Teamwork Outstanding; Three Platoons Shine

By CHUCK YINGLING

Without a doubt, last Saturday's 47-0 romp over SMU was one of the greatest team efforts seen in many a moon around these parts. Trying to single out any outstanding performers is nearly an impossible task — everybody looked great!

Alvin Hartman, Billy Cox, and Randall Kerbow were nearly flawless at quarterback, hitting a combined total of 14 out of 18 passes. Bob Wayt, Rice's leading rusher against SMU, Max Webb, Roland Jackson, Butch Blume, Spencer Brown, Mike Bowen, Kerbow, Jerry Candler, Lonnie Codell, and Wayne McClelland accounted for 180 rushing yards among themselves.

McCLELLAND, a fourth string halfback, came in late in the game and performed like a scared jackrabbit, darting around through the harassed Pony defenses for 16 yards on two carries, catching two passes for 20 yards, running a punt back 27 yards, and kicking two extra points.

McClelland was aided in the reception department by Johnny Burrell, Ken Fulton, Tommy Stellman, Wayt, Brown, Blume, Jackson, and Candler, who combined for 12 catches, 215 yards, and two TD's.

EVEN THE LINE got into the scoring act when third string tackle Max Burnett deflected a pass into the arms of another third stringer, Charles Boatman, who lumbered 30 yards into the end zone for the final Rice tally.

Jim Stroud, Boyd King, Larry Anthony, Robert Johnston, George, Ray Alborn, Webb, Cox, Jackson, Burrell, Dickie Woods, and Gene Raesz led the aggressive Owl defense which has allowed only one touchdown all season and let SMU get past the Rice 45 only once.

IT WOULD indeed seem that Rice has reached the point of three-platoon football — and pre-season reports had the Owls hurting for depth! Our congratulations to Jess Neely and Co. for a job done to perfection.

This week is the big one. Remembering last year's outing which saw Rice outplay Texas but lose 28-6, the Owls are riding high for a chance to redeem themselves against the frat-rats. This is the game they have been waiting for since the beginning of fall drills.

Apparently the Owls have found the combination of offense and defense necessary to have a winning team. Saturday's game

should settle the matter of whether or not Rice is really that good. After viewing them last week, we think they are.

WITH GARY Pogue back in action and brother Ray injured for the Teasips, the Rice running game should have the edge over the Longhorns, who have the edge over the Longhorns, who have yet to get a top performance from all-SWC Jack Collins. And Rice's combination of accurate passers with at least half a dozen capable receivers gives them a definite edge over the Steers, who had considerable trouble coping with Arkansas' air attack last week.

Add to this the gritty Owl defense together with a burning desire to win, and things begin to look rosy. From our vantage point behind the typewriter we'll have to give Rice the edge — make it about 20-13 and put it in the record that 70,000 fans should see one of the most exciting games of the season tomorrow night.

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