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End of practice season

Raiders barely short in 22-21 loss

The Rice Raiders showed what kind of football team they can be last Friday night — at least in the second half. The first half was another story.

Here's a quick summary for those who didn't make the trip to the beautiful Sweeney Stadium:

Rice won the coin toss for the fourth time this season and elected to receive. The Raiders made no gain on the first and ten, on the second play, the snap appeared to be mishandled and the Sweeney Bulldogs recovered the fumble on their 13. That led to a Sweeney field goal four plays later and made the score 3-0 with three minutes gone in the game. (The fact Sweeney didn't score a touch down shows the excellent defense Rice).

When the Raiders received the ball the second time, Rice Sweeney four yards in four plays and were forced to punt. Sweeney, on their first play from scrimmage, ran 56 yards into the end zone for TD. There was a 5:52 left on the first quarter clock, and because the point after touchdown kick was no good, the score was 9-0, Sweeney.

Rice received the ball a third time, and on first down, Sweeney was called with a penalty, making the second play of the series a first-and-five. The pitch on the option failed to find a running back, and the fumble was recovered by Sweeney on their own 10 yard line. Three plays later the Bulldogs ran around left end and scored again. The kick, again, was no good, and at 5:50 to go in the first quarter, Sweeney led 15-0.

Raiders made it through the rest of the quarter without allowing a score, but a fumble by Sweeney to Rice in the second quarter was matched on the next play when Rice returned the favor. Sweeney took the ball to the goal line again, in four

plays, making the score 22-0 Sweeney with a little more than half of the second quarter gone.

By the end of the first half, the Raiders had fumbled the ball five times, and given away four of them. Sweeney fumbled twice and lost both.

Different game
The second half goes in the book as a completely different game.

Sweeney received the opening kick off, but mishandled it, and the Raiders recovered on the Bulldog 11. Six plays later, quarterback Kevin Long scored on a keeper. The kick was good and the Raiders trailed 22-7.

Sweeney fumbled after its next series, giving the Raiders the ball back at the Sweeney 38. The Raiders scored with 5:24 on the third quarter clock, and were successful with a two point conversion. The score stood at Rice 15, Sweeney 22.

Now that Rice was back in the game, the offense continued its press.

However, up to this point, action by the referees may have seemed standard, except for the most astute observer.

At one point in the first half, the refs marched the ball 20 yards down field to mark off a 15-yard Sweeney penalty. No one seemed to notice except those in the press box.

At another point in the second half, when the ball was moved because of the end of the third quarter, the refs marked the ball at one point, matched by the chain gang, but the down & distance marker was five yards further down field. The refs and chain gang matched the ball until the Sweeney coach complained and the ball was moved back to the right position.

THIS FRIDAY:
Rice at home vs. Yoakum

and the down & distance marker was corrected. Raider head coach Clifton Darden, commenting on the officiating, said his team had not been held and clipped so much in one game.

In the fourth quarter, when Rice desperately needed another score, came the official call that was questioned probably by just about everyone.

When Sweeney dropped back to pass, the Raider defense swarmed over the quarterback. Just as the Rice player grabbed the man, the quarterback began falling forward. Before he reached the ground, he passed, and Rice intercepted.

When the official ruled the ball dead where the quarterback fell, and gave the ball to Sweeney, Coach Darden marched onto the field and questioned the call. Observant fans complained too. Monday Darden said he knew the "in the grasp rule" from professional ball had not made it to high school ball yet, so he questioned the official. The ref told him the call was made because the Sweeney quarterback's knee was on the ground. The game film, however, shows the player passed the ball before the knee hit, and the ball should have belonged to Rice.

As the clock ticked on, the Rice defense kept playing tougher. But, with less than four minutes to go, the Raiders were called for illegal motion. Instead of punting, the Bulldogs got another first down.

With less than a minute to play, Rice threw an interception and it looked like the game was over.

But on the next play, Sweeney's snap from center was mis-handled. The ball popped into the air, and Michael Rhodes' alertly grabbed it before it hit the ground. He advanced the ball to the Sweeney seven before being dragged down. Rhodes knew that in high school football the only time a fumble could be advanced was when it is picked up before it hits the ground.

Coach Darden then called a play that allowed quarterback Long to skip around left end and score, bringing the Raiders within one point of a tie.

However, Darden's play calling in the two-point conversion attempt was not so successful. He called the same play up the middle that gave the Raiders a score earlier in the game. The Bulldogs stopped the run

short of the goal line, and kept the lead and the victory.

Monday Darden said he told the team that the end of Friday's game marked the end of the "practice season," as far as he was concerned. Next Friday's game is the last pre-district match-up, and with the Oct. 10 game the Raiders face Columbus at Raider Stadium and so open district competition.

