



### Close, But No Cigar...

Norfolk State defensive back Johnny Epps dives for a pass dismally in 1983 after high pressure hopes (photo by overthrown to a Howard receiver. Both teams suffered Brian Branch-Price).

## Tigers Win Classic, Take SWAC Title

By LONZA HARDY  
Staff Writer

Mardi Gras comes early in the Southwestern Athletic Conference.

Somewhere between tours of the French Quarter and samplings of New Orleans Jazz and Creole cooking, 60,000 football fans found the time Nov. 26 to witness college football's post-Thanksgiving Event.

The occasion, of course, was the 10th annual Bayou Classic, THE football game among black schools which yearly pits the Grambling State Tigers (the Notre Dame of black college football -- or is Notre Dame the Grambling of white college football?) against the Southern Jaguars.

But forget a moment the people

and the atmosphere and the fanfare of the premier sporting event in Black America.

And forget the fact that the Classic now yearly grosses in excess of \$1 million, more than most major-college bowl games.

The Bayou Classic is good, old-fashioned SWAC football at its best. And it took on even added significance this season with the 1983 league championship on the line.

"People talk about me tying Pop Warner's career wins total (313), but I wasn't thinking about chasing anybody's record," said Grambling's Eddie Robinson, the winningest active coach in college football. "What I was thinking about was winning the SWAC champion-

ship."

Still, it didn't look good early for Grambling, which went into the game with a precarious half-game lead over Southern and fell behind quickly in the first half.

After jumping out to a 7-0 first quarter lead on a 58-yard touchdown pass from Hollis Brent to Patrick Scott, the Tigers saw Southern storm back to score 10 unanswered points in the second quarter, first on a seven-yard touchdown toss from Herman Coleman to Tony Good at the 14:48 mark, then on a 37-yard field goal by Roger Serrano at the 7:12 mark.

The Jags, who owned a two-game Classic winning streak, led 10-7 at halftime. But the beginning of the end for Otis Washington's team

would come with less than three minutes gone in the second half.

After the Jaguars received the second-half kickoff and failed to move the ball, Southern's Kim Davis booted a 57-yard punt to the Grambling 15-yard line.

Then came the play of the game. Five-nine Dwayne Jupiter took the kick and raced 85 yards through the Jaguar defense for the go-ahead touchdown. GSU led 14-10 after Jorge Rosales' extra point with 12:13 left in the third quarter.

Grambling struck again late in the third quarter when game MVP Reginald Pugh plunged over from the one-yard line with 1:12 to go, giving the Tigers a 21-10 lead. Rosales connected on a 26-yard field