A Slippery Fate

By JOHN ALEXANDER

“What is worse than 11 Aggie football players?”

A list of student comments after the game fairly well conveys the reactions to the A&M loss. Some said that Rice put on a good show just to make losing more dramatic. Another contended that the Owls did not throw much at first, so they could save the pass for that fateful play with three minutes left. Someone, remembering Cassius Clay, came up with “2-8/ ain’t we great!” Finally the loss was blamed on me for picking Rice every weekend.

The cause of the loss was more Rice’s error than A&M’s ability. All season the team has made costly mistakes, and almost all season I have waited for them to play a game where they wouldn’t make them. Against Arkansas, with the score only 10-0, the Owls had just recovered a Razorback fumble inside the Arkansas 20. The team promptly returned the ball to Arkansas on the next play.

Against A&M, Rice had five turnovers—all ending long drives. One was the pass that was intercepted with three minutes left. At times when the Owls weren’t making mistakes they almost looked invincible. For the first time ever, I think, the rushing offense broke 300 yards. Chuck Latourette and Lester Lehman broke away for some nice long yardage, but all was for naught when coupled with the errors.

Now the Owls are faced with having to win another game to escape the cellar—hoping of course that Texas can at least beat A&M. TCU and Baylor haven’t been powerhouses this season, and they should be about even matches for Rice. Without serious errors the Owls should take them both. Playing the way they have at times the last two weeks, 2-8 will be our record.

What is the score going to be? Last week, I thought I was going to be right for the second time this year. Really I shouldn’t pick this one, but I’ll take a chance again 31-7 (I didn’t pick the winner, only the score).