Rice Owls show upsets do happen

by LEE HALL
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. . . Rice U 17, LSU 15 . . .

When a team is considered to have little chance of winning a game, and then does just that, it is called an upset—and that is the game you will remember.

Rice may play several games this year when we will be a heavy underdog, and we may get totally smashed. But until the game is played, there will be hope. The spectators, the players, the coaches will all have some hope because they will remember this game. It can happen.

If you were an upperclassman, you went to the game expecting very little, but you knew that it could happen. “I remember last year, in Austin . . .”

If you drove all the way to Houston from South Louisiana, you won’t forget the game. You were hoping for a massacre, like last year’s game. “This is going to be our year. We’re off to a good start. This one should be easy . . . We’re playing terrible, even if we are winning. We will do better in the next half. They are playing over their heads. Any minute now we will break this thing wide open . . . Beating Rice by five points won’t help our ranking at all . . . What if they were to score right now on some fluke play? . . . Why aren’t we stopping them? . . . They might win!”

If you were a freshman watching your first collegiate game, you didn’t know what to expect, and you may be thinking now that the whole season will go this way. “If we could only play this well all year, we could beat almost anyone,” you are saying, or “Why aren’t we nationally ranked?”

If you played in that game, you will also remember it. On that night, you proved something to 60,000 people and to yourself. You had said that you had a good team, capable of beating someone. You didn’t give up and you won—you were right.

How did it happen? Rice did all of the things characteristic of winning teams. The team was alert, made some mistakes—but they weren’t disastrous—came from behind. We beat a good team. Maybe they didn’t play as well as they could have, but then that is the advantage of having a low-rated team.

In the past Rice has never been able to play well in two consecutive games. This week’s opponent, Tennessee, will be another formidable team. They are coached by an ex-Arkansas assistant, and they resemble the Razorbacks, with their light-weight, quick, stunting defense.

They don’t try to overpower people, but rather try to outmaneuver them. Last week they exhibited an extremely accurate passing game, and they can also run the ball well.

We will again be the underdog, but now we have hope. It could happen again.