MIT (light jersey) and Connecticut midfielders battle for a loose ball in the UConn defensive zone in lacrosse. A rain-soaked Briggs Field.

**Sports**

**Fencers fourth in NCAA's**

By Dan Gantt

Only three schools in the entire country can boast of a better fencing team than MIT. If the results of last weekend are any indication, fencing is MIT's best sport.

Competing in the National Collegiate Athletic Association championships held at Case Western Reserve University in Cleveland, MIT's Chris Eckel '74, Kong Park '75, and Johan Akerman '77 amassed a total of 69 points, finishing only behind New York University, Wayne State, and Penn, in a tie for fourth with Cornell.

Not surprisingly, MIT's effort was spearheaded by the amazing Mr. Akerman. Winner of the Intermediate Foil Fencing Association foil championship earlier in the month, Akerman finished the tournament with a record of 18-5 and a third place position behind Banks of Wayne State and Bostocks of N.Y.U.

The fourth place finish, however, would have been unattainable were it not for the solid efforts of Park, with eleven victories; Eckel, twelve; and the efforts of the rest of MIT's fencing team to get very few good shots.

The next day against Davidson. Both MIT's and the other team members played well, winning a few sets before falling.

MIT's effort in the preliminaries was spearheaded by the amazing Wally Shjeflo '74, which turned in a 9-3 record in the preliminaries, with eleven victories; Eckel, twelve; and the efforts of the rest of MIT's fencing team to get very few good shots.

Nonetheless, Park will be returning as will the remainder of the foil team which won the championship in the IFAS tournament at Harvard. Maestro Vitale also believes that this latest prominent effort will aide in attracting prospective fencers to MIT.

MIT's fencing team should be a prominent force for some time to come.

**UConn tops MIT 9-3 in lacrosse opener**

By Glenn Bowensteine

Playing in a heavy down-pour on a field that resembled a muddy swamp, the MIT variety lacrosse team opened its 1974 season with a 9-3 loss to University of Connecticut.

The adverse conditions were primarily responsible for the type of game played, sloppy and repellent. Rain-soaked, and the steady rain and slippery, churned-up field combined to produce numerous missed passes and ground balls.

The game marked the debut of MIT's highly touted freshman goalkeeper, Jeff Singer, who played a generally excellent game, making 24 saves against a well-disciplined UConn attack that controlled play and kept the ball in MIT territory for most of the contest.

Also responsible for keeping what could have been a rout fairly close was the Engineer defense of co-captain Rick Bye '75, John Boylan '75, and Gary Tozger '76. They blocked the UConn attackers, permitting them to get very few good shots.

Despite the Engineers' reasonably good defense, the team's failure to put together any consistent attack caused their defense to be somewhat vulnerable. The rain was poor, and the Engineers could not seem to make their passes stick. MIT had only ten passes on target, getting only ten points.

The team flew to Raleigh, N.C., where they were lacking in fencing experience. Whereas both Park and Eckel, were lacking in fencing experience before coming to MIT, Vitale was quite proud of their performances against the quality of fencers at the NCAA tournament.

Vitale could not find enough words to say about Akerman. Johan has been an inspiration to the team throughout the year and is certainly greatly responsible for a good deal of the team's success in Vitale's opinion.

So how does this recent success bear on the future of fencing at MIT? Regrettably, Akerman will not return to MIT next fall as he is being drafted into the Swedish army for a year. Eckel will also be lost, in his case due to graduation.

Nonetheless, Park will be returning as will the remainder of the foil team which won the championship in the IFA tournament. Maestro Vitale also believes that this latest prominent effort will aide in attracting prospective fencers to MIT. All things considered, MIT's fencing team should be a prominent force for some time to come.

**Tennis team loses four**

By Ken Davis

MIT's tennis team returned from its vacation trip to North Carolina with no wins, but much more playing experience. The purpose of the trip, according to a team captain William Young, '74 was to get in shape for the New England season; this goal was accomplished.

The team flew to Raleigh, North Carolina on Monday morning, March 26, to find not the expected warm, sunny weather but a blizzard. Apparently UCLA's loss in the NCAA basketball tournament was as upsetting to nature as it was to Wayne Wood

The next match was against High Point. The team fared only slightly better, losing 8-1. Young took his singles match, and the doubles team of Ecker and Young played well, winning a few sets before falling.

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Nonetheless, Park will be returning as will the remainder of the foil team which won the championship in the IFAS tournament at Harvard. Maestro Vitale also believes that this latest prominent effort will aide in attracting prospective fencers to MIT. All things considered, MIT's fencing team should be a prominent force for some time to come.