ELEVEN OF this year’s seniors, along with tri-captains Ray Alborn, Johnny Burriel and Roland Jackson were on hand for that game in which the Tigers used the Owls as their first step in becoming the ’59 national champions. A victory will be a must for Jackson who will be playing against former high school teammates from his hometown of Ruston, Louisiana.

The Owl gridironers enter the intersectional scrap as a one point favorite, due to the sharp form they demonstrated in last Saturday’s Blue-Gray game.

ABLE QUARTERBACKING by the team of Billy Cox and Randall Kerbow was comparable to that of the King Hill-Frank Ryan duo of the Owls’ ’57 conference champions. Cox, the junior letterman from Galena Park, demonstrated he has not lost his passing touch after missing last year’s spring practice by completing 17 of 21 passes and a first half touchdown aerial to Bob Wayt.

Kerbow, who will be calling the signals for the alternate unit Saturday night, completed 8 out of 17 passes, one good to Butch Blume for a Gray touchdown. Blume, who bounded the Blue defense all night with his running ability, ended up as the top ground gainer and pass receiver of both teams. The “Teddy Bear” gained 55 yards, rushing and 97 via the air, and produced the longest run of the game, a 34 yarder good for a T.D.

FULLBACK ROLAND Jackson performed up to his all South- west Conference rating by leading the Blues in rushing and playing a flawless defensive game. Few teams will have better depth than the Owls at fullback where Lonnie Caddell and Mike Bowen team up with Jackson to give Rice three Senior lettermen.

DAN MALIN, chosen to fill the vacated center position, handled himself like a veteran and Owl coaches are no longer worried about this vital position which was in doubt earlier this fall. Johnny Cole, the alternate unit’s center, was the only casualty of the game. Cole suffered a sprained ankle, but Trainer Eddie Wejcecki said he will be ready for full game duty in the Saturday opener.

The first team tackle combination of John Cornett and Robert Johnston executed their positions with murderous efficiency, as did team comic Ray Alborn, playing with the alternate unit Grays. Cornett, an exceptionally strong 240 pounder, has already caught the eye of pro-scouts and will likely be a top draft choice this Spring.

BOB WAYT has taken over the punting duties from Roland Jackson, who was 4th in the Conference last year. Wayt toed one total of 68 yds, and was robbed of two others at almost equal distance when they rolled into the end zone. Wayt still ended up with a 37 yd. average for 6 boots.

SEVERAL BRIGHT sophomore prospects performed well enough to catch the eye of the Owl coaching staff. Among those praised by the mentors were a pair of sizeable tackles, Big John Mims, a 250 pounder, and Mike Fritsch. Fritsch, the smaller of the two giants at 240, was also tried at defensive end and did equally well at this position. Paul Piper and Ronnie Dryer, a pair of hard running sophomore backs, proved their ability as capable substitutes for the regulars and no shortage of talent is expected at these positions.

The only change in the line-up as a result of the Blue-Gray game was the promotion of Johnny Nichols to first team guard, replacing Walter Ligon.

As it stands now, the Owls are in top physical condition and primed for action in their season opener.
BANDIT KILLER BILLY COX will lead the Rice Owl’s offense against one of the best defensive teams in the country—LSU—this Saturday night. Cox is an accurate passer and is expected to riddle the Chinese Bandits’ secondary.