Close win for ruggers

By Ali Kodes

MIT’s Rugby Club established its winning ways Saturday in a bold, hard-earned match with the Hartford RFC. Unlike most matches in New England, which feature ragged brawling amidst the forwards and an occasional try scored by the backs, this match with Hartford displayed immeasurable forward rushes and sparkling flat-out attacks by the backline. The pressure was on both sides throughout, and it made for tense excitement right down to the full-time whistle.

The second opened well and back. MIT opened with a forward attack that ended with T. Clemin’s decisive score for a try between the posts. R. Simmonds converted to make it 7-nil. The hosts re-sawed back and forth on the strength of Simmonds’ next three penalty kicks. Touch and always the strong return kicking of fullback A. Stalow, security, the ball from Tech’s goal. The stalwart’s play of forwards W. Book and D. Zoller and the one-handed work of S. Gallant in the backline kept Tech pacing in the Hartford goal. The match ended with Tech leading 16-15 in favor of Hartford.

Then came Simmonds’ chance to crown a day of superb kicking with a long, steeply angled penalty goal. He put Tech ahead 18-16 and appeared to give the side room to breathe. Not so, with less than a minute to play, Hartford were awarded a set scrum at the MIT goal. Two efforts were called back by the ref. On the third set scrum, Hartford heeled the ball and tried MIT’s weak side, only to be stopped by C.R. Pantolious, who sent the ball into touch. Two line-outs later, MIT controlled the ball and delayed it, and the match ended with Tech the exuberant and deserving victors in their most demanding match this spring.

The seconds’ match was a carbon copy of the firsts’ for thrilling, rapid pace. J. Cremer and D. Clerm shocked Hartford backs by appearing suddenly in their midst again and again, and scrum-half M. Best and fly-half A. Soldi kept the ball zipping out to the Tech backline. Solid defensive play by forwards O.M. Walker and D.R. Licht bolstered up every Hartford kick, Neophyte full-back J. Wall kept Tech knocking at Hartford’s door until winger T. Flanagan bounded over with a try in the right corner.

But the heady atmosphere of fast, exciting play told on the Tech side during the second half. The occasional breaks in discipline which excitement invariably breeds let Hartford slip through some 16 points to win 18-4.

The seconds served notice, however, that they are about to become a winning team. Every player turned in an excellent performance, and it was the concerted opinion of spectators that Hartford won on breaks and bounces, not superiority.

Both MIT sides face the Portland RFC this weekend in another travelling match. Not the least of the Tech worries is that the backbone and fast forwards will be occupied with the Har-

tford Business School’s Seven-a-
side Tournament. In past years, MIT has proved a formidable opponent in this blazingly fast, loose version of the game.

The newly formed Recreational Reading Collection, to be housed in the Student Center Library, needs undergraduate volunteers to become members of its directing board. The board, consisting of three librarians and three students, will purchase and process books and set policy for the Collection. If interested, call Roger Koch at 661-9205.

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