Rice Eyes First Win In Blue Devil Fray

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Rice’s Owls make their second attempt at breaking into the win column for the 1959 grid season when they tackle the Duke Blue Devils in Durham, N. C., Saturday. Duke is a slim three-point pick to handle the Owls their second straight setback.

The Blue Devils are likewise searching for their first victory. South Carolina cashed in on breaks to upset Bill Murray’s squad 12-7, and power-laden Ohio State made it two straight by bouncing Duke 14-13.

Duke and Rice will present very similar ball clubs when they clash. Both teams are blessed with a strong inner line, and both are shy on backfield help. One of the finest linemen in the country operates from the Duke guard position in Mike McGe. Adding power to the veteran line corps are tackle Jim Gardner, 227 lb. center Ted Royall, and a fine pair of ends, Bob Spada and Claude Moorman.

Against this Duke line Rice will throw one of college football’s best interior lines: Don Rather, Gene Miller, Bobby Lively, and the brother act of Rufus and Boyd King.

Adding to the similarity between Saturday’s opponents, both teams employ the quick kick. Rice used it to good advantage in holding LSU in the first half of the Baton Rouge battle. Duke also exploited it in their opener, but with less profitable results: a blocked quick kick led to South Carolina’s first score in the 12-7 loss.

Duke received hard losses through graduation, losing two all-conference halfbacks in speedy Wray Carlton and George Detrow. It was Carlton who smartly worked through the Rice line for 76 yards on the first play from scrimmage in the 1957 clash between these two squads. Duke kicked the point and made the margin stand up as they topped the Owls, 7-6.