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Illinois Church Action on Alcohol & Addiction Problems

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Gambling Alert - March 23, 2022



Gambling issues can mar March Madness fun

SHREVEPORT, La. — March Madness is in full swing, less than two months after Louisiana mobile sports betting went live on Jan. 28. While it is a fun time for many to enjoy the weeks of filling out brackets and cheering on their favorite college hoops teams, for others it brings a temptation that can be devastating to families and finances.

According to the Louisiana Association on Compulsive Gambling, an estimated \$10 billion has been wagered on the basketball championship games in years past. On average, the Problem Gambling Helpline receives between 10% to 15% more calls during the month of March, which is Problem Gambling Awareness Month.

An estimated 2 million people in the U.S. have a gambling addiction. Another 4 to 6 million are estimated to have a gambling problem. [Read](#)

Sports' marriage with gambling predictably leads to ref conspiracies

Roger Goodell had it right, accent on the past tense. Before he became a total bottom line sellout, he warned that legalized gambling on sports would fuel suspicions about the games' integrity, a strong sense that the games are fixed.

And so here we are. As Howard Cosell said upon the passing of George "Papa Bear" Halas, "It was inevitable." On Thursday, one NCAA Tournament Round 1 game ended with the underdog,

Richmond, defeating Iowa, 67-63. The game's final minutes included at least two curious, if not dead-wrong, non-calls that benefitted Richmond. You can guess the rest. Whackos, along with otherwise reasonable folks, concluded that these non-calls were proof-positive of a fix — the refs were clearly, indisputably on the take. [Read](#)

Is Video Game Addiction a Real Illness?

The founder of a treatment clinic says 'yes,' but she is also perplexed by the lack of adult patients. Computer gaming was one of the lucky industries to grow during the pandemic. Global revenues are expected to pass \$200 billion in the next two years. But the industry's financial success is drawing some concern. Last month, the World Health Organization formally recognized video game addiction as an illness, but questions remain about how prevalent the issue is, particular among adults. [Read](#)

Chicago casino bidders down to three finalists: River West, South Loop and next to Soldier Field

And then there were three. Chicago Mayor Lori Lightfoot has narrowed down the city's five proposals for its first casino to three finalists: Bally's at the Chicago Tribune Publishing Center, Rivers at The 78 and Hard Rock at the proposed One Central megadevelopment, the city announced Tuesday. [Read](#)

Vandalia City Council approves new ordinance for gaming, which includes increase on license fee

At their meeting on Monday, the Vandalia City Council approves a new ordinance for video gaming regulation in the city. And, included in that new ordinance is an increase in the license fee. [Read](#)

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