

Fading Owls Try Ags

The sagging Rice Owls, bounced from first place in the Southwest Conference, try to rebound this weekend in a two game series against the defending champion Texas Aggies in Aggieland.

The Farmers haven't exactly had smooth sailing this year, either. A 4-3 loss to Rice sent them on a three game losing streak, which gives them their current 1-3 position in the conference. The Aggies are currently holding down the cellar spot.

The strong left arm of Paul Timme held the hopes of the Owls in Friday's encounter, and either Jerol Springer or Jim Brock is slated for the final game. Both are righthanders. Timme felled the Aggies in Houston, being hit hard in the first three innings but struggling through until he retired 15 straight batters through the eighth frame.

Rice, which opened the season with flourish, is in the throes of a three game losing streak. Defending NCAA champion Oklahoma State punished Owl pitching to the tune of 10-1 and repeated with a 4-2 triumph to sweep the two game series. After a rainout with Baylor, Rice succumbed to SMU, 9-3, to fall out of the Southwest Conference lead.

The top spot in the conference is held by Texas, winners

of three straight games to counter their opening loss to Baylor. SMU trails Texas by a half-game, only a few percentage points behind Rice in a tie for second.

Rain has washed out two Owl encounters, an early duel with Texas and last Saturday's game with Baylor. Play in that one was cancelled in the second inning with the game a scoreless deadlock. Tentative plans have been made to reschedule the games for Tuesday, April 12, and possibly the following Tuesday during Easter vacation.

The only scheduled holiday week action for the Owls is a non-conference struggle with Trinity of San Antonio Wednesday.

Southwest Conference Standings:

Team	Won	Lost	GB
Texas	3	1	
Rice	2	1	½
SMU	3	2	½
Baylor	2	2	1
TCU	1	3	2
A & M	1	3	2



ALL-AMERICAN — Last season's SWC batting titlist and third team All-American, Rich-ard Kristinik once again sparks the Owl diamond nine.