

Rice Owls Hold Off Aggies, 7-6

By Richard Campbell
Battalion Sports Editor

The Rice Owls were like a shark going after a prize catch Saturday afternoon as they edged the Texas Aggies, 7-6, before a homecoming crowd of 41,000 in Rice Stadium.

The scrappy Owls smelled an

upset in the making after they charged to a 7-0 lead and then braced themselves for the Aggies' fourth quarter awakening which fell short.

Sophomore tailback Mike Spruill had only 121 yards rushing going into the contest but made folly of Aggie tacklers all day long

while cruising to 124 yards on 31 carries. He plunged three yards for the only Owl score and became the runniest Owl of the year with his clutch performance.

The Owls snapped a six-game losing streak by corraling the Aggies for the first time since 1964. The Cadets seemed to be

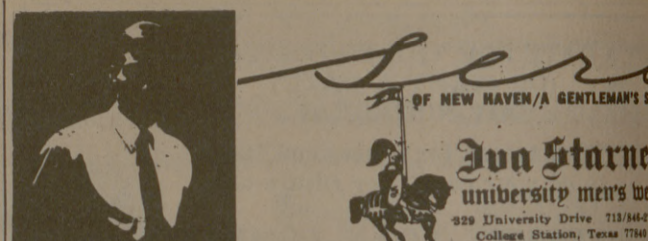
uninspired after the odds makers had given them a ten-point edge over Rice and didn't get its touch-down until six minutes had passed in the final quarter. However, defensive end Rodrigo Barnes rushed Aggie quarterback Rocky Self hard and hurried his two-point conversion pass which fell

incomplete in the end zone. Self had scampered 17 yards himself for the score.

This had to be the most frustrating afternoon of the year for the Aggies, who twice muffed scoring opportunities in the second half, failing to take advantage of short punts by Rice's Bucky Allshouse. Nothing could go right as the alert Owls secondarily swiped three of Self's aeri-als in the first half and prompted Coach Gene Stallings to re- place him in the third quarter with junior Jimmy Sheffield, who managed to pull the Aggies as close as the three yard line. But he eventually overthrew Jimmy Adams in the end zone to squelch the drive.

Larry Stegert remained again the only defensive bright spot for A&M as he rambled over, around and through the Owl de- fense for 100 yards on 22 carries, the fourth time he has rushed for 100 or more yards this year.

The Owls, behind the quarter- backing of Stahle Vincent, were not particularly impressive but they moved the ball well when they had to especially on their final possession when the Aggies needed to have it. On that drive alone, Spruill carried the ball 10 times and got two crucial first downs to nail the lid on the Ag- gies' coffin.



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Notre Dame Awaits SWC Foe

By Will Grimsley
AP Special Correspondent

Notre Dame, feeling a financial pinch and needing a boost in prestige, broke a 45-year tradition Monday and agreed to meet the Southwest Conference champion, Texas or Arkansas, in Dal- las' Cotton Bowl Jan. 1.

Texas and Arkansas clash at Fayetteville, Ark., for the title Dec. 6. The loser's consolation is a date with Mississippi in the Sugar Bowl at New Orleans.

Mississippi's jolting 38-0 victory over Tennessee and Notre Dame's decision to get back into the bowl business created a wild flurry at the 12 noon EST dead- line imposed by the NCAA.

The Orange Bowl at Miami quickly grabbed up fifth-ranked Penn State, pride of the East, and powerful Missouri, co-leader of the Big Eight Conference. Tennessee and Florida were matched in the Gator Bowl at Jacksonville, Fla., Dec. 27. Au- burn, Georgia and Alabama accepted bids to lesser games.

Louisiana State, with a gaudy 9-1 mark, said it didn't want to go anywhere. Shut out of the majors, its only choice was the Bluebonnet Bowl at Houston.

The Rose Bowl at Pasadena, Calif., the grandpappy of them all, had to await week-end de- velopments.

The bowl pictures at a glance: ROSE — Southern California (8-0-1) or UCLA (8-0-1) vs. Michigan (7-2) or Purdue (7-2).

COTTON—Notre Dame (7-1-1) vs. Texas (8-0) or Arkansas (8-0).

