OWLOOK . . .

Owls Find Victory Trail; Myths Vanish

By CHUCK YINGLING

Billy Cox and Randy Kerbow made quick work of the pre-season myth that Rice was lacking at quarterback last Saturday night, as they directed the Owls to their first win of the 1960 football season, 10-7 over previously undefeated Tulane. In doing so, the man-under duo showed signs of promise that brought back memories of the King Hill-Frank Ryan combination of three years ago to many Rice fans.

Cox, the man on whom Rice's gridiron fortunes depend this year, took over the passing lead in the SWC as he hit 7 of 10 shots for 98 yards against the battling Greenies. Ironically, his only interception of the night nearly proved to be the Owls' undoing, as the 67-yard runback by Tulane guard Gus Gonzales eventually led to the only Tulane score.

COX ALSO was Rice's second leading rusher for the evening, gaining 34 yards and one touchdown in 8 carries, second only to Roland Jackson's 12 for 44.

Kerbow, the rapidly-improving soph from Pasadena, didn't attempt a single pass, but his running and signal-calling led the Owl second unit from its own 31 to the Tulane 12 late in the third quarter. Three plays later, Max Webb booted over the field goal that proved to be the margin of victory for the Owls, who tied their last year's win record and have no way to go but up.

AND AFTER Saturday's performance, few were left doubting that this Rice team was indeed going up. Although the general feeling among players was that they played a poorer game against Tulane than they did in losing to Georgia Tech, there is no denying that the win meant much more to the team than the statistics.

In addition to the fine play at quarterback, several other positions seemed to be well handled, adding a note of encouragement. End Johnny Burrell took over the conference lead in pass receiving, and Jackson, in addition to his fine running, punted for a 45.2 yard average and played a stellar defensive game as well.

Max Webb, with 22 yards rushing, and Bob Wayt with 28 added extra punch to the Owl ground game. The Rice defense, sparked by the King brothers and Max Webb, stopped Tulane drives at Rice's 1, 8, and 10 yard lines, warding off a scoring threat in the closing minutes of the game to cinch the victory.

THE WIN was indeed a sweet one for Jess Neely's Owls, who showed promise that perhaps the worm had turned for the luckless Blue team which, plagued by costly mistakes, gave away games all last year as Rice had its poorest season in 20 years.

Perhaps the tides of battle have changed for Rice. It is a bit early in the season to be making predictions about the wild and wooly SWC, but the Owls have definitely established themselves as contenders. Only time will tell, and for Rice, it's about time.