MIT crew at Disney World?

Yes, that’s right, sports fans. Late last month, 21 oarsmen and coxswains from both the varsity and freshmen squads travelled to Florida and competed in a regatta held at the new Disney World. The Engineer crews performed creditably, with the lightweight eight winning eight and the heavies finishing in the middle of their pack but beating Syracuse for the first time in years. Five fresh and 16 upperclassmen, plus varsity heavyweight coach Pete Holland, made up the contingent of MIT oarsmen that practiced and competed in Florida for the last ten days in January. They were guests of the Florida Institute of Technology, and practiced on the Intercoastal Waterway. The crew made best use of allowable time and the favorable weather, rowing two workouts per day, mainly in small boats, and swimming when they weren’t rowing. In all they garnered twelve practice days, highlighted by the race on the mirror-smooth lake at Disney World. The lightweight eight beat FIT and Rollins, in a close contest. The heavies rowed in a much bigger field, finishing behind Princeton and FIT, and ahead of Syracuse and Rollins. The races were held over a distance of 1,000 meters, half of the normal collegiate distance.

An interesting sidelight of the trip was the sinking of one boat during practice on the water. The engine compartment in the bow of the boat leaked, and on one day of particularly rough water, the shell went down “like a submarine,” according to fresh coach Don Saer ’70. Don was stroking the boat at the time, and had been telling the coxswain not to listen to the screams of the bow oarsmen.

Saer, who does things out of the ordinary as a matter of course, provides another story. Foresaking his duties as a coach, he went on the trip as an oarsman, and rowed in both races! He first rowed in the lightweight victory, then climbed in the heavyweight eight to stroke it to third place.

Now back practicing in the Pierce boathouse now, working on the rowing tank and the new ergometers. Interested athletes (say from the winter sports that are looking for something to do in the spring), particularly in the heavyweight category, are urged to go to the boathouse and contact Don Saer. It’s not too late to figure in the spring season.

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Hockey playoff slated; ping pong announced

At the half way point of the IM hockey season, Lambda Chi Alpha held on to a lathy three point lead in A league competition with a 3-0-0 record. Theta Chi held second place with a 2-1-2 record, rounding out the league standings, Beaver had a 2-2-1 and took last place in the 6 league division. The pair A league division leaders were: B1 - Baker A (3-0-0), B2 - Phi Gamma Delta and Phi Sigma Kappa (2-0-0), and B3 - NSSA (4-0-0).

The eight league division leaders were: C1 - Chi Phi (3-0-0), C2 - Bevley Phi Kappa Sigma and Delta Tau Delta (3-0-0), C3 - Zeta Beta Tau (2-0-1), and C4 - Phi Kappa Theta (2-0-0).

Seven MIT mens playoffs begin on Saturday, February 26. A ten team single elimination tournament involving all four A league teams plus the top two teams from each B division will decide the IM title. In the first round, the top 3 A league teams and the winners of the 8 B divisions will receive byes. The quarterfinals are slated for February 27, the semifinals for February 29, and the championship game for March 1.

A second level playoff, also single elimination, will be among the four C league divisional champions. It is tentatively scheduled to begin on Sunday, February 27.

Table Tennis
IM table tennis manager Dave Lee ’74 has recently contacted living campus athletic chairman announcing some options for the upcoming table tennis competition.

Lee was elected table tennis manager at the December meeting of the Intramural Council, and has some changes in mind for this sport, which enjoys considerable popularity on campus.

Two options are being considered for this year’s event. The first is essentially the same as last year’s long, drawn season, with one or two matches for each team over a six week interval. Last year’s matches were held in the Baker House basement. Lee characterized the previous tourney as “Mickey Mouse” paintings, where each team was made up of two players, and competing in both singles and doubles. He believes the system of matching and the length of the tourney contributed to the high number of forfeits.

The other option is to have a tournament on multiple Saturday’s in the Armory. Players would essentially compete in singles, with another system to be worked out for doubles competition. The shorter time and uniform day of this method would help eliminate forfeits due to simple forgetfulness. An added benefit of this option would be the spectator interest that would derive from having a huge table tennis tournament held on a Saturday afternoon in the well-lit Armory. Athletic chairmen and other interested parties are requested to reply to the IM office, W32-11, X19, regarding their choice of options and possible number of competitors.

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