Coach Bill Beall
Well Traveled

By RONNIE KLINE

On the average, the members of the Rice coaching staff possess fifteen years of football experience with the Owls. Although marshalled by such veterans as Jess Neely, Cecil Griggs, and Joe Davis, the staff includes two younger men with lesser experience but owning keen football minds. One of these men is Bill Beall.

BEALL’S VERY interesting athletic career has made him a “well traveled” man. The thirty-nine year old backfield coach began his football playing days at the University of Missouri. Following his freshman year, he moved to Arkansas State, until entering the armed forces during World War II. Although a navy pilot during the war, Beall found time to do some coaching while in the service. Retiring from active duty in 1947, Beall entered Memphis State and finished work on his Bachelor’s Degree. When asked why he didn’t play football, Coach Beall replied, “I was too old” (twenty-five).

“TOO OLD” TO PLAY football, Beall concentrated on baseball as a third baseman. He modestly dismisses any athletic “claims to fame” by stating, “Ours is a unique athletic family—no athletes.”

In January, 1955, Beall came to Rice for the purpose of showing prospective footballer, Wade Rogers, the campus. As Beall displayed an excellent command of the game, Coach Neely offered him a permanent job, which he quickly accepted.

On the field, Coach Beall works with “Bo” Hagen in developing the Owl backfield. Formerly coach of the Rice Freshmen squads, Beall still tutors the Owlet baseball club.