The winter sports season, which involves eleven of MIT's 23 varsity teams, goes full swing this month with ten of the eleven teams involved in competition for the first time this year. This preview is a brief review of the season ahead.

Basketball
MIT lost four of its five starting line-up including top scorer, Harold Brown, through eleven teams involved in competition starting offensive positions going into this year. The rest of this year's team will probably consist of Bob Roff '74 and Al Epstein '75. With nine returning lettermen, this year's team promises to be the best ever, though they have an extremely tough year ahead, as Penn, the Ivy League Champion; Southern Connecticut State (home school of Olympic gymnast John Crosby), which won the New England's here at MIT last year, and the University of Massachusetts, an NCAA qualifier, have all been added to their schedule.

Leading the team this year are Larry Bell '74, who led the team in scoring for the last two years, and the two fourth-year team members, captain Paul Bayer and Dartmouth's top two men on pommel horse.

Rifle
The MIT rifle team, although young and lacking experience, are out to build and grow their meet experience behind them. Two lettermen return from last year, John Brainard '73, captain and Bob Nance '74. Other spots on the shooting team will be filled from Steve Miller '72 and Rob Hunter '73. The team consists mostly of freshmen and juniors, as they hold the top three places on half of the six events. Among them are John Austin, battlin' Bell for high score; Neil Davies, John Vitale, and Bob Bennett, the top men on high bar, rings, and floor exercise, respectively; and Andy Roub, who took second to Bell in the New Englands on parallel bars. Dave Millman '73 returns for his second season of competition against Jarvis on rings. Filling the remaining spots are Scott Foster '75, Allen Hart '75, Bill Mattel '75, Jon Johnson '75, and Mark Tighe '76.

Skiing
The 72-73 ski season should be an interesting year. Several returning lettermen comprised the bulk of the record-size group competing for varsity sports. The strong point of this year's team should be the offensive power generated by the first two lines. Tony Lucci '74 has been shifted from defense to left wing, and this move is expected to make the second line a contender for top scoring honors. The first line remains intact from last year, as does the starting history. The two lettermen, Bob Nadeau '72 and Rob Hunter '73. The defense will be backstopped by goalie Ralph Schulman, who last year demonstrated consistent brilliance in his first varsity season, but appears to have settled down this year.

Overall, the varsity is characterized by outstanding depth and experience in all of its key spots. Sixteen forwards are competing for nine positions, and six candidates are trying for the four defense spots.