Divine intervention rescues Bruins

By LEE HALL

“I swear to God, we’re going to church tomorrow.” The above statement, made by UCLA’s Harold Busby immediately after the game Saturday, pretty well sums up the outcome of that game.

Until the gods decided to intervene, the Rice Owls appeared to have a momentous upset in their grasp. But we lost.

Anyone can praise a winner. The Owls have lost two of our first three games this year. Yet few teams have ever deserved so much praise. Saturday the Owls out-fought and out-hustled a superior opponent.

We moved the ball at will because of hard running and determined blocking. We could not stop UCLA’s offense, but we contained them in the center of the field, and prevented their famous long bomb until that play in the fourth quarter.

UCLA fully expected to win by merely running out onto the field. But they were never able to take the game from us, and could attain the victory in the last 7 second only after we gave it away.

This Saturday, in Dallas, the Owls open up their defense of Southwest Conference cellar. Our opponent will be the SMU Mustangs, who can be described only as erratic.

This year, however, they have more talent with which to be erratic. Their offense is remarkably similar to UCLA’s in intent, if not in execution. Mac Phite plays Gary Beban and Jerry Levis plays Harold Busby. No one plays Mel Farr.

The Musang defense has been superb on occasion. They are a little bigger and stronger and, in general, better than in past year. For this season, they do not stunt quite as much as they did in those years.

For the fourth time this year, Rice will go into the game as the underdog. It’s getting to be an enjoyable position.