Sports

Sports in review: '74-'75

By Glenn Brownstein

The past school year, 1974-75, was a reasonably successful one as far as MIT's athletic fortunes were concerned. The Institute fielded over 20 teams on the varsity and club level, squads that competed with varying degrees of success, from hockey's second straight conference championship in 1974 to fencing's 13-2 mark and IFA Foil Championship victory. The biggest single MIT athletic triumph came at the end of March when the men's cross-country team, Rich Reimer '77, Arlie Sterling '73, and Mark Smith '78, captured its second straight IFA title. Smith's 11-0 record in pool three and Sterling's 9-2 ledger in the second pool led the Engineers. Smith was also selected to fence well in the individual finals, taking third place.

Women's sports and subteams were less successful, their efforts weren't enough to lead the Engineers to an overall sixth place finish in the twelve-school event. MIT's best placing in several years.

New sports

Based on the growing interest in volleyball in this part of the country, MIT fielded club teams in both the men's and women's divisions.

The women's team had a good year, winning most of its dual matches and placing third in the Boston AAU Invitational in November. The squad lost to the eventual champion, Eastern Nazarene, in the championship second final.

Two MIT-affiliated men's teams also competed this year. The undergraduate team placed third in the New England Championships in March, losing to tournament champion Yale in the semi after topping Boston University in a one-game match after the round-robin competition to gain the playoffs.

A combined Harvard-MIT team, the University of California at Harvard (so called because most team members played intercollegiate volleyball in California before coming to one of the two Cambridge schools as graduates), won the small UCH-MIT Invitational in March (the undergraduates were placed second in B-Division), and then went on in April to capture the New England AAU Championship, establishing it as one of the best teams in this part of the country.

First year varsity teams did fairly well. After a slow start, the women's basketball team won seven consecutive games, opening the streak with a consolation game win over the University of Chicago in the first MIT Invitational Women's Basketball Tournament. Brown defeated Radcliffe in the tournament final.

The other new varsity sport, women's tennis, had an undated fall season and a 6-2 spring mark, including a surprising 7-2 upset of Radcliffe.

Fall sports

Fall sports at MIT generally were disappointing. Soccer lost the services of star forward Shin Fernandez '76, and halfback Paul Fernandez '76 for the season, dropping to a 1-10-2 mark.

Fall baseball came off its NCAA tournament effort (two straight losses) to post a 4-6 mark. Golf, tennis, and sailing all had 500 seasons, and water polo achieved a poor year with a second place in the MIT Invitational in November.

In the largest rowing regatta in the world, the annual Head of the Charles competition, MIT placed second in overall points, the lightweights reading the Engineer effort with a runner-up finish in the varsity eights event. The MIT Auto Club's top driver, Joel Bradley G. won the New England Showroom Stock Seden Road Racing title by winning six of ten championship races.

The fall belonged to the cross-country team, however, as the harriers posted a 9-2 meet record in New England competition and placed a strong third in the Easterns. The teams hoped for the trip to the Nationals fell through, however, for financial reasons.

Undaunted, the cross-country squad set out over Thanksgiving vacation to break the Massachusetts 24-hour marathon record of 256.8 miles (a continuous relay of one-mile legs) but fell heartbreaking short, covering 235.15 miles in the day-long period.

Winter sports

Besides fencing's sensational season and the women's basketball team's second-half spurt, other winter teams enjoyed moderate levels of success.

Wrestling went 10-7, led by senior co-captain Jack Mosinger's 18-1 record (one loss to B.U.'s wrestler in the Greater Boston Championships). In the 118-pound class, and 6'6" Mosinger, classmate Erland vanLidth de Jeude's efforts in the unlimited division.

The Engineers placed fourth in the New Englands (Mosinger topped the second in his class), and van Lidth de Jeude improved to place third in the college division nationals, held in Cleveland in March.

Men's gymnastics had a rebuilding year, finishing the season 3-6, but got an excellent all-around performance from David Lu '77, who led the team in scoring. Parallel barman Andy Rubel '75 won the New England AAU Open Gymnastics title after leading MIT in that event all year.

Basketball improved measurably over last year's 5-19 record, finishing 9-16, but still disappointing, losing six games by six points or less, including one-point issues to Bowdoin and Wesleyan. Captain A1 Epstein '75 extended his school career assist record in his final year.

MIT's world-class pistol team had another excellent year, placing third in the world championships (after winning the nationals). Even a new coach, mechanical engineering Prof. Wayne Poolecock, could not end hockey's winless streak, now at 14 games, an NCAA record. The Engineers came close to a win in December, dropping a 3-2 heartbreaker to Gordon.

MIT's table tennis club successfully defended its Ivy-MIT league crown, by edging Columbia, 3-4, in the league playoff in April at the Varsity Club Lounge.

Spring sports

Although most other MIT winter teams had only fair to mediocre seasons, the spring squads provided much of the excitement of the past year. The Engineers' heavyweight crew lost only to Harvard and Wisconsin in a meet competition before finishing second to the Crimson in the Eastern Sprints. The heavies were slight favorites to capture the Intercollegiate Rowing Association title, but lost to Wisconsin. The JV eight and four of the varsity went to international competition at theCreature in the Eastern Sprints. The heavies were slight favorites to capture the Intercollegiate Rowing Association title, but lost to Wisconsin. The JV eight and four of the varsity went to international competition at the Crimson in the Eastern Sprints. The heavies were slight favorites to capture the Intercollegiate Rowing Association title, but lost to Wisconsin. The JV eight and four of the varsity went to international competition at the Crimson in the Eastern Sprints. The heavies were slight favorites to capture the Intercollegiate Rowing Association title, but lost to Wisconsin. The JV eight and four of the varsity went to international competition at the Crimson in the Eastern Sprints. The heavies were slight favorites to capture the Intercollegiate Rowing Association title, but lost to Wisconsin. The JV eight and four of the varsity went to international competition at the Crimson in the Eastern Sprints. The heavies were slight favorites to capture the Intercollegiate Rowing Association title, but lost to Wisconsin. The JV eight and four of the varsity went to international competition at the Crimson in the Eastern Sprints. The heavies were slight favorites to capture the Intercollegiate Rowing Association title, but lost to Wisconsin. The JV eight and four of the varsity went to international competition at the Crimson in the Eastern Sprints. The heavies were slight favorites to capture the Intercollegiate Rowing Association title, but lost to Wisconsin. The JV eight and four of the varsity went to international competition at the Crimson in the Eastern Sprints. The heavies were slight favorites to capture the Intercollegiate Rowing Association title, but lost to Wisconsin. The JV eight and four of the...