Harvard defeats fencers; streak stopped at eight

MIT’s vastly fencing team saw its unbeaten string of eight come to an end last Tuesday night, collapsing in the last nine bouts to suffer an 18-9 loss at Harvard.

Despite the score, the meet was extremely close through the first two rounds of fencing. Harvard won up by one after nine bouts, with MIT evening the score after the second round at 9-9.

At this point, the roof came in as Harvard swept the last nine hours, three in each weapon, to eke out a 15-12 MIT win outright in the season.

Standouts for MIT were John Ackerman ’77 and Rich Banner ’77 who each contributed two victories in Dobbie competition. Cong Park ’75 and Robert Zhu ’77 picked up single wins for the sabre team as did Chip Farley ’75, Jim Cook ’75, and Christopher Eckel ’74.

The meet was particularly disappointing for freshman sensation Ackerman and Sabre Standout Park, victimized by numerous bad calls, both of whom suffered their first personal losses of the season.

In contrast, the MIT junior varsity showed a marked improvement over its earlier contention with Harvard, losing this time by only a single bout, 14-13. Especially encouraging were the fine performances of Bob Liu ’76, Barry Williams ’75, and Craig Johnston ’77 in sabre and David Dreyfus ’76 in foil.

Tech’s final home fencing match will be next Wednesday against WPI.

Ski team fith at Lyndon; Championships are next

This past weekend, the MIT ski team finished seventh in a field of nine schools at the Lyndon State Carnival. After being moved around northern New England in search of snow, the alpine events were finally held on Friday at Mt. Washington. The nordic events were held on Saturday at Lyndeborough, Vermont.

In slalom, three sisters, John Nakele, ’74, Debbie Nakele ’75, and Gary Kaff ’76, scored for the team, finishing among the top fifteen. Drew Jaglom ’74 and Marshall Frye ’77 also put in strong runs. Plagued by several falls, the skiers were unable to score in the giant slalom event.

Saturday’s nordic events were more successful despite the fact that the team competed without its number one cross-country skier, Scott Wiegler ’74, also a strong jumper, Bob Collier ‘74 finished fifth in ski jumping with distances of 96 and 98 feet. Evan Schwartz ’75 finished 10th with jumps of 86 and 90 feet. Saturday afternoon, the cross-country team showed its strength with Steve Ackerman of second and third by Steve Ryan ’75 and Collier respectively. The second place finish was Ryan’s first intercollegiate race; Collier’s third place showing left him tied for first place in nordic combined points. Dennis Wetherell ’75 and Tom Gaskin ’76 also ran well, finishing in the top twenty.

The division I championships will be held this Thursday, Friday, and Saturday at Norwich University this weekend. The team will be skiing together in full force for the first time this season and is anticipating a strong finish. The first place team and the top five individuals in each event will qualify to compete in the division I championships next week.

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