Here are the game statistics:

RICE	SWEENEY
12 First Downs	10
39-135 Rushes-Yards	35-120
4-12 Passes-Comp.	5-11
135 Passing Yards	58
43-235 Plays/Total Yards	40-178
530.8 Points Avg.	429.8
4 Fumbles Lost	6
6-40 Penalties-Yards	4-35

RUSHING	Carries	Yards
Douglas Tillman	8	49
Greg King	12	36
Mickey Scott	10	19
Kevin Long	7	19
Alcario Barrios	1	12
Clarence Weeks	1	0

PASSING: Kevin Long threw his second 100-yard game of the season, with 11 attempts and four completions equalling 100 yards even. Arthur Foster threw one pass but it was incomplete.

RECEIVING:	Catches	Yards
Doggins	2	44
Fachtinger	1	52
Berrios	1	4

DEFENSIVE ACTION:	Players	Tackles	Assists	Totals
A. Foster	5	5	10	
Doggins	6	3	9	
Tillman	3	4	7	
Scott	5	1	6	
Rhodes	1	5	6	
J. Foster	1	4	5	
Sims	2	3	5	
Weeks	3	1	4	
Long	3	1	4	
Lemons	1	1	2	
King	1	1	2	
Lopez	1	1	2	
Corman	1	0	1	
Doppleauf	1	0	1	
Williams	1	0	1	

FUMBLE RECOVERIES: Long, Paschall and Doggins each recovered one. Rhodes recovered three.

SACKS: Lemons credited with one quarterback sack.

ELMS FOOTBALL REPORT

8th grade Raiders even record at 1-1

The eighth grade Raiders played host to Van Vleck last Thursday, September 25 and came away with an easy 30-8 victory. This brings the Raiders season record to one win and one loss.

Marshall Norris and Greg Blair led the way for the Raiders as each scored two touchdowns. Norris also converted two, two-point conversions. Kevin Williams passed to Johnny Gonzales for the other two-point conversion to wrap up the scoring for the game.

Defensively the Raiders played well. The only score by Van Vleck came against the second team defense late in the game.

The Raiders will play at home on October 2 against Yoakum. Come out and support the local teams. Game times are 5:30 p.m. for the seventh grade and 7 p.m. for the eighth grade.

ELMS 7th tops over Van Vleck

The Eagle Lake Middle School seventh grade Raiders opened a three game homestand last week with a strong showing against the Van Vleck Leopards. The young Raiders came away with a 22-0 victory.

Reginald Danner, captain of the Raiders, led the offense outside where they ran seemingly at will. Jesse Scar had two long touchdown runs with one point after conversion and O'Neil Tillman carried the other touchdown on an inside run in the early going. Tillman, Scott, Danner and Adrian Farrow carried the ball for a total yardage of well over three hundred.

With the exception of a missed tackle on a kick off, the Raider defense played a perfect 24 minutes of football. Gonzalo de la Granza, Steve Torrez and Merrill Tillman each played exceptional defense, playing havoc with the Leopard's line. Patrick Middleton again was the specialty team stand-out.

Come watch the hometown heroes next Thursday, October 2, as they battle the Yoakum Bulldogs.

Varsity Standings District 23-AAA

Team	Won	Lost	Tied	% Won	Pts For	Pts Allowed
Sealy	4	0	0	100.0	84	45
Belville	3	1	0	75.0	118	55
Brookshire	2	2	0	50.0	79	53
Columbus	2	2	0	50.0	61	52
Hempstead	1	2	0	33.3	38	47
Rice	1	3	0	25.0	57	73

JV Football Roundup

Including East Bernard & Weimar

Sealy, with a 19-8 win over Class 4-A El Campo, remained atop the District 23-3A Junior Varsity football standings after four weeks of play. They are 3-1 on the season.

Belville is second with a 2-2 season so far, and Hempstead is third

with a 1-2-1 record. The Columbus JV team has managed one win this season, against three losses, but neither Brookshire nor Rice have bettered their opponents.

In Class 2A play, East Bernard's JV team suffered a 34-7 loss at home against Hallettsville, while Weimar was on the road at Somerville pulling down a 20-7 win.

Here are the results from last week:

Sweeney 35 at Rice 0
Hallettsville 34 at East Bernard 7
Columbus 0 vs. Gonzales 50
Belville 8 at La Grange 14
El Campo 8 Sealy 19
Hempstead 0 vs. Montgomery 6
Madisonville 20 at Brookshire 7
Weimar 34 at Somerville 14

Team	Won	Lost	Tied	Pts For	Pts Allowed
Sealy	3	0	0	75.0	100 28
Belville	2	2	0	50.0	84 59
Hempstead	1	2	1	37.5	20 27
Columbus	1	3	0	25.0	7 143
Brookshire	0	3	0	0.0	22 71
Rice	0	4	0	0.0	6 120

best defense in the district were ranked first this week, Belville second and Columbus third.

The Sealy freshmen are next with a 2-2 record. Hempstead freshmen have played only one game this season, and the other team in the same district with Rice, Brookshire Royal High School, does not field a freshman team.

Here are last week's results:

Sweeney 22 at Rice Raiders 8
Columbus 28 vs. Gonzales 12
Belville 31 at La Grange 12
El Campo 0 at Sealy 20

At Sealy, the roll continues

Only the Giddings Buffaloes stand between the Sealy Tigers and a perfect season.

