Victory, Victory, Lovett Hall For A Victory

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All through September and October they said it couldn't possibly be done. But now in November even the staunchest Rice supporter is beginning to have his doubts as to whether the 1959 Rice Owls are going to win a football game.

And this Saturday, aided by homecoming spirit and an opponent which has dropped its last four encounters, the Owls have what may be their last golden opportunity for the gridiron glory which many predicted for them at the beginning of the season.

Began With LSU

It all began back on a sunny afternoon in September when, after establishing a 3-0 halftime lead, the Owls melted before the nineteen point fourth period assault of the mighty LSU Tigers. The causes for defeat on that afternoon were simple, LSU superiority and depth and the Owls' poor early season conditioning. Since that time the causes of the other five defeats have also been simple.

But for some strange reason, there are almost as many of these simple causes as there have been defeats. To list only a few, there has been: Passitus, receivingitus, fumbleitus, and finally last week second-teamitus, none of whose causes can be found in any biological laboratory. However the cause is just as simple as the number of victories won by the Owls this season.

Need Confidence

Faced with an overpowering schedule and plagued by injuries and bad breaks, the Owls simply haven't been able to gain the confidence needed for a winning football team. And a lack of confidence can do just as much, if not more, damage to a fine football team than its counterpart over-confidence. For it takes only one defeat to crush over-confidence while a lack of confidence can hound a team the entire season.

Last Saturday a spirited Arkansas eleven showed the confidence needed by a winning team as they came from behind to defeat the Owls 14-10. After the game, one Parker made the following statement which characterized that team confidence: "It just never dawned on me that we might lose."

On the other hand, the Rice Owls, after moving up and down the field like they owned it all afternoon, exhibited their definite lack of confidence as they failed to score the go-ahead touchdown in the fourth quarter, although presented with three opportunities.

Owls Try Cure

So Saturday afternoon the Owls will attempt the only cure for the disease which has plagued them through their seven previous contests. Fired up, to the point where they will forget their past mistakes, by the spirit of homecoming and visions of little brown men, they will storm onto the gridiron tomorrow after the victory which will establish their long tardy and long needed team confidence.