Cagers In Fast Start - Another Comeback ??

By CHARLES DEDMON

This could be the year for comebacks. After dropping their first game to Lamar Tech 65-53, the Owls seemed destined to another disastrous season. But the amazing Owl cagers have scored consecutive victories over Trinity by 71-67 and Florida 68-63. For coach John Frankie’s second season at Rice, he was faced with a tremendous task of improving last year’s record of 4-20.

The constantly improving Owls were never behind as they defeated the Florida Gators Monday night. Ollie Shipley spearheaded the attack with 21 points, his best ever in the Rice uniform, and 12 rebounds. Two of his teammates also scored in double figures, Maroney with 12 and Galloway with 11. The Owls led by as much as 15 points and were never threatened until Florida closed the gap to 61-57 with 2 minutes to play. The win was clinched by a full court pass from Jim Fox to John Morgan for a lay-up and a 7 point lead with 1:22 left.

The varsity plays their next game against LSU in Baton Rouge Saturday night.

In their season opener, played before the varsity game Monday night, the Owlets showed plenty of height and power as they breezed easily past Victoria Junior College 85-59. Kendall Rhine, the Owlets 6-9 center, dominated the game with 12 field goals and a total of 27 points.