Don't Have to Look Far To Make SWC Predictions

By FRANK DENT

There seem to be a lot of outside factors which may play a big part in the outcome of this year's southwest conference gridiron squabble. According to the 1958 Grid Forecast for the Rice Owls not only the usual analysis of schedules, losses and returnees from last year's squad, but also the international situation in the Middle East as well as the unpredictability of Red Chinese acts seem to wield a mighty influence over who will wear the SWC crown.

We never knew one had to look any further than the bare statistics in Texas and Arkansas to make a gridiron prediction.

The Thresher sports desk has been submerged in predictions by all the SWC schools as well as a few miscellaneous predictions by Playboy and other magazines concerned with sporting life.

The general concensus of opinion about the Owls was that we'd have hard going to come in first again this year. It seems the only SWC school to win the title two years in a row was a Dallas school in 1947-48. Most predictions place us about third, fourth, etc. (Beat the Aggies). In the same Grid Forecast, head coach Jess Neely had this to say about the Owls '58 grid chances:

"We expect to have a good football team at Rice this fall... Our greatest concern is lack of depth in the backfield, and only one letterman is available at tackle... Our schedule is very rugged, but if our players go after it as hard this fall as they did in the spring, I think our team will be an interesting one to watch... I believe we will give a good account of ourselves and if we get a fair share of those so-called 'breaks' we should win our share of games."