In a time when several MIT athletic teams are breaking losing streaks, the wrestling team Wednesday chalked up another victory, their 4th straight and the 7th out of their last eight meets.

Now, with a reputable 11-6 record, Coach Wil Chassey can look forward to his 11th winning season in eleven years as wrestling coach. That says something about Chaney.

The team record says something about this year's wrestler who, it was reported by Mike McNauser (The Tech, 12/17/72), "would have a long way to go this season." The team got there in spite of his discouraging report.

It was the University of Connecticut which fell Wednesday, February 14, to the Tech grapplers by the impressive score 36-1. At 175 pounds, John Motzinger ’73 safely accepted a forfeit from Backlund ’73 at 120 as clipping his hands as he took his opponent down, and toughly pinned him, but had to settle for a 12-3 victory.

Wrestling two weight classes above his usual 118 since the beginning of January, Ed Hanley ’74 wrestled in the 138 class and beat his opponent (A. Plaisance) 6-1. Hanley started out slowly but rose to the occasion and nearly whipped Plaisance with a blend of smooth moves. Joe Arthur ’76, at 142, ran away from U-Conn’s Reina for a one-point decision, and eventually won 2-0 in a close match. At 150, Rich Hartman ’74, who hadn’t eaten the training meal so he could get down to 142 for Friday, looked weak but calmly reversed and pinned his man 2-12.

Sneakiest and sturdy Dave Pierce ’73 stunned his opponent 6-0 in the 138 class. Loren Desouza ’75 at 167 used the barehandedness of the team’s top 12 against his opponent and eventually won 2-0 in a close match. At 170, Joe Tavormina ’76 had the fastest time run time over a second, but then fell only yards from the finish in the second run, because of the icy, rutted condition of the course. Even with the time lost by his fall, Nabelek’s combined time was good enough for a 13th place finish (of 56 racers), best on the team.

MIT’s scoring was rounded out by Bob Collier ’77 and Gary Ruf ’75, who tied for 33rd place, while John Clippinger ’73 and Drew Jester ’76 finished 35th and 36th respectively, after having problems with the course. The team’s score for the event was 94-39, good for seventh place, but only three points behind leader Norwich.

Friday afternoon brought the 15 km cross-country event, where MIT’s strength shined. The team showed its dominance in the event by placing three of its five runners in the top five, and yet a fourth in the top ten of the 46 racers. Scott Weigle ’74 finished second in a time of 63:47, one minute and one second behind winner H. Lange of Bowdoin, while the Collins ’76 and Lew Jester ’73 were third and fourth respectively, with times of 56:27 and 56:41. These three, by placing in the top five, qualified to run in the Division I Championships this weekend at Middlebury, Vt., also the site of this year’s NCAA championships. Clippinger was MIT’s fourth finisher, placing eighth in a time of 57:09. Fresman Tom Gaslin finished 41st.

The team’s strong showing gave them a score of 97-7-6 points ahead of Bovodine and 5.2 ahead of Norwich, the second and third place teams in the event. This left the team standings at the meet’s half-way mark as follows: 1. MIT; 192-6; 2. Norwich, 190-4; 3. Colby, 187.5; 4. Bowdoin, 112-3; 5. St. Michael’s, 180.5.

On Saturday, the team, in the palm of their own hands, had a score of 97-7-6, and was more than 10 points ahead of the Engineers.

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The team thus found itself in fourth place in the jump with a score of 74, behind Norwich’s 70.5, Colby’s 66.5, and Franklin Pierce’s 81.7. The four-event total left the team third, well ahead of the remaining eight teams.

Although by no means a perfect performance, the team’s showing surpassed the expectations of some, who had hoped for at least a second, and possibly a first place finish. The final standings in the meet were:

1) Norwich 77.7
2) Colby 377.9
3) Bowdoin 364.0
4) Franklin Pierce 325.4
5) Plymouth State 302.7
6) St. Michael’s 318.4
7) Keene State 302.7
8) Lyndon State 258.5