

# SPORTS BOARD

SPORTS, GAMING, HORSERACING

December 1, 1988



## Tyson baptized in Cleveland

CLEVELAND — Heavy-weight champion Mike Tyson was baptized Sunday in a ceremony attended by the Rev. Jesse Jackson, boxing promoter Don King, and a crowd of about 700 people at a Baptist church on Cleveland's east side.

Tyson, wearing a white robe, stepped into a pool of water and immersed himself, then embraced the Rev. Henry Payden, pastor of Holy Trinity Baptist Church.

"Mike, now your job is to take the message of Christ to the people," said Payden, who presided along with Jackson at a four-hour service that ended with the baptisms of Tyson and 24 other people.

Tyson did not speak during the service.

## Veteran Gambling Coach 'Just Keeps Rolling Along'

by Collie J. Nicholson

GRAMBLING, LA (Special) — At age 69, Eddie Robinson has found the Fountain of Youth that escaped Conquistador Ponce de Leon.

The Spanish explorer sailed from Puerto Rico in 1512 under a royal grant in search of the fabled Fountain of Youth.

Robinson has succeeded where Ponce de Leon failed. Admittedly, he is sustained by a Fountain of Youth.

With one game remaining on the 1988 schedule, the veteran Gambling coach (349-121-15), has a chance to reach another major milestone in a career spanning 46 seasons by winning his 350th college game against arch-rival Southern University (5-5) in the Bayou Classic in the Superdome on Nov. 26.

To date, Gambling has posted a surprising 8-2 record and the coach is optimistic about what lies ahead. "We have every reason to be confident," he volunteered, patiently awaiting the Southern University showdown.

Like old man river, Robinson — a national resource — just keeps rolling along. His 349 victories make him far and away the winningest college coach ever. The late Paul "Bear" Bryant (323-85-17) is a distant second. Year after year, Robinson's G-Men are among the most feared teams in NCAA Division I-AA football.

There can be little doubt that the Gambling coach is a living legend. To equal his record achievement, a coach would have to win 7½ games each season for the next 47

years, an unlikely occurrence.

Georgia coach Vince Dooley reasons that Robinson's record will probably stand forever. "Coaches are not likely to remain in the profession long enough to win 300 games in the future," he said.

After suffering his first losing season in 27 campaigns last fall, Robinson might have done his finest coaching job this year.

Gambling sagged to a disappointing 5-6 mark in '87 and experienced the wrath of some notably fickle fans spoiled by success. The drop was painful and remarkably sudden. It had a humbling impact on the coach.

Questions were raised. Had the game become too demanding? Was time running out on the legendary mentor?

Pundits yawned before the 1988 season.

The old coach fumed. He would show detractors. Robinson made his presence felt from day one with a self-perpetuating type of confidence, answering all the unasked questions.

"It might be twilight time," he said, "but it ain't quitting time. Shed no tears for the Tigers."

Paced by an opportunistic

## SHOWBOAT BECOMES 'WINNER WONDERLAND' FOR HOLIDAY SEASON

The Showboat Hotel, Casino, Country Club and Bowling Center will be giving away \$2,500 a day from December 1 to December 26, 1988 as part of its "Winner Wonderland" promotion. Drawings will be held at 8:30 p.m. each night in the Mardi Gras lounge, plus there will be a drawing for a 1989 Lincoln Town Car on December 27th.

You can register at the Showboat Slot Club Hospital-

defense and a high-tech offense, a revamped Gambling returned to its winning ways.

Robinson credits his success to hard work, correct chemistry, and luck. Despite frustrating losses to Howard University and Jackson State, the G-Men are enjoying their most productive season since 1985 when they produced a 9-2 mark.

The rollercoaster ride enabled the Tigers to reclaim national media attention and remain a consistent winner, averaging 8½ victories per season for the decade of the '80s.

Gambling averaged 9 victories each year during the '70s and 7½ victories annually in the '60s. Over the 28-year span, the G-Men won 237 games to average 8

ity Desk every day for a free chance at winning daily cash prizes. Extra coupons can be earned in slots, keno, bingo and race and sports book. Tickets will automatically be entered in the December drawings for the new Lincoln Town Car. Complete rules and details are available at the Hospitality Desk.

"Winner Wonderland" is part of the Showboat's 34th Anniversary Celebration.

victories per season.

Now, Robinson's immediate challenge is to find a way to beat Southern. He has made the most of an array of talent to rank as the prime candidate for 1988 Coach Of The Year honors in the Southwestern Athletic Conference.

Truly, Eddie Robinson is a man motivated by challenges. Pure and simple, at 69, he has found the Fountain of Youth.

**EDITOR'S NOTE:** Southern defeated Gambling last Saturday for the second consecutive year. Prior to last year, Gambling had beat Southern for 10 straight years.

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