Baseballers Facing Texas Battle Friday
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With their backs to the wall, coach Dell Morgan's baseballers combined sharp pitching, hefty hitting, and errorless defensive play to sweep a two-game series, 6-2 and 7-2, from the Texas Aggies, and set the stage for Friday's showdown battle between the Owls and the Texas Longhorns.

Currently leading the conference with a record of 5-1, the Longhorns have scored 54 runs in conference play, as compared to only 30 for the second running Owls. On a per-game average, the figure is: Texas 9, Opponents 4 2/3; Rice 6, Opponents 5. This attests to the potency of the Longhorn bats and the surprising efficiency of Texas' sophomore pitching staff.

Season Surprise
Rated rather low in pre-season polls on the basis of inexperience, the youthful Steers have built a 10-1 season's record. Their only loss came at the hands of Baylor and was aptly revenged last week with an 8-4, 9-4 two-game sweep at the expense of the Bears. The Horns also downed one of the pre-season favorites, TCU, last week by the meager margin of 17-3.

While not so spectacular in the won-lost and run columns, Dell Morgan's Rice Owls still add up to the soundest club in the conference, despite some rather erratic play which has netted them their four losses of the campaign.

Turning Point
However the Friday-Saturday double victory over the Aggies may have marked the turning point for the Owls as they combined fine hitting, fielding, and pitching in two consecutive games for the first time this season.

Thus the talented but inexperienced Longhorns, who have won so many conference baseball titles, and the Rice Owls, who are looking for their first title, will meet tomorrow and next Friday and Saturday in a three-game series which may well decide the fate of this year's conference crown.

Something Besides Football
Often criticized for its football-centered athletic program, Rice can point to the results of Saturday's triangular meet between Texas, Baylor, and TCU as evidence that Rice is not the most football-centered school in the conference.

In the Austin meet, Texas, with 95 5/6 points, and Baylor, with 59 5/6 points, narrowly nose a powerful TCU squad, which amassed a staggering 41 3/ points.