Lady Luck, long a nemesis of the 1959 Rice Owls, finally turned her back for one fleeting moment Saturday, and in that brief lapse of time Gordon Speer sped 60 yards for the touchdown which gave the Owls their first victory of the season 7-2 over an eleven billed, for the second year in a row, as representing College Station General Hospital, while playing under the colors of Texas A&M.

Poor Aggies

And Saturday the sickly, weakly, undernourished, and over-abused Aggies came mighty close to making it two in a row over Rice and helping the Owls to their first victoryless season in the history of the school. Ironically enough, after dominating the game statistics for five successive weenends, the Owls found themselves outdistancing the Aggies by only fourteen yards of offense Saturday, while on the way to their first victory.

Whereas the most exciting play of the game, Speer's run, belonged solely to the Owls, the two smartest plays of the game were equally divided. The Cadets smartly chose to take the cold, wet, 25 mph wind at their backs at the opening of the game and then with the aid of a fine run by Gordon LeBoeuf, some good punting by Charlie Milstead, and the stiff wind, the Aggies picked up two points when Speer's punt was blown backwards into the endzone. The Owls' brilliant maneuver came on the same play when quarterback Bill Bueck quickly retreated to pounce on the ball to prevent an A&M touchdown.

Offense Impotent

The Owl offense moved for a rather impressive, under the circumstances, 206 yards but again showed its major weakness in not being able to put it all together for a score, as the Owls never penetrated the Cadet 30. However the Milstead directed offense of the Aggies was just as impotent, thus leading one to suspec that, if it hadn't been for a wind blown punt and a sparkling punt return, the two teams might be playing yet without a score.

Although some 50,000 tickets were sold, only 35,000 stout, football-hungry souls braved the freezing wind and rain to witness the 44th renewal of the Owl-Aggie rivalry. These 15,000 absentees thus left the Rice Athletic Association with some $60,000 which didn't even have to be cleaned up after. A pretty good afternoon's work!

Rah! Rah!

Looking ahead to the last two weeks of the season it is interesting to note that should Baylor defeat SMU Saturday, Rice defeat Baylor two weeks hence, and the three way tie for the title hold up, the Owls would finish second in the conference behind triumvirate of Arkansas, TCU, and Texas.