FIGHTING OWLS FACE SPIRITED BAYLOR BEARS

By TED HERMANN

This Saturday the fightingest group of Rice Owls in a decade makes an attempt to square its season record at 5-5 and nail down the runner up's spot in this season's SWC scramble. The Owls, certainly the finest football team in the nation with five defeats, are faced with the certain fact that it will take another all out effort to prevent Rice from having its third losing football season in four years.

AS IF CALDWELL, Milstead and Ennis were not enough the Owls must face another top notch passer in Bruin quarterback Buddy Humphrey. Saturday, in Baylor's 33-29 loss to SMU, Humphrey threw 27 times, completing 18 for 182 yards and two touchdowns.

BOTH touchdowns came on a diagonal pass play to halfback Jerry Moore. This play is very similar to the diagonal pass which Army threw to its lone some end and which gave the Owls such a difficult time three weeks ago. On one other occasion Moore dropped an identical pass in the end zone.

Other favorite receivers of Humphrey are ends Austin Gonsoulin and Al Witcher and backs Bill Pavliska and Martin Fuquay.

THE OTHER big gun in Baylor's split end-halfback flanker type offense is All-American candidate, fullback Larry Hickman. Hickman carried the ball 19 times Saturday, one more than Hart Peebles' 18 carries against TCU, for 90 of Baylor's 148 yards rushing. Among these 19 thrusts at the Mustang line were two touchdown lunges of seven yards and one foot each.

HALFBACKS Dickey Clark

(Continued on Page 3)
and Arthur Beall round out the Bears' first string backfield. Both are fine receivers but neither has shown great running ability and therefore they are used mainly as decoys for Humphrey and Hickman.

BAYLOR’S forward wall was very effective Saturday as it helped the Bruins roll up 398 yards of offense while limiting SMU to only 142 yards on the ground. Outstanding performers in the Bear’s interior line have been guards Gayle Watkins and Bill Horton.

ALTHOUGH Baylor has not been too impressive in the win and loss columns this season, the Bears have played some fine football and have shown an almost invincible spirit and fight in the face of a very disappointing season. An added incentive for the Bears Saturday will be the fact that by winning they can relinquish their singular possession of the SWC cellar.

IN THE OWLS, Hickman will probably face the finest defensive lines he has come up against all season. Both Rice forward walls were outstanding against TCU. Especially outstanding were Buddy Dial, Boyd King, Don Rather, J. D. Smith, Bill Simmons, Gerald Gusler, and one of the most aggressive, hardest hitting football players ever to wear a Rice uniform, Gene Jones.

If Rice’s line plays up to form this Saturday the Owls should not have too much trouble containing Baylor’s one man running attack.

AS TO STOPPING the passing of Mr. Humphrey, this is another question. Certainly the Rice secondary will have to improve over their last three performances or this Saturday’s contest will probably turn into a foot race similar to the one witnessed last Saturday in Dallas. Thus far the only flickering star in Rice’s defensive backfield has been the Owl’s workhorse fullback Hart Peebles.

IF THIS week’s game should turn into such a contest Rice’s offense will certainly have its hands full matching the pace that will be set by Humphrey and company. Especially since the Owls only have two downs in which to make a first down before punting whereas Baylor will probably have three.

FOR RICE a victory this Saturday will mean the following: it will square the Owl’s record at 5-5 and prevent a very undeserved losing season for this fine football team, it will secure at least a very respectable tie for second place in this year’s SWC race, and most important it will serve further proof of the 1958 Rice Owl’s desire and never-say-die spirit.