

Rice Owls

Rice Baseball
at NCAA Regional
June 3-6, 2011
Reckling Park
Houston

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Owls Named No. 8 National Seed At NCAA Tournament This Week

The Rice baseball team, 41-19 overall and both the Conference USA Tournament champions and regular season co-champions, are back in the NCAA Tournament this week as regional play begins at 16 sites across the country in a double-elimination format. The Owls are the No. 8 seed of the 64-team NCAA Tournament, which means Rice would serve as hosts for the opening round of Regionals and then Super Regionals next week should the team advance... Rice is scheduled to meet the Southwestern Athletic Conference champion Alcorn State Braves (27-28) at 6 pm at Reckling Park in first round action on Friday, June 3. The Regional's No. 2 seed, Baylor (29-26) and No. 3 seed, California (31-20) complete the four-team field. Baylor and Cal, the Bears and Golden Bears, are scheduled to open the Regional at 2 pm that same day... The game times for Saturday and Sunday (June 4-5) are also 2 pm and 6 pm, with the early game serving as an elimination game. If the Regional champion has not been determined after Sunday night's game, there will be one extra game played on Monday (June 6) at 6 pm if necessary.

The 16 Regional winners advance to play in one of eight best-of-three Super Regionals getting under way the following week (June 10-13). The 65th Men's College World Series begins play the week after that, June 18, in Omaha, Nebraska.

Watch The Home Games For Free On OwlVision All Access

Every game of the Rice regional is slated for a live on-line video broadcast by OwlVision All Access. OwlVision is a subscription-based service which matches the play-by-play audio with a video feed to create a television-like broadcast on the Internet (either live or in an archived format). The service has proved to be very popular with fans and alumni living throughout the world. Information about the service and subscription prices are available at RiceOwls.com.

Postseason Streak Now 17-Straight

Rice baseball's 17th-consecutive appearance in the NCAA Baseball Championship is the fourth-longest active streak in the country. Miami (Fla.) made the field for the 39th consecutive year, extending its own record, followed by Florida State (34) and Cal State Fullerton (20). Rice's 17-straight NCAA Tournament appearances is tied for the seventh-longest national postseason streak in Division I history (with LSU, 1989-2005).



Live Stats On GameTracker

Live play-by-play text and statistics from every game from the Houston (Rice) Regional will be posted on RiceOwls.com. Look for the GameTracker links on the Rice Athletics front page, the weekly series preview, the baseball schedule page or the special Regional page.

Audio Broadcasts - Catch Every Rice Baseball Game On The Web

Every Rice baseball game this season will be broadcast live around the world on the Internet at RiceOwls.com. Use the above link to access the Internet audio home page. The Rice broadcasting tag-team this season is primarily **J.P. Heath** and **David Brady**, with help from some of our Rice broadcasting friends. Tune-in to the pregame show 30 minutes before each game's first pitch. Fans attending the games can now listen to the Rice broadcast at the stadium where the team plays via an FM proximity transmitter. The frequency for the proximity broadcast at Reckling Park is 99.7 FM.

Conference Championship Streak Reaches 16-Straight Years

Rice has won or shared a total of 16-straight conference championships (including either regular season or conference tournament titles) dating back to 1996. The streak covers the Owls' membership in three different leagues beginning with the Southwest Conference, to nine seasons in the Western Athletic Conference (1997-2005) and six Conference USA titles in as many years. In 2011 the Blue & Gray tied for the C-USA regular season co-championship (with Southern Miss) before winning the tournament title last weekend.

17-Straight 40-Win Seasons

Rice clinched its 17th-straight season with at least 40 wins. One win in the NCAA Tournament will secure at least 42 wins in 16 of the last 17 years.

19-Straight 30-Win Seasons

Rice has reached the 30-win plateau for the 19th-straight season. Only five other schools in the country have longer active streaks of having won at least 30 games: Arizona State (now 49 years), Miami-Fla. (41 years), Clemson and Cal State Fullerton (both 37 years), and Georgia Tech (29). All have reached the 30-win plateau again this season.

99th Season Since The Start; 95th Season On The Field

The 2011 season marks the 99th year since Rice played baseball for the first time. Rice Owls baseball made its debut in the spring of 1913, just one semester after the school (The Rice Institute) opened its doors for higher education in the fall of 1912. The 2011 season is, however, only the Owls' 95th season on the diamond. The school cancelled its season in 1919 and did not field a team for three years (1933-35) during the Great Depression. Rice returned to the diamond in the spring of 1936 and has been playing ever since... The baseball program's all-time record is **1,818 - 1,468 - 9**.

