Bengals Coming To Roar At Champion Owls Saturday

By LEONARD CARGILL

From the swamplands of Louisiana come Rice's opponents, Louisiana State University, in the opening game of the 1958 football campaign for both teams. This is an opener which will be taken lightly by neither team. Surrounded by tradition, it is always a hard-fought game.

Although the Bengals of L.S.U. are ahead in this series dating back to 1915, they were on the short end of a 20-14 score last season. Coach Paul Dietzel is sure to have them up for this one. L.S.U., though rated below the upper echelon in the tough SEC in most polls, is the almost-unanimous choice as the conference dark horse.

This is no doubt due to their deep, talented backfield and relatively weak line. Their big gun is the fabulous Billy Cannon. Cannon, a 210-pounder who covers 100 yards in a casual 9.5 seconds, is a pre-season All-American in the opinion of many experts. He made little All-American in high school and All-SEC last year as a sophomore.

However, he is by no means the only horse in L.S.U.'s stable. They have two potential greats in quarterback Warren Rabb and halfback Johnny Robinson, not to mention dependable J. W. Brodnax at fullback.

The Tiger front wall, however, is a different story. There they are depending on unproven talent with the notable exceptions of Max Fugler, an outstanding center and linebacker, and Larry Kahlden, a senior guard who captains this year's Tiger eleven. The lineman who makes the difference is big Bo Strange, a sophomore guard.

Rice, defending SWC champion, has virtually the same strengths and weaknesses as L.S.U. Their backfield is strong and their line is inexperienced. At fullback is Ray Chilton, a ground-gainer of some prowess for the last two years. Chilton, one of Rice's tri-captains for the 1958 season, led the Owls in ground-gaining as a soph and was second only to All-American King Hill last year.

At quarterback will be Larry Dueitt, last year's starting halfback. Dueitt, an outstanding quarterback as a freshman, could be really good if his passing improves. As halfbacks, the Owls boast Sonny Searcy and Gordon Speer, two speed merchants who are all-the-way threats every time they carry the ball.

At ends, Rice takes a back seat to no one with the other two tri-captains, Buddy Dial and Gene Jones. Dial, of course, is the flashy, pre-season All-American who specialized in circus catches. Jones is possibly the best all-around player on the team. He can do everything well.

At tackles should be J. A. Smith and Gene Miller, an end last year. Smith is experienced and dependable. At guards, it looks like Cliff McGraw and Gerald Gusler with Charley Pollard at center.

The only thing that one fan can be sure of about this one is that it will be as exciting as any of its 28 predecessors in one of this section's most thrilling rivalries.