“Little Owls,” Part Of Big Homecoming

By DICK PARK

While primary attention has been focused on the Rice Varsity, another grid squad is hard at it in daily drills on the Rice campus. Owl Lightweight team. The program started two years ago with just intra-squad scrimmages, but last year the Lightweights had a 1 win, 2 loss record in their first year of scheduled play. Last year’s opponents included Monterrey Tech, Mexico City University and Allen Academy.

The 1960 season opener against the University of Mexico City was quite a controversial beginning. The “Little Owls” arrived in Mexico City to find the local papers had assumed the Rice varsity were their opponents. The Mexicans further greeted the Lightweights with a 47-0 rout and as the score might indicate the “Little Owls” could have used some varsity help. Despite the loss, the team still managed to enjoy the Latin night life.

ORIGINALLY LIMITED to players 150 pounds and under, the weight limitation was dropped as a result of the delectable diet offered by the commons, and lack of enforcement by the opponents. Last year’s line averaged about 170 pounds with an over-all team average of 160.

At present they have only one game definitely scheduled for 1961, but another with Allen Academy will be played, at a now undetermined date. The “Little Owls” are to play Monterrey Tech of Mexico (a four year school) on Friday night, Nov. 10th, at Rice Stadium. That game will be part of a big Homecoming grid slate for the Rice campus with the Rice Owlets meeting the Texas A&M freshman on Thursday night and Owl-Arkansas varsity game on Saturday afternoon.

COACH GRIGG SAID he will be using the same basic offense and defense as the Rice varsity and beginning this year will scrimmage the freshmen team once a week. However the scrimmage will be limited to pass offense and defense to avoid injury. Coach Grigg’s team is now about forty strong but is weak in linemen especially guards and tackles.

For those interested, the Lightweights offer an excellent opportunity to participate in real “tackle” football, regardless of previous experience or size. Workouts are scheduled from 4 to 5, five days a week. Those interested should contact Coach Grigg in the Coaches’ office.