Fall Baseball team: 5-4

Beavers finish the season with tight 2-1 loss to Holy Cross

By Lawrence D. David

The MIT baseball team concluded its fall baseball season with a 5-4 record. The squad had two victories over Grambling Jr. College, and one each over Assumption, Lowell Tech, and St. Anselm's, while dropping two to Mass Bay Community College, one to St. Anselm's, and an season-ending heartbreaker to Holy Cross by 2-1 in 11 innings at Worcester.

Coach Fran O'Brien will have improved defense, better pitching, and a running ball club this spring as the Beavers seek to improve on last year's 9-13 record. The fall season saw the club improve their fielding and pitching appreciably.

The pitching staff posted a good 3.10 ERA, as opposed to the 3.60 showing during this year. The team fielded .900, as opposed to last spring's fielding average of .920. The Beavers showed some daring prowess and speed on the bases, stealing 21 bases in 70 innings as compared to spring showing of 25 in 187 innings.

Steve Reber '74 led the Beaver batting with a .393 batting average. David Tirsch '74 was next at .320, Herbert Kummer '75 with .312, and Vincent Maconi '76 at .303. V. Maconi led the team with a .454 slugging average and eleven RBIs. Kummer led the club in runs produced, 17 (7 runs scored, 10 RBIs).

David Yauch '75 posted a .811 ERA over 22 1/3 innings, 10 2/3 of them in the Holy Cross game. In that game, perhaps the longest steal on the mound ever by an MIT pitcher, Yauch gave up seven hits, two runs (one unearned), struck out four and issued only three walks (one intentional). This spring, Yauch needs five victories to become the all-time MIT leader in games won by a pitcher.

Mike Royal, the ace of last year's staff, worked a solid 2.09 ERA over 30 1/3 innings and posted a 3-2 record. The ubiquitous V. Maconi took to the mound and saved three games with a 2.57 ERA.

Some fine new players will bolster the club this coming season. Freshmen Daniel Sandlerberg (catcher), Steve Maconi (outfielder-first baseman), and Ken Smith (pitcher) in addition to sophomores Rich Chojura (catcher) contributed power, versatility, and depth to the lineup this fall.

Some fine new players will bolster the club this coming season. Freshmen Daniel Sandlerberg (catcher), Steve Maconi (outfielder-first baseman), and Ken Smith (pitcher) in addition to sophomores Rich Chojura (catcher) contributed power, versatility, and depth to the lineup this fall.

Coach's Profile: Ben Martin

Benjamin R. Martin... Senior active NE coach in hockey and lacrosse... Syracuse University 1918-34... 26th hockey season... Head coach since 1947. Created MIT Round Robin Hockey Tournament in 1962 (forerunner to ECAC Division II Championship Tournament)... 1973 recipient of Sheaffer Pen Award for "outstanding contribution to hockey"... 29th lacrosse season... His teams have won three National titles with seven All-American players... Native of Natick, Mass.

The MIT varsity tennis team concluded a successful fall season with a 7-2 victory over Brandeis University. The short season was marked by overall good team play, particularly in the Brandeis match.

Only Ted Zuners '74 (who was recovering from mononucleosis), and one doubles team did not win in the match. Overall, it was a satisfying team performance.

The netmen also avenged last spring's loss to Boston College in their season opener. Captain William Young '74 won first round and combined with Lee Simpson to win first doubles. Coming through in the clutch were Wally Shjeflo '74 and Gerard Lum '74. They both won their singles matches, and teamed up to win third-court doubles.

The team's only loss was at the hands of Mercyhurst College of Erie, Pa., by a 9-0 score. "They were much better than we thought," said Young. Young had a personal success, in winning the Brandeis Tournament for the fourth consecutive year. Young avenged the loss to Mercyhurst by beating their representatives in the semifinal and final rounds. Young beat Koebler 6-4, 6-2 in the semifinal, and then downed John Koebler 6-4, 6-5 in the singles. Young and Simpson also won doubles over Koebler and Voikes. Young also entered the ECAC Tournament, held at Princeton University. He advanced to the quarterfinals before losing to Henry Brown of Columbia University, the eventual winner. Young won three rounds before losing.

Said the captain, "When we look at our two teams in Boston, we've had a successful season, and this time it's two out of two."