A glimpse through a glass darkly
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Now that the tennis and golf teams find themselves struggling to avoid total annihilation; now that the track team, plodding through the marshes, is having its meets rained out, and now that the baseball team has given up winning ball games for Lent, it would seem that there is really very little for an enterprising sports writer to talk about this week.

However, all—nearly all, to be sure, but not all—all is not lost!

Last Friday venerable Rice Stadium was the site of one of the most encouraging athletic displays we've seen at Rice in a long time, the Blue-Grey game. Billed as a “toss-up” with the talent allegedly divided equally between the two teams, the game featured next year's entire squad—excepting baseballers Hugo Hollas, Doug Nicholson, and Frankie Mandola (who was excused from the game so that he could break his leg in the baseball game against Texas)—and the caliber of play was certainly encouraging.

Although the Greys dominated the entire game, and Robbie Shelton easily won the celebrated “battle of the quarterbacks” (his passing really has improved), there was good play all the way around. In fact, Shelton’s runs on the roll-out option, accompanied by a wave of blockers devastating the defensive end, reminded us of nothing less than the celebrated Texas option play of their '63 championship team. Even Pascual Piedfort, filling in for Hailey at quarterback, showed a passing proficiency far beyond what one would expect from a starting safety.

The receiving seems to be (literally) in good hands, with soph Dickie Phillips and redshirt Larry Davis making spectacular catches all evening. The punting game, as expected, ranged in quality from awful to atrocious, but Wayne Kennedy’s place kicking showed a consistency which Rice has not shown in recent years.

At this time, then, being the fearless (perhaps reckless) Sports Editor that we are, we wish to take this opportunity to make the very first prediction of the upcoming football season by announcing the entire order of finish in the SWC next year. Clip this column, sports fans.

1. Texas—there’s been a lot of noise coming from Austin, and assuming that Bill Bradley, Chris Gilbert, and the other interchangeable flunkies stay healthy, there just might be something to the rumor that ’67 is “The Year of the Longhorn.”

2. Arkansas—hit heavily by graduation losses, but somehow Frank Broyles always manages to put together a passable squad.

3. Rice—we almost want to pick Rice second, but the poor kicking game, the loss of Frank Mandola, and the usual number of end-of-the-year drop-outs will probably prevent a much higher finish. With luck, Hagan’s first team has a chance to take it all.

4. Texas A&M—a good, young team last year should overcome its inconsistencies.

5. SMU—Levias is back, but the spark plug, Mac White, is gone. Injuries and other bad luck could mean an even lower finish.

6. TCU—a senior-laden team that was supposed to give it a run this year collapsed, and there is no reason to believe the graduation-decimated Frogs will finish much higher.

7. Baylor—the loss of a top-notch passer in Terry Southall spells doom for the pass-conscious Bears.

8. Texas Tech—not very impressive this year, and little prospect for improvement.

That’s how we see ’em, sports fans; and if it truly comes to pass, remember you saw it first in the Rice Thrasher.