The Tigers moved one step closer to the 5-0 with a hard-earned, and costly, 29-20 upset victory over Class 4-A El Campo.

The win upped Sealy's record to 4-0 as the Tigers continue to remain District 23-AAA's only undefeated team.

But, the pre-season favorite Brahmas are on a roll. After a season-opening 28-14 loss to talented Brenham, Belville has reeled off three successive victories in which it has out-scored its opponents 114-27.

And, that includes an impressive 41-12 laughter over La Grange before a homecoming crowd at Brahma Stadium.

In other 23-3A action last week, Columbus snapped a two-game losing slide with a 20-12 homecoming win over former District 26-AAA rival Gonzales. Sweeney mounted a 22-0 halftime bulge to nip Rice 22-21 and Madisonville halted Brookshire Royal's two-game roll 20-15. Hempstead was idle.

The headline in District 27-AA was Schulenburg's 25-21 upset victory over Flatonia, ranked No. 2 in Class A. Elsewhere across the league, No. 3 ranked Shiner blanked Brazos 26-0. Weimar clipped Somerville 6-0. Yorktown popped Ganado 20-8. Tidelhaven outscored Bloomington 21-18 and Victoria 54. Joseph dropped Industrial 19-8.

Besides Brazos, Ganado and

Tidelhaven, Boling continued its impressive run with a 13-0 decision over Needville while Dumasbyville, Houston Lutheran South 63-0. Prestonville defeated East Bernard and suffered in a 23-4 punt game at the hands of Hallettsville.

In running their record to 4-0, the Tigers lost the services of talented running back Joe Mark Kohlin for the second time in as many years with a knee injury.

Kohlin had his fourth straight 100-yard game as he finished with 109 yards on 19 carries and scored on a three-yard run. Fullback Lance Odum also tallied twice on runs of eight and one yard.

But, it was the clutch 80-yard interception return for a touchdown

by free safety Boyd Finch that turned the tide in the Tigers' favor.

In Belville, the Brahmas dominated La Grange as quarterback Greg Jackson rushed for 73 yards on eight carries and produced two TDs on rushes of 49 and two. He also drilled tight end Rodney Lange with a 25-yard scoring strike.

Gabe Smith darted for 160 yards on 13 carries and was credited with a 25-yard TD gallop after taking a pitch from Jackson nine yards up the field. He also reached paydirt on a 14-yard scamper.

The Brahmas' other six-pointer came on Erik Haugen's four-yard TD blast in the final period.

It was the Bryan Chavis show in Columbus where the junior running back accumulated 222 offensive yards with 137 coming on the ground in 27 carries and another 85 being through the air on four completions.

Chavis also contributed two touchdowns, one on a 52-yard pass from quarterback Brandon Barten and the other on a brilliant 25-yard romp. Barten and Roy Glover combined for the other Cardinal TD on a 19-yard toss.

Rice fell behind 22-0 at intermission and then tried to play catch-up, but it was a case of too little, too late for the Raiders.

The Raiders, dropping to 1-3, had their chances in the second half. In fact, Rice missed a chance for the go-ahead two-point conversion with 11 seconds left.

Quarterback Kevin Long had tied the score on a fifty-seven-yard run. He also scored early in the third quarter when the Raiders began to mount their comeback effort.

Brookshire Royal had a two-game winning streak snapped when Madisonville dumped the Falcons 20-15 despite two touchdown runs by Wellendon Johnson.

Hempstead, who opened the season in the Class A-A-A top 10, was idle after back-to-back losses to Huffman and Wharton.

Area Freshman report

The Rice Raider Freshman football team remained atop District 23-3A standings this week, if only by a whisker.

Actually, the young Raider defensive efforts this season are keeping them on top, according to Headlight statistics.

Rice, Belville and the Columbus Cardinals all have identical records at 2-1-1. When teams are tied in the win-loss column, the Headlight uses the point scored column for its next ranking system, then uses the points allowed column.

While the Columbus freshman have scored the most points of the three teams, they also have allowed the most points to be scored against them. Therefore, the Raiders with the

Freshman Standings District 23-AAA

Team	Won	Lost	Tied	Pts For	Pts Allowed
Rice	2	1	1	62.5	70 28
Belville	2	1	1	62.5	53 44
Columbus	2	1	1	62.5	87 60
Sealy	2	2	0	50.0	68 40
Hempstead	0	1	1	25.0	0 26



The 1986 Rice Raider JV Team

Members of the 1986 Raider Junior Varsity team at Rice High School this year are, front row, from left, Michael Grahmann, Kevin Edds, Brian Balas, Stephen Taylor, Ray Turner, and Todd Krenke. Second row, Coach Shannon Hooker, Scott Ripper, Andrew Maginet, Cash Coble, Matthew Stovall, Freddy Soto, Pedro de la Garza, coach

Jesse Russell, back row, Horace Mitchell, Randy Perkins, Louis Richardson, Keith Dowdy, Devin Van Nort, and Raymond Perkins. Others on the roster but not pictured are Lothario Price, Rodney Locke, Stephen Meinecke and John Thomas.

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