Sports

Wrestlers 2nd in New England; Chassey named Coach of Year

Since 1947 the MIT wrestlers have finished their season with the New England Wrestling Tournament. The Tech wrestlers won the tournament in ’47, and since then have placed second or third six times. Springfield College won the tournament in 1951, and has won it a total of 22 times. In 1973, Springfield won, beating Coast Guard and MIT, 116-81 versus 81 and 70 respectively.

This year MIT wrestlers advanced into the finals, Co-Captain Erland Van Lidt de Jede ‘76 who upset the defending heavyweight champion in the semifinals. In addition four other MIT wrestlers placed. Jack Messinger ’75, last years runner-up at 118 finished fourth. Loren Dessouv applause finished third at 158, John Thain ’77 finished fifth at 130, and Joe Towervooma ’76 finished sixth at 177.

The JV wrestlers finished fourth in their tournament, with Werner Hass ’77, Joe Soprano ’77, and Steve Brown ’77 all placing second.

For the Varity finals only one match was used. The room lights were dimmed, as flood lights lit the mat. Going into the finals, MIT was in second place with 87% points, Central Connecticut had 85%, and Coast Guard had 79%. Any of the three schools could have taken second. In fact, MIT only had three wrestlers in the finals, while both Central Connecticut and Coast Guard had 4.

Ed Hanley’s bout was unusually close, considering Hanley’s amazing record. During the dual meet season, Hanley had pinned Steve Long of Coast Guard. Surprisingly, at the start of the match, Long took down Hanley, only the second take-down against “the Cobra” all year.

Going into the third period, Long was still only able to take Hanley off the mat. This brought the MIT crowd to its feet, and Hanley held Long on his back until he was pinned. The exuberant Hanley proceeded to celebrate his victory with a bottle of champagne.

Rich Hartman ’74 was the next MIT wrestler to appear in the finals. In 1973 Hartman had finished second to Rick Frogale of Williams. This year he faced Frogale again. This match was one of the closest of the evening. Neither wrestler scored a take-down in the first period. With Hartman starting up, Frogale escaped 20 seconds into the second period. Neither wrestler was able to take down the other. In the third period, Hartman escaped in seven seconds, tying the score at 1-1 with no riding time. Hartman saw his chance, and presented Frogale with a steady barrage of take-down attempts. The referee met Frogale’s feeble moves with a warning for stalling. A second warning would give Hartman a point and the match. Hartman continued to shoot, slipping once, and let Frogale get a take-down. Hartman escaped instantly and the score was 3-2, Frogale. Hartman continued to go for the match-winning take-down, but dipped again and was taken down by Frogale. Hartman escaped again and tried one last time to bring Frogale to the mat. A final slip gave Frogale another take-down, two more points, and a 7-3 win.

Erland Van Lidt de Jede ’76 was hoping for his second upset of the day, but Jim Murray of Coast Guard decisioned him 3-0 in the heavyweight final.

MIT finished second in the meet with 93 points to Central Connecticut’s 90 and Coast Guard’s 84%. Springfield, with 151% was the runaway champion, winning the New England’s for the 23rd time in 24 years.

Coach Wilfred Chassey, who has coached the MIT wrestlers to a 133-60 dual meet record and four second place finishes in the New Englands, was awarded “Coach of the Year” honors by the New England Intercollegiate Wrestling Association, the first time he has ever gained such an honor. In an unusual scene at the presentation ceremony, Chassey was first congratulated by his collegiate coach.

MIT fencers end season at 12-1

By Dan Gans

Steven Tech, 15-12, last weekend on the heels of a triumph at home over WPI, 20-7, closed out the regular season.

The foil and sabre teams were outstanding against WPI, dropping only three matches. Robert Shin ’77 led the squad with three victories in sabre, while Barry Williams ’75 and Dong Park ’75 each contributed two. Johan Almeran ’77 and Rich Reimer ’77 fencing foil and Chip Farley ’75 in epee each chipped in with two individual wins.

In the first match of the road trip, Baruch managed to keep the score close, trailing only 5-4 after the first round of fencing, but MIT then won nine of the next 11 bouts due to the foil team’s great efforts. Geno and Bois were superb, dropping only four points in these events.

Individually, Reimer won three bouts without a loss and team captain Chris Eckel ’74 in epee.

Most misleading is the score of MIT’s 15-12 win over Stevens Tech. In fact, the Engineers dropped seven of the last nine after pulling away to a commanding 13-5 lead.

A sweep of its first three matches provided MIT’s superb fencing squad with a 1-2-3-4-5 and solidly entrenched the Engineers as the favorite in the upcoming New England tournament.

Wins at Baruch, 19-8, and...