Baton Rouge Opener

Owls Fear Fowl Play In Tussle With Tigers

By Paul Burka

Rice's embattled Owls, losers in their own intrasquad game, venture bravely into the Valley of Death—Baton Rouge's cavernous Tiger Stadium, where 68,000 fanatics will watch them tackle football's roughest assignment Saturday night.

The Owls open their football season at 8 p.m. against Louisiana State University, better known to the AP and UPI polls as LSU. The casual onlooker can spot them in a hurry by looking through the top five teams in the nation.

This week is no exception. Riding the momentum of a ludicrously easy win over Texas A&M, (never allowing the Aggies to cross their 20 yard line), LSU rates high in the nation again. National champs in '58, runners-up in '59, and third last year, the Tigers remain a perpetual power.

Sparking the solid Tiger attack is all-Southeast Conference halfback Jerry Stovall. LSU's renowned three team squad features the "Go Team" on offense, with 10 of 11 returning from the '61 lineup.

But it is in the line where the Bengals have made their legend. Defensively the Chinese Bandits have captured the imagination of the nation, but the first-team line is where the Tigers defend their honor and their goal line. Such familiar names as Dennis Gaubatz, Gene Sykes, and Rodney Guillot anchor a defensive line which held the Aggies to a mere ninety-seven yards rushing.

In addition to their clientele screaming for blood, the Ti-
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The Tigers have another reason to be “up” for the Owls. The only reason LSU wasn’t national champion last year was a 16-3 Rice victory in Houston last year. The Tigers have won eleven straight since that defeat and 26 lettermen return who will remember it well.

Owl hopes for an upset Saturday grew dim when Billy Cox, starting quarterback, co-captain, and spark plug of the new Owl wing-T attack, broke his wrist and was virtually lost for the season. But the Owls unquestionably will have scoring potential with such veterans as Randy Kerbow, John Sylvester, Jerry Candler and Jerry Kelly leading the offense. Newcomers Gene Fleming, Paul Piper, and Walt McReynolds add to the Owl attack.

IN THE LINE stalwarts Mike Fritsch, John Mims, Dan Malin, and Kenny Simmons will renew relationships with the Bengals, but elsewhere sophs must bear the brunt of the load.

The oddsmakers are joining the Oriental philosophers—this is the Year of the Tiger—and have made LSU a 15 point favorite.