SPORTS

Gymnasts at N.E.'s: Bell, Austin excel

The MIT gymnastics team finished its season on Saturday with a disappointing performance in the New England Championships. In an attempt to place as many individuals in the finals as possible, the team competed in Division I for the first time.

It was thought that the competition was going to be similar in the two divisions, but Division I put the top five individuals from the prelims into the finals, while Division II put only three. The idea was basically correct, but it manifested itself in an unfortunate way. That is, no "II" gymnast would have made the finals if the team had competed in Division II, but none made it in Division I anyway. The result was unfortunate for the team as a whole, as they placed 125.65 to take fourth in Division I, and would have taken third in Division II, and so earned a trophy.

Two individual Tech gymnasts should be spotlighted for their performances on Saturday and during the whole season. Larry Bell '74 finished his second consecutive season as the team's high scorer, and John Austin '74 finished his second as number three. Bell has not been in the limelight this year, as a tough schedule and tough competition from teammates limited him to three first places. His position as the most valuable on the team, though, is unquestionable as one statistic shows. In the New Englands, Bell scored a total of 41.75 on the six events, almost exactly one-third of the MIT total. And this was not even his highest of the year. He scored 52.85 against UNH. Bell's New England score took ninth place, three points short of a trophy, but a great effort.

Austin came the closest of any Tech gymnast to getting into the finals. His 8.05 score on high bar held him in fifth place until the very last competitor on the event scored 8.1 to knock him out of the finals. Austin's score set a new MIT individual record for the event. Austin is the only team member to work more than two events, other than Bell, and really took second place in team scoring. He also came the closest of any Tech gymnast to getting a "3." He was the second closest to getting a "3." Austin would have taken third in Division II, but none made it in Division II.

The final game was not as close as the score might indicate. MIT led at half-time 24-16 and then continued to build up their lead to 32-16 before easing up a bit. The rest of the score was compiled by Donis Lawson '73, with eleven points, Joan Pendleton '76 with four and Pat Schettig '76 scored a field goal before fouling out.

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