Rankings • Rice Climbs To 9th In The Polls

Heading into postseason play, the Owls are ninth in the nation according to Baseball America. Rice is in the Top 15 of three different polls. Not only has the Blue & Gray won games over powerhouse teams Texas A&M (twice), Arizona and Stanford, the team has won 13-of-16 down the stretch including both the C-USA Tournament title and regular season co-championship. Here's a closer look at the current polls:

Poll	This Week	Last Week
Baseball America	9	16
NCBWA	13	15
USA Today/ESPN	13	17
PerfectGame.com	--	15
CollegeBaseballLineup.com	17	20
Collegiate Baseball Magazine	18	20

Rice's Possible Starters

C	10	Craig Manuel (Jr.-2L, L/R; .310/1/35)
1B	14	J.T. Chargois (So.-1L, S/R; .306/2/31)
2B	8	Michael Ratterree (So.-1L, R/R; .322/6/51)
SS	4	Derek Hamilton (Fr.-HS, R/R; .252/0/29)
3B	2	Shane Hoelscher (Fr.-HS, R/R; .276/3/35)
RF	16	Ryan Lewis (So.-1L, L/L; .261/1/25)
CF	15	Michael Fuda (Jr.-2L, R/R; .247/0/16)
LF	17	Keenan Cook (Fr.-HS, L/R; .275/0/20)
DH	23	Anthony Rendon (Jr.-2L, R/R; .327/6/35)
P	24	Abe Gonzales (Lhp, Sr.-3L, 7-2, 3.03)



2011 C-USA Baseball Standings

	All Games	C-USA
	W-L	W-L
Rice	41-19	16-8
Southern Miss	39-17	16-8
East Carolina	39-19	14-10
UCF	38-21	12-12
Memphis	30-27	12-12
Houston	27-32	12-12
Tulane	31-27	10-14
UAB	29-28	9-15
Marshall	20-31	7-17

Fri., June 3

(2) UCF vs. (3) Alabama	Noon
(2) Southern Miss vs. (3) Mississippi St.	2 pm
(2) East Carolina vs. (3) St. John's	5 pm
(4) Alcorn State at (1-8n) Rice	6 pm

Head Coach Wayne Graham

Four-time national coach of the year and Texas Sports Hall of Fame inductee **Wayne Graham** (Texas, 1970) is in his 20th season at Rice. The 2011 campaign marks his 31st year as a collegiate head coach... He is now 911-359 with the Owls (549-125 at home, 274-183 in road games and 88-51 at neutral sites). His Rice winning percentage is .717, the best in school history. Another way of looking at Graham's .717 win percentage is that it is the equivalent of a major league team winning 116 games in a single year... Graham's record vs. this week's opponents is: **0-0 vs. Alcorn State; 28-18 vs. Baylor** (16-7 at home, 7-9 road, 5-2 neutral)... **2-3 vs. California** (2-2 at home, 0-1 road)... Under Graham, the Owls clinched another postseason bid in 2011, making 17-straight seasons for Rice to earn an NCAA appearance. The Blue & Gray has advanced into the NCAA tournament in 1995-96-97-98-99-00-01-02-03-04-05-06-07-08-09-10-11. The 2003 bid culminated with the Owls' first national championship... Rice played in the 1994-95-96 Southwest Conference tournaments (winning the final league title in '96), won the 1997-98-99 WAC tournaments, shared the 2000 WAC title with San Jose State before winning the 2001-02-03-04-05 titles outright. He won (or shared) C-USA regular season crowns in 2006, 2007, 2008, 2010 and 2011 as well as the C-USA tournament championships in '06, '07, '09 and '11... Graham was named the WAC Coach of the Year in 1998, '99, '02 and the Co-Coach of the Year in '03. He was named the Keith LeClair C-USA Coach of the Year in '06, his first year in the league, and again in '07, '08 and '10... Rice has seven appearances in the NCAA College World Series under Graham (1997, '99, '02, '03, '06, '07, '08)... Graham has led the Owls to number-one rankings for seven weeks during the 1999 season, for six weeks during the '01 campaign, two weeks in '02, six weeks in 2003 (the last of which established some staying power), three weeks in 2004, 12 weeks in 2006 and five weeks in '07... Graham's San Jacinto Gators dominated the NJCAA World Series in Grand Junction, Colo., in the 1980s, winning five national titles in six years (1985-86-87, 89-90)... The Austin American-Statesman named Graham its SWC Coach of the Year in '95 after he led the Owls to their first NCAA tournament appearance... Collegiate Baseball was especially cognizant of Graham's efforts at San Jac. He was named the newspaper's Coach of the Decade for all levels in the 1980s after winning those five junior college national titles, and CB tabbed him the NJCAA Coach of the Century... He was named the 2007 Division I college Coach of the Year by FieldTurf... One of the few current collegiate coaches to have played in the major leagues (N.Y. Mets in 1963, Philadelphia in 1964), Graham is aided by assistant coaches **Mike Taylor** (Prairie View A&M, 1997; 11th year), **David Pierce** (Houston, 1988; ninth year), **Patrick Hallmark** (Rice, 1995, Brown College; sixth year)... Taylor coaches at third base this year while Hallmark coaches at first base.

