Owl Fortunes Hinge
On ‘Man From Hondo’

By BUDDY HERZ

“It was the best of times; it was the worst of times. It was the Age of the Kings and Lively; It was the Age of
sine quarterback.”

Thus can the 1960 Rice gridiron possibilities be forecast. A solid line, anchored by All-American candidate Rufus King and all-SWC hopefuls Boyd King and Bobby Lively, brighten Coach Jess Neely’s 21st year as Owl
headman.

But the quarterback situation poses the Big Prob-
lem.

Two-year letterman Alvin Hartman, the big man from
Hondo, holds the key to the Rice
hope chest.

The six foot four, 267-pound Hartman, has never quite lived up to expectations. Press releases each year build Hartman
into the Owl messiah who will lead he Blue and Gray into the
era of great victories and laurels.

But each year Hartman steps into the back-
ground after early season
and another guides the path to the land of milk and honey —and “Cotton” and “Sugar.”

The “Cotton” and “Sugar” disapper soon, almost immediately after the first game.

BUT SOMEHOW we honestly feel this year will be different. This is Al’s “big one” ; and thus the big one for the Big Blue.

We’ve talked with Hartman and with many members of the team —and one thing greets you almost instantly. The 1960 Owl
eleven wants to win, and wants to badly.

They hope to put 1959 as far in the background as possible.

And they plan to make others forget it.

THE 1957 Navy team was tagged as “The Team Named De-
sire.” The 1960 Rice Owls could possibly fall under that mon-
iker, too.

But this year’s Blue and Gray is a different team. The squad is packed not only with desire but with guts and a lot of foot-
ball savvy.

Maybe we’re going way out on a limb so early, but we’ve liked what we’ve seen so far. And so far is so good.

With Hartman having his greatest year, a year reminiscent of King Hill, Frank Ryan, and Leroy Fenstermaker, we can’t wait to see the Big Blue roll— just watch them.

WRAPUP: Some jokesters have quipped that the Owls “Twelfth Man” should be a big help this year. After last year Rice should to get put all 12 on the field just to even the score against a few rivals . . .

Rice has averaged over 250,000 total attendance for the last dec-
ade . . . 13th in country last season . . . second in nation in 1968.

Rice was listed as the 14th best team in the nation for the 25-
year period. Roger Saylor, Penn State business statistician, based his findings on a mathematical formula measuring team on a “strength of schedule” as well as wins and losses. Only Texas was ahead of Rice in SWC . . .

Rice got three third place votes in the TCU football poll . . .

we’re one of them . . . Rice will beat Texas and that’s a surefire thing . . . so place your bet . . . you can get plenty of them.