Prognosis Green But Still Mean

By CORDELL HAYMON

It was a warm evening in late September. A proud band of Rice followers stood amidst a shocked crowd of 68,000 L.S.U. fans as the scoreboard clock stopped at 0:00 and stared at the unbelievable news—powerful L.S.U. held to a 6-6 tie by a scrapping team of Rice Owls. For the second year L.S.U.'s dreams of a national championship were disrupted by the blue-clad Owls.

It is said that an elephant has a long memory, but the L.S.U. Tigers haven't forgotten the bitterness of that September evening. Many seniors are gone from Coach Charles McClendon's Cotton Bowl Champs (13-0 over Texas), but the Tigers are once again a powerhouse.

FEATURING A big starting line (averaging 217 pounds) and a bevy of fine backs, the Tigers can only be appraised in terms of "potential." The new substitution rule has hurt the popular L.S.U. three-team system, but it is still employed—with modifications. The big problem of this fall seems to have been teaching everyone to play both offense and defense. Only guard Robbie Hucklebridge has experience as a two-way player. But the material is there. As illustration, the only returning starter is junior halfback Danny Le Blanc who has received prominent mention as an All-American candidate. Yet Le Blanc has been forced from his starting berth by a red-shirt sophomore, Joe Labrzuze, a 9.6 sprinter.

NO MORE DOES it seem certain who will emerge as the outstanding lineman, but in this disagreement lies the key—all are potential stars. Six foot five inch end Billy Truax is a top receiver. Ronald Pere has received all-star notices at tackle, and Robbie Hucklebridge is a standout at guard.

Rice backfield coach Bo Hagan, who scouted L.S.U.'s 14-6 conquest over Texas A&M last week, warns that the Tigers' first unit is "as good as anybody's." Halfback Labrzuze showed his potential as a breakaway threat in returning a point 83 yards for the decisive touchdown against A&M. The Tigers seem fast, and fullbacks Buddy Hamie and Don Schwab appear to be powerful inside threats.

L.S.U. SPORTS an improved passing attack behind sophomore quarterback Pat Screen, possibly the top Tiger quarterback prospect since Y. A. Tittle. Sophomore Billy Ezell is also a top quarterback and both boys are considered terrific runners.

The Tigers, despite their inexperience, will not be vastly weak.

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der defensively than last year’s team, which allowed the fewest points of any eleven in the nation. Coach Charlie McClendon is a firm believer in conservative football and relies on a powerful defense, good kicking and a dominating field position to subdue flashier opponents.

L.S.U. WILL kick on third down from their own territory to insure against possible fumbles or blocked punts. Tiger fans have learned to appreciate a style which has produced four bowl teams in five seasons.

Offensively, the Tigers use their fullbacks on power dives and sweeps. The bread-and-butter play of the L.S.U. repertoire is the “halfback power sweep off tackle.” This type of attack has boosted such runners as Billy Cannon, Wendell Harris, and Jerry Stovall to All-American honors in recent years.