Richardson gets fifth in NCAA x-country

By Dave Dobos

Junior Frank Richardson's fifth place finish lead MIT 18th in the NCAA Division III Cross Country Championships at Franklin Park in Boston. Richardson completed the course in 24:31 to finish fifth, only four seconds behind meet winner Vin Fleming of the University of Lowell. Jeff Baerman '76 and senior catcher Courtney McCracken '77 were MIT's second and third scorers, finishing 11th and 126th respectively in the race.

Engineer hitter Frank Richardson '77 (left) bounces the three-mile mark in Saturday's NCAA Division III Cross Country Championships at Franklin Park in Boston. Richardson completed the course in 24:31 to finish fifth, only four seconds behind meet winner Vin Fleming of the University of Lowell. Jeff Baerman '76 and senior catcher Courtney McCracken '77 were MIT's second and third scorers, finishing 11th and 126th respectively in the race.

Richardson's kick was a fitting climax to an exciting race. Richardson had held the lead throughout the entire five mile event, with Richardson, North Central's Bruce Fischer, and Case-Western Reserve's Pete Kummant taking back and forth for the following three places. With two miles to go, Fleming, then in fifth, began to move on Richardson (who was second) and the other two. After he passed Richardson, a temporary leader ensued. Fleming caught Richardson, who was running for the second straight year, right at the wire. Kummant finished third in 24:28, just one second behind the leaders. Fischer followed in 24:29 and Richardson rounded up with fifth in 24:31.

Richardson was pleased with his performance. "I did not believe that this had been his best race. Richardson had run better against Boston College last week, in a dual meet which MIT won earlier in the season. There, in racing to a 24:30, he defeated both Fleming and BC's Jim Caparaso. Commenting on Saturday's race Richardson said, "The start was amazing. You had to sprint out the first two hundred yards."

310 athletes, including 42 complete teams, were entered in the championships. MIT coach Pete Chow was happy with his team's showing. "Seniors Jeff Baerman (26:18-19th place) and captain Courtney McCracken (26:21-26th, Barry Bayus '79 (26:29-134th), and Chris Svendsgaard '77 (26:32-100th) rounded out the Engineer scoring team. Tom Clark '79 and Jeff Baerman '76 finished 18th out of the 56 small colleges in the nation. The team members were quite appreciative of the large number of MIT students who turned out for the event.

North Central's first place team finish was a great improvement over last year's third, with 37 points over last year, Occidental could have won the runner-up trophy for the second year in a row. Brandeis, the local favorite, moved up on place over 1974, finishing third with 151 points.

MIT averaged earlier season issues to Kettle and Williams by placing above all of them in the meet. Richardson was the only school that defeated the Engineers in the contest in which the two competed.

It has been quite a successful season for MIT, competing as a dual meet record, placing sixth in the Easterns, and now finishing 18th in the Nationals. The Engineers only lose two seniors, and MIT will again be quite competitive, especially with Richardson, who achieved All-American status for the second time in six months. The team looks forward to the 1976 Nationals in Cleveland hosted by Case-Western Reserve.

**Flinn Shots**

*By Glenn Brownstein*

"(API) — The Utah and Virginian franchises in the American Basketball Association said yesterday that neither has sufficient funds to meet payroll, and the favored ABA could lose two more teams."

"In the past two months, one league (the World Football League) has folded and another is in grave condition (the ABA), bringing us to the same point where colleges are now looking to see who could control the league's credibility and fantastic salaries run its chances for survival."

The ABA's problem is primarily related to long-term salaries that the clubs (or in the case of the newly-defunct Baltimore and San Diego teams, the league) may be paying. The Engineers would be paid a guaranteed salary of $250,000 per season. The Engineers would be guaranteed the league's credibility and fantastic salaries run its chances for survival.

The problem is that even if the league drops to five or six teams, the long-term contracts it must honor may very likely cause it to fold, with the possibility (not large) that the NBA will accept the Nets and Denver next year in an expansion to 20 teams.

In any case, it is likely that the problems of non-established leagues and unchecked expansion will lead to more and more difficulty, until finally the number of pro teams is reduced to manageable size, and the fans begin to get their money's worth after barely tolerating the inevitable decrease of the pro sports product.

Speaking of money's worth, the official reason for Fenway Park's new electronic scoreboard is that the Red Sox can sell commercial time and make money. It makes little difference that it will look quite antiquated propped above the 19100 daylight park, and damage its unique atmosphere. It's just a case of a shame that the overwhelming influence of money and the lack of 20 professional sports has pressured Sox owner Tom Yawkey to deface an otherwise beautiful baseball stadium with a gadget that belongs with the domes and the artificial turf, not with Fenway Park.

The subject of money is, it appears to be a concern for colleges burdened with running pro-level football programs that moved the NCAA to establish roster limits for college football. The proposal, supported by many Division I and several Division II colleges, has for obvious reasons met with some resistance from Division III (small college, no athletic scholarships) members.

For MIT, establishing a roster limit goes against the purpose of the Institute's intercollegiate program, which endeavors to maximize participation while honoring the athletes' desire to win national publicity and gain donations from alumni.

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