Harry Yanegi, coach

Judo club offers instruction

By Steve Winer

Although judo is not an intercollegiate sport at MIT, Harry Yanegi tutors a group of thirty boys who practice Saturday afternoons at the DuPont Athletic Center. The ten girls in the club are given the opportunity for experienced boys to participate in tournaments and improve their rank. It also enables beginners to learn the sport.

Returning for action this year will be brown belts Pete James '67, Dennis O'Hara '66, Bob Gilmour '62, and hopefully black belt Mr. Yanegi, with a fifth degree black belt, is the highest ranking expert in New England.

Judo is a sport rather than a means of self defense. The founder, Jigoro Kano, combined many of the unencumbered tactics of the former two, molding a sport in which the knowledge of falling technique makes injury impossible. Therefore, Mr. Yanegi spends much time during the first few months teaching beginners the art of falling.

The prospective system consists of a demonstration of form, participation in matches and a written exam. To graduate to brown belt, for example, one must demonstrate twenty-five different throwing techniques. A series of seven or eight matches displays a participant's fighting spirit while the exam tests one's knowledge of Japanese terms involved in judo. Bob Gilmour attended the Oct. 13 promotions and is now a first degree brown belt.

During the year, the club participates in tournaments, dual workouts, and clinics, the first of which was held Nov. 5, at the Tufts judo club in Somerville. Experts talked to boys from MIT and UMass. The highlight of the year is the New England championships which were started by MIT in '62. Coach Yanegi's group captured the first three crowns, but last year bowed to a strong Northeastern team. The tournament this year will be held in early spring.

Yanegi is welcoming all boys with any interest in the sport of judo to visit du Pont some Saturday afternoon. Mr. Yanegi is welcoming beginners as well as experts. Spectators at one of the early December home matches will be entertained during half time by New England's judo champs for three successive years.

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