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Gonzales scores Frosh touchdown

The Rice High School freshmen football team hosted its first game on Thursday of last week, September 3, playing the Cuero Gobblers. The Gobblers out-scored the young Raiders by 34 points, with the Raiders losing 40 to 6.

Offensively, the Raiders were led by quarterback Kevin Williams, halfback Greg Blair and fullback Johnny Gonzales. In the second quarter, Gonzales ran the ball for the only touchdown of the night for the Raiders. Kevin Dogins, offensive tackle, aggressively fought so the Raiders

Raiders drubbed 65-0 in season opener

By JOHN FEARING

If a comparison of opening season games for the past two years has any validity, Clifton Darden's 1987 Rice Raider varsity football team could be the sleeping powerhouse of the year.

The two bright spots of the game are comparing results to last year's opener, and remembering that game, and the next four, are warm-ups to district play. If the Raiders are going to play a bad game, now is the time to do it.

In 1986 the Raiders opened their season with a loss to highly ranked Cuero, and went on to lose its next two. After that the team turned it around and went on to 8-2 district play-offs for the third year in a row.

This year the Raiders face the same schedule as in 1986, except the Raiders will be visiting the teams this year that it hosted in 1986.

Actually, Friday's game in Cuero started off with the Raiders receiving and looking fairly good on the first series. Quarterback Kevin Long's first pitch in to Clarence Weeks was a disaster, losing seven yards, but the team then began to move the ball. A Long pass to Paige Paschall picked up 14 yards, giving the Raiders a third down and three. Duvar Perdue then took the ball up the middle for almost three yards.

The measurement showed the ball was only a few inches short of a first down. Instead of punting, Long kept the ball and raked up the first of seven first downs. A pass to Tiger Pratt went incomplete but a second down pass to Johnell Dogins was good for four yards. The third down play in that series was a pitchout to Weeks. Cuero was called for a facemask penalty, giving the Raiders their second first down. Douglas Tillman then carried the ball twice for six yards, before Weeks lost three. With a fourth and six, the Raiders punted.

First-game jitters were evident as the Cuero Gobblers fumbled on their first play, but recovered. Two plays later they fumbled again and Mark Kuchera recovered for the Raiders. Rice quickly returned the favor, giving the Gobblers the ball back on another fumble on the Cuero 24.

Standout Cuero quarterback Robert Strait gained nearly 10 yards on a keeper, but Scott Ripper and Kuchera kept the star from gaining a first down. Cuero fumbled again but again recovered, gaining their first first down. Dogins and Perdue scrambled on defense keeping the next Gobblers play to short yardage, but by this time, Cuero was shaking off opening game problems. They ran for a first down, taking the ball into Raider territory before Twynon Boone burst into the Cuero backfield, driving them back onto their own turf. The Gobblers third-and-12 play wasn't much help and on fourth down punted.

The Raiders picked up the ball on their own 17 but were unable to move the ball more than four yards, ending the first quarter. The Raiders made a good punt, but it was caught in the air by the Gobblers for a 22 yard return. The Gobblers really got it together this time. With 9:57 remaining on the second quarter clock, Gobler QB Mathis' third play of the drive hit Mark Gottschall for a 29-yard scoring pass. The extra point run failed, making the score 6-0.

Three more times that quarter the Gobblers punched the ball into the end zone, while the Raiders were unable to pull together. Robert Strait scored about a minute and a half later. That was a five-play Cuero drive that began with a Raider fumble. Gobler Wayne Mathis scored five minutes later on a two yard run and Strait then scored with 40 seconds remaining to half time with a one yard run. At the half the score was 28-0, Cuero.

The Cuero scoring slowed down in the third quarter. Stevie Nichols ran the ball in from one yard out with 7:37 left on the clock. Near the end of the quarter, Rodney Pedraza returned an interception 35 yards into the end zone.

Three of the four fourth quarter Gobblers TD's were scored on running plays, but the fourth was from another interception of a Raider pass.

Overall, Long's first 1987 game included 20 pass attempts with five completions for 54 yards. There were four interceptions. Dogins caught two

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District 23-3A Varsity Standings

Team	Games Won	Lost	Tied	%	Pts Won	Pts Lost
Brookshire	1	0	0	100.0	34	22
Sealy	1	0	0	100.0	32	19
Columbus	1	0	0	100.0	22	14
Bellville	0	1	0	0.0	20	35
Hempstead	0	1	0	0.0	0	28
Rice	0	1	0	0.0	0	65

THE STATS...

Rice	Cuero
36/38 Rushing	47/195
5/20 Passing	2-5
54 Total Yards	119
92 Total Yards	314
7 First Downs	16
5-32.0 Punting	1-33.0
55 Fumbles/Loss	9/5
8/46 Penalties/Yards	9/55
4 Interceptions Thrown	0

Raiders recovered fumbles; Norris and Boone are credited with

quarterback sacks and Norris is credited with blocking two point after touchdown attempts.

Raiders Defense

Player	Tackles	Assists	Tot. Tlla
J. Dogins	11	8	19
D. Tillman	9	5	14
T. Boone	4	5	9
T. Pratt	1	8	9
M. Norris	5	2	7
C. Weeks	3	2	5
R. Labay	1	3	4
W. Johnson	1	2	3
L. Richardson	0	2	2
S. Ripper	2	0	2
I. Williams	0	2	2
D. Perdue	1	1	2
C. Stovall	1	0	1
V. Cormann	1	0	1
P. Paschall	1	0	1
S. Taylor	0	1	1
N. Balmores	0	1	1
Team Total	45	43	88

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