Owls Show Hustle
And Improvement

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Saturday night in Oklahoma City, Johnny Frankie’s Rice Owls wind up their third week of basketball competition, and then take an eight day holiday prior to their opening encounter against Texas in the SWC tourney on Dec. 28.

Prospects Bleak
Starting the season with only one letterman, four squadmen, four junior college transfers, and five sophomores, the inexperienced Owls were generally expected to match their 1959 football cohorts in their absence from the win column. However, riding the crest of a two game win streak, the Owls are not exactly living up to expectations.

Expected to take their opening games with Trinity and Centenary, the Owls fell to defeat. But then they came roaring back against supposedly tougher opposition to almost upset Villanova, before taking two easy victories from LSU and Tulane.

Defense Weak
The Owls have thus far exhibited two outstanding characteristics, hustle and continuous improvement. However these two attributes along with the fine play of letterman Butch Craig, big Don Maroney, and Roger McQueary have not been enough to overcome Rice’s decided lack of experience, exhibited mainly on defense.

Continually failing to switch men on screens and to guard against fast breaks, especially on tips, Rice’s defensive mistakes have been too much for mediocre (except against Tulane) shooting Owls to overcome.

Never Miss
In an effort to make one correct prediction in two years on the Thresher, we would like to take a crack at picking the results of this year’s SWC basketball tournament to be held on Autry Court Dec. 28-30. From here, it appears that the Aggies will cop top honors by downsing SMU in the finals; while Arkansas is wrapping up the number three spot by defeating Texas.

Rice In Bowl
This Saturday Rice makes its debut in what should prove to be an annual participation for the Institute, Houston’s First Bluebonnet Bowl. Too bad our team did not make it, just our stadium. At any rate, congratulations are due the Bluebonnet Bowl’s selection committee for scheduling what should prove to be the dullest of this year’s post season games.

Evidently we are not the only ones who feel this way, for less than 50,000 tickets have thus far been sold, in a city where 30,000 sat through a freezing rain to see lowly Rice and A&M play earlier this fall.