1,480 Wins • A Baseball Odyssey

Wayne Graham owns 911 career wins at Rice, but his career victories tally to 1,485 when you include his 11 years at San Jacinto North College where he won five national championships. Graham's overall collegiate record is 1,485-472 in a 30-year career that began in 1981.

NCAA Tourney Experience

Rice has played 110 total games in the NCAA Tournament since 1995, including Regionals, Super Regionals and the College World Series. All of Rice's previous NCAA Tournament games have been under the direction of Head Coach Wayne Graham. His (and the program's) record in the "The Dance" is 72-38.

Celebrating No. 900

On May 6 the Rice Athletics Department made a special presentation to coach Graham to commemorate his recent 900th victory at the helm of the Owl program. The presentation included a video featuring a host of former Rice baseball players, local figures and sports celebrities sharing their thoughts and congratulations for coach Graham's milestone win. The video is available to view here. Look for the longer version of the two videos.

Apples To Apples

Using coach Graham's first Rice season of 1992 as the starting point, here are the active Division I national leaders for coaching victories **heading into the 2011 season**.

1. Mike Martin, Florida State - 1,003
2. Gene Stephenson, Wichita State - 971
3. **Wayne Graham**, Rice - 911
4. Jim Morris, Miami (Fla.) - 904
5. Ray Tanner, South Carolina - 898
6. Augie Garrido, Texas - 890

We Know Who's Dancin'

If you need any authoritative insight on the 2011 NCAA bracket just ask Rice. The Owls have played 23 games against 11 different teams in this year's NCAA Tournament. The Blue & Gray already has 13 wins against one-sixth of the 64-team NCAA Tournament field.

Probable Rice Pitcher

Wayne Graham announced the Owls' probable starting pitcher for the opening game of the NCAA Tournament as senior left-hander **Abe Gonzales** (7-2, 3.03). The remaining Rice pitchers will be announced by coach Graham at a later time.

- With experience and leadership being some of the most important aspects of playing in the postseason, the Owls are turning to a veteran for its opening game of the NCAA Tournament. Senior Abe Gonzales has pitched in more career games (69) than any other member on the current Rice staff. This season he is second on the team in wins (7) and ERA (3.03), and third in innings pitched (65.1). Gonzales has been a reliever for much of his Rice career, but in 2011 he has worked his way into five starting assignments after posting some of the team's steadiest outings from the bullpen. His most-recent appearance was a start in the C-USA Tournament on May 27 against UCF (which has since earned an NCAA Regional bid). Gonzales handcuffed the Knights team that averaged double-digit hits for 59 games and leads the league with a .460 slugging percentage, to just one earned run while working into the sixth inning. It was the only earned run the southpaw has allowed in his last 11.2 innings of work, which coincidentally have all been against NCAA Regional teams - UCF, Southern Miss (May 20) and Texas State (May 17). In fact, this year Gonzales has pitched a total of 32.2 innings against seven teams that have since advanced to NCAA Regionals. In those outings against elite opponents, the Houston native has maintained a 1.65 ERA and held foes a composite .236 batting average. The former prep standout from St. Thomas High School came up big in a road start against league rival and NCAA Regional-bound East Carolina, working a career-long 6.2 innings and allowing only two earned runs with no walks. Perhaps the only missing component to the typical Gonzales start is offensive support from his teammates. So far the Owls have hit a modest .255 in Gonzales' five starts. In two of his starts the team rallied late after he had already left the game, giving two his potential wins to the Rice bullpen.

