1959-60 Bad Year In Sports For Owlmen

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Adding the final note to a year dedicated to athletic frustration, Rice failed last week in what will probably be the school's last two opportunities to capture its first SWC crown for the year 1959-60.

Showing hustle and determination seldom displayed by Rice athletes this year, coach Del Morgan's baseballers saw their sophomore-studded infield allow five unearned runs and an outstanding Texas defense rob them of countless hits, as the Steers captured the second game of the two game series 10-3 Saturday.

The victory left the Longhorns with a one and a half game lead over the Owls. The Owls have an outside chance of catching the league leaders, but the odds are against it. Of the Owls' remaining seven games, five are with Baylor and SMU, both tied for third and only one game behind the Owls. The Longhorns, on the other hand, play SMU twice and then finish out their season with four games with the two lowest teams in the conference, TCU and A&M.

In order for the Owls to gain the right to represent the conference in the NCAA playoffs, Texas would have to lose at least two of its remaining games while Rice was going undefeated for the remainder of the season, highly improbable, and yet certainly possible.

Needing to learn a few lessons in determination and the desire to win from their baseball contemporaries, Rice's once highly regarded tennis team relinquished all claims to its third straight conference title with a stunning 5-1 loss to SMU Friday. Paul Como, the only Owl who has played top form this season, was the only Rice winner on the cement courts, which most people seem to be blaming for the defeat.

The Owls partially redeemed themselves and virtually assured themselves of third place finish in league action with a 6-0 win over TCU and a 5-1 victory over a strong Texas Tech squad.

Two final notes: Friday's 5-4 victory over Texas was the first victory of the year for Rice over the Longhorns in any sport. The only team which Rice has yet to defeat this year is Arkansas and a victory over the Razorback is virtually assured in the conference track meet.