Lightweights End Season With Eye To Next Year

By JOHN BRENNAN

The Rice Lightweights journeyed to Bryan last Friday to play their first American opponents, the highly rated Allen Academy Ramblers. The Riceites, striving hard for a final game victory and thereby a winning season, were outscored 14-8, but were by no means outplayed.

The margin of victory proved to be due to the Lightweights' lapse in the opening minutes of the game. Before the Lightweights could settle down, Allen had blitzed to paydirt on four quick openers through the line, the first one going for 50 yards. The Ramblers began to think of a rout but the Owls, remembering their 47-0 loss to Mexico City, refused to let history repeat itself.

NOT ONLY were the Owls able to recover, but they mounted their own drive late in the second quarter. With long gainers being ripped off by halfback Paul Timme and quarterback Ronnie Marshall, the Lightweights moved 70 yards in six plays, with Marshall covering the last four yards. Timme swept and for the extra points and the halftime score was 8-8.

The second half was indecisive until Allen began to steadily crunch out the yardage from its own thirty. Twice the Lightweights forced a fourth down gamble, but each time the cadets were equal to the occasion. The drive produced the go-ahead points and Allen was able to hold off the Lightweights for a six point margin.

ALMOST EVEN in statistics, Rice gained most of the yardage on wide plays by Marshall and Timme, and neatly varied the attack with passes to ends Wylie "Dub" Vale and Robert Montgomery. Perhaps the key to the ground attack was the power blocking provided by the backfield, especially Steve Thomas. Although heavily outweighed, the Rice line, led by Tom Fatjo and Jim Kitchell, fought the Rambler seven to a standoff.

Coach Cecil Griggs, although disappointed by the defeat, was pleased at the tremendous improvement shown by the club in its last two games. The Lightweights have hung up their cleats for the year, but are already enthusiastic about '61. With most of the squad returning, the Riceites are looking forward to more players, more games, and more victories. Coach Griggs is planning a spring training for all those interested in playing for the Rice International Lightweights of 1961.