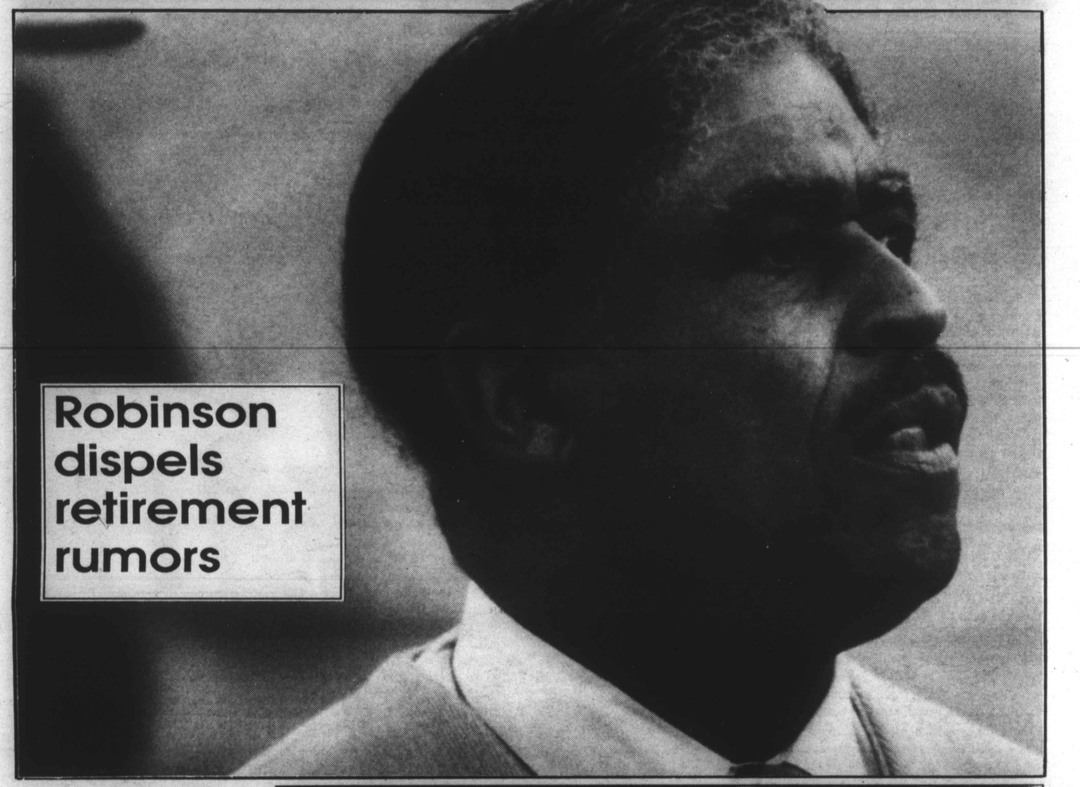
COACHES



Robinson dispels retirement rumors

On the opening day of pre-season football drills at Grambling State, head coach Eddie Robinson was busy as usual. With sweat rolling down his face, complete with soaking wet shirt, Robinson barked instructions and scrutinized every move.

Football's winningest coach is 69 and continues to methodically prepare himself and his troops for another campaign of gridiron battles.

It is obvious that time has not eroded Coach Rob's enduring affection for coaching a football team. It is also obvious that he's not ready to call it a career -- not just yet.

There had been much speculation that the 1988 season would be Robinson's last hurrah as a coach. The rumors started as early as last November when the Tigers lost a gut-wrenching, last-minute, 27-21 decision to Southern at the Bayou Classic played in New Orleans.

That defeat seemed to mirror the kind of year the G-Men had. They ended at 5-6, the first losing season that Grambling had experienced in 28 years. For Robinson, it was only his third losing season in 46 years of coaching. Up until '87, Grambling had the longest streak for consecutive winning seasons in Division I-AA.

At this point, Robinson has found himself answering more questions about his supposedly soon retirement than about this year's edition of the Tigers. The GSU coach, admittedly, is a bit weary from repeatedly dealing with that item.

Photos by Craig T. Greenlee

Coaching is in Eddie Robinson's blood. Earlier reports stating that he would retire at the end of this season were unsubstantiated.