- The ace of the Alcorn State staff is junior right-hander Steve Easter (8-5, 4.44). Easter was named the MVP of last week's SWAC Championship, earning a win over Texas Southern in the tourney opener and a save over Bethune Cookman in the title-clinching finale. The native of Westchester, Ill., leads Alcorn State in appearances (17), wins (8), innings (107.1) and strikeouts (76). Easter holds all opposing hitters to a .259 average and allows just 1.6 walks per 9.0 innings of work.

Previous Outing: Rice Clinches NCAA Bid With Dramatic Extra-Inning Win Over Houston In C-USA Championship Final

PEARL, Miss. - Junior catcher Craig Manuel singled home Anthony Rendon from second base for the winning run in the bottom of the tenth inning to lift the Rice baseball team to a 4-3 victory over the University of Houston in the Championship Final of the Conference USA tournament May 28 at Trustmark Park in Pearl, Miss... The C-USA tournament title was Rice's fourth in six years since joining the league in 2006. Saturday night was certainly one of the Owls' most dramatic... After falling behind 3-0 Rice rallied for four unanswered runs over the final six innings, culminating with a dramatic walk-off victory in extra frames. Rendon lined the first pitch he saw in the tenth for a long double off the left field wall, his team-leading 20th of the season. The Cougars elected to intentionally walk Michael Ratterree to set up a possible force play with Manuel at the plate. On the night Manuel was 0-for-3 with a walk, but the veteran receiver had a solid tournament by going 5-for-10 with a team-best four RBI, a pair of doubles and three runs scored in three games... Manuel showed bunt and punched the first pitch foul, but he lined the next offering through the right side. Rendon sprinted around third and slid home with the winning run that the team had to battle for all-game long... It was Houston that built an early 3-0 lead, starting with a run in the top of the first inning. Ryan Still led off with a single to left field and an Owl fielding error on the play allowed him to reach second base. He went to third on Landon Appling's sacrifice bunt and scored on a wild pitch... The Cougars extended the margin in the top of the fourth. Joel Ansley drew a two out walk and stole second base. He went to third on a wild pitch and scored on a triple to center by Cody Morehouse. An Owl throwing error on the play, however, allowed Morehouse an extra 90 feet from third and a 3-0 advantage... Rice had fallen behind in every game of the tournament leading up to that point, but had been able to rally wins with

unanswered runs in each of the last two pool-play games against Memphis and UCF. The Owls followed suit Saturday and began the comeback with two of the runs back in the bottom of the fifth. Rice had runners at the corners after Derek Hamilton and J.T. Chargois singled. Hamilton came home on a Houston fielding error that would have ended the inning, but the Blue & Gray weren't finished. Another UH error on the very next play allowed Chargois to score to make it 3-2... The Owls tied the game in sixth. Michael Fuda laced a one-out double to the gap in right-center. He hustled to third on a ground out and scored on Hamilton's two-out single into right to knot-it-up, 3-3... Rice junior Matthew Reckling started on the mound and struck out seven in 5.0 innings. Sophomore Tyler Duffey started the sixth and his work was critical on the night. The right-hander from Bellaire High School held the Cougars in check with 4.2 scoreless innings, scattering two singles and striking out seven... Duffey got a strikeout to end a UH scoring threat in the eighth. He gave up a leadoff single in the tenth to John Cannon and a sacrifice bunt by Still put the go-ahead run in scoring position. Rice got out of trouble with a pair of fly outs, including a sensational diving-and-rolling catch by freshman Keenan Cook in left field... Cook's inning-ending grab seemed to give the Owls a lift on the offensive end, setting up the explosive finish to the Championship Final. It marked only the second time in league history, and the first time since 2000, for the final game of the tournament to be decided in extra innings... Craig Manuel, Ryan Lewis and Duffey were all named to the 2011 All-Tournament team with Duffey as the event's Most Valuable Player. The Owls improved to 41-19 overall. Houston finished its season at 27-32... Before Saturday, the crosstown rivals had already met five times this year as part of the annual season-long series for the Silver Glove Trophy. Rice and Houston also met in the C-USA Championship final once before, during the Owls' first year in the league in 2006. Saturday's contest was only the second time in the 63-year history of the crosstown series for the two teams to meet outside the state of Texas.

