Of the team that forgot how to win

By TOMMY HEARRON
Thresher Sports Editor

After the A & M game, what can you say?
That the team tries hard. That it doesn’t give up, even in the last seconds of a game. And that it still continues to lose.

Of course, to many the team’s losing is not unexpected. After all, at the opening of the season the consensus of the nation’s sportswriters was that Rice would finish last in the conference. And sure enough, thus far the record corroborates this early prediction. An 0-5 conference mark isn’t overly impressive.

It would be so much simpler for everyone if the team would merely go out and be trounced each week. Then, no one would expect too much of them. But no. In their insistence on making a battle out of every game, the players continue to give everyone renewed hope for the next week. Each week we say, “If it hadn’t been for that one bad break . . .” and “If only that field goal had been good . . .” and, “Next week everything will be different.”

But so far this year it hasn’t. And for many of us, it’s been heartbreaking.

But the defeats of the past are now soundly sealed in the Conference record book, and it’s time to try again next week, for there’s always next week, and the week after that, then the week after, just as in each game there’s always ten minutes left, then five, three, two, one . . .

But when the game’s over, it’s time to go home.

Several weeks ago we remarked that there was still time to salvage a respectable season. Now, although that time is past, there still remain two games against two not-so-strong opponents. And although a respectable season is no longer possible, there is still time to prevent this year’s being a total disaster.

A victory over TCU, though entirely within the realm of possibility, will still be difficult this week. For although the Horned Frogs have only a 2-6 record, and possess the league’s most impotent offense (having scored fewer than six points per game), the Frogs will be out to win this one for their seriously ill coach, Abe Martin.

Moreover, since Rice traditionally plays its worst game of the year against Baylor, probably this week will be the last opportunity to get into the win column.

And so, once again the Owls go forth. Perhaps they will win, perhaps not. This sportswriter has learned it is unwise to predict.