Owls Meet Ponies On TV Saturday

By TED HERMANN

TV SATURDAY. Yes, that’s the story. The entire Rice student body will have an opportunity to show the residents of six states what nice little Owls they are this coming Saturday afternoon. And besides, there will be a “basketball” game between the Rice Owls and the SMU Mustangs, plus half-time entertainment galore. And, believe it or not, it is all FREE.

Canning the garb, we would like to encourage the ENTIRE student body to attend the game this Saturday at 2 pm in Autrey Court. After some eight to ten weeks of telecasting Saturday basketball games in the Missouri Valley, Big Eight, and Southwest Conferences, the Sports Network has yet to telecast a game at which there was not a capacity crowd. Movements among the student bodies at the U. of H. and Texas Tech assured standing room only crowds when both of these schools played before the cameras. Needless to say, out 1,800 persons cannot fill the Rice gym. However, if we all bring dates, we can fill the east stands which will be the only stands which will be seen by the television audience. And we can ALL yell LOUD.

Now to the game. The Owls will play host to Doc Hayes’ third place Mustangs. Rice, after suffering a humiliating 72-54 defeat at the hands of the Mustangs last Saturday, should certainly be out for revenge. And with the signs of improvement which the Owls showed Monday, victory is certainly within reach. The Ponies will probably employ a semi-zone defense which was so successful against the Owls in Dallas. In this unusual defense, the three outside men play a zone defense while the two men under the basket play man for man. Saturday SMU was led by the fine play of Bobby James and Fred Marsli. Also turning in fine performances for the Mustangs were Steve Strange and flashy Max Williams. SMU is a hustling ball club, as attested to by the fact that although they average only 6-1 in height, the Ponies outrebounded Rice 55-46 in Dallas. At any rate it should be a fine game. Particularly interesting will be the duel between Dale Ball and Williams, perhaps the two finest guards in the conference.