Eddie Robinson has no plans to retire anytime in the very near future.

At Grambling's annual football press day last month, he made it clear that 1988 won't be the end, in spite of rumors to the contrary.

"I don't know where the rumors are coming from," he said. "But I assure you that I plan to stick around. I can't say it more succinctly. I would really like to at least spend 50 years as an active coach.

"I'm not looking forward to retirement. If I retire tomorrow, I'll find a job. I've seen people retire and tomorrow they're gone. I don't want to rest. I want to hurry up and kick it (the season) off."

Since becoming the winningest coach ever (341-119-15 entering '88), Robinson has abandoned the chase of other victory milestones. Being a coach for a half-century, he openly confesses, has been "a long time dream. It's something that only Alonzo Stagg has done," Robinson noted.

The idea intrigues him. He has prepared himself for the mental challenge and his full-steam-ahead attitude lets you know that he's serious about continuing to ply his trade.

Coach Rob is known as a proud and sensitive man. Because of those traits, his stay at Grambling has been anything but one-dimensional. Aside from winning more games as a coach than anyone else, he is a bona fide folk hero, a legend, and one of football's most reknown ambassadors.

"If I retire tomorrow, I'll find a job. I've seen people retire and tomorrow they're gone. I don't want to rest. I want to hurry up and kick it (the season) off."

-- Eddie Robinson
Grambling Coach

Grambling has been Robinson's only coaching job. No other coach has coached at one school for a longer period of time. Only Stagg has coached more years.

Stagg's career extended over 57 seasons, including 41 years at the University of Chicago (1892-1932), with stints at Springfield (1890-91), and the University of the Pacific (1933-46).

Other coaches on the longevity list are: Fred Long, 45 years; Glenn "Pop" Warner, 44 years; Jess Neely, 40 years; Eddie Anderson, 39 years; John Gagiliari, 39 years; and Paul "Bear" Bryant, 38 years.

Robinson and Long (he coached at Wiley College in Marshall, Tex. for 33 years) were SWAC coaching rivals until the Wildcats dropped varsity football in the late 60s'.

-Collie J. Nicholson

Roscoe Nance also contributed to this article.

Norfolk State running back slain

NORFOLK (AP) -- A Norfolk State University football player was shot and killed near the campus after he and another player were robbed, police said.

Adrian Miles, a sophomore from Washington, D.C., was shot once in the head about 5:30 a.m. on Aug. 28 by one of two men armed with a handgun, police said. The shooting occurred near the western boundary of the campus about three blocks from Scott Hall, the NSU dormitory where Miles lived.

Miles, 20, and teammate Sean T. Lindsey, also of Washington, were walking when they were approached by two men who demanded their money, police said.

After the football players gave the robbers an undetermined amount of money, Lindsey, 20, turned and ran. As he fled, he heard a single shot, police said.

Police said it was not immediately clear if Miles had been slain while arguing or struggling with his assailants, or if he, too, had turned from them to run away.

No arrests had been made by press time.

Miles, a tailback, had been expected to start in the Sept. 3 opening game between NSU and Bloomsburg (Pa.) University at Old Dominion University's Foreman Field.

As a freshman last season, Miles led the team in rushing and had been expected to be the Spartans' top running threat this season.

Cutting off the nose

From Page 3

three boards of trustees -- one each for Southern and Louisiana State; and one for the remaining state schools -- a board of regents.

Roemer favors one board of trustees for all the state's colleges and universities. He is using Southern as an example of the kinds of problems the present board of trustees system has. He has called for an investigation into all phases of Southern's programs.

Southern's followers, in their myopic style, keep giving the governor ammunition to fight his battle. And at the same time, they are making things tougher for themselves.

NOTES ... QUOTES ... AND TALES OF WOE

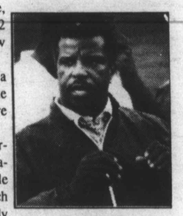
By ROSCOE NANCE

Black Entertainment Television (BET) will air 10 football games live this season. In the past, the network showed games on a delayed basis, one week later.

"We gain the spontaneity of it (the games)," said producer Curt Simmons. "The game is happening instead of already knowing the results. That takes it to another dimension for spectators and for us."

