On The Trials Of Sports Writers

By STUART GLASS

Dear Mother,

Last night after drinking one and one-half quarts of beer somebody reminded us that although we are now responsible for keeping up with the pecuniary interests of the Thresher we also have to write some sports.

Realizing that good sports editors write their best stuff about losing teams, we face the additional disadvantage of having nothing to write about except some winners. We are cursed with the bane of all good sports writers—good teams in track and tennis.

Not only are they winning, but they are also spring sports. Down here in the South it doesn't matter if the football team wins or loses, because people will always read about football. But you can't write anything about spring sports unless your team is losing. Unfortunately, it looks like Rice is doomed to the summit in both track and tennis in the SWC.

Emmet Brunson and Augie Erfurth and twelve thinclads (which is what we sports writers call trackmen) are flying up to Philadelphia to run in the Penn Relays. Just as an example of how they are winning, if all four of the hurdlers run their best times, they will set a world record in the 480-yard shuttle hurdle relay.

Bobby May, Verl Brown, Jimmy Wilkerson, and Gary Collins could combine to run a 56.7 which is nearly a second better than the present world mark. Not only that, the mile relay team boasted the best time of any college team in the nation earlier this year.

How can we write anything, especially about all that?

And then there's tennis. Jimmy Parker, John Pickens, Ed Turville, Chip Travis, Alan Cummings, and Bill Novak have swept through TCU, Baylor and Texas A&M without losing a single match.

Parker and Pickens put up stiff battles against Roy Emerson and Fred Stolle in the River Oaks Tournament.

Since Texas is the main competition for the conference title and since the Owls could afford to lose their battle against the Longhorns here this Saturday it looks like Rice is just about a shoo-in for the SWC crown.

So the Owl netmen could not possibly get by Texas without winning something, and anything would be sufficient to win the SWC championship.

Besides this, Butch Seawagen is probably the best freshman tennis player in the conference and was defeated only after three sets by Ron Holmberg, number 6 in the nation at River Oaks.

Therefore it looks like Rice is going to keep on winning in tennis. Nothing is quite as boring as constant victory. The Mets draw big crowds to see them lose. How do the Owls expect to keep up if they continue repulsing hoards of spectators by consistently winning, and how can they expect to provide sports writers with amusing copy?

Now you see why we are always complaining about having to write sports every week.

Your loving son,
Stu