On That Last Game

By JOHN ALEXANDER
Thresher Sports Editor

Rice lost 42-14! After I predicted a 7-3 win many people have offered suggestions on how to write this week's column. The first was to claim a typographical error and say I really picked LSU 42-14. The second was to take the typical tack of most Thresher sports editors, complain about how the team played, complain about how Neely coached, and complain that LSU is just better than we are, and then make a season prediction of a 1-9 record.

Actually things aren't that bad.

LSU has a very good team and is a strong contender for the Southeast Conference championship. Rice's offense gained almost three hundred yards—the most that I can remember since I came here—against one of the strongest defense in the south. David Ferguson and Doug Nicholson both were able to find holes in the Tiger defense, and both led Rice on sustained drives for touchdowns.

Nicholson started his career as a Rice quarterback by completing his first eight passes. Although he played only a little over a quarter, we had 123 yards in passing. Chuck Latourette, as usual, was the leading ground gainer.

The defense because of inexperienced sophomores and injuries to four starters has problems.

Coach Neely felt the Owls played well and was pleased with the way the team hustled. About five plays ruined the game for Rice. Poor punt coverage—which the week before against the Techers seemed good—led to two touchdowns. An intercepted pass and the failure to make a first down with only a half foot to go gave the ball to the Tigers twice inside the Rice 30.

Still the LSU offense rolled up almost 400 yards—260 on the ground—and Neely said that the defensive linemen weren't playing tough enough.

Next week we play Duke. They have won their first two games, upsetting pre-season Atlantic Coast Conference favorite Virginia 21-7 in their first game. Two players to watch are their quarterback Scotty Glacken and their 212 pound fullback Jay Calabrese.

After last week's failure as a prognosticator, I shouldn't try and predict the result of the game. But I can't help being optimistic about Rice's chances: Rice 21-13.