MEXICO CITY PAPERS go wild over the U. of Mexico's 47-0 victory over the Lightweights.

U. Of Mexico Conquers Lightweights In Debut

By JOHN BRENNAN

The Rice Lightweights ran into a steamroller last Friday night as they were overwhelmed by the University of Mexico Pumas, 47-0. Coach Cecil Griggs’ previously untested gridders made their debut before 25,000 firecracker tossing fans in Mexico City's Olympic Stadium.

Although inexperience, size and the 7500 feet altitude were factors contributing to the Pumas’ success, the lightweights gave the Mexican team high praise for their speed and precision. The Riceites found themselves up against flashy backs, as unpredictable as the city's taxies, and longer linemen that provided very efficient blocking. Although the Pumas made most of their yardage on quick opening plays, the “big play” figured very prominently in their scoring thrusts as their punt returns and running passes caught the lightweights off balance. Things would have been worse except for the crisp tackling of Paul Timme, Tom Fatjo, and Ron Nichols, and John Hurlburt's brilliant pass interception.

Rice’s offense moved well at times, but despite hard running by Ronnie Marshall, Lou Waters, and Steve Thomas, the lightweights were unable to score. In the last four minutes the Rice offense really got going, but the clock ran out as Ben Lanford snared a pass on the two yard line.

The lop-sided score was quite a shock to the Mexico City newspapers, who had compared the Rice team to the powerhouse Randolph Field team of 1947. The big build-up through the newspapers, radio, and television was rationalized by some with charges of fraud. Nobody had indicated such, but apparently the Mexican press thought the Pumas were taking on the Rice varsity.

Next Friday they take on Monterey Technical College, who were beaten 26-0 by the U. of Mexico. The lightweights are eager for their first home game, which may take on the aspect of an international rivalry.