Intercollegiate football voted out sixty-five years ago this month

By Barry Weiss

Every nation's sports pages are seemingly dominated by articles on intercollegiate football. Yet during this same season, when every college campus appears to be hopping with school spirit, MIT lacked an eleven.

Yet MIT did not always stand without an intercollegiate team. Records of football at Tech go back to the autumn of 1881 when the game was still a degenerate form of rugby. Football was still a hyphenated word at the time and the game was played in two innings rather than four quarters.

The first game on record was played at Exeter, Oct. 29, 1881. The Techmen was the best by a score of 24-0; that is, two goals scored to none. The victory was quite a surprise, as so fine the game concerning the game states: "[The result was] is rather to be wondered about, considering our poor chances for practice and the good ones at Exeter." The Techmen went on to a fairly successful season, however, despite their lack of practice.

By 1889, football at MIT had developed a little more into the game we know today. Tech's record was average, as they defeated Brown and Exeter, tied Fall River, and lost to both Andover and Exeter. "The Airhjem game was a humiliating slaughter in postage and man. The score was 38-4 and so many players had been injured in that game, along with several others earlier in the season, that the whole league exclaimed all upcoming games. MIT had even more problems concerning football than did all her league competitors. Apparently, the Institute was unwilling to designate a group of instructors as the coaching staff and bring some true organization to the Tech gridiron.

The story goes that a mass meeting of undergraduates was held Oct. 31, 1890, addressed by President Pritchett. He spoke unfavorably towards football at the Institute because he felt very few men had enough time to devote to the game. After President Pritchett had spoken, most of the students in attendance left, thinking that the meeting was over. On the contrary, the students remaining put the existence of intercollegiate football at MIT up to a vote. It was banned by a vote of 129 to 117.

Since then, groups of students have requested a rejuvenation of intercollegians football every three or four years. Last year, after considerable study, the Athletic Board voted down the proposal once more.

Despite fiendish torture dynamic Big Duo "writes first time, every time!"

nec's rugged pair of stick pens in vain its unending war against ballpoint. The pen, slip, clog and smear. Despite boodlach, punishment by mail, no success; the pen still works first time, every time. And no wonder, "Desert Wind" ball is the hardest metal made, encased in a solid brass nose cone. Will not skip, chip or smear no matter what devilish abuse is devised for them by sadistic students. Cet the Dynamic Duo at your local drug store now!