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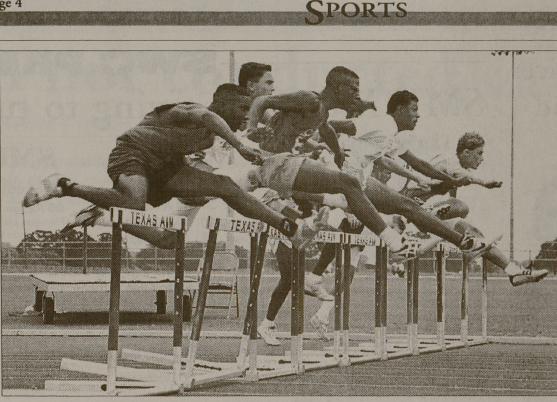
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# Games are expected to pump approximate ly \$2 million into the local economy. SWC-PREVIEW New coach Hatfield thinks Owls will fly high Tun

# Says SWC title 'up for grabs'

Page 4

Rice University, under the direction of new coach Ken Hatfield, is going for their third straight winning season in 1994

Hatfield is no stranger to the Southwest Conference. Before a three-year stint at Clemson, Hatfield was the coach at Arkansas, where he compiled a 55-17-1 record, including two trips to the Cotton Bowl. With Texas A&M ineligible for postseason, Hatfield said Rice fans should look forward to not just a winning season, but a possible ASouthwest Conference championship. "With Texas A&M not eligi-

ble but our game with them still counting, I think it's up for grabs," Hatfield said. "Anybody could win the championship and we have as good a chance as anybody. "We want to be in the Cotton

Bowl," he said. Leading Rice's offense in

1994 will be quarterback John LaRocca and Yoncy Edwards, Rice's returning rushing leader.

LaRocca inherits the Rice offense from Bert Emanuel, who many called the best all-around athlete ever at Rice. LaRocca will be called on to guide a new offense at Rice, the spread option.

It is an offense designed to utilize Larocca's strong arm, Rice's talented receivers and Hatfield's past success of guiding rushing offenses.

# **Rice at a Glance**

	Schedule	The states	Т
Sept. 10	Tulane	1 24 200	Offens
Sept. 17	at Kansas State	SE	Emerson Alle
Sept. 24	at Iowa State	JL	Kris Armstro
Oct. 8	Texas Tech	LT	Richard Willia
Oct. 15	Texas	14.17.2	Brian Lyssy
Oct. 22	at Texas A&M	LG	Chris Cooley
Oct. 29	at TCU		Paki Nelson
Nov. 5	SMU	C	Jeremy Thig
Nov. 12	Baylor		Eric Ober
Nov. 19	at Navy	RG	Bobby Gray
Nov. 26	at Houston	RT	Sterling Elza Everett Burto
	Durials Frants	RI	Ben Westcot
Quick Facts		TE	Clem Torres
Coach: Ken Hatfield			Adrayll Akse
Nickname: Owls		QB	Josh LaRoco
1993 Record: 6-5			Kurt Roper
Home Stadium: Rice Stadium (70,000 cap.)			Spencer Geo
Site: Hou	ston		Pat Callahar
Enrollmer		HB	Byron Costo
	lue and Gray		Yoncy Edmo
Last SWC title won: 1957		SB	Jimmy Lee Mike Aarons
	Kow Loggog	FL	Ed Howard
P. Column 4	Key Losses		Chris Hall
FS Nathan Bennett, WR Herschel			Johnny Bagy
Crowe, OG Mike Ecklund, QB Bert			,
Emanuel, OT Jimmy Golden, C Tom Hetherington, DT Corey Seymour, DE			ning Starters:
Michael Shirk, SS Sean Washington			ning Lettermer
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Two-deep Chart				
ense		Defen		
on Allen	DE	Deric Ruth		
mstrong		Adrian Wo		
d Williams	NG	Jason Wir		
yssy		Larry Tho		
Cooley	DT	Brynton G		
elson		Johnny G		
y Thigpen	OLB	Ndukwe k		
ber		Kevin Cor		
Gray	ILB	Joe Davis		
g Elza		D. William		
t Burton	ILB	Emmett V		
estcott		Jeffrey M		
Forres	OLB	Larry Izzo		
Aksew	1.05	Mike Jone		
aRocca	LCB	Warrick F		
oper		Joe Lamy		
er George	SS	J. Sowells		
allahan	FS	Jay Lamy		
Coston	FS	Aaron Sta		
Edmonds	RCB	Tony Was Bobby Di		
Lee	RCB	Dana Hog		
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**Players to watch** 

#### **RB Yoncy Edmonds:**

Edmonds was a second team All-SWC selection after compiling 941 yards on 199 carries in 1993, despite missing the last two games of the season with an injury. **QB Josh LaRocca:** 

LaRocca has to try and make the Owls fans forget Bert Emanuel. LaRocca has some starting experience and has career stats of 106 completions in 202 attempts with 10 touchdowns and 1,260 yards passing. **ILB Emmett Waldron:** 

Waldron has started 25 straight games for the Owls and has been their tackling leader for the past two seasons, world and me



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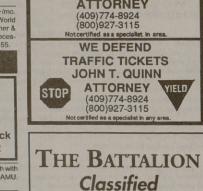
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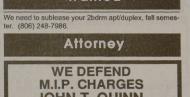
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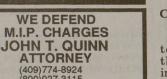
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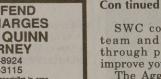
• Effective

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back will be a key in the new offense.

