Return To Normalcy

By PAUL BURKA

It had to happen sooner or later.

Saturday afternoon, despite all the turmoil of previous weekends, the Southwest Conference returned to normalcy. There was Texas, unbeaten just as it was supposed to be, leading the conference. There was Arkansas, close on its heels as usual, winning November games. SMU was plummeting toward the more familiar regions of the second division, Texas Tech was winless, and LSU was whipping SWC visitors in Baton Rouge.

So, despite SMU’s surprise start, Texas Tech’s horrible flop, Rice’s magnificent efforts against Texas and LSU, and a few upssets here and there, the conference race—with the exception of SMU—couldn’t be more stable. Drop the Mustangs from fifth to seventh and the standings jell exactly with the pre-season consensus.

Texas passed a large hurdle last week, and should make it through the rest of the way up. The ‘Horns figure to be ‘way up for both TCU (6-0, remember!), and the Aggies, and if they keep up the 450-yards-per-game habit, watch out. At long last, Texas seems to have jelled.

ALL LOYAL Texans rejoice at this fact, for the offenders from the Ozarks seem to have been frustrated at last. There are many who will argue that Arkansas’ probable 9-1 record—best in Razorback history—plus what observers consider Frank Broyles’ greatest team believe that Arkansas was stopped. But the Hogs probably won’t win or share the conference crown for the first time since 1958. The last time Arkansas lost the conference Dwight Eisenhower was President and Richard Nixon still had a political future.

Yet, although in all likelihood they will fail to win the conference, Arkansas came within 36 seconds of a national championship. But if the Razorbacks don’t win, they certainly came close, and Saturday the Owls found out why.

It was then that Rice learned the hard-Broyled lesson of field position. It was a costly, fourteen point lesson, and when it was over, all the Owls found out was that they would have to wait till 1963. The last long-shot hopes for ‘62 were gone.

Aside from the two now-tradi-