M.I.T. Athletic Prospects
In Spite Of This Year's Poor Showing

The competitive records of the Institute teams are strictly below average this year. This will not be so distressing to the average Tech fan as that many students are prone to regard our wins with passive interest and jokes about our losses.

The truth of the matter is that over the past three years our varsity football column in all sports fell just slightly less than five hundred. This year the over-all average will hit close to four hundred per cent.

The primary reason for this slight decline in competitive records this year is undoubtedly due to the general collegiate waiver of the freshman rule. Because of a draft scare among freshmen on varsity teams, many of our competitors utilized this waiver to enable their teams to field stronger against their normal competition. Therefore, only a few freshman athletes with experience will move up to the varsity squad next year in these circles. Natural mental factors may rob them to the extent that they will have relatively fewer capable freshmen on their sports teams two and three years hence. This lack of experienced freshmen and sophomores can prove to be a serious handicap to sports squads. Colleges which supported freshmen teams this year should be correspondingly stronger against their normal competition during this period.

Participation figures at the Institute, that is the number of men participating in intercollegiate and intramural sports, are slightly higher for 1952-53 than for 1951-52. The reasons for this increased participation is principally in intramural sports because of the addition of basketball teams and the inclusion in the intramural program of track. There were also increases in the number of teams in the previously existing intercollegiate sports however, approximately 900 different men participated in the intramural program and an additional 1000 different men in the varsity and freshman teams. Approximately one-half of the intercollegiate athletes (450) also participated in intramurals which is over and above the 3000 figure. Currently, by including general recreation participation figures in this comparison it is apparent that more than 60 per cent of the students at the Institute engaged in some form of athletic or recreational activity on a regular basis during the year.

Facilities Limited
The varsity and freshman intramural programs have reached a saturation point temporarily. Funds and physical facilities are being utilized this year on this level with other colleges nearly as much as well run. In other words, it is not advisable to increase our efforts along this line at the present time.

There are indications, however, that we should expand the junior varsity intramural and the intramural program. Students have exhibited increasing interest in intramural activities over the past three years and have attempted and will continue to attempt to develop these facilities as rapidly as possible. If present plans and objectives can be realized, the Institute will have, in the not too distant future, one of the better athletic and recreational units (from a participation standpoint) in the country.