Stanford Invasion Led By New Chief, Big Line

By GERRY URBACH

Desperately needing a comeback of gigantic proportions after last week's humiliating 28-7 debacle in the Pennsylvania hills, the Owls take on a strong team from the opposite end of the nation, the Stanford Indians.

Stanford is coached by John Ralston, who spent the last four years building little Utah State into a western football power (1961 Gotham Bowl vs. Baylor). RALSTON IS expected to give the Red and White team a big lift this year. He enters the picture as the Palo Alto school has suffered a long drought since 1957, in each season failing to take more scalps than they lost.

Ralston's regime so far has directed the Redmen to a 1-2 position, both losses coming against strong teams. Stanford opened by defeating San Jose State 29-13, and since then has fallen to Oregon 36-7 and UCLA 10-9.

THE INDIANS have shown great improvement over their performance of a year ago. Their loss to UCLA came on a fourth quarter touchdown set up by a pass interception after Stanford had outplayed the Bruins.

Stanford runs the slot-T offense which is manned by twenty-three returning lettermen including the top three quarterbacks of '62. One of them, 185-pound Clark Weaver, a co-captain and the number one man-under suffered a knee injury in last week's loss to the UCLA, and is a doubtful participant in this week's melee.

THE BIG STORY for the West Coast squad is its huge line, once described as, "the most ponderous line in the west, and one of the biggest in the land." The first unit up front tips the scales at 227 pounds per man. Two particularly outstanding men in the trenches are All West Coast center and co-captain, 217-pound Marv Harris, and the team's top All-American candidate, Al Hildebrand, a 236-pound monster of a tackle.

The Rice team will be without its biggest man against the Indians. John Mims, 266-pound tackle, injured his knee in the Penn State game. He will miss at least one game, possibly more.

Bill Walker and Russell Wayt were also injured in the scrap with the Lions, but they are expected to be ready Saturday.

IF PAST SCORES of a series mean anything, (and they usually don't) the Owls should hit the comeback train this week in a big way. The Ricemen defeated the Stanford team 30-7 and 34-7 in their two previous engagements, in 1957 and 1958.