Owlmen Upset Texas But Not On Scoreboard

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As the statistics above indicate, Saturday night in Austin the Rice Owls did everything but win the ball game, and they didn’t even come close to doing that. The two omitted statistics which tell the tale are: Fumbles, Rice lost five of five. Punts, the Owls punted five times for a 26 yard average and had one punt blocked. And therein lies the ball game, for the Longhorns were forced to march only 72 yards for their first three scores while the Owls penetrated the Steer 35 on six occasions without scoring.

Fumbles, Fumbles, Fumbles

Of the five Rice fumbles, one, on the Texas Owl 25, set up the first Texas touchdown while three others, occurring on the Texas 1, 4, and 32, stopped strong Rice scoring bids. Three other times the Owls threatened the Longhorn goal line, being repulsed from the two, missing a field goal from the 27, and reaching the Texas 17 at the end of the game.

Two other Texas touchdowns also came as the result of Rice gifts. One following a 21 yard punt and the other resulting from a blocked punt on the Owl seven.

No Place-Kicking

Place kicking, reputed to be one of Rice’s strong points before the season, continued to be virtually non-existent as the Owls failed on one field goal attempt and on point after try.

But fumbles and kicking were not the only Owl mistakes Saturday night. A completed pass to an ineligible receiver and several muffed assignments in the backfield also served to illustrate that, despite blocking, tackling, and running like champions, the Owls looked like they were playing their first game of the season Saturday night.

Damn Good Spirit

For the second week in a row the Rice student body is to be commended for their fine turnout and effort in Austin. The cheering sounded fine despite the facts that the Rice student body was divided into sections which were separated by some 25 yards of Tea Sips, and that two Owl cheerleaders chose to desert some 200 Rice students seated in the end zone section,