Sadder But Wiser, Owls Aim For Duke

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With the defense patched and the offense tuned for production, the Rice Owls invade Durham, N.C. Saturday to take on the Blue Devils of Duke in an afternoon affair. Nursing only minor wounds, the Owls should be in near top shape for their first action following their 26-3 defeat at the hands of LSU.

Until running out of gas midway in the third period due to heat, fatigue, and LSU depth, the Owl forward walls, led by the King brothers, Bob Lively, Don Rather, Gene Miller, Max Burnett, and Jerry Graves were the equal or superior to any of the three Tiger machines.

On the other hand, the running of the Owl backs was rather disappointing following the fine showing in the Blue-Gray game. Only sophomore fullbacks Roland Jackson and Mike Bowen were able to penetrate the Tiger fortifications with any persistency. One bright spot in the Rice backfield was the unexpected pinpoint passing of Jon Schnable, who hit 3 or 4 for 30 yards in the first half.

With the advancement of Charles Pollard and the shifting of Gene Miller, Rice end play this week should be greatly improved over that shown against the Tigers. This combined with more consistency on the part of corner linebackers Max Webb, Roland Jackson, and Mike Bowen, all of whom showed occasional brilliance against the national champs, should make the Owls a tough nut to crack on defense Saturday.

However, offense — which should be greatly improved after two week's work — and conditioning — Duke scored twice in the fourth quarter against Ohio State Saturday — may be Rice's big problems this week as the Owls encounter big, tough, twice beaten Duke Saturday in an attempt to revenge 1957's 7-6 defeat at the hands of the Blue Devils.