Owl Nine Seeks First Title, Faces '59 Champs Saturday

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The defending champion Aggies team will furnish the opposition as the Rice Owls baseball squad tries to get started on the right foot in a non-conference season opener Saturday at Aggieland.

Strong Spot

Pitching is the strong spot for the Rice nine. Led by all-conference lefthander Paul Timme, the staff boasts five veteran hurlers, with Weldon McFarland, Jim Brock, Gerald Springer, and Bill Donaldson rounding out the mound corps.

Eight lettermen are in Coach Del Morgan’s camp, including outfielders Bobby Lively and Bobby Moy and third baseman Richard Krystinik, in addition to the pitchers. Krystinik, all-Southwest Conference, 3rd team all-America, and the SWC’s leading batter with a .422 mark, leads the Owl lineup, which is leaning heavily on slugging sophomores to plug the holes left by graduation.

Blume, Pyle, Reasener

Butch Blume, who averaged .500 for the frosh, is fighting it out with Kenny Pyle for the key shortstop position. Lee Reasener, .320 hitter for the Owlets and an all-state high school selection, is currently holding down second base.

The infield is competed with Alvin Hartman, who sat out last season after a gaudy .420 year for the Owlets two years ago.

Fox Behind The Plate

Jim Fox, another soph, holds down the catching spot. Fox banged out a .310 average last season.

Soph Gary West and Johnny Stephenson are battling for the centerfield position. With Stephenson sidelined by a knee injury, West will open the season there.