

Owls Win Bowl Money; Cagers Improve Record

By CHUCK YINGLING

Ole Miss won the ball game, but Rice won the money. Although the battling Owls finally lost the Sugar Bowl game 14 to 6, they beat the established betting line, which had established Coach John Vaught's Rebels as 10 point favorites. At least Rice supporters had something to cheer about — they walked off with a lot of Mississippi money, although quite a bit probably wound up in New Orleans.

Ironically, the big question about the game was whether the Owl pass defense could hold up under fire from the Reb's Jake Gibbs; as things turned out, it was the Mississippi pass defense that won the game. Rice moved the ball better than Ole Miss, but three pass interceptions deep in Rebel territory killed off Rice drives that could have made the difference and enabled the Owls to pull off the biggest upset of the post-season schedule.

Nevertheless, the Raptorials (look it up) covered themselves with glory before a national TV audience, and showed promise of things to come. As one player remarked after the game, "We're gonna win that conference next year!"

With seven starters and eight from the second unit returning, they just may do that.

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Meanwhile, on the cage court, the roundballers have already surpassed last year's season record and equalled the conference record with a 5-6 slate (1-1 in loop play) prior to Tuesday's game with TCU.

After a 4-5 mark in pre-season competition, the Owls opened SWC play with an impressive 70-59 win over Baylor. Dick Park, a non-starter, came off the bench to lead the scoring with 18 points.

Saturday, however, things didn't go so well. Texas Tech crushed Rice 78-45. The Owls hit only 19 per cent of their field goals and were out-rebounded, many of Tech's points coming on tip-ins. As soph John Morgan put it, "It just wasn't our night. We weren't hitting and we got

out-hustled."

Nevertheless, the Owls have shown considerable promise, if they can ever put it all together. Olle Shipley, Rice's "Big O," Steve Smith, who hit 22 against Tech, Dick Park, Roland Burris, Mike Maroney, Jim Fox, and Steve Galloway, presently out with a sprained ankle, have all had good nights, and if everybody can get hot on the same nights, the Owls could be hard to stop.

Last action for Rice before finals will be Saturday, when they travel to Fayetteville to meet favored Arkansas.

And how about those freshmen? With a 3-1 record as of this writing, they have really looked impressive. Before the Baylor game, they beat South Texas JC 94-66, led by Kendall Rhine's 22 points. Rhine, 6-9 center and "little" brother of Paul Rhine of the varsity, cards a 23.8 scoring average.