"Neely November" Arrives With Bang; Owls, Porkers Put Title Hopes On Line

By RONNIE KLINE

Last week we wondered if the Owls could rebound from a major defeat, and they responded with a resounding "yes" as if to affirm that "Neely November" is here. Playing the caliber of football expected of them at the beginning of the season, the Owls displayed a relentless ground attack and an impressively alert defense to smash the Texas Tech Red Raiders, 42-7. After scoring only fifty-two points in five previous contests, the big blue erupted for six touchdowns and handed Tech its worst defeat at the hands of a Rice team since the series began in 1942.

EXAMINING THE SCORE, no one could call this victory a game of breaks; and for what it is worth, we gained more yardage this week-end than even the mighty teasips (national offense leaders) could manage against SMU. Finally gaining a victory margin, Coach Neely was afforded the opportunity to play several third stringers such as Dale Baker, Ronnie Graham, and "Slingin' Sammy" Eskridge. This was a game where everything went right. We grabbed off three enemy aerials and recovered two Tech fumbles, one on our own six yard line. The Owls' "bread and butter" tackle plays netted the greater part of the three hundred and nineteen yards rushing which we amassed.

IN A GREAT DISPLAY of running power, Roland Jackson brought back memories of his outstanding performance against Florida. Time and again, the aggressive Owl line cleared gaping holes through which Jackson bulldozed for yard after yard of Tech real estate. He lugged the leather nineteen times for one hundred five yards, all on straight ahead smash at the Raider line. Coolidge Hunt, star Raider fullback, supposedly was the spotlight attraction, but to say Jackson outshone him would be an understatement. Hunt made eleven trips into the Owl line, and he netted only thirty-four yards.

AS FOR OTHER Owl heroes, one writer, in an attempt to be facetious, pointed out that "the budding Rice Owls blossomed and they were in full BLUME." At a loss for such "utterly descriptive phrases," we still cannot forget the record-breaking performance of Butch Blume. Butch eclipsed Dickey Moegle's old team record of twenty-four points in one game by registering four touchdowns and six extra points. Average seven and one-half yards for ten carries, the La Grange product scored on runs of eleven, seven, and eight yards; and he grabbed a short TD pass with nary a Raider in sight. As coach Neely put it in his usual manner of understatement, "Butch appeared to be open on the play."

Owl fans who were on the scene also received an extra treat as Johnnie Burrell made one of those patented catches we've been waiting all year to see.

FOR THE OWLS, this was a great team effort to prepare them for the homecoming clash with the Arkansas Razorbacks of Coach Frank Broyles. Owl seniors have an old score to settle in this one, having never defeated a Razorback eleven. Two years ago, the Owls took a 10-0 lead into the dressing room at half time, only to see it slip away, 14-10. We don't even care to discuss that 3-0 thing last season. This is the fight for survival in an SWC year riddled by the number one team in the nation. Optimistic Rice supporters say a victory here preserves a chance for a title tie. Even this writer does not care to go as far as the newspaper columnist who wrote the game off by stating, "One could go as far as to say that Rice and Arkansas will be playing . . . for second place in the 1961 final standings. We wonder what the Aggies, Baylor, and TCU (all three remain on the Texas schedule) think of his crystal ball technique.

At any rate, November seems to be a mysterious month in the SWC. Neely teams of the past have reached dizzy heights of suc-