Rendon Named A Semifinalist For Golden Spikes Award

DURHAM, N.C. - For the third-straight year, Rice junior designated hitter/infielder **Anthony Rendon** was named one of 30 national semifinalists for the USA Baseball Golden Spikes Award as the nation's premier amateur baseball player, USA Baseball announced May 31 from its headquarters in Durham, N.C.... This season Rendon is batting a team-best .327, and he is also the team leader in home runs (6), doubles (20), stolen bases (12) and runs scored (57 in 60 games played). The Houston native from nearby Lamar High School is one of the most-respected hitters in the nation who has drawn an NCAA-leading 78 walks, including 22 of which have been intentional free passes. In fact, there have been two occasions this season where Rendon was intentionally walked with first base already occupied... Rendon was a national semifinalist for the prestigious Golden Spikes Award as a freshman in 2009 and last season as a sophomore. Sponsored by Major League Baseball, the Golden Spikes Award will be presented in 2011 for the 34th time. The 30 national semifinalists will be sent to a voting body consisting of select professional baseball personnel, past USA Baseball National Team coaches, select members of the media, former USA Baseball sports information directors and current USA Baseball staff -- about 150 voters in total... All voters will be asked to choose three players from the list of 30 names. Fan voting will once again be a part of the Golden Spikes Award in 2011. The May 31 announcement of the semifinalists is also the day when college baseball fans from across the country will be able to vote for their favorite player for the Golden Spikes Award on goldenspikesaward.com. On June 6, USA Baseball will announce the three finalists, and voting for a winner will commence that same day. The 2011 USA Baseball Golden Spikes Award will be presented nationally July 15 on MLB Network... Past winners of the Golden Spikes Award include Terry Francona (1980), Will Clark (1985), Robin Ventura (1988), Jason Varitek (1994), J.D. Drew (1997), Mark Prior (2001), Jered Weaver (2004), Tim Lincecum (2006), David Price (2007), Buster Posey (2008) Stephen Strasburg (2009) and last year's winner, Bryce Harper.

Vote here for Anthony Rendon at the Golden Spikes Award web site. .

Cingrani On Watch List For Stopper of the Year Award

Senior Tony Cingrani was one of 45 players named to the midseason watch list for the seventh annual Stopper of the Year Award. The postseason honor is given to the top relief pitcher in NCAA Division I baseball in conjunction with the National Collegiate Baseball Writers Association (NCBWA)... Cingrani, who notched his team-leading 12th save in Rice's dramatic 4-2 victory over UCF in the C-USA Tournament, is having a sensational senior season for the Owls. The left-hander from New Lenox, Ill., is 4-2 with a 1.76 ERA and 65 strikeouts in 56.1 innings of work. Originally a starter for

the Blue & Gray, he unselfishly moved to the bullpen in March and has since been one of the top relievers in the nation. Cingrani has held opposing hitters to an austere .226 batting average and frustrated the opposition with pinpoint control. Since moving to the Owl bullpen full-time, however, the former Lincoln-Way Central High School product has walked only eight batters in 48.1 innings and maintained a 0.93 ERA... At the conclusion of the 2011 college regular season, the Division I national saves leader and four other relief pitching standouts will be selected as finalists for the Stopper of the Year Award and announced on Wednesday, June 1, prior to start of NCAA regional tournament competition. The NCBWA's All-America Committee then will select the winner, with this year's recipient to be announced on the opening day of the College World Series on June 18.

Winning Is Always In Fashion

For the fashion Dynamo out there, Rice is 19-7 in its all-white uniforms, 8-4 in the pinstripes, 9-7 in the all-gray, 4-1 in blue jerseys and gray pants, and 1-0 in blue jerseys with white pants.

Did You Know?

At 41-19 Rice's record through 60 games is two games better than this same point one year ago. In 2010 the 38-22 Owls ended up winning 40 games on the way to a conference championship and NCAA Regional appearance. Maybe a closer look at the team's 19 losses this season is in order. In addition to 10 losses against teams that have advanced to NCAA Regionals, the Owls have 5 one-run losses and 5 two-run losses. Also note that five of the team's losses have been in extra innings.

