OWLOOK...

Owl Hurlers To Benefit From Lighter Schedule

By CHUCK YINGLING

Rice baseball fortunes, which have looked rather dim recently, may soon be in line for an upturn. If the Owls can get by undefeated Texas Owls Saturday, they will be only one game down to the Longhorns in the all-important loss column, and will be in good position to challenge for the loop crown.

But perhaps more important is the fact that with the end of non-conference action, Dell Morgan’s charges will have only two games a week for the rest of the season. This should be quite helpful to the slim pitching staff which simply doesn’t have enough depth for a series of games in succession.

SENIOR Righthander

Weldon McFarland has been the most effective hurler for the Owls thus far, as he is 2-0 in conference action. Soph Lefty Ken Schoppe has a four-hitter against St. Mary’s to his credit, and Wayne McClelland and Bill Donaldson have also been effective.

On the offensive side, junior catcher Jim Fox has probably been the best all-around player on the squad. Fox is hitting .438 in league games, and .341 for the season. More important, he has been hitting the long ball when necessary—three homers and two triples—and he leads the team in total bases and RBI’s.

OTHER BRIGHT SPOTS are the hitting of Bob Lively and Al Hartman, both .308 in loop play with two homers each. However, Captain and All-SWC third baseman Richard Kristinik is long overdue for some consistent hitting. The former SWC batting champ is only .222 on the season (though .300 in four loop games).

Defensively, the Birds have not been without their problems. The biggest trouble spot is shortstop where Kenny Pyle and Ronnie Dreyer have both had their troubles. A tendency to too many team errors has hurt chances in several games. The league’s lowest fielding average of .925 won’t win many games.