Owls Drop Number Ten; Win Cellar

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The Rice Owls won sole possession of the SWC cellar Tuesday night, as the Owls dropped their sixth consecutive game to TCU 86-63. Facing a zone defense for the sixth straight time, the Owls went the first four minutes of the first half without a score and were never in the ball game thereafter.

Obviously missing Butch Craig, who was sidelined with the flu, Rice hit only 31.9% of its shots, and was outrebounded by the Frogs 67-45. Steve Smith and James Davis were high point men for the Owls with 14 and 13 points respectively.

Texas Effort Great

Whereas shooting and rebounding made Tuesday night’s effort one of the poorest of the season for Rice, last Saturday night, the Owls put forth their finest effort of the season in a heartbreaking 52-50 loss to a Texas club which appears to be intent on capturing the school’s second conference crown of the year. Featuring a non-fouling defense for the first time, Johnny Frankie’s crew utilized the rebounding of Mike Maroney and the shooting of James Davis, who hit seven of ten in the first half, to furnish proof that although they are low in the standings, the Owls are high with upset intentions.

Aggies Number Eight? ?

Speaking of upsets, the Aggies, finally defeated by SMU, but still ranked eighth in the AP poll, come to town Tuesday in Rice’s final home game before exams. After seeing the Cadets play twice in the recent SWC Tourney, we have this observation to make: If the Aggies, even though they are probably the best in the SWC at this time, are the eighth best team in the nation, the Russians are assured of one more gold medal in the 1960 Olympics.

Sophs Scarce In Miss

In the gridiron world last Sunday in the Houston Post, Jack Gallagher followed up his recent boxing expose with an excellent description of Johnny Vaught’s football empire at the University of Mississippi. In the article, Gallagher credited one of Vaught’s assistants with the following possible reason for the failure of the 1959 Rice Owls: “We feel that if a sophomore can step in and make our ball club, then we are not going to be very good.” In 1959 the Owls had as many as five sophomores in the starting eleven, while Ole Miss had only five sophomores on the entire squad.