

SPORTS OUTLOOK

BY A. S. QUEEN

Jimmie Kitts, who came to Houston with a reputation as a basketball coach, but who was quite unknown in football circles, is leading the Rice Institute Owls through one of the best seasons they have ever enjoyed. The football-mad Houstonians are supporting the Rice team, and they now boast the best team in the Southwestern Conference—incidentally one of the best in the South. The Owls have such outstanding stars as William "Bill" Wallas, John McCauly, Percy Arthur, Frank Steen and Sylvester. The conference leaders have won all their conference contests, and have beaten such strong teams as Creighton and Purdue. Their decisive win over the Boilermakers put them on the football map and under the Eastern eye. The Owls have a good chance to go through the season undefeated, since the only team that has made a serious threat toward marring their record is L S U, who played them to a 9-9 draw.

The Owls have never won a football crown in the Southwestern Conference, although Rice has had some strong teams in its history. The championship-seeking Owls will invade Aggieland Saturday in hopes of revenging a number of decisive defeats suffered at the hands of the Aggies, including two that cost Rice championships. It was in 1917 that the two teams met on Thanksgiving day as undefeated teams. The Owls were favorites to win the contest yet the Cadets handed them a 10 to 0 beating on Kyle Field, bringing out such stars as "Little Hig" Higginbotham, Jack Mahan, and Woodrow Wilson. It was in 1924 that the Owls met the underrated Aggies at College Station and were beaten.

This year Rice invades Aggieland with the best team she has ever boasted, and a team that has defeated Texas University, S M U, Arkansas, Creighton, Purdue, Loyola, and tied L S U. They are favorites to win the game. However, both Coach Kitts and Rice followers know that the game will be a hard-fought affair and the Rice outlook on the game is not characteristic of the dope that goes with it. The Owls whipped S M U 9 to 0 in Houston at the opening conference engagement of the season. The Owls stopped the Pony running attack in that game, although pass fumbles cost the Mustangs two touchdowns yet the Owls could not stop the S M U passing attack. The Kittsmen took to the air in the last four minutes of play to defeat the Texas University Longhorns 20 to 13 in a wild game at Houston. Last week on an invasion into Arkansas the feathered Monarchs had difficulties in defeating the Razorbacks 7 to 0. The game was played largely in Rice territory, indicating that the Arkansas

offense was as effective against the Owls as it was against the Aggies when the Cadets and Hogs battled to a 7-7 tie here November 3.

S M U has a very strong team and despite her defeat by Rice and the tie suffered at the hands of the Steers many critics still believe that S M U has the strongest team in the Conference. The Ponies beat the Aggies 28 to 0 last Saturday, when they had a perfect day at passing. In Austin November 3 the Mustangs tied the Steers 7-7, but the game that was played is not told in the tie score as the Steers were completely out-played. October 27 the Morrison-and-Bell-coached clan went to New York and humiliated the Fordham Rams 26 to 6 in a game played in the rain. Although the remainder of the S M U schedule shows Arkansas, Baylor and T C U yet to play the Ponies are not likely to lose another game.

T C U cannot be counted out of the race since only the Razorbacks have been able to render a verdict over them. The Frogs have as good a passing and running combination as any team in the conference. Sam Baugh can pass with any of the backs in the conference, although he cannot be classed with Bob Wilson and Joe Jack Pierce who are in a class to themselves. Both Baugh and Jimmie Lawrence give the Froggies a first rating in drive and plunge from the backfield, and the Toads are ably supported on the line by Darrell Lester and Company. The Christians have the greater part of their load yet to bear since they take Texas, Rice, and S M U in the next three consecutive weeks. They are the three strongest teams in the conference, and the Toads must take them in order to remain in the race.

The Longhorns made a good showing in the East early in the season by taking the Irish of Notre Dame for a 7 to 6 trouncing and then came back to the Southwest with very little success. After honoring Jack Chevigny, Steer coach, for his victory over his former mates at Notre Dame he lost to Centenary, Rice, and tied the Southern Methodists. The victory over Baylor was the first since the Steers downed the University of Oklahoma Sooners in Dallas.

The Longhorns are a stronger team today than they were when they lost either of their games. At that time they were playing without the services of Bohn Hilliard, and part of the time without Jack Gray. When they meet the Frogs next week they will swing their full strength. Such stars as Hilliard and Jurecka in the backfield, and Coates, Sanger and Gray in the line will make a great difference in the Texas side of the ledger.