A good portion of Tech's hopes in this year's New England Intercollegiate Wrestling Associations Championships, to be held today and tomorrow in Rockwell Cage, will rest with John Mark Hirschi '56, Athlete of the Week. As a Freshman, John placed second in the 147 pound class, and the following year he copped third in the varsity competition of this same weight class. John got a little heavier during the following year and was forced to move up to the 157 pound class. He was still a member of the top ranks in New England competition, and took fourth in this division last year. John is a good bet to cop top honors in this year's competition. Coach James Malloney has already made arrangements with the Athletic Association to send John to the Nationals, if he places high in the local competition.

John, who is 21, was born in Wichita Falls, Texas and grew up on his father's ranch. He was active in High School Athletics, receiving a varsity letter in basketball his last three years there. He began the Institute in course 12-b, but has recently transferred to course 9. John plans to take a joint graduate program at both MIT and Harvard where he will get training in both business and diplomacy. He hopes to make his career working for the government's diplomatic service. Besides wrestling John has been quite active in the MIT community. His first year here he was a member of both the Field Day Football and Freshman track teams. In recognition of his athletic participation he was selected as a member of the Quadrangle Club. As a Junior he served as Treasurer of Beaver Key. As a member of Beta Theta Pi he has served as athletic chairman, rushing chairman, and president. John has been active in just about all intramurals offered at Tech.

Although he never wrestled until he came here, John has only been pinned once in 4 years of collegiate competition. Coach Malloney says that John, as captain, has done a more than adequate job in leading the team through their victorious season.