The curtain rises Saturday night on the 1960 Rice Owl gridiron campaign.

The 8 pm debut at Rice Stadium will find the Yellow Jackets of Georgia Tech, the feared Ramblin’ Wreck, as first-nighters on the Big Blue’s 10 game performance schedule.

The first meeting of the two southern academic powers will also mark the first athletic contest by a team representing the University.

Coach Bobby Dodd in his 15th year as Tech’s head man has indicated that the Jackets will be a wide open, pass throwing type of team. In other words, the Jackets must be applying for membership to the Southwest Conference in adopting the SWC’s style of play.

The big man to watch will be Number 12, Stanley Vickers, (Stan, Sam) Gann, a 20 year old, 5-8, 161 pound sophomore quarterback. If Gann’s a flash in the pan, then Rice will have no trouble in hand.

From reading reports of Tech’s 23-13 triumph over arch-SEC rival Kentucky, it appears that the Engineers might not possess the country’s leading pass defense.

The Wildcats completed 14 of 24 passes last week in a losing cause, and a .583 completion record ain’t lay in anybody’s league.

The bookies are giving Rice six points on the cards and “daring” Dick Dunkel’s Power Index will probably rate the Jackets about the same.

But Herz’s OA (On Assumption) prognostication has Rice on the long end of a 20-7 score.

The article on the front page of this week’s Thresher is the first in a series of pre-game articles to be written each week for the Thresher by the sports editor of an Owl opponent’s newspaper.

We had to reciprocate by sending the Technique a full report on the Owls and the good old “Institute.”

One thing for certain, Owl sports followers will be getting the first-hand dope on Rice opponents that even the professional scribes don’t relate.

See you at the game Saturday night. Stag party for all guys having dates with Jones freshmen will be held during the first three timeouts.