Here's Who's Hot

Sophomore outfielder **Ryan Lewis** has a career-best nine-game hitting streak where he is 12-for-30 (.400), but he was particularly hot in the Owls' C-USA Tournament title-run. At the C-USA Tourney Lewis was 7-for-14 (.500) with a triple and a double for a .714 slugging percentage. He also drew three walks for a .529 on-base percentage, stole a base, had sacrifice bunt, drove-in a pair of runs and scored twice... Almost as hot at the C-USA Tournament was junior catcher **Craig Manuel**. Manuel batted .429 at Trustmark Park with a pair of doubles for a .571 slugging percentage and a team-leading five RBI. He also drew three walks and was hit by a pitch for a .556 on-base average... Junior designated hitter **Anthony Rendon** is 8-for-20 (.400) in his last five games with four doubles and a home run for a .750 slugging percentage. He's walked twice, been hit by a pitch and stolen a base on the way to a team-best six runs in the last five outings... Keep an eye on freshman **Derek Hamilton**. Hamilton is batting .364 (8-for-22) with a pair of doubles over the last six games. The rookie shortstop also has five RBI and five runs scored in that stretch.

Seven Owls In The Majors This Season

Seven former Rice players have either played in major league games or been on MLB rosters this season. The former Owls who have been in The Show this year are **Lance Berkman** (Cardinals), **Tim Lincecum** (Mets), **Philip Humber** (White Sox), **Paul Janish** (Reds), **Jeff Niemann** (Rays), **Lance Pendleton** (Yankees) and **Josh Rodriguez** (Pirates). **David Aardsma** began the season on the Mariners' disabled list.

Rice 14th In Average Home Attendance (May 31)

Through its 32 home games Rice has averaged more than 3,500 fans to Reckling Park (through May 31). The Owls are 14th in the nation in average home attendance. Here are the national attendance leaders (by home average) through that date.

1. LSU 10,534
2. Ole Miss 8,156
3. Arkansas 7,932
4. South Carolina 7,390
5. Texas 6,537
6. Mississippi State 6,103
7. Florida State 4,753
8. Creighton 4,479
9. Clemson 4,307
10. TCU 4,217
11. Texas A&M 3,922
12. Alabama 3,904
13. Florida 3,858
14. Rice 3,517

Rice Also 15th In Total Home Attendance (May 31)

Rice baseball drew more than 112,500 fans for 32 home games. That's also the 15th highest total in the country as of May 31.

Kubitza Named C-USA Pitcher of the Year

On the eve of the 2011 Conference USA Baseball Championship to be held in Pearl, Mississippi, Rice's **Austin Kubitza** has been selected as the C-USA Freshman of the Year to headline a list of five Owl baseball award winners announced by the league office... A total of five Owl players were recognized for their success on the diamond the day before taking the field in C-USA's annual week-long championship tournament. All the award winners, including Kubitza with one of the top honors the league can bestow, were selected on a vote of the league's head coaches, sports information directors and a media representative from each city. **Anthony Rendon** (DH/Util.) and **Michael Ratterree** (Inf.) joined Kubitza (P) on the C-USA first team while Kubitza, **Shane Hoelscher** and **John Simms** were named to the league's all-freshman squad... Kubitza is a true freshman who has emerged as Rice's weekend series-opening pitcher all season long. The right-hander from Colleyville, Tex., ranks among the C-USA leaders in ERA (1.85) and strikeouts (90). He averages 9.2 strikeouts per 9.0 innings and has held all hitters to a composite .240 batting average. Kubitza has twice been named the C-USA Pitcher of the Week this year, including a solid performance last week against on the road at Southern Miss that helped Rice move into a tie for first place in the C-USA standings. He also registered a dominating complete game shutout against No. 5 Texas A&M (March 7)... Michael Ratterree earned first team all-conference after finishing among the league leaders in RBI (49), at bats (227) and defensive assists (161) from his every day spot at second base. Ratterree hit .322 in all games and an eye-opening .380 against C-USA competition. The Houston native from Memorial High School batted .348 with runners on base and .369 with runners in scoring position. Earlier in the year he maintained a 19-game hitting streak. Ratterree enters the conference tournament with 18 multi-hit and 14 multi-RBI games... No stranger to postseason accolades, Rendon has patiently produced at the plate despite not seeing very many good pitches game-to-game. Rendon is batting .323 overall and leads the country with 76 walks for one of the highest on-base averages in the country (.526). Has more intentional walks (22 times), than many players have total walks. The Houston native from Lamar High School has scored 53 runs in the team's 56 games played to go along with 17 doubles and five home runs for a .516 slugging percentage. He's also stolen a team-high 11 bases and driven-in 33 runs... When Rendon was sidelined from his projected spot at third base, freshman Shane Hoelscher stepped-in defensively and has been sound and solid. Hoelscher worked his way into starting 51 of the team's 56 games, including 46 starts at third base. The rookie has batted .292 and is third on the team with 12 doubles and three home runs for a .405 slugging percentage that is third on the team. The Belton, Tex., native leads the Owls with seven sacrifice flies and has been a smooth fielder at the hot corner. Hoelscher has turned or started nine double plays from third base... Freshman pitcher John Simms is another one of the Owls' talented young players who has helped the team earn the No. 1 seed at the upcoming C-USA Tournament. Simms was the Owls' starting pitcher on Opening Day vs. nationally-ranked Stanford and has been a weekend starter for C-USA games. In addition to a 3-2 record and 3.45 ERA, the right-hander from College Park High School in The Woodlands, Tex., averages 9.2 strikeouts per 9.0 innings. He was named the National pitcher of the Week for an 11 strikeout performance in 7.0 shutout innings against nationally-ranked Texas A&M (April 18).

