There's an air about the boat-house these days, an air saying that MIT's oarsmen are winding up for a big season. This could be the year for Tech crew.

It happens in all sports. They go through peaks and slumps. There's an air about the boat-house that the crews can do just that. "Aerobic Training," designed to increase stamina, is used by international crews. There are reasons to feel that the crews here could very well do the same.

By Sandy Yelke

Faceted for the first time with an athletic requirement for women, the Athletic Department has doubled the amount of locker space presently available to women at MIT.

The expansion, which is scheduled to begin on January 28 and finish by September 15 (in time for the first physical education class), involves the conversion of the largest of the locker rooms in Briggs Field House. The room was originally the training room before they moved to duPont, and has recently been used for visiting teams.

Besides providing more showers and simply more space, the plan's major benefit is that it will more than double the number of lockers available to women before.

The addition of women to the previously for-men-only Field House will necessitate some changes, both external and internally. The present entrance to the new locker room is through the other locker rooms in the building, and will be closed off. A new door will be made in the north side of the building and a passageway which will connect with the duPont lobby will be constructed so that it will not be necessary for women to go outdoors in order to get into the Athletic Center.

The construction, which will cost almost $30,000, has been planned only as an interim solution. As part of a large overall study now being done by the Planning Office, which will design the Athletic facilities here at MIT through 1980, a further expansion of the present women's locker room, duPont center, is planned.

As well as lack of locker space, women have vociferously complained about the lack of a sauna for women. The present sauna is located in the men's locker room and several years ago was "liberated" by a group of women who thought that they had as much right to it as the men.

Prof. Ross H. Smith, Director of Athletics, said that the reason that they had not originally installed a sauna for women was that it had not been planned as a recreational facility and that the Athletic Department had not expected it to get so much use. "It was originally the idea of the Athletic Association Executive Committee. They wanted something that would help wrestlers and baseball players in crew as well as other varsity athletes take off weight fast, and thought that it would be used only for those purposes. It then turned into a community facility."

In any case, icing on the cake while renovations are taking place in the Field House, a sauna will be installed in the present women's locker room.

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Photos by Sheldon Leventhal

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