UCal-Harvard 1st in MIT v-ball

By Glenn Brownstein

The University of California at Harvard (a Harvard-MIT grad student team) and the Providence Turners captured the Division I titles at the second annual MIT institutional volleyball tournament last Saturday at Dunlap Gymnasium.

UCal defeated its arch-rival, the Cambridge Volleyball Club, in the Division I final. The intensity of the competition was emphasized by the strained relationship between the two teams, caused by the departure last fall of four Cambridge VBC members to help form the UCM team.

In Division II, Providence withstood a strong challenge from the MIT Volleyball Club to defeat the Engineers in the title match, 1-5, 7-15, 15-9, 10, short of seasoned players (most club members are undergraduates with little or no experience prior to coming to MIT) and without the services of its powerful spiker Bob Keener (MIT) and without the services of club members are understrength student team) and the Providence Turners captured the Division II title with 5-1 win over the Cambridge outlasted Springfield in the tournament, of which most of the team members' merits and well-timed blocking.

Fourteen teams participated in the tournament, of which eight competed in the stronger Division I, and six in Division II. UCM and Springfield led Section A of Division I with 5-1 records, while Cambridge VBC and Woocockett (3-3) made the playoffs from Section B. UCM defeated Woocockett (1974 tournament champions) in three games in one semifinal, while Cambridge outlasted Springfield in the other three-game semi.

The MIT Volleyball Club advanced to the finals by defeating Cape Cod, 1-5, in its semifinal match, other Division II entrants included Providence, Holyoke, Quincy, and Concord.

This year's Division I champions, UCal-Harvard, derive their unusual name from the fact that most of the team members played intercollegiate volleyball as undergraduates at one of the UC campuses. The combination of experienced collegiate volleyball and strong YMCA-caliber players has earned UCM the top ranking in New England in only its first season of competition.

As a result of its number-one rating, UCM will represent New England in the Holyoke Memorial Tournament, featuring top teams from all over the country, on April 15.

MIT's Volleyball Club will visit to Arlington, Massachusetts on April 12 to compete in the New England YMCA championships.

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