Losses No Mystery

By STUART GLASS

Just three more weeks to go, and the football team can quietly fold up their jerseys and slink off into the shadowy background of Rice academic life. And then, the team with all that preseason fanfare will go down as one of the true duds of modern football history.

There’s no mystery why Rice doesn’t win. It doesn’t score. In the last four games, the Owls have garnered a magnificent fifteen points. Their 1-2-1 record for these games is surprising only if somebody is curious to know how Rice managed to win one. Rice doesn’t score because the backs get no blocking. Even line coach Joe Davis said that in the newspapers after the Texas Tech game.

But nobody’s bothered to ask why the line doesn’t block. The line doesn’t even know, “Gee fella. How come y’all couldn’t score against Krobothnik A&I?” Reply: “They had an awful good team.”

Well, we’re tired of seeing the Owls make everybody else look good. The offense simply has no fire, no enthusiasm, no desire to beat anybody but Texas. And perhaps A & M. This is the fault not only of the team, but also of those whose job it is to get the team fired up. For instance, Davis is responsible for teaching seven men how to bodily cleave a defensive line at the point where the ball carrier hopes to cross the scrimmage line. Assuming that he is competent in this vocation, we wonder if he has made any effort to make the line even WANT to block for the backs.

In other words, an important part of teaching contact in football is instilling in players a desire for contact. So, as of now, the only people the offense is offensive to is the Rice student body. We get tired of seeing the defense. The Owls have a great backfield, and we want to see some touchdowns.

The Aggies come to town this Saturday fresh from their first win of the season over SMU. It’s going to be a shock for all those who graduated last year, returning for the homecoming game. The same team they watched fight to a 6-4 record last season only has two wins this year.

A&M’s football team is not all that good, but if Rice can’t find 11 men who would rather win than lose, and work for the win, this game’s likely to be a scoreless tie.