Action On All Fronts; Soph Gridders Promising

by CHUCK YINGLING

This week finds Rice spring sports in full swing as all variety teams meet strong competition.

Bolstered by late additions due to spring grid practice, Coach Dell Morgan's baseballers opened the SWC season yesterday against a strong Baylor club in Waco. Earlier in the week, the Owls dropped their second straight 6-3 decision to St. Mary's, as pitcher John Cannon struck out eight Owls batters and hit a home run and a double to lead the San Antonians to victory. Morgan planned to start Bill Donaldson on the mound again the Bears.

TOMORROW, Emmett Brunson's small but talented track squad travels to College Station for a triangular meet against the Aggies and LSU. Rice won this meet in Houston last year, and is hoping for another upset victory.

In last week's Border Olympics in Laredo, Dave Laramie set a new school record with a winning 216 1/4 javelin throw. Soph Fred Hansen, in his varsity debut, tied for first place in the pole vault with 13' 9 3/4", while Owl captain Norman Charlton placed third in the 120-yard high hurdles. Taylor Jones placed third in a fast field in the 220-yard dash.

HOWEVER, SWC 440 champ Mickey Hollingshead failed to place, and the sprinter will be watched closely Saturday to see if he can regain his winning form of last season. Hollingshead ran a 48.3 quarter in preliminary action, and the senior letterman is being counted on for an improved showing tomorrow.

Sammy Giannaiva's netters, who defeated an all-star group of Houston amateurs 5-2 Saturday, take on the University of Corpus Christi this afternoon.

THE CORPUS CHRISTI match promises to be one of the tougher ones this season, as Coach Henry Parish, Sr., boasts Antonio Palacio, Mexico's number one player and star of the Mexican Davis Cup team. Also on the UCC squad are Antonio's younger brother, Gabino, also highly ranked in Mexico, and Californian Chris Crawford, ranked tenth in the U.S.

Leading the Rice team are Ronnie Fisher and Paul Cono, while DeEdward Greer, Neal Marcus, and Doug Bashrum round out the squad.

GOLF COACH Jim Deal's charges will meet Minnesota Monday and Tuesday, led by number one player Dave Larsen and recently elected captain Leigh Masterson, the number two swinger.

The spring Blue-Gray game last Saturday lived up to expectations, as the Grays (number one and two teams) walloped the Blues (numbers three and four) 44-0.

The returning, proven players, led by the likes of Bob Wayt, Spencer Brown, Jerry Candler, Roland Jackson, Mike Bowen, John Cornett, Johnny Burrell, and Gene Raez, lived up to expectations, but more encouraging was the potential shown by a top group of sophs.

QUARTERBACK Ben Hollingsworth hit eight of ten attempts to lead all passers. Running backs Jim Martinis, Ronnie Dreyer, Jim Bob Loos, Gary Jenkins, and Ron Hatfield all looked well, as did junior-to-be Wayne McClelland, who saw only limited action last fall.

In the line, center Dan Malin, guards Doug Mills, Johnny Nichols, and Henry Martin, tackle Mike Fritsch and John Mims, and ends Jim Limmer and Al Dennis pointed to the continuation of good depth, a key factor in Rice's success last season.

JOHNNY BURRELL, Ray Alborn, and Roland Jackson, all seniors and two-year lettermen, were elected tri-captains for '61 after the game.

"Overall, it was a very satisfactory spring training for us," stated veteran Owl coach Jess Neely, and in this corner we heartily agree with him. The supply of talent is the best on South Main in many years, as the Owls hope to prove this fall.