Owls Reverse Second-Game Slump, Face Improved Stanford Saturday

BY GERRY URBACH

The slumbering giant came to life just often enough to mow down the outclassed West Virginia Mountaineers 24-0 at Rice stadium Saturday night. Reversing the discouraging trend of losing the second game each fall, the Owls seemed to be fully in command as they relentlessly plowed through the game against overmatched Mountainmen.

Never was the game really in doubt after the Mountaineers muffed a chance to tally after a Rice fumble on the initial play from scrimmage. The Rice defenders were, true to form, plucky in the clutch.

Goal Line Stand

Another enemy threat was repulsed within the five-yard line, and the proud Owls protected their position as the nation's only major team with a 1-1 record and an uncrossed goal line.

The Rice offense picked up considerably from the LSU performance. Walter McReynolds called an imaginative game, cagily interspersing 7 pass completions in 9 attempts with the heretofore heralded but unseen Rice ground attack.

Blocking was much improved over the inept effort against the Tigers. All in all the Owls' solid victory gave promise that this year's edition of Jess Neely's flock may yet perform as predicted and strongly challenge, if not end, the budding Texas dynasty.

Stanford Ahead

The next effort on the comeback trail will be in distant Palo Alto, Calif., against the rapidly improving Stanford Indians. The game promises to be far from a breather, and will be the Owls' first test before a hostile audience.

Stanford, which gave Rice quite a battle last year before bowing 23-13, has been rebuilding under dynamic head coach JohnRalston. The Indians are 1-2 for the young season. They were upset 29-23 by Wash. St. in the opener, bounced back to defeat San Jose State 10-8.

"Variation T"

Last week the Redmen gave nationally ranked UCLA a tremendous scrap before succumbing 27-30. Their free-wheeling offense has shown plenty of punch and could be a serious threat to Rice.

Transfer Terry de Silva directs the Stanford "Variation T." An unheard field general, he completed 18 of 26 passes for over 250 yards in a losing cause last week. Halfback co-captain Dick Ragadale comprises the team's chief running threat.

Rice has yet to taste defeat at the hands of this intersec-