Sports

Keener leads v-ball to semis

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and served consistently (saving out the last seven points of the match).

MIT's final first-round match was against Wentworth, which, like the Engineers, sported a 4-2 game record to that point.

Since Harvard, Springfield, and Yale had already sewn up that point. Wentworth's home court advantage almost ended the Engineers' playoff hopes as, and served consistently (serving saves). MIT, on the other hand, appeared somewhat disoriented and demoralized both by Wentworth's consistent effort and the crowd.

Two points from defeat, the Engineers regained the serve and ran off four straight points on two Wentworth errors and two perfectly placed Keener spikes. Wentworth regained the serve and took it on a blocked spike, and Keener spiked one through the Wentworth front line for the win.

A stunned Wentworth team fell far behind early in the second game and lost, 11-4, placing MIT in the playoffs with BU for the "wild card" playoff position.

Trailing 1-5 in the fifteen-point playoff game, MIT scored ten consecutive points on three serves to break the game open in its favor. Most Engineer points came on BU errors, as the Terriers folded after a good start. The teams traded serves and points for the remainder of the game, MIT finally winning, 15-9.

The Engineers' seven-game winning streak ended against Yale in the semifinals, as the Elis' height advantage and complex offense simply overwhelmed MIT in the first game of the playoff match, 15-2.

Yale's play was almost effortless in rendering virtually ineffective the Engineers' big spikers with leaping blocks, and scoring on excellent placements. Most difficult for MIT to defend was Yale's practice of delaying a spike until the ball had fallen to just above net level, which ruined MIT's blocking timing.

MIT adjusted somewhat in the second game, staying close during the game's early stages, but the combination of the long day of play and Yale's superior skill gave the Elis a 15-4 second game win and a spot in the finals against Springfield, who had rallied to edge Harvard in the other semifinal match, 11-5, 15-12, 15-13.

The final itself was anticlimactic as Yale routed Springfield, 15-5, 15-12. Springfield's long (1½-hour) match against Harvard coupled with Yale's relatively easy win and the Eliz's relative freshness (the Yale match ended thirty minutes before Springfield's) negated any skill advantages Springfield's noted first in the East) may have had over Yale.

MIT's two key players both received awards, as Krups was named to the all-New England second team and Keener pulled out of Salmela against Wentworth's) nickname "woodchuck," and sets and blocks by Caro and Anders, all business, and Dave Leighton '76, who set very accurately and would be a strong all-around player were it not for his height (5'7)."

To summarize the team's performance, it was the spiking by Keener and Krups, blocking by Keener, Salmela, and Anders, and sets and blocks by Caro and Powell that led to the team's surprisingly good showing.

Obviously one key to the excellent finish was the coaching of veteran volleyball player Dave Castanon G who, although ineligible to play with the club in intercollegiate competition, was invaluable as a coach, setting up offenses and defenses to maximize the Engineers' playing ability, and calling strategic timeouts to steady the team when things went badly.

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