Owl Nine Favored
In ’60 SWC Race

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Baseball practice starts in earnest Monday, with the Owls favored to capture this year’s conference crown. The selection of the Owls over the Aggies was evidently made on the basis of Rice’s strong hitting and pitching, and despite one of the most porous infields in the league.

Rice’s chances were further weakened this week as shortstop Lynwood Stallings lost his first semester battle with the books. Furthermore, outfielder-pitcher Butch Blume appears to be lost for the first few weeks of the season due to a shoulder separation received in spring training.

Another blow to the Owls’ hopes could be the pending decision by Alvin Hartman to pass up baseball competition again this spring. Hartman was a hefty .400 hitter as a freshman first baseman.

Another Disappointment

Tuesday night proved to be another disappointing night for Johnnie Frankie’s Rice Owls. Tallying twelve points in a four and a half minute interval in the first half, while holding SMU scoreless, the Owls pulled away to a ten point margin.

However the Mustangs turned the tables in the second period when they hit for sixteen in a row to spurt from a four point deficit to a ten point lead and crush any Owl hopes of an upset victory.

After playing outstanding ball in the first half, the Owls returned to their mediocre form in the second period as they watched SMU hit 60% of their second period shots and score a soaring 47 points in the twenty minute interval.

Craig Maroney Hit 48 of 58

Handicapping the Owls’ scoring threat was the fact that of Rice’s 58 points, 48 of them came from the sure hands of Butch Craig and Mike Maroney. Craig, with his second highest production of the season, nailed another spike in his All-Conference hopes chest with twenty points in the first half and 29 for the night. The only other Owl to score more than two points was top rebounder of the evening, Steve Smith, with four.

The third reason for the Owls’ second half defeat was the twelve fouls registered against Rice in the second period. Each team finished the first half with two starters charged with three violations, however three Owls fouled out of the game, while no Mustang failed to finish the game.