SPORTS

BENCHWARMER

By Brad Bideleau

Tomorrow marks the debut of the 1971 version of MIT's most colorized sports season. Varsity athletes from nine squads will have their first games of the winter season be¬tween Wednesday and Saturday, December 1-4. The wide variety of sports presents a good opportunity for the interested spectator and an excellent chance for fans with limited acquaintance with the less common sports to witness high-caliber competition in them.

Wednesday: Basketball (Co-captains Bill Godfrey '72, Harold Brown '72), squash (Cap¬tain Robert Rodgers '72), and indoor track (Co-captain Andy Davis '72) open their seasons. Squash and indoor track will play at home.

Thursday: Hockey (Captain Tom Lyon '72) skates on MIT ice against Babson.

Saturday: Fencing (Nicholas Davis '72), pistol (Captain Bob Gilchrist '72), and wrestling (Co-captains Pete Hadley '72, Pete Sanders '72), wrestling (Co-captains Bill Gall '72, Paul Mitchell '72) and rifle (Captain Francis Leather '72) compete for the first time this coming weekend. Riffs, pistol, fencing and swimming are home meets.

Other winter sports are gymnastics, which made their first contest on November 20, and skiing which waits for colder weather until December 23 to begin competition. The spectator enjoys a tremendous opportun¬ity at MIT to become knowledgeable about many winter sports. While basketball and wrestling are American traditionalists, squash, fencing, gymnastics, and hockey are uncommon in mass participation of the country. And at MIT it is so easy to go and watch these sports. First, the events are all free, which takes all pressure off. You can get there early and see the entire match to get your money's worth. Second, the Depart¬ment of Athletics provides routes and a brief rundown of what the team has been doing and a flyer distributed free at the game. Third, you'll never have to hassle for a place to sit (or stand) to watch as often. Fourth, there are so many teams competing that there is almost always a home game on any given night. A simple teaming break can easily become an exciting athletic contest.

Just yesterday, a cute Wellesley coed from New Orleans told me that she had never seen an ice hockey game before. Guess some game had to be played with her to brace the cold at the skating rink to explain the intricacies of this violent New England sport to her.