Line Thin At Tackles, Fair At Guard; Coaches Ponder SWC Depth, Heft

By ANDREW JITKOFF

Line coaches Joe Davis and Charlie Moore have ten returning lettermen and prospects for an improved interior line.

The guard position is solid with five above-average candidates. At right guard, co-captain and two-year letterman Johnny Nichols is one of the teams' most experienced players, having started every game in 1962. He has good relief from letterman Wayne Bertsch and Bill Walker, a promising sophomore. At left guard, Ronnie Ulbrich is running ahead of senior Archie Peterson and sophomore Harlan Dearing. Ulbrich is very quick and on defense is the "roving" linebacker, lining up opposite the enemy's strong side.

RICE IS a bit thin in the tackle position with only three men having varsity playing experience. Left tackle John Mims at 266 pounds, is the largest man in the conference and runs a fast eleven-second 100 yard dash. Larry Stewart was a first-team gold shirt until he broke his finger, but he should return to action in three to four weeks. At right tackle, sophomore Jim Vining is running ahead of letterman Richard Bowe and sophomore Warren Arnold.

Center is another position with a depth problem. Malcolm Walker, a 6'4", 243 lbs. giant, is an All-America prospect. After Walker comes Craig Christopher, an All-S.W.C. freshman, and Rudy Schreider, both without varsity experience.

AVERAGING 211 LBS. apiece, Rice's line may have trouble against the 230 lb lines of TCU and Texas A&M.

If the line can escape injury and solve its depth and experience problems, Rice can become more than just a contender.