Thinclads Shatter Precedent: Owls May Be Track Threat

By CORDELL HAYMON

Back in early fall, when headlines were filled with passes and fumbles, a group of athletes began to work toward a climax which will come on May 10-11 in the Arkansas Hills, when for the first time in years, Rice will be a serious contender for the Southwest Conference track championship.

Rising optimism is based on the Owl win in the LSU Invitational and a strong second place finish at the Southwest Relays last weekend.

Friday the Owls will challenge SMU and Texas A&M in a triangular at Dallas which will be a rugged test of strength for Em-

met Brunson’s thinclads.

Best known of the Owls is senior pole vaulter Fred Hansen, defending NCAA champion whose 16-1 leap last week far surpasses his own conference record. Soph Warren Bratlof, who has cleared 15-6 1/2, rates as Hansen’s strongest threat for conference honors.

Another strong favorite is Ed Red, junior javelin thrower who last week fired the spear an outstanding 260-7 1/2. He is defending SWC champ.

In the sprints Glen Darby (100 and 200) and Wayne Windham (440) are definite contenders. Bobby May has displayed excellent speed and form as he has (Continued on Page 6)
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done well as 14.1 in the low hurdles, and fellow soph Verl Brown is also a hurdles threat.
Improving senior Jack Weldon has jumped better than 23 feet in the broad jump, although Hansen is Rice’s top participant, as he is defending champion for the conference.
Bob Beck’s consistent 6-3 may take a place in the high jump, but the Owls are not counting on any help in the discus and shot put.
The relays are the crucial events, and the Owls will field a pair of excellent quartets. Bill Ashmore, Doug Aldmon, Bobby May, and Glenn Darby run the 440, while Windham replaces Ashmore in the mile.
The hopes for the future are even brighter. Owl freshmen defeated perpetual powers Texas and Texas A&M in a frosh triangular. Most of the sprinters are sophs, and the Owls may be a solid favorite in SWC track next year.