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Rice Revitalized After Upset

Owl Attack Features Freshman Quarterback

When A&M takes its revitalized football squad to Houston Saturday, they will likely find an equally revitalized team in the Rice Owls.

As the Aggies were playing what coach Emory Bellard called "our finest all-around performance of the season" in defeating the SMU Mustangs 45-10, the Owls were having their own little field day in a stunning 17-7 upset over the Arkansas Razorbacks.

Rice is sporting a 2-6 won-lost record but all six of the losses came against teams that were ranked in the top twenty at game time.

Rice will be A&M's second foe in a row to pit a freshman quarterback against the Aggies' prize

rookie, David Walker. Tommy Kramer, who at this time last year was directing San Antonio Lee to the state 4A semifinals, took over from junior Fred Geisler. Sophomore Claude Reed has since replaced Geisler as back-up to Kramer.

Halfback Gary Ferguson and fullback John Coleman make up the rest of the Rice backfield. Both are returning starters from last year's Owls.

Kramer's favorite receiver is flanker Ed Lofton who has snagged 31 tosses to place second in the conference behind Baylor's Charley Dancer. Split end Carl Swierc has eight receptions for 122 yards and a touchdown while tight end Danny Johnson

has received but one pass and is used mostly for blocking. Second on Rice's list of receivers is freshman halfback Ardie Segars, from far away Far Rockaway, N. Y., who has 11 receptions to his credit.

Sophomore Paul Guillory anchors the offensive line from his center position and is joined by tackles Tommy Godard and Sammy Johnson and guards Steve Moore and David Vandiver. Moore is another of the Owls highly touted corps of freshmen.

Defensively the Owls rank seventh in the conference but are second in pass defense, behind A&M. A big reason for Rice's success in defending against the pass is all-America safety candi-

diate Bruce Henley, a member of last year's all-SWC team. Henley led the conference in interception last year but has stolen only one pass this year. The one interception was enough to give him the school record for interceptions with 14 and place him only four away from the conference mark.

Joining Henley in the defensive backfield are Gary Cox and Cullie Culpepper at cornerbacks with Preston Anderson filling in at monster man. Anderson is the leading Owl interceptor with three snags this year.

Rodney Norton and Richard Hollis are the Rice linebackers. Hollis is one of the heroes of the win over Arkansas with a key interception which he returned 29 yards for a touchdown that sealed the game at 17-7.

In the middle of the Owl's defensive line is half of one of the season's most interesting matchups in noseguard Cornelius Walker. Walker is A&M halfback Skip Walker's older brother and both are being considered for an all-SWC berth. They will undoubtedly meet face to face more than once during the contest and the brother that comes out on top may well edge the other out for league recognition.

David Snelling and Larry O'Neal are the guards and Bryan Davenport and Jody Medford are the tackles in the remainder of the defensive line.

Allan Pringle is the Owl place-kicker, owning one of the best averages in the nation, connecting on 9 of 11 field goal attempts and just tried to keep them in the hole.

Landrum said the victory, which gave the Owls a 2-6 record, really was their first of the season. "We feel it is our first victory," Landrum said. "We played so poorly against Montana. We scored 20 points when we should have scored 50. But this had to be a great uplift."

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Landrum said he started out the season just trying to hang the ball up the middle but in the last three games has started going for the sidelines.

Landrum's straight-away boomers also did the job. His first punt of the game went 51 yards from the Rice 28 to the Arkansas 21, where the Hogs netted a three-yard return.

His other three boots gave Arkansas possession at their own 44, 16 and 36.

Coach Al Conover tagged the "Goofy" nickname on Landrum last year shortly after Conover collared Landrum at a Rice-Texas A&M basketball game for what Conover thought was too much roidness.

"It didn't help when I fumbled a snap during spring training and threw an interception," Landrum said. "But coach told me I could go to the A&M basketball game this year and shout all I want to—just don't use sign language."

AP Names Rice Punter

Offensive Player Of Week

HOUSTON (AP) — Rice punter Mike Landrum — his friends call him Goofy—revived the lost art of kicking for the "coffin corner" last week and it put the Arkansas Razorbacks in one.

Rice gained only 138 yards in total offense to 404 for Arkansas but Landrum's deadly punting and outstanding coverage by his teammates allowed the Owls to beat the Hogs 17-7 and snap a five-game losing streak.

Landrum, a sophomore from Tyler, punted nine times for a 40.3 average that included boots of 51 and 65 yards. Five of the punts landed inside the Arkansas 11-yard line. The Hogs had to start drives at their own 7, 8, 7, 3, and 11 yard lines due to Landrum kicks.

Landrum's pin-point accuracy earned him The Associated Press Offensive Player of the Week honor, the first time the award ever

Simpson Following Jim Brown

Into Pro Football Record Books

NEW YORK (AP) — O. J. Simpson is trying to follow Jim Brown's footsteps into the record books. And he'd like to follow Brown another way, too... mainly out of pro football while he's still at the top.

"My main goal, of course, is to be in the Super Bowl, to win the whole thing," the star running back of the Buffalo Bills said Tuesday before being honored at a luncheon. "But I figure I'd like to play maybe two or three more years. Then I'd like to get out, the way Jim Brown did."

"I don't want to be one of those guys who hangs on, you know, just for the money. It's tough to leave those big contracts, but I don't want to still be playing when I'm going downhill."

Simpson, in the first year of a three-year contract, looks like he's running downhill — like an avalanche — almost every weekend.

The 26-year-old former Heisman Trophy winner from Southern California, last year's National Football League rushing champion with 1,251 yards, has already amassed 1,203 in this season's nine games.

That puts him within striking distance of one of the NFL's greatest records, Brown's 1963

single-season mark of 1,863 yards. If he averages 132 yards in his remaining five games, he'll match it.

"I rarely think of records, I only hope we win," insists the muscular, soft-spoken Simpson, who set one NFL mark in the opening game this year when he stamped for 250 yards against New England, a team he'll face again Dec. 9.

"What I mean is, records are a very nice thing to have. But I don't think they're all that important."

The rest of the teams have gotten smart to the fact that the Bills don't have anything resembling a passing attack, so they're throwing everything they've got at O.J.

"It's getting to be like running against a stacked deck," he said.

"The last few weeks they've been putting eight men upon the line and the teams haven't been shooting in. They've been sort of sliding off in the direction of the play. One thing, though — it's the linebackers who've been getting to me most of the time, not the guys on the line. When the linemen tackle you, it means your own line isn't doing its job. Our's has."

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