Baseball: 4-1 log in South

By Rick Charpie

After a week of fun in the sun, the MIT baseball team returned from Florida with the best spring exhibition record in MIT history. Overall, the MIT squad posted a 4-1 mark with the only loss coming to powerful Eckerd '72 last Tuesday.

Perhaps the highlight of the trip was the outstanding defensive play of the Beavers, particularly the fine performance of the pitching staff which posted a 1.80 ERA, the fine performance of the outfielders which yielded only five basehits into five earned runs, while the infield committed only two errors in the five games.

The week opened with a 5-1 victory over Embry Riddle. Dave Vanch '75 went the distance for the Beavers yielding only five basehits while the offense pummeled the Beavers with two hits, two walks, and three runs scored. Ignited by Mike Royal '76, the MIT squad exploded for five runs in the final three innings to bury the Trojans.

The fine trip concluded with a 4-0 cakewalk over Denison, a problem of a third starter. Mike Royal '76 pitched a sweet four-hit shutout, mixing his variety of pitches well to record ten strikeouts. Don Proper '76 pitched a solid four-hitter, striking out six batters and allowing only one error.

MIT coach Fran O'Brien was pleased with the play of the Beavers, particularly the outstanding defensive play of the infield, two double plays while committing only one error.

This workman-like efficiency was repeated the next day in a rain-shortened 7-1 victory over the same Embry Riddle team. The Beavers erupted for three runs in the first inning and four more in the third; the game was never in doubt and a 3-2 squeaker.

The fine trip was repeated the next day in a 5-1 romp over Western New England. Mike Royal again went the route, but may have been solved by Proper's excellent outing against Denison. Dave Wargo and Ken Smith, who hurled in a practice session that morning, yielded only five basehits into five earned runs. Every starter connected for a hit. As this was the first outing for the Beavers it is remarkable that the infield· turned two double plays while committing only one error.

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