# Sports

### **A&M** may spoil Owls' homecoming Strong Rice offense collides with Ag defense

By Anthony Wilson Sports Writer

Snap, crackle, pop. The Rice Owls should begin

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emitting these sounds at 1:30 p.m. Saturday from Rice Stadium in Houston where they will battle Texas A&M in their homecoming game. Rice is 2-5 for the year and 0-3 in conference play.

Although the Aggie offense has sputtered most of the season, it will get its chance to light up the scoreboard against the Owls. Of the eight teams in the Southwest Con-ference, Rice ranks dead last in total tion defense, giving up 489 yards per game, and in rushing defense, giving up 291 yards per game.

That should be good news to A&M running backs Keith Wood-A&M running backs Keith Woodside and Darren Lewis, who had his ranks first in total defense and rush-

second 100-yard game of the season quarterback Bucky Richardson. Richardson, who rushed for 45 yards against Baylor, leads the team .7 yards-per-carry average.

Richardson's running ability has Rice head coach Jerry Berndt more

than a little concerned. "It appears they (A&M) have decided to go with a more option-oriented attack," Berndt said. "Ri-chardson is the guy who makes that attack go. The last couple of games they have done an outstanding job with Richardson running the op-

Rice's passing defense has given up an average of 197 yards per game, ranking it sixth in the confer-ence. The Owls' defense has allowed 37 touchdowns this season.

ence. It has allowed nine touchdowns this season.

The Rice offense, however, is on the opposite end of the spectrum from its defense. It ranks second in the conference in total offense with a 391 yard-per-game average. The Owl passing attack averages 188 yards per game, fourth in the SWC. Rice is fifth in the conference in rushing with a 202 yard-per-game average

Rice's offense is spearheaded by quarterbacks Quentis Roper and Mark Comalander, running back Lorenzo Cyphers and receiver Dar-

ing defense and second in passing season. Comalander, a senior, has defense in the Southwest Conferpassed 446 yards and two touchpassed 446 yards and two touchdowns.

Cyphers is Rice's all-purpose back who leads the team in rushing and receiving. The junior has rushed for 465 yards and five touchdowns this season in addition to catching 23 passes, one for a touchdown.

Goolsby is second on the team with 21 receptions. He has averaged 13.7 yards per reception and scored one touchdown.

Roper and Goolsby team up to provide Rice with one of the most potent return combos in the nation. Roper, the Rice and SWC season record holder for kick return yardage, Roper, a 5-foot-9, 175-pound ju-nior, has passed for 832 yards and on seven returns. Goolsby is second four touchdowns and rushed for in the SWC with a 18.9 yard average

### 1957 Rice game hurt Aggies' title chances

By Tim Stanfield Sports Writer

When Texas A&M took the field Rice Stadium on November 16, 1957, it did so as the No. 1 team in

the country.
Yes, Coach Bear Bryant's fourth — and final — Aggie squad had taken that slot from the Oklahoma Sooners on October 29, following its 14-0 win over the Baylor Bears.

Senior halfback and defensive back John David Crow was on his way to becoming both Texas A&M's and Bryant's only Heisman Trophy winner, but his thoughts that day were on the Rice Owls.

"I felt like going into the game that we had better talent than Rice did, though they had such players as King Hill, Frank Ryan, Buddy Dial, and Don Gillis," Crow said Thursday morning. "Yet we were pretty thin and had had some injuries along the way (including Crow, who had missed two games due to a knee

"But all of us had no doubt that we were going to win our final two regular-season games and become he national champions."

Bryant had put the team through some tough practices during the wet week leading up to the game, leaving Crow and others to ponder later if that had contributed to A&M's shocking 7-6 loss.

"Coach Bryant wasn't one for excuses, nor am I, but the fact remains that we were mainly a senior team on which about 14 players shouldered the load," Crow said. "By the eighth game of the season, we were worn out and some of us nursed injuries.



"I still believe that we had the better players, but, at least on that day, Rice was the better team.'

Coach Jess Neely's Owls had split their first six games, including a loss to Darrell Royal's initial Texas squad, but caught fire late in the sea-

Led by all-purpose backs Hill and Ryan, the Owls entered the fray 4-3, finishing at 7-4 after a 20-7 loss to Navy in the Cotton Bowl.

A missed extra point cost the Aggies the game, but only two weeks earlier, they had defeated Arkansas by the exact score when Hog placekicker Freddie Akers had missed an extra point and a short field goal.

Crow, who scored the Ags' touchdown in that game and sealed the win with a last-minute pass interception in the A&M end zone off quarterback George Walker, recalled that

contest clearly "Arkansas' last drive was set up when our quarterback, Roddy Osborne, surprised us all by throwing a pass toward me that Don Horton in-tercepted," Crow noted. "There was no way I was going to catch him, but somehow Osborne ran him down.

