This fall the Rice Institute introduced a new concept of college athletics to the Southwest. We have reference to Rice’s first 150 pound football team.

Composed of candidates whose weights were below the 150 pound mark (although the restriction was not strictly enforced this season) and tutored by Cecil Griggs, Owl assistant coach, the squad held a full four week spring practice last spring after the suggestion for the formation of such a team had been presented to athletic director Jess Neely at a public forum on college athletics.

Fifty Reported
This fall a squad of approximately 50 lightweights reported for daily practices which lasted from one to two hours. After two months of continuous practice and a fruitless search for opponents, the squad had dwindled to 30 in number.

Then finally the moment of glory came as the 150 pound hopefuls got their first taste of competitive football against one of Houston’s 4-A district champions, the Bellaire Cardinals. And to the surprise of almost everyone, the Rice fly-weights, the majority of whom had never played any form of competitive football and who were outweighed by over thirty pounds per man in the line, downed the district champs 22-20.

Credit Due Griggs
Much credit is due coach Griggs and his graduate assistants for the job they did in bringing this group of beginners up to a par with a team, most of whose members had been playing football for six years.

Thus Rice has proven that a student football team can be a reality in the Southwest just as it has been in some Eastern schools. But now the time has come to sell the idea to other schools in the area. During the past year, most of the Rice student body has taken the attitude that this was the job of the athletic department.

Students Have Job
Although they can certainly help, the main responsibility for selling the idea of a student football team lies with the Rice student body. Two immediate opportunities for doing this are at hand and should be taken advantage of at once. First, a copy of this article is being sent to the sports editors of the other SWC school newspapers, in an effort to inform them of Rice’s success with a student football team.

The second and most important opportunity is the Cotton Bowl meeting of the SWC Sportsmanship Committee. Here will be an excellent opportunity for the Rice representatives to informally present the idea to those best in position to introduce the idea at their respective schools.

Others to Follow?
Although these two developments will not assure the creation of a Little-SWC, the Rice student body and athletic department will have shown the way and the overall success of student football in the Southwest will depend on whether the others are willing to follow.