Swim team scores best NE finish ever

By Alain Tamroff

The New England Swimming Championship were held at the University of New Hampshire in Springfield this weekend, and although the Tech swimmers didn't do as well as expected, they still finished a credible sixth place.

On Thursday night, the first day of competition, Bob Pater '73 and Tom Pettersen '73 finished a half-second foot for MIT with a fourth place in the 100 yard freestyle event. Both swimmers qualified in the old varsity record, with Pater's time becoming the first of eight new varsity standards. There were no point scorers for MIT in the 400 yard medley relay, but the 800 freestyle relay team of Ken Epstein '74, Al Graham '71, Pete Hadley '72, and Ed Kavazanjian '73 finished in third place, setting the second MIT standard of the meet.

Starting off the second day of competition, Morris '73 stroked to a fifth place finish in his specialty, the 200 yard freestyle. Ed Kavazanjian and Ken Epstein placed tenth and eleventh respectively in the 200 freestyle. The 200 yard breaststroke was the event in which the Tech was dominant, with David Lawrence '71 and Ken Epstein '74 setting the pace, while Morris '73 finished third in the varsity record with a 2:22.44 time. The 400 medley relay team of Kavazanjian, Lawrence, Graham and Tom Pettersen '73 came in fourth while finishing fifth in the event.

On Saturday, Ed Kavazanjian, Pete Hadley, and Pete Sanders '72 set all new records. Kavazanjian finished fifth in the 100 free, with Larry Markel placing eighth. For the second time in the meet, Markel's time broke the old varsity standard but was bettered by a teammate's performance. Hadley placed fourth in the 100 butterfly, and Sanders placed fifth in the 100 breaststroke, with teammate Lawrence finishing ninth. Ed Rich '73 picked up some points for MIT with a tenth place finish in the three meter diving event. To cap off the meet, the 400 freestyle relay team of Sanders, Pater, Morris '73, and Epstein tied the varsity record while finishing sixth. The sixth place team finish was the highest MIT has ever managed, and the 156 team points they obtained at the meet will close out the season by moving them into second place in the National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) Small College Swimming and Diving Championships.

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