ORANGE — Penn State (9-0) vs. Missouri (8-1).

SUGAR—Mississippi (6-3) vs. loser of the Texas-Arkansas game.

GATOR Dec. 27 — Tennessee (7-1) vs. Florida (7-1-1).

The bowl-conscious Southeast- ern Conference again will be busy but will not saturate the major bowls as is usually the case.

Auburn (7-2), with a game re- maining against Alabama, goes to the Astro-Bluebonnet Bowl at

Houston Dec. 31, meeting Hous- ton (6-2). Alabama accepted a Liberty Bowl spot in Memphis Dec. 13 and Georgia agreed to play in the Sun Bowl at El Paso Dec. 20, but opponents haven't been named.

Nebraska, Kansas State, Colo- rado, Air Force, Oklahoma and Arizona State are all in the run- ning.

The last time Notre Dame played in a bowl was 1925 when the team featuring the famed Four Horsemen defeated Stan- ford, with Ernie Nevers, 27-10.

Father Edmund Joyce, execu- tive vice president of Notre Dame, said the change in policy was due to an urgent need for funds to finance minority stu- dent programs and scholarships. The Irish stand to get more than \$300,000 from the game.

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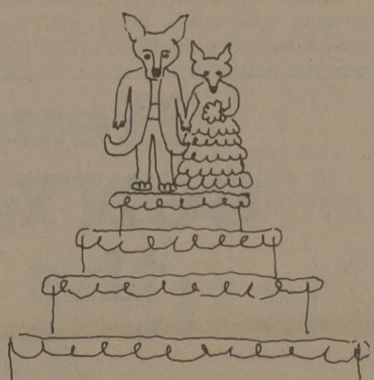
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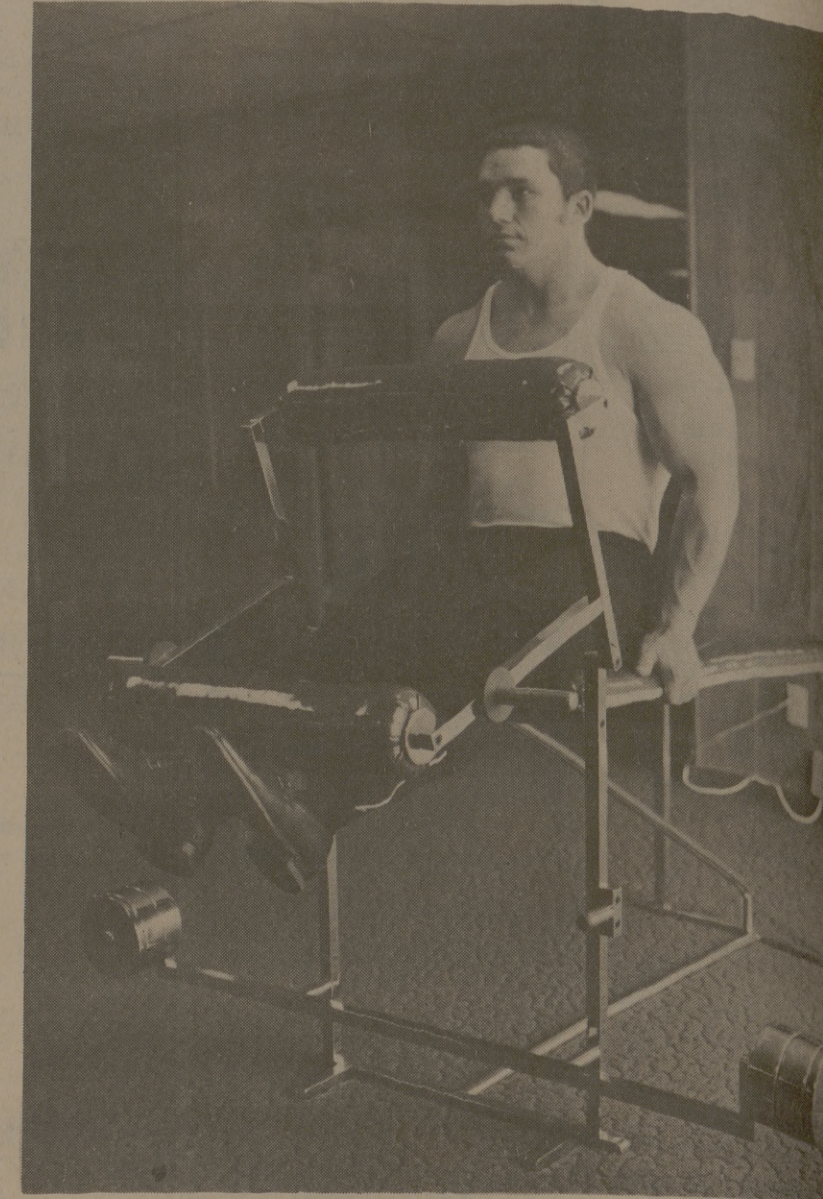
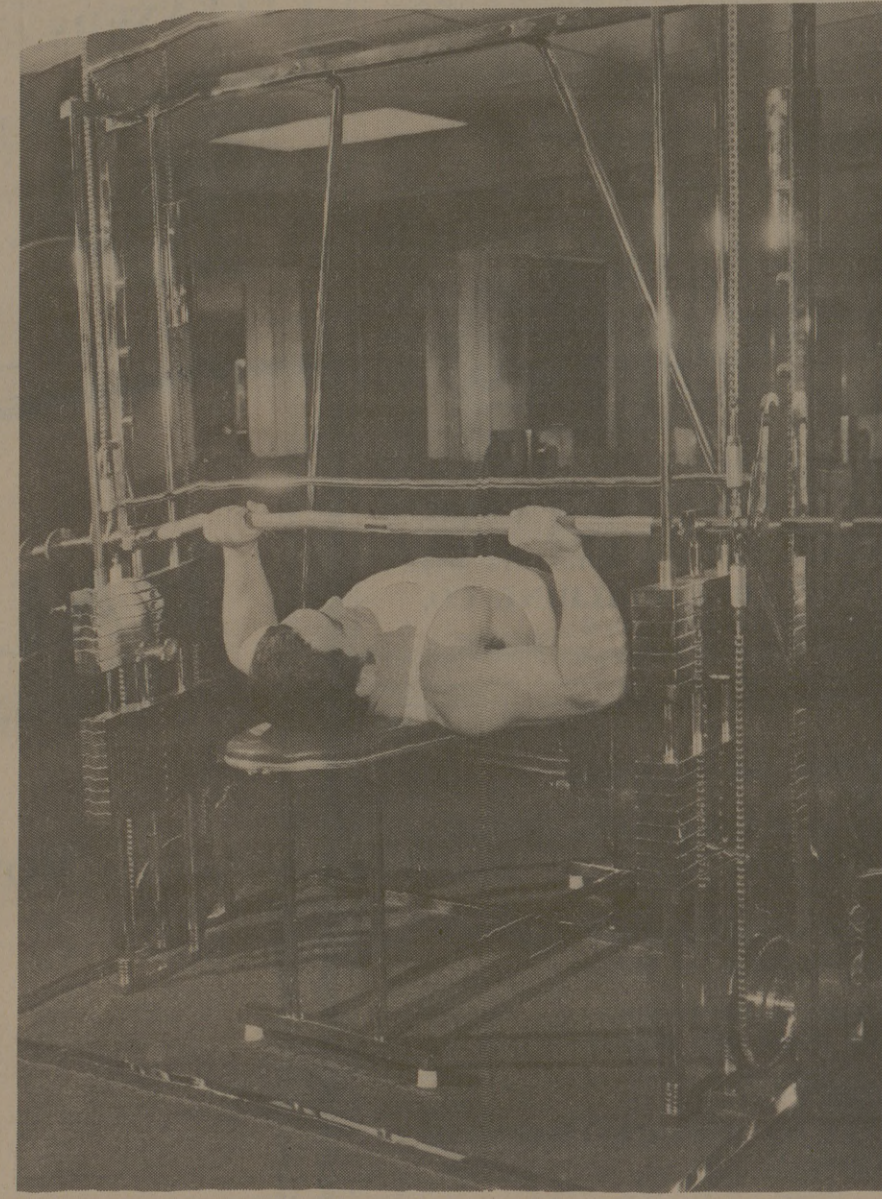
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