Timme To Open On Mound

Owls Host Texas Friday, Saturday: SWC Lead At Stake

By TED HERMANN
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Out for revenge and their first SWC baseball championship, Dell Morgan’s Rice Owls entertain the Texas Longhorns today and tomorrow in a two game series which should either decide the fate of the 1960 conference crown or throw the league into a three-way title fight. The Rice Band will be present Saturday to add to spirit for the game.

Horns Topple Rice, 8-2

The Owls’ revenge motive was provided by the Horns’ 8-2 mauling of the Owls Saturday in Austin.

A double victory for the Texans this week would give them at least a two game bulge over their nearest competitor with only six games remaining to be played, while a split would still give them a one game advantage.

On the other hand, if the Owls should down the Steers twice and either Baylor or SMU sweep their two-game series in Waco this week, the stage would be set for a three way battle between the Owls, Texas, and the Baylor-SMU winner.

Timme To Open

Morgan is expected to go along with lefty Paul “Tic” Timme in the opener. After the loss to Texas, Timme is 3-2 for the season and 3-1 for the conference action.

Before the Texas encounter he stood fourth in the league in the earned run department with an average of 2.60 and high in the control columns of strike outs and bases on balls with 16 strike outs and only 7 passes in 29 1/3 innings.

Although not yet announced it is expected that either Weldon McFarland, who twirled a five hitter against Trinity last week, or Jerrol Springer, master of Texas Lutheran with a sixhitter, will start the second game for the Owls.

Jim Brock, who was slated to start against Sam Houston Wednesday and Bill Donaldson, still recovering from a sore arm, should be ready for relief duty.

Lively Return

Rice’s offensive power should be strengthened somewhat for the Texas encounters with the return to duty of Bobby Lively, who has been limited to pinch hitting duties lately due to an injury. Lively currently leads the Owls in conference action with a .500 average in ten trips to the plate.

The Owls, who are third in the conference with a team batting average of .275, boast two of the league’s other top hitters in Alvin Hartman at .385, and Bobby Moy at .348. Rice’s early season leaders Lee Raesener and Richard Kristinik have fallen off to the very disappointing averages of .292 and .286 respectively.

Second In Fielding

Surprisingly, the Owls are second in the conference in fielding with a fine .946 average.

Thus if their defensive play holds up, if the Owl hurlers can live up to their pre-season expectations, and if Kristinik and Raesener can add punch to the Rice attack by returning to the early season form — three big if’s—the Owls may well gain their revenge and make possible Rice’s first conference baseball title.

CURRENT STANDINGS

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