last month.

Eric Dawson has been a force for the Toros on the boards and defensively. The Toros has the best overall talent of any team in the D-League and have different players step up in key situations to continue the great success as a team. The Next Toros home game is not until February 22 at the Cedar Park Center. However you can watch the Toros road games for free on www.nba.com/dleague futurecast

VILLAGER SPOTLIGHT

Hall of Famer Dick "Night Train" Lane

By: Terry Davis

Dick "Night Train" Lane (April 16, 1927 – January 29, 2002) was abandoned as an infant by his mother and was raised by Ella Lane in East Austin.

Lane would attend L.C. Anderson High school where he was a three sport star. Lane would attend Scottsbluff Junior College in Nebraska. Lane would attend for one year before dropping out to join the United States Army.

In the Army, Lane would rise to the rank of Lieutenant Colonel in World War II and the Korean War. When Lane left the military, he worked at an aircraft plant. Dissatisfied with his job, he tried out for pro football.

In 1952 the Los Angeles Rams would give Lane a free agent tryout. Lane originally tried out for a wide receiver position, but the Rams switched him to defensive back. While with the Rams he acquired the nickname "Night Train" from a hit record by Jimmy Forest (A #1 R&B hit for 7 weeks in 1952), frequently played by teammate Tom Fears.

He initially disliked the nickname, but it grew on him after it gained national attention, first appearing in print describing a tackle in a Rams exhibition game: Dick "Night Train" Lane derails Charlie "Choo Choo" Justice. He wore number 81, unusual for a defensive back, because he was initially projected as a tight end.

In his rookie season he set an NFL single season record for interceptions with 14, which stands to this day even though the length of the season at the time was only 12 games. The NFL expanded the games to 14 games



in 1961 and 16 in 1978. He was traded to the Chicago Cardinals in 1954 and to the Detroit Lions in 1960. He played six seasons in Detroit (1960–65) and recorded 21 interceptions for 272 yards and one touchdown. He was All-NFL four times (1960–63) and was named to the Pro Bowl three times (1961–63).

Lane made the All-Pro team six times and was also selected to seven Pro Bowls. He recorded three interceptions in all but four of his 14 NFL seasons.

He was particularly noted as a hard hitter, who liked to tackle opponents about the head and neck, which was then a legal technique. This tackle was sometimes called a Night Train Necktie.

In 1969, Lane was named the best cornerback of the first fifty years of professional football, then enshrined in the Pro

Football Hall of Fame in 1974. In his 14 NFL seasons, Lane recorded 68 interceptions, 1,207 interception return yards, five touchdowns, 11 fumble recoveries, 57 fumble return yards, one touch down, eight receptions, 253 receiving yards, one touchdown reception, and four punt returns for 14 yards.

In 1999, he was ranked number 19 on The Sporting News' list of the 100 Greatest Football Players, making him the highest-ranked defensive back, the Cardinals' highest-ranked player and the Lions' second highest-ranked player after Barry Sanders. He also placed number 2 on NFL Network's "Top 10 Greatest Undrafted Players".

Lane would pass away in his home in Austin, Texas on January 29 2002. To this day Lane is one of the greatest professional athlete to ever graduate from an Austin High School.

By: Terry Davis

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Local Hendrickson Hawk standout, Daje Johnson, changes his mind and signed a National Letter of Intent to the University of Texas. Johnson made an official visit to Texas last weekend and after the visit he changed to college choice to Texas.

Johnson played in the International Bowl for the US National high school football team against some All-Star foreign players from around the world at Kelley Reeves Stadium.

The third annual International Bowl features the U.S. Under 19 National Team com-

mission was with the Los Angeles Defenders, while he was a member of the Los Angeles Lakers. The Lakers waived Thomas on December 22. The Spurs called up Thomas from the Defenders on January 11. While with the Spurs Thomas has appeared in three games.

Justin Dentmon is considered one of the best players in the D-League this year and has been a main stay for the Toros. Dentmon second in the D-League in scoring at 23.8 with at least 6 games

This week the Toros roster was improved with the addition of Malcolm Thomas from parent club the San Antonio Spurs. This is Thomas second assignment to the D-League this year. His first as-

Toros continue to excel in the D League

By: Terry Davis

Despite the loss to the number two team in the Developmental League for the National Basketball League. The Austin Toros continue to have the best record in the D-League. The Toros start is the miss in the history in the D-League.

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