Sports

Gymnasts set record: Middleton excels

Although both were losses, the MIT gymnastics team had two good meets last week. Against UMass they lost 137.6 to 115, and against Dartmouth it was 133.1 to 128.2. The MIT score against Dartmouth was the highest score ever attained by an MIT gymnastics team.

The individual standout in both meets was Jarvis Middleton ’74. Against UMass his 7.95 on the rings took a stunning first place, and against Dartmouth he scored 8.5, the highest individual score by a Tech gymnast all year. Unfortunately, Dartmouth’s Mike Pancoe took first with 9.45.

Both meets had to be rated as good performances for the gymnasts, with the score differential mainly due to an improvement on the last two events in the Dartmouth meet. First off there was the gain of three and a half points on parallel bars. Larry Bell’s ’74 7.75 against Dartmouth took first, while sophomore Curlie Thiem’s pleasantly surprising 6.25 tied him for second. The high bar team produced an even bigger jump of almost six points, with John Austin ’74, Bell, and Neil Davies ’74 all scoring in the sevens.

Along with Middleton’s ring performance, the rest of the ring team was great. Against UMass they were the closest of any event to winning, down by only three tenths of a point. Against Dartmouth Bell and Jon Johnson ’76 finished their sets with double backs to score their highest ever, and Dave Millerman ’73 became the first Tech gymnast this year to score in the eights on an event other than vaulting.

The other three events were uniformly good. At Dartmouth both floor exercise and pommel horse scored their highest of the season. Sophomore Bov Barrett’s 7.4 and Bell’s 7.55 led the event, while the 7.64 Dennis Dube ’73, his highest ever, topped the Tech Housemen. Vaulting was normal; they scored fairly consistently every meet.

The disappointing aspects of the meets were the two final results. The gymnast’s record is now 3-5, so with one dual meet left, they have clinched a losing season. This is the first losing season in the four years that Bob Lilly has been coach. His career record here is 22-13. This Saturday’s home meet against New Hampshire, and the New England’s the next weekend close out the season for the Tech gymnasts.