Okine goal: IC4A final

By Dave Dobos

Rich Okine '77 travels to Princeton, New Jersey today, and with him goes the hope that he will become MIT's first IC4A finalist in five years.

The lean junior takes an impressive background with him. Before entering MIT, Okine competed for the Ghana national team. In five seasons (three indoor and two outdoor), he has totalled over 200 points in dual meet competition. He went undefeated in the high hurdles this winter and is a sure bet to repeat outdoors in the spring.

He captured the Eastern championships last month, was runner-up in the Greater Boston, and placed third, losing by an eyelash, in the New England's last weekend.

Okine has achieved greater confidence in his hurdling abilities this year. He says that he feels more comfortable with his style than ever before. It shows in his four 8.8 performances this season in the 45 yard hurdles are only .1 seconds off William Lacter's 1985 school record.

Track coach Gordon Kelly feels that Okine has great natural talent. Okine's abilities have been demonstrated in the past, and his versatility as a sprinter/hurdler leaves him open to compete in any of seven outdoor dual meet events.

The hard work is worth it, says Okine. He enjoys the competition, especially the winning. His future goals include pursuit of the MIT 100 yard dash record and the improvement of his outdoor high hurdles time by already respectable 14.8.

As for the IC4A's, he says that he'd just like to make the finals. The longer race length (60 yards rather than 45) is to his advantage because of his strong finish.

His chances are good: he's talented and he works at it. Due to the popularity of many of its physical education classes, the Physical Education Department is going to hold a trial lottery for fourth quarter classes in one its more popular courses - Intermediate Tennis. The lottery will be limited to undergraduate and graduate students.

Students planning on registering for Intermediate Tennis should have a good background in the basic strokes of the game (the serve, the forehand and the backhand) plus the ability to execute these strokes under playing conditions. Beginners and near beginners should register for Beginning Tennis.

Students interested should pre-register in person at the Physical Education Office (W12-135) for the week that they wish to enroll in. All sections will be held at the normal times for Physical Education. Each section will be limited to 14 students. The drawing, by lottery, will be held in the Physical Education Office on Monday, March 29 at 10:15am. Students in the lottery must check in with the instructor. Class positions not confirmed on Monday, March 29 from 11-12 or from 1-3pm, Class positions not confirmed on Monday, March 29 will be opened to general registration during regular registration hours on Tuesday, March 30 from 11-12 and 1-3pm.

Students interested in the Intermediate Tennis lottery should preregister in the Physical Education Office between Monday, March 8th and Friday, March 26th. Registration for the lottery will not be accepted after Friday, March 26th.

Wrestlers sixth in tourney

By Werner Haag

(Werner Haag '77 is a member of the varsity wrestling team.)

Last weekend, the MIT wrestling team placed a disappointing sixth in the New England championship wrestling tournament, held behind homeplace Springfield College. Only three Engineer wrestlers finished well in the championships.

Co-captain Erland van Lith pinned his first three opponents, thus earning the award for most falls in the best aggregate time, entitling him to take first place in the heavyweight division. Erland defeated second-seeded Loeb of Amherst in the first round and again in the consolations to place third in the 134-pound class.

A fine effort from 170-lb. senior Joel Lederman, wrestling in the 190-lb. class, earned him a sixth place. Lederman won his first two matches only to be injured in his semifinal bout against the eventual champion, forcing him to forfeit down to sixth place. Lederman defeated the fourth-place winner in the quarterfinals.

Next year's season looks more promising, with 10 of 12 varsity letterman returning to the team.