

# Rice Owls Begin 'Start Over' Year

By BILL WHITMORE  
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Rice Institute

Houston (Special)—It is a "start over" year for the Owls since 21 lettermen are gone from last year's great Southwest Conference and Cotton Bowl championship team, perhaps the best team in a colorful Rice grid history.

Despite heavy losses from the senior-dominated '49 Owl aggregation, the '50 Owls do not want folks feeling sorry for them. They figure to be one of the nation's better teams this fall, although to expect a repetition of 1949 would be too much.

The big problem for Head Coach Jess Neely and his aids will be the development of capable reserves. Manpower was a major asset for the '49 champions, will be a major debit for '50, with or without international complications.

The standard T formation first string offense looked quite sharp in spring drills, and there were several top notch replacements who

showed up well. The front line defense appeared quite adequate but relief may be a headache because those defensive reserves are inexperienced, and head man Neely likes his defenders to have that savvy that comes only from experience.

On the basis of spring training, and prior to the pre-season fall drills, here is the way the Rice line picture shapes up. Senior letterman Frank Allen and junior letterman Bill Howton slated to scrap it out for the left end post, while senior squadman A. L. Boughton and junior letterman Sonny McCurry will battle for the right end honors.

Three lettermen will handle the heavy duty at vital posts. At right tackle huge Paul Gioski is slated for iron man duty, both offense and defense. If he shows as well as in spring training and as a defensive specialist last fall, Gioski will be a candidate for national honors.

### Walls—A "Find"

Letterman Glenn Walls, a "find" on last year's squad, should be the left tackle offensive starter, while "R" man Bob Winship specializes on defense at left tackle. Beyond these three men, Rice's tackle situation is shaky, with squadmen Charles Bittner, Lynn Preston, and Ted Watson and sophs Buddy Edwards, John Boswell, A. J. Loth, and Bill Crockett out to prove their worth.

Tri-captain Ike Neumann switched from fullback to guard last fall with great success, but he'll have to play both offense and defense to give the Owls experience at right guard. A promising sophomore, Gene Little at 210, won the starting left guard role in the spring but will have a battle in the fall to hold it from squadmen Ed McLeish and Charley Stearns, and soph Fred Curry.

Lack of experience is the danger at the center post of the Blue and Gray forward wall. The only letterman is Lee Stonestreet, a very capable player and a team tri-captain.

Backing up Stonestreet will be junior squadman Jack Day and soph Donnie Rhoden, who was a linebacking demon with the freshmen. Plans call for Stonestreet to get first call on offense, and the three—Stonestreet, Day, and Rhoden—to alternate around in filling the line-backer positions. Soph Weldon Wersterfer may see some action.

The vital quarterback post will be controlled by Vernon Glass, who for two years played in the shadow of Tabin Rife. Tri-captain Glass is a leader, as he showed by picking the team off the floor to beat Texas last year. He is a very sharp passer, and his ball handling has improved.

Senior squadman Harmon Carswell is waiting his chance after being hampered by a knee injury two years. Sophs Dan Drake and Billy Frazier will get experience spelling Glass.

### Half Position—Split

At left half, it seems to be an offensive split between Sonny Wyatt and Rex Proctor with squadmen Teddy Riggs, Gene Silver and sophs Billy Ed Daniel making this one of the best manned posts on the team.

Billy Burkhalter will be bidding for national honors at right halfback, in his junior year, backed by letterman Braden. Senior squadman Don Campbell and soph Dickie Bob Haddox furnish good insurance.

Fullback George Glaue, senior letterman, may be the surprise of the year.

The hooting will be adequate, the defense will be worked out in the fall, and Burkhalter will probably take over Froggie's job of extra points while with Watson gone. Hardy Dean and Stonestreet will be the kick off specialists.

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and A. J. Marchand, top runner among the Q-B's.  
"At this stage," says Nugent, "the outlook is good. We have very few problems compared with what we had in '49. If we can work these problems out, we definitely are headed in the right direction."

# Arkansas Switching to Split-T

By BOB CHEYNE  
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Fayetteville, Ark. (Special)—The 1950 Arkansas Razorbacks, once again switching to a new type of offense, the split-T, will be a speedy, offensive-minded, well-drilled team that on a given Saturday afternoon will be able to rise to a very high calibre of play.

On the other hand, however, the Porkers will be generated by a still somewhat inexperienced array of quarterbacks; will be found lacking in depth in several positions; and will take some hard-knocking before they work into the great offensive unit Otis Douglas demands of them.

### "... Move That Ball ..."

With the pro minded Douglas at the helm, the chant "Move that ball" has become fixed in the minds of every player from the eager soph to the hardened senior. Douglas thinks in terms of offense.

"Our idea is to move that ball forward, and though we'll be erratic early in the season, I think we'll do plenty of scoring," he said.

On the defense, Douglas says his Hogs will give no quarter. "I think Arkansas will have as good a defense as any team in the loop," he declared. "On defense," he went on, "our deepest safety man will be six feet behind the line of scrimmage. I want every man in the game. I don't want any spectators on the field."

### "... Have to Outrun Us ..."

"On quick-kicks," Douglas continued anticipating the question, "they'll have to outrun us to get the ball and I don't think anybody is going to outrun our boys."

In a position by position analysis, Douglas rates speed as the number one requirement. He regards Bob Griffin at center as potentially great, but he'll be pushed by junior letterman Jimmie Smith, a 205-pound veteran.

The guard situation on the other hand has Otis worried. "We might be all right in 1950, but with the seniors this year we'll probably be using all sophomores in 1951," he said.

The tackles will have to get their blocking down solidly, especially on defense, but otherwise they look okay to Douglas. A former pro tackle himself, he labels


some of the big players as "quite adequate" for the coming season.

Of all the players on the team that will get a workout under Douglas, the ends rank the highest. Speed is so essential to Douglas' passing game that he won't look at an end without it. A halfback or two may be used to get the best out of the 1950 Porker passing parade.

Ten or more fast halfbacks fill the bill quite well in the backfield as far as Douglas is concerned. Most of the men are sprinters in track where Douglas pays particular attention to their timings.

With Geno Mazzanti and Leon "Muscles" Campbell gone from fullback, you'd think a coach would give up at that position, but Douglas thinks both Joe Baldrige and Lewis Carpenter will be good enough to handle the split-T. Schaefe will be used primarily on the defense.

When he came to talking about the quarterback slot, there was a note of hesitancy in Douglas' voice. "We don't have any great quarterbacks," he said "but we have several boys who'll do the job, and I promise you," he added, "that they'll make no serious mistakes."



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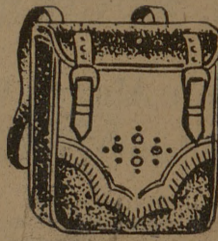
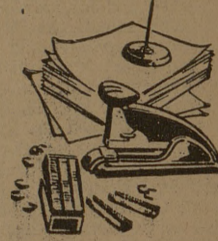
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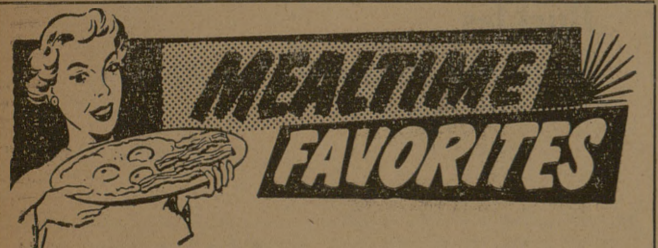
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