Toughest Losses of the Season

The Owls have lost two key starters, junior outfielder **Jeremy Rathjen** and sophomore pitcher/outfielder **Chase McDowell**, for the remainder of the season due to injury.

Career Longball Leaders

As the 2010 national player of the year and a unanimous 2011 preseason All-America selection, junior slugger **Anthony Rendon** has both the eye of the national sports media and the full-attention of the opposition. The standout from nearby Lamar High School has two players in front of him on the career home run list who also happen to be some of the most prominent players in Rice baseball history. Here's Rice's top ten career HR leaders:

1. 67, Lance Berkman (1995-97)
2. 59, Bubba Crosby (1996-98)
3. 52, **Anthony Rendon** (2009-current)
4. 43, Jose Cruz Jr. (1993-95)
5. 42, Eric Arnold (1999-2002)
- T 6. 39, Jay Knoblauch, (1985-88)
- T 6. 39, Aaron Luna (2006-2008)
8. 37, Damon Thames (1998-99)
9. 33, Jacques Landry (1995-96)
10. 32, Enrique Cruz (2001-03)

Career Climber

Anthony Rendon has been climbing quickly of some of the school's career leaderboards. Here's where the Houston native ranks on the Owls' career lists heading into the NCAA Tournament...

- 3rd in home runs (52)
- 3rd in walks (174)
- 4th in slugging percentage (.685)
- 5th in total bases (459)
- 6th in runs scored (200)
- 6th in RBI (192)
- 11th in hits (249)

Walk This Way

Opposing teams have been very careful with Rendon at the plate, issuing him an eye-opening 78 walks for a .523 on-base percentage. Rendon's 78 free passes in the highest total in the nation... In the C-USA series opener against Memphis on May 3, the team drew a season-high 11 walks on the way to a 10-6 victory.

Now "Walk" This Way

Anthony Rendon has drawn a lot of walks, but there's more than one way to "walk" on a college campus. Rice Baseball and the Athletics Department would like to acknowledge some special seniors who made a walk of a different kind on May 14. Four seniors in the baseball program, **Abel Gonzales** (1B), **Doug Simmons**, **Matt Evers** and **Samuel Wu**, (student athletic trainer/equipment manager) participated in the University's graduation ceremony that morning. The 2011 commencement ceremony was the 98th in school history.

The K Train

The Owls had 18 strikeouts in the April 8 win at East Carolina, the most by an Owl staff since striking out 19 at Louisiana Tech in 2005. Rice also had a masterful 21 strikeouts in a single game that year (vs. Central Missouri State on Opening Day).

The Long & Short of It

The Owls played one of the longest games of the college baseball season this year with a 15-inning affair on March 12 against California at AT&T Park, home of the world champion San Francisco Giants. The extra-inning marathon was the Owls' longest game by innings dating back to Wayne Graham's first Rice season in 1992. It was also the program's longest game by time (four hours, 33 minutes) dating back to 1996. The note within in the note is that the Owls have also already had the shortest game by time in the Wayne Graham era: a one-hour, 45-minute (1:45) sprint against Texas A&M on March 5 that beat a 1:49 game in 1997 by four minutes.

Winningest Teams of The 2000's

(Since the beginning of the 2000 season)

Team Yrs. Won Lost Tied Pct.

