Radcliffe outrows women

Last Saturday, MIT's women's varsity crew team experienced defeat in the first annual Burger King Women's Invitation—

al Regatta, losing in both the four and the varsity eights race. A lack of state boats to prevent the six entries from drifting complicated the start of the four race, held early in the morning. With all boats finally settled, the starting commands were given, but three of the boats, MIT excluded, never left the line. On the premise of a false start, the race was restarted, this time for good.

MIT's entry got off to a good start, but at the halfway mark of the 1000-meter course, the line was evident. Finishing last behind Radcliffe (the winner in 4:45.6), Boston University 'A', BU 'B', Cambridge Boat Club, and Wellesley, the race was a great disappointment to the MIT crew. As MIT did not enter the other two races in the regatta, the lightweight eights and the JV eights, the women had lots of energy saved for the big race, the varsity eights, with individual medals and a silver trophy at stake. Although the eight had to overcome late boating changes, hopes were high for defeating Radcliffe, the national champion.

Once again, more difficulties were encountered at the starting line. First, there was a dispute over who was to referee, with the decision going to Gail Pearson, former National Women's Sculling Champion. Then, due to a strong headwind and the lack of a battery-powered megaphone, Pearson's commands were practically inaudible. Thus, when the start was called no one was ready.

Nonetheless, all three boats did their best to recover and maintain their positions. At 500 meters, MIT was two seats up on both Radcliffe and BU — victory seemed attainable. At that same moment, Radcliffe shattered the Tech hopes with a surge, overtaking MIT and BU and finishing about one length ahead. However, MIT managed to edge out BU by one-tenth of a second.

MIT's women travel to Princeton tomorrow to take on BU and Yale.