Once again, Charlie Neal will handle the play-by-play and former NFL All-Pro cornerback Lem Barney will be the color commentator.

Here's the schedule (game times are Eastern Standard Time): Sept. 17 -- North Carolina Central vs. Norfolk State, 8 p.m. ; Sept. 24 -- Howard vs. South Carolina State, 2 p.m.; Oct. 1 -- Circle City Classic (Jackson State vs. Florida A & M in Indianapolis), 5 p.m.; Oct. 8 -- Tennessee State vs. Grambling, 8 p.m.; Oct. 15 -- Jackson State vs. Southern, 8 p.m.; Oct. 29 -- Gold Bowl (Virginia State vs. Virginia Union in Richmond, Va.), 2 p.m.; Nov. 5 -- Howard vs. Florida A & M, 2 p.m.; Nov. 12 -- Southern vs. Tennessee State, 5 p.m.; Nov. 19 -- Central State (Ohio) vs. Florida A & M, 2 p.m.; Nov. 26 -- Bayou Classic (Southern vs. Grambling in New Orleans), 5 p.m. .....



Jim Martin

The University of the District of Columbia will field a football team this season and play a 10 game schedule. The team's future had been in jeopardy because many athletes were academically ineligible.

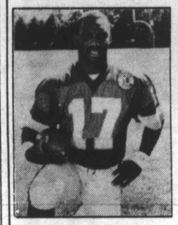
A statement released by university president Rafael Cortada's office said that the Firebirds have 42 athletes who are academically eligible to compete. Twelve more may become eligible after they register or the school receives their transcripts. Coach Bobby Frazier said that as many as 17 freshmen will probably start this season. .....

Tuskegee has named Jim Martin as the new athletic director. Martin, who coaches football and baseball and directs the Dept. of Health and Physical Education, replaces Howard Davis who resigned in July to become athletic director at Jackson State.

Tuskegee president Benjamin Payton said that Martin will be relieved of his duties as baseball coach. Martin's baseball teams have won 10 Southern Intercollegiate Athletic Conference championships, and he's been named SIAC coach of the year seven times. .....

There are two ways to look at **Florida A & M's** '88 football schedule.

It will either make the Rattlers one of the strongest teams in Division I-AA or it will leave them wondering what happened. FAMU doesn't have a home game until Oct. 15 when they host Morgan State.



Doug Williams

Here's what coach Ken Riley's team will face during the season's first five games: at Delaware State; vs. Georgia Southern in Jacksonville, Fla.; at Tennessee State; vs. Jackson State in Indianapolis; vs. North Carolina A & T in Miami, Fla.

"This is not the type of schedule you like to open with," said coach Riley. "It's going to be a challenge for us just to stay away from injuries. If we can get through those games without getting banged up, we have a chance to have a good season. .....

Washington Redskins' quarterback and **Grambling** alumnus Doug Williams' philosophy on life: "If you have a Mercedes budget, you should drive a Cadillac, not a Mercedes, because you'll need the money to keep it in running order. But if you have a Rolls Royce lifestyle, you can buy a Mercedes, but not a Rolls. I live on a much lower level than most people who make the kind of money I make." Williams recently signed a $3.2 million contract.

Tennessee State has the best regular season record in Division I-AA over the last five years. The Tigers are 42-10-1 (.796 winning percentage) during that period. Also in the top 10: No. 7 Delaware State (38-14-1, .726); No. 8 Jackson State (37-14-2, .717); and No. 9 Alcorn State (34-14, .708). .....

The **Windy City Classic,** scheduled for Chicago on Sept. 4 is 0-2 in its efforts to get the game off the ground. Initially, Jackson State and Albany State were scheduled to play. That game was cancelled when promoter William Thurman failed to meet a deadline for providing the schools with plane tickets to Chicago.

Next, Thurman persuaded Cheyney State and Arkansas-Pine Bluff to move their game, scheduled for Pine Bluff, Ark., to Chicago. However, that game was switched back to Pine Bluff when Thurman failed to come up with $25,000 of the $80,000 guarantee by Aug. 17.

"I was hoping he could deliver," said Archie Cooley, Arkansas-Pine Bluff coach. "We would like to have gone. It would have helped recruiting to play in Chicago. But it's not that much of a disappointment."