Riflemen take NRA sectional, NECRL's

By Larry Krause

The varsity riflemen again had a record-setting weekend as they won the New England College League championship for the first time in eight years, and placed first in the National Rifle Association sectional for New England.

The sectional is made up of two parts with individual competition in the morning and team competition in the afternoon. In the individual matches the shooters must fire their course with no coaching or help of any kind. In team matches, predetermined four-man teams are entered by each school and are allowed as much coaching and help as legal in any match.

MIT entered nine of the seventy-six shooters in individual competition. Team captain Karl Lamson '71 turned in Tech's best score with a 275 out of 300 possible, which also earned him a third place overall. Turners of the University of Maine and French of the Coast Guard Academy placed first and second with scores of 281 and 280. These two shooters also took the same two positions in last year's sectional with identical scores.

MIT's second shooter was Howie Klein '72 with a 274, while his career high and earned him fifth place in the afternoon's top five shooters. With a career high of 280, which also made him the fifth MIT shooter ever to break the 280 barrier, Lamson continued his consistently good shooting with a 276, and Milbury completed the team scoring with a 264.

Meanwhile, Klein, Breen, Leathers, and Krauser were selected for the MIT second team, and they fired 263, 264, 262, and 255 respectively, for a 1046 team total, giving them eighth place.

In order to avoid running another big story later in the year, the sectional scores will also be used to determine the New England College Rifle League championship. To do this and comply with league rules, the afternoon's top five shooters from each league team were counted for the league score. Therefore, the scores of Howie Klein, Lamson, Doug Belli (who fired a 265 in the afternoon but was not on a sectional team), and Klein were used to win the league title with a 1368 total.

Later in the day, however, MIT unlimbered its big guns, as Tech's top shooter shook off their nervousness of the morning. MIT's first team, made up of Bill Swedish, Eric Krauser, Karl Lamson, and Tom Milbury, placed first of fourteen teams in the sectional, with an 1102 total, which also set a record for the New England Sectional. University of Maine finished second at 1103; and Coast Guard was third at 1307.

Swedish fired the top score of the day and tied the MIT record for the second week-in-a row with a 282 contribution to the team score. Krauser continued his consistently good shooting with a 276, and Milbury completed the team scoring with a 264.

The squad's keenness and desire to excel stand out. They were the first squad in the boat house on the water this year, and all of the crews on the Charles, they were in the first eight on the river after the last meet. Come rain or shine, rough or smooth water, they are out there practicing. Their mode of practices range from savage, determined power stretches to eating ice cream in an "eight" up at Watertown while it is snowing lightly.

As regards the weather, hopefully it will improve so that we will be able to get the pack from the banks of the Charles some sunny Saturday mornings. On April 10, they will be racing Columbia here. Thereafter, you can watch Northeastern, BU, Wisconsin and Dartmouth challenge them. They have more races away, against other major universities, climaxing with the "Eastern Sprint." This regatta is held at Worcester, a short drive away, and every major eastern college crew will be there to challenge.

The frosh heavies are not the only squad in the boat house, they are unique. They are a group of mongrels bound together through a common sport, working to be the best damned team on the river—even though none of them had rowed before they came to MIT. Observe them from the bridge as they practice and follow their crazes from the Charles bank. It is pleasant and fun to relax on a nice day and watch a group of hungry hounds at work.

The Frosh Heavies will be leading off the spring intercollegiate racing schedule this year when they travel to Hartford, Connecticut, to race Trinity on April 3. The race is unofficial and is a week ahead of the first normally-scheduled regatta for MIT, but it gives the opportunity for the frosh heavies to be "bloody" earlier in the season.

After six months of preparation, they are ready to fight. They are hungry, drooling for victims, and are looking forward to this "tough" with Trinity.

Some of them have tasted blood before: James Clarke, Steve Bates, Churchill, Andrew Kernohan, Tony Vidmar, Larry Brazil, Alex Frick, and Bill Pride. Last year, they were in the boat which defeated the freshman lightweights at the class-day regatta—the first time this has happened in at least five years. Some of them, such as Mel Aden and John Miller, are very new to the sport and were in a shell for the first time this spring.