1. Florida State 552-194-1 .740
2. **Rice 534-185-0 .743**
3. Texas 529-202-1 .723
4. South Carolina 521-217-0 .706
5. Wichita State 500-236-0 .679
6. North Carolina 497-212-1 .701
7. Cal St. Fullerton 488-213-0 .696
8. Coastal Carolina 487-200-0 .709
9. Georgia Tech 484-201-1 .699
10. LSU 481-232-4 .674
11. Clemson 481-241-1 .666
12. Miami (Fla.) 477-210-3 .693
13. Oral Roberts 476-187-0 .716
14. Nebraska 455-225-2 .662
15. Tulane 454-231-2 .662
16. Arizona State 449-186-2 .706
17. East Carolina 447-232-2 .658
18. Notre Dame 443-224-4 .663
19. Stanford 442-237-2 .651
20. Mississippi 434-252-1 .632
21. Florida 433-256-2 .628
22. TCU 424-247-0 .625
23. Southern Miss 421-237-2 .639
24. Virginia 421-248-1 .629
25. Florida Atlantic 420-256-0 .621

2011 RICE OWLS BASEBALL POSTSEASON ROSTER

No.	Name	B/T	Hgt.	Wgt.	Cl.-Exp.	Hometown (High School/Previous College)
1	Daniel Gonzales-Luna, of/if	R/R	5-9	180	Jr.-2L	Houston (Lamar H.S.)
2	Shane Hoelscher, if/of	R/R	5-11	185	Fr.-HS	Belton (Belton H.S.)
4	Derek Hamilton, if/p	R/R	5-11	180	Fr.-HS	Lake Jackson (Brazoswood H.S.)
7	Tyler Spurlin, p/if	R/R	6-3	195	So.-1L	The Woodlands (The Woodlands H.S.)
8	Michael Ratterree, if/of	R/R	6-1	200	So.-1L	Houston (Memorial H.S.)
9	Anthony Fazio, p	R/R	6-0	190	So.-1L	Beaumont (Beaumont Kelly H.S.)
10	Craig Manuel, c	L/R	6-1	205	Jr.-2L	Satellite Beach, Fla. (Satellite H.S.)
11	Tyler Pearson, c	R/R	6-1	195	Fr.-HS	Lubbock (Monterey H.S.)
13	Tony Cingrani, p	L/L	6-5	205	Sr.-1L	New Lenox, Ill. (South Suburban College/Lincoln-Way Central H.S.)
14	J.T. Chargois, if/p	S/R	6-3	200	So.-1L	Sulphur, La. (Sulphur H.S.)
15	Michael Fuda, of/if	R/R	6-1	200	Jr.-2L	Katy (Katy H.S.)
16	Ryan Lewis, of	L/L	6-3	201	So.-1L	Baton Rouge, La. (Catholic H.S.)
17	Keenan Cook, of	L/R	6-0	186	Fr.-HS	The Woodlands (College Park H.S.)
18	Michael Aquino, of/util	R/R	5-10	170	Fr.-HS	The Woodlands (College Park H.S.)
21	Austin Kubitzka, p/of	L/R	6-5	202	Fr.-HS	Colleyville (Heritage H.S.)
23	Anthony Rendon, if	R/R	6-0	190	Jr.-2L	Houston (Lamar H.S.)
24	Abe Gonzales, p/if	L/L	6-1	190	Sr.-3L	Houston (St. Thomas H.S.)
26	Taylor Wall, p	L/L	6-2	195	Jr.-2L	Houston (Westside H.S.)
28	Geoff Perrott, c	R/R	6-2	205	So.-1L	Kingwood (Kingwood H.S.)
29	Matthew Reckling, p	R/R	6-4	205	Jr.-2L	Houston (Kinkaid H.S.)
30	Andrew Benak, p	R/R	6-5	225	So.-1L	Houston (Langham Creek H.S.)
31	Tyler Duffey, p	R/R	6-3	210	So.-1L	Houston (Bellaire H.S.)
33	John Simms, p	R/R	6-3	210	Fr.-HS	The Woodlands (College Park H.S.)
35	Andrew Murphy, c	R/R	6-0	195	Fr.-HS	Shreveport, La. (Captain Shreve H.S.)
38	Doug Simmons, p/of	L/L	6-1	200	Sr.-3L	Kingwood (Kingwood H.S.)
39	Holt McNair, p	L/L	6-1	180	So.-1L	Austin (Westlake H.S.)
40	Jeremy Fant, p	R/R	6-2	205	So.-1L	Cypress (Cypress Woods H.S.)

Head Coach: 37 Wayne Graham (Texas, 1970; 20th season at Rice)

Assistant Coach: 6 Mike Taylor (Prairie View A&M, 1997; 11th season)

Assistant Coach: 22 David Pierce (Houston, 1988; ninth season)

Assistant Coach: 20 Patrick Hallmark (Rice, 1995; sixth season)

