"Neely November" Due--Now Is The Time, Etc.

By CHUCK YINGLING

November is traditionally a time when Jess Neely-coached Rice teams rear back and let fly with their best football of the season, much to the despair of their SWC opponents. So far, however, this year has been an exception. Rice has been beaten by Arkansas, and was hard pressed to defeat A&M, a team which hasn't won a conference game in two years.

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Huntin' and Peckin': That four-way tie is still possible if Tech beats Arkansas, Rice beats TCU but loses to Baylor, Texas beats A&M, and Baylor beats SMU. All four teams are prime candidates for bowl bids. Rice is being considered by the Sugar, Gator and Orange Bowls, as well as the still-possible Cotton Bowl trip. And how about Bob Wayt's sudden emergence as the conference's fourth leading rusher? The slashing left halfback cranked up for 117 yards against A&M. Several Owls have good chances at all-conference recognition. Roland Jackson is probably the best all-round fullback in the league; Billy Cox is passing at a .600 clip and is highly rated at the quarterback slot; Johnny Burrell is a fine end; Robert Johnston is having a good year at tackle; and too much can't be said for Rice's middle line combo of Boyd and Rufus King and Bobby Lively. Thirty seniors play their last home game as an Owl tomorrow--our heartiest congratulations and thanks for a job well done. Home attendance this year has averaged nearly 43,000. Sonny Gibbs and E. E. Dodson, TCU's leading passer and rusher against Texas, may have been demoted for "inability to move the ball" psychology, perhaps? The Rice-Baylor game may still be for the Cotton Bowl...so long for now, remember 35-6, pray for Tech, and see you in Waco!