In between the Aggies' two 7-6 games they had defeated the South-

ern Methodist Mustangs (with sophomore quarterback Don Meredith)

All Crow did that game was to rush for 89 yards on 20 carries, score the winning touchdown on a 2-yard run, return two kickoffs for 49 yards, complete the only pass he threw for 15 yards, and intercept two passes (returning one of them

For his efforts he was named the Associated Press Back of the Week.

Crow was — and is — proud of the fact that A&M was ranked first in the polls. He told a reporter back then that he "hoped and prayed that we can stay there"

On that cool November afternoon, the Aggies' hopes and prayers went by the wayside, outdone by a gritty bunch of Owls. Late in the contest Rvan broke through the A&M line, shook off an

attempted Crow tackle and took the ball inside the Aggie five yard line. Hill replaced him and scored the winning touchdown, re-emphasizing the depth at the skill positions that

Yet Hill had to make a game-saving tackle later in the period after Crow had broken into the clear.

"I can recall thinking later that had I run straight at King — and then made a move away from him -I could have scored because back then I was faster than he was," Crow pointed out. "But I angled away from him, and he used the sidelines to eventually pin me down. I probably should have scored on the play.

When the clock expired, so did the Aggies' dream of being national and SWC champions, a bitter pill for rumors that Bryant was leaving to return to Alabama proved to be true, though Crow never felt that it

"Coach Bryant didn't like distractions, and that certainly was one," he said. "But our seniors were also leaders and I really don't think we lost to either Rice or Texas because of

Indeed the Longhorns beat A&M 9-7, as Crow scored the only Aggie touchdown, and Texas went on to the Sugar Bowl (where Mississippi beat them 39-7).

For Crow and his fellow seniors, all that was left as a team was to play Tennessee in the Gator Bowl on De-

"We were all disappointed, but still wanted to beat the Vols," Crow said. "Late in the game, I put a good lick on running back Bobby Gordon, which some people out there still recall to this day. "They kicked a field goal to win 3-

0, and that night at a banquet, I was named the outstanding player on the losing team. I was embarrassed to accept the trophy, for I agreed with Coach Bryant that if the team lost, there wasn't any individual success to be had."

Crow won the Heisman Trophy in early December, and soon thereafter was made the first pick in the National Football League draft. The Chicago Cardinals chose him, and he had a fine career with them and the San Francisco 49ers.

But he will always recall with disappointment the dreary day that the Aggies lost their chance at the national championship.

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## Poor Wildcats to take yet another beating this weekend

From the Associated Press One of the problems with being in the Big Eight Conference if you're not Oklahoma or Nebraska is that you must play Oklahoma and Nebraska every year.

However, only winless Kansas State (0-6), which can least afford it, has to play them back-to-back this

The Wildcats must have improved

some. They were 56-point under-dogs at home against Oklahoma but are only 53½-point underdogs at Nebraska, which played a near-perfect game in trouncing Oklahoma State 35-0.

The Cornhuskers won't have to be anywhere near perfect. The pick is Nebraska 56-0.

Last week's prediction record was 33 right and 19 wrong for a percentage of .635; for the year, 210-89-4—.702. Against the point spread, last week's mark was only 14-23-1—. .378; for the season, 88-105-5 -

Saturday's only game between members of the AP Top 20 finds No. 20 Michigan favored by 7½ points at No. 15 Indiana.

Michigan leads the series 35-8 and has won 15 straight. Two weeks ago, Indiana stunned Ohio State 31-10 to

snap an 0-30-1 streak against the Buckeyes. Not this time. The pick is Michigan 24-14.

Colorado at No. 1 Oklahoma (favored by 37): Oklahoma 42-7. No. 3 Miami, Fla. (no line) at Cincinnati: Miami 49-7.

Mississippi State at No. 6 Auburn (by 27): Auburn 35-10. North Carolina State at No. 7 Clemson (by 191/2): Clemson 34-14. California at No. 8 UCLA (by 28):

UCLA 38-17. Colgate at No. 9 Syracuse (by 34): Syracuse 42-14.

Southern California at No. 10 Notre Dame (by 61/2): Notre Dame

Kentucky at No. 12 Georgia (by 10): Georgia 27-13.

Georgia Tech at No. 13 Tennes-see (by 13½): Tennessee 34-10. Illinois at No. 14 Michigan State (by 161/2): Michigan State 28-14.

Minnesota at No. 16 Ohio State (by 11): Ohio State 21-14. No. 19 Oklahoma State (by 3) at Missouri: Oklahoma State 24-14.

Arizona (by 7½) at Washington State: Upset Special of the Week ... Washington State 28-24.



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