"Everything revolves around the quart erback and how effec-tive he can be," Hatfield said. Josh had a great spring and he feels very confident in what he can do.

Leading Rice's rushing game is Yoncy Edwards. Edwards ran for 931 yards last year despite being injured the last two games. Edwards expects to get his number called often in Rice's one-back set.

Protection up front for LaRocca could be a questionable area for Rice, as only two starters return on the offensive line, Chris Cooley, an all-America candidate, and Bobby Gray.

### Parten

#### Con tinued from Page 3

SWC coaches: get a real team and quit trying to go through political systems to improve your records.

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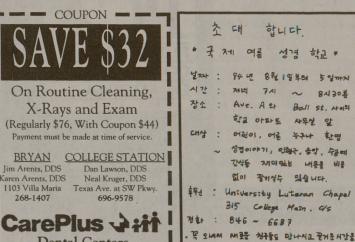
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The Aggies have dominated

the SWC since 1985 and will continue to do so regardless of post-season eligibility or television coverage.

es Ags, and come support the finest team in the soon to be (or is it already?) defunct Southwest Conference.



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to step in there should a starter Rice's talented and speedy

nabbing 103 tackles in 1993. 67 of those were unassisted

receivers are a strength on the go down. team. Jimmy Lee and Ed Rice has all four starting Howard should keep opposing linebackers back. By far their defensive backs on their toes.

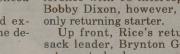
On the other side of the ball Hatfield expects the Owls to be a force.

"Our first defense will be very aggressive," Hatfield said. "We have a lot of experienced players coming back." However, Hatfield did ex-

press some concern with the defense

"We need more depth, especially on the defense," Hatfield "We need to find people said. with the confidence and ability

So go buy your season pass-



end.

deepest position, Hatfield calls his group one of the "best in the country." Emmett Waldron is a

preseason all-SWC pick by many publications. Last year, Rice led the con-ference with 16 interceptions. Bobby Dixon, however, is the

Up front, Rice's returning

sack leader, Brynton Goynes, returns to lead an eager defensive line. Deric Rutherford is a returning starter at defensive

# SMU

#### **Continued from Page 3**

Flanigan will be passing to an experienced group of receivers. Five of the returning receivers had career highs in receptions during 1993.

The receivers are led by senior Mick Rossley who had a team high 46 receptions last season.

"This will be the kind of year we looked for when our receivers were young," Rossley said. "They are experience veterans now. The key is keeping them healthy.

In order to keep the Mustangs' run-and-shoot offense going, Rossley will rely on an experi enced offensive line. Only one starter was lost from a squad that helped SMU more than double its rushing average (60.2 yards per game in 1992 to 137.1 in 1993) and reduce quarterback sacks by 21. The area hardest hit by gradu-

ation for the Mustangs is the defensive line. All three starters are gone. They included second team All-SWC ends Chad Patton

and Adam Voyles and DT Byron

pelieve that a erson wante

The small size of the def sive line won't be a problem Eva the Owls, Hatfield said.

'We don't have the great along the defensive line, but will make up for it by just running hard to the football," He he libra rip on o field said.

\_ furiousl Whether Hatfield will take a function Rice to the next level is still easons for the question. He believes he can hat so many and he has his players believes here, myself Most of m Whether Hatfield will tak ing it as well.

"It all starts with kids whooks on tim want to be the best in America vait, whether he said. medy this

Bonds.

- Mark Smiverdue. Th and Brian Colo implemen Other pro

ministrato me serious "The defensive line will be brary more key for us," Rossley said. "We's But proble got to be able to stop the ruley about ou with our front people and not one of my i have to bring everyone off the I used to p sideline to do it."

Rossley said the main ave to justi strength of the defense for the enter the li Mustangs will be the linebackeloors at the corps. SMU returns sophomon It's no use Chris Bordano, who was selectionagazines a to the All-SWC second team att starting only four games, with f

more pounds of bulk. Sophomore Craig Swann and

m senior B.J. Stankovich return their starting roles after surger? to correct knee injuries.

'Last year our main conce on defense was the linebacker positions," Rossley said. "The area should be our strength eason.

The secondary should ad Reader SWC selection Rodney Watkipperspective leading from his free safety spot Senior Michael Artmore and ju • I woul nior Cornell Parker anchor thereston. He cornerback positions, while wist moven nior Ken Neill will take theonfidence i strong safety spot.

Feminist

- Mark Smith