By Glenn Brownstein

After a ten-minute scoreless streak that turned a slim lead into a large deficit, MIT's varsity basketball team staged a second-half rally that fell short, dropping a 51-44 decision to Acadia College in an exhibition game Sunday night at Rockwell Cage. Acadia, despite shooting only 29% from the floor, took advantage of MIT's 29 turnovers to gain the victory.

Al Jessamy had a sensational night for the winning Canadian five, scoring 27 points, pulling down 14 rebounds and picking up eight steals. Forward Gene Saunders added nine points and nine rebounds to Acadia's total.

It was a night to forget for the MIT varsity, as the Engineers committed 26 fouls, had almost 30 turnovers, and shot a very poor 35% from the floor. Last season's leading scorer, tri-captain Cam Lange '76, paced a generally lackluster effort with 13 points. Peter Jackson '76 led MIT's rebounders with 14, which included the Engineers' first nine defensive boards.

Two bright spots for MIT were tri-captain John Cavolowsky '76, who converted five of nine field goal attempts and garnered ten rebounds, and a freshman with excellent potential, John Wozniak, who tallied four points and grabbed six rebounds.

The Engineers took control of the game early, spurtng to a 14-7 lead after only eight minutes. At that point, though, MIT's offense totally broke down, allowing Acadia to run off 21 consecutive points. Jessamy — scored 17 of Acadia's points during that stretch, swishing four outside jumpers, adding three layups, and putting in three of five free throws.

Lange's jumper with 2:07 remaining in the half broke the streak, but Acadia opened the lead back up to 32-17 at halftime.

The Engineer defense adjusted to control Jessamy in the second half, but poor rebounding due to foul trouble (Jackson, Lange, and Cavolowsky all had four personals early in the half) allowed Acadia to compensate for its poor shooting and maintain a dwindling lead over MIT, cut to five at one point. However, the Engineers could draw no closer, and Acadia hung on for a 51-44 win.

MIT scrimmages - Bridgewater State Friday and SMU Saturday before opening up the regular season against Brandeis at the Cage Tuesday night at 8:15.