Heavy crew 2nd at Sprints: strongest finish in 25 years

By David I. Katz

The MIT varsity heavyweight crew finished second at the Eastern Sprints last Sunday. This was its best sprint finish since 1950, when MIT won the varsity heavyweight race. Seeded fourth by the coaches of the eastern crews, the Engineers upset Cornell and Wisconsin, the second and third seeds, respectively.

The junior varsity, seeded second to Harvard, had a poor race and finished sixth. The freshmen, in the petite finals, could not seem to row well in the second half of the race and finished eleventh. The men's and women's crews placed well down the list; the ladies placed ninth.

The varsity showed a great deal of power in the morning heats as they beat Cornell by a length even though the Big Red over stroked the Engineers by four strokes per minute. In the other heats, Harvard seemed to have trouble against Rutgers, and Northeastern was almost beaten out by BU.

The varsity sailed in the final heat, the Engineers came off the line slowly. They had problems with the balance of the boat and quickly went a length down to Harvard. At the thousand-meter mark, Cox Mike Newman '76 called the stroke up two for a power twenty. The boat charged past the Badgers and began to move on Harvard. The Crimson were equal to this challenge as they brought the stroke up to 39 to hold off the Engineers.

The final margin of three seconds was four less than the Crimson's lead two weeks earlier in the race for the Compton Cup. The margin over Wisconsin was 4.5 seconds. The Engineers led most of the way but decided to save some energy for the afternoon's finals as they let the Huskies inch past them in the last 300 meters.

Coming off the line in the grand finals, they were even with Harvard for the first 1200 meters. Cornell, again over-stroking the competition, had a length lead. At this point, both the Crimson and the Engineers began to drive on Cornell. Four strokes into the drive, the Engineers caught a crab that stopped the boat dead in the water. The TVJs were never able to get back together and finished behind the other five crews.

The Tech fresh men were foiled in their heat by Rutgers and Harvard. The Engineers, down by a length after the first 500 meters, hung on for the next thousand meters and then tried to blast through Rutgers in the closing stages of the race. They were able to pick up only half a length and were closed out of the grand finals.

Women ninth in Eastern crew

By Chris Tracey

(Chris Tracey '76 is the women's crew manager.)

The MIT women's varsity crew placed sixth in a field of 15 at the Eastern Association of Women'srowing Colleges Sprints on Lake Beshek in Connecticut last Sunday.

The JV boat finished seventh out of eight. Both crews ran into difficulties in their morning qualifying heats. The JV, rowing in the first heat of the day, was slowed considerably when the number three coxswain caught a crab about 16 strokes into the race and lost her oar. She was unable to recover it until the race official stopped the boat with less than 500 meters to go. The boat picked up some lost ground, but not enough to make it into the final heat.

The varsity, seeded sixth, shared its morning heat with the first and seventh seeded boats, Yale and Wisconsin. The Engineers turned out to be inadequate, with Wisconsin eventually finishing second only to Radcliffe in the final heat. At least Pendleton '76, rowing in the three-seat put it, "We rowed (Fear row to page?)"

Sailors third in Co-Ed Invitational

By Chris Donnelly

(Chris Donnelly '77 is a member of the varsity sailing team.)

The varsity sailing team completed its spring season last weekend with the men's and women's crews participating in the final races of the season. Both crews placed third and fourth, respectively. The six races were sailed in Larks rigged only with a mainsail.

The semifinals were held on Saturday morning at MIT. Both the semifinals and the finals were sailed in Force Fives provided by Alcort. These high-performance boats were designed specifically to be sailed by one person. The boats performed well upwind and plane easily off the wind. However, breakdown problems developed with the rudder and rudder stocks.

George Todd '76, having qualified for the semifinals last month, hoped to finish in the top four to qualify for the final. The racing in the morning was marked by a line squall which caused all competitors to capsize at least once in one of the races. Todd had several fast races, two firsts and a second, but missed qualifying by two points.

MIT had two representatives in the finals: Critch and Gary Smith '78 who had qualified earlier in the season. At stake was the Monotype Trophy and a trip to the Nationals for the top three finishers.

Competition throughout the regatta was extremely close between the fourteen sailors. Going into the final race four individuals were tied for the final qualifying spot for the Nationals. At the conclusion of the final race, Alcort of Tufts had narrowly outscored McLean for the win.