

LAS VEGAS Sentinel Voice

VOLUME 27, ISSUE 49

GRIOT COMMUNICATIONS GROUP, INC.

April 5, 2007

"THE TRUTH SHALL SET YOU FREE"

Coaching icon dies at age 88

RUSTON, La. - Eddie Robinson, the longtime Grambling coach whose tireless work in breaking down racial barriers transformed a small, Black college into a football power that produced hundreds of NFL players, has died. He was 88.

The soft-spoken coach spent nearly 60 years at Grambling State University, where he set a standard for victories with 408 and, nearly every season, relished seeing his top players drafted by NFL teams.

Doug Williams, a Super Bowl MVP quarterback was one of them. Williams said Robinson died shortly before midnight Tuesday. Robinson had been admitted to Lincoln General Hospital earlier in the day.

"For the Grambling family, this is a very emotional time," Williams said Wednesday. "But I'm thinking about Eddie Robinson the man, not in today-time, but in the day and what he meant to me and to so many people."

Robinson's career spanned 11 presidents, several wars and the Civil Rights Movement. His overall record of excellence is what will be remembered: In 57 years, Robinson compiled a 408-165-15 record. Until John Gagliardi of St. John's, Minn., topped the victory mark four years ago, Robinson was the winningest coach in all of college football.

"The real record I have set for over 50 years is the fact that I have had one job and one wife," Robinson said.

Robinson had been suffering from Alzheimer's disease, which was diagnosed shortly after he was forced to retire following the 1997 season. His health had been declining for years and he had been in and out of a nursing home during the past year.

Robinson said he tried to coach each player as if he wanted him to marry his daughter.

He began coaching at Grambling State in 1941, when it was still the Louisiana Negro Normal and Industrial Institute, and single-handedly brought the school from obscurity to international popularity.

"Coach Robinson elevated a small-town program to national prominence and tore down barriers to achieve an equal playing field for athletes of all races," Gov. Kathleen

(See Robinson, Page 4)



Grambling coach Eddie Robinson was a gridiron guru. He sent more than 200 players into professional football.

Two to face off June 5

Frank Armand Albano
Sentinel-Voice

The Primary Election results are in, and the heavily watched race for the Ward 5 council seat is closer to a decision.

The field of 10 candidates has been whittled down to two that will vie for the position on the Las Vegas City Council. Ricki Barlow with 43 percent or 2,120 votes bested runner-up Stacie Truesdell who received 29 percent or 1,425 votes.

Since no one candidate got 50 percent plus 1 vote to take a majority victory, Barlow and Truesdell will face off in the June 5, General Election run-off.

Other candidates vying for the seat, which was vacated by newly appointed County Commissioner Lawrence Weekly, received votes as follows: Rev. Marion Bennett (271), Richard Blue Jr. (88), Gene Collins (311), Katherine "Katie" Duncan (181), Ernestine Howell (30), Jeffrey Loveall (47), Shondra Summers Armstrong (114) and Marcia Washington (296).

Barlow worked for years as liaison for then-Councilman Lawrence Weekly who was appointed by Gov. James Gibbons to the Clark County

