Black-Blue Owls Will Bounce Back After Rout

By MILTON H. NIRKEN

It was a bright, sunny afternoon at Grant Field in Atlanta, Georgia on September 30, 1961. The Ramblin’ Wreck of Georgia Tech sparkled in their all white uniforms. Their opponents for the afternoon lacked the pre-game luster, for they were clad in dark blue pants with blue-black jerseys.

During the pregame warm-up, the Rice Owls looked sluggish. This might have been due to a series of most unfortunate circumstances. As the Owls boarded their plane at Houston’s International Airport at noon, Friday, September 29, they were greeted and informed that lunch would be delayed two hours!

During the three hour flight, the plane’s air-conditioning system failed and the hungry Owls sweltered. Upon arrival in Atlanta, they were rushed to the field and had a twenty-minute limbering-up session. After a typical Georgia dinner, the Owls were hustled to a typical American movie—it was supposed to relax the group. Thus, by 11 p.m. Friday night, the Owls were bushed.

AS GAME TIME approached, Saturday, September 30, the Owls were informed that they would be forced to wear the road jerseys of Georgia Tech. These were the same jerseys that Georgia Tech wore in losing to Duke and Auburn last year. Well, those jerseys doomed the Owls to disaster.

THERE WAS NO excuse for the showing the Owls made last week. Potentially, the squad meets up to the fondest expecta-
tions of its coaches. However, last Saturday they appeared to be a team of hasbeens!

It would suffice to say that last Saturday was just one of those days when nothing went right for the Owls and nothing went wrong for Georgia Tech.

Coach Neely commented on the game. “After this a lot of people are disappointed in us, I know. But we still have a good team. This loss won’t hurt us; I think it’ll help.”

THE LOSS Won’T HURT us because it was a non-conference game. I think it will help us because the Owls found out the hard way that you can never rest on your laurels and expect success to follow.

During the next two weeks, I think you’re likely to see a lot of leather popping, if you happen to saunter over to the practice field some afternoon. You will see the re-creation of a good team.

Don’t count the Owls out yet! As Coach Neely said, “We’ll be good again.”