Neely Offers Support For 'Junior Varsity'

By ED SUMMERS

A sparsely-attended Forum meeting Wednesday night was highlighted by an interchange between Football Coach Jess Neely and Librarian Hardin Craig in which Neely offered to support a "junior varsity" football team next fall.

Other Speakers

Neely appeared as a speaker on the Forum Committee's program on Physical Education. Other speakers were G. L. Hermance, Mr. Barker, Mr. Weston, and Coaches Neely and Grigg.

The Philosophical View

Mr. Hermance led off the discussion with a general outline of physical education from philosophical and historical points of view. Mr. Hermance asked students to remember that physical education embraces a much wider field than simple recreation. He said that the PE program at Rice has always tried to adapt itself to the needs of the students.

No Excuse

Mr. Barker, who is in charge of intramural sports activities, credited the colleges with a fifty percent increase in two years in participants in intramural activities. He emphasized the secondary role sports play to academic activities but said this was no reason for a student to excuse himself from physical activity.

The Competence of P.E.'s

The belief that P. E. majors are "as smart as anybody else" was expressed by Mr. Weston, who also discussed physical education as a profession. He emphasized the competence of the graduate P. E. major and said P.E. curriculum as adequate to accomplish its stated aims. Mr. Weston credited the increased leisure time of our generation with the present intense interest in athletics.

Neely Is Satisfied

Coach Neely next said he was satisfied with the progress made in integrating P.E. majors into the Rice community and credited the College system as beneficial to this end. He declared that the principle benefits of intercollege athletics are the qualities of leadership, competitive drive, and rational values which participation in sports can offer. Following him up, Coach Grigg said he believed the varsity games were a powerful force-binding the alumni to their alma mater.

Why Not the Unskilled?

In the discussion period, Dr. Craig asked Neely why the interschool program could not be expanded to include students of lesser skills than those on the varsity. Neely replied, he did not think the students had enough interest to come out but promised that if they did, he would encourage the project in every way that he could.

Forum Committee Chairman Gerald Dansby closed the meeting about nine-thirty.