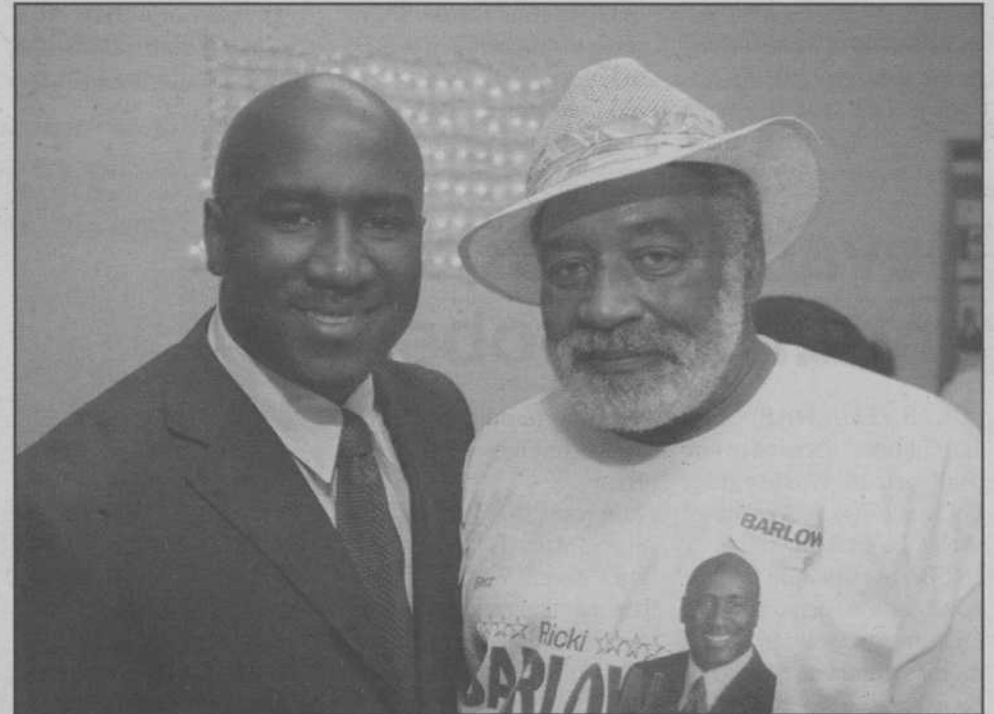


Photo special to the Sentinel-Voice by Marty Frierson

Ricki Barlow celebrates with his father Nathaniel. Barlow and Stacy Truesdell emerged as the top two vote-getters in Tuesday's election for Ward 5.

Commission, to fill the seat vacated by Yvonne Atkinson Gates upon her sudden departure effective March 2. Weekly's Ward 5 council seat was up for re-election this year.

"I want to thank the residents for their support and getting out on the road to victory," Barlow said.

The lesser known Truesdell, an attorney, is a relative political newcomer.

Speaking from her campaign headquarters on elec-

tion night before the final vote tally, Truesdell told the *Sentinel-Voice*, "I'm cautiously optimistic."

Asked why she thought voters put her in the running against Barlow, Truesdell stated: "A lot of hard work. I called voters, I knocked on doors."

Asked what she intends to do to beat Barlow in the general election, Truesdell said, "Do what I did in the past. Keep working hard. I'm ready to knock on doors

tomorrow."

Front-runner Barlow told the *Sentinel-Voice*, "The primary election turned out accordingly just as planned. We were just shy of 50 percent plus 1. The residents of Ward 5 made a strong statement and clear choice as to who the next city councilman should be, and that's me. I'm humbled by the voters who turned out. It's due to my experience, dedication and commitment in the 7 years I

(See Election, Page 4)

Too many Black women smoke

By Roshni L. Rountree
and Hazel Trice Edney
Special to Sentinel-Voice
Part one of a series

WASHINGTON (NNPA) - More than a half million African-Americans have died from smoking-related diseases over the past decade. That's enough people to fill the cities of Atlanta, New Orleans, Kansas City, Mo., or Cleveland, Ohio. Yet, "cigarette smoking is the single most preventable cause of premature death in the United States," according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

Then why are so many Black people dying from cigarettes, and why is it so difficult to quit? This eight-part series, "Nicotine Addiction," seeks to explore these questions by featuring real people, real circumstances and real answers.

"Nicotine Addiction" -
Part I

Washington (NNPA) - Awakened by her biological clock at 10:30 a.m., 22-year-old Toya Tonpea rolls over to grab the remote control.

She turns on the television as she begins to plan her day mentally.

Tonpea flips through the cable to watch her line-up of reality TV and talk shows. Two hours pass and it is now 12:30.

She is interrupted by her mother, which turns into an argument and the stress begins. Tonpea picks up a cigarette.

"Majority of the time, it's an extreme case of my emotions, like when I got into that argument with my mother and realized that I still live with my mother. I had to go smoke," says Tonpea of Atlanta, Ga.

Tonpea is one of the 3.6

million African-American women who smoke, according to the 2004 National Health Interview Survey, conducted by the Centers for Disease Control. Inhaling and exhaling — the very action that maintains human life destroys it when cigarette smoke is added.

The United States Department of Health and Human Services says in its most recent smoking mortality report in 1995 that there are 45,000 tobacco-related deaths among African-Americans annually. Moreover, the department

(See Tobacco, Page 10)