How Long Will It Last?

By JOHN ALEXANDER

Too often in the past, the Rice students and team have played a whole season in one night—against Texas. This year’s team can certainly be credited with its finest performance of the season last Saturday night. A list of the players who deserve mention would mean listing every player who saw action.

And even Coach Neely complimented the students on their spirit. Only one nagging question lingers in my mind—how long will it last?

It would certainly be nice in many respects if the season were over now. We have beaten Texas, our archrival, and most people could remember the ’65 season as a successful one.

Every football player could boast, and rightly so, that he had played for a Rice team that beat Texas. Every student could go home Thanksgiving and ride their Teasip friends about the “upset.” Everyone would be happy; Needham would be answered.

But we must come quickly to the realization that Rice has a game Saturday in Lubbock. If the Texas game was the most exciting, then the game with Tech is the most important. The result of what started out to be a miserable season hangs on the outcome of this game.

But the burden of victory now does not lie wholly with the team. Eddie Wojecki heard someone say after the Texas game, “There aren’t any more weanies or jocks, only Rice Students.” What has usually been a student body that loves to complain, now may have something to cheer about. If its spirit lets down, there is no reason to assume the team will “perform their job” or show any “particular interest or pride in their own work.”

Now for the part of the column that has only been wrong 75% of the time. Someone suggested I nominate myself for sportswriter of the year on the basis of the Texas game prediction. Anyone with my blind faith in Rice football would have made the same prediction.

This week Rice 21-14.