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Super Bowl XLIII is no game for street preachers

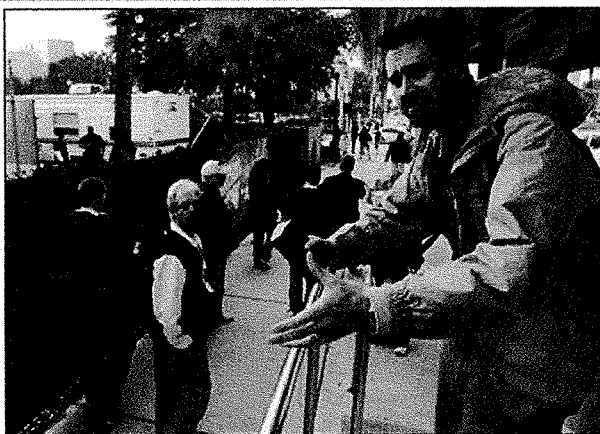
By Sherri Day, Times Staff Writer
In Print: Saturday, January 31, 2009

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Religion

Street evangelist Wesley Tyler, 32, of Melbourne pleads with passing crowds in Tampa on Friday to repent for their sins.



[STEPHEN J. CODDINGTON | Times]

TAMPA — Wesley Tyler stepped atop a plastic stool Friday at the corner of Channelside and Beneficial drives and began to preach at jersey-clad Steelers fans and other passers-by.

"Be very careful crossing the street," warned Tyler, a 32-year-old social worker. "If you get hit by a car, make sure you know where you're going to spend eternity."

Most people barely looked his way. Undeterred, Tyler picked up his stool and moved to a busier spot.

His mission: to share the Gospel with Super Bowl fans.

More than 120 Christians from around the country, Tyler among them, are here this weekend as street evangelists, approaching complete strangers hoping they'll embrace Jesus Christ.

Their hometowns range from Detroit to Mesa, Ariz. They're mainly from Protestant denominations, Baptists to Presbyterians. A group of Messianic Jews is among them.

They include seasoned street preachers

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