

sports cont.

Olympics to tiddlywinks: a sports recap

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crewing fourth overall. Alanna Connors '78 also sailed for the Engineers, who defeated third place San Diego State by over forty points.

Moving back to the start of the previous school year, the fall season was dominated by the achievements of one well-established team and one first-year varsity squad.

The women's volleyball team, competing for the first time on a varsity basis, enjoyed a sensational 13-1 season that culminated in the Massachusetts state championship for the Engineer spikers.

Losing only one regular season match to arch-rival Eastern Nazarene, the volleyball team took the measure of Nazarene in both the Metropolitan and State final rounds to win those titles.

Although cross-country's 8-4 record was not as good as the 9-2 mark of the year before, the harriers placed sixth in the Easterns and 18th in the NCAA Championships at Franklin Park, aided by the fifth place finish of junior Frank Richardson, who wound up just four seconds behind race winner Vin Fleming of the University of Lowell.

As was not totally unexpected, most of the athletic glory, of both the modest and well-publicized fashions, went to winter squads.

It was a season of "firsts", as women's swimming and women's gymnastics won their first meets ever, and MIT's long-suffering

hockey team, greatly helped by a change to club status and the chance to use graduate students, not only snapped a 37-game losing streak, but went on to a relatively successful 7-10-1 season.

Cam Lange '76 broke the all-time MIT basketball scoring record in mid-season, finishing with a career total of 1699 points, while teammate Peter Jackson '76 ended his varsity career with 954 rebounds, another record, and a fourth place standing on the all-time MIT scorers' list. The Engineer hoopmen finished a somewhat disappointing year at 9-11, the best mark since 1972, but well below the squad's tournament hopes of the pre-season.

Injuries forced wrestling coach Will Chassey to use freshmen in over half of the weight classes, but the MIT grapplers still complete an excellent 12-5 season despite two end-of-season losses to Springfield and Harvard. Van Lidth de Jeude finished the season with a perfect record in the heavyweight class, including a six-second pin victory over a helpless Tufts opponent during the mid-season meet.

Erland's win streak finally came to an end in the NCAA Division III Championships, when St. Lawrence's Earl Peregra topped the 6'6" heavy weight 4-1, in the final round.

Track continued the excellent running season, finishing 6-1-1, the only loss coming to

powerhouse Brandeis, and that only by a point and a half. MIT's two-mile relay team shaved ten seconds off the old school record, setting the 7:53.8 mark in the New Englands at Tufts.

Women's basketball had a .500 record, including a third-place finish in the University of Chicago Invitational Tournament despite illness and injury woes, and gained a berth in the State Championship. Women's fencing also had a fine year, losing one regular season match and placing a best-ever fourth in the New Englands.

In less conventional sports, an Intrafraternity Council-sponsored canoeing team outpad-

dled both USC and UCLA in a 72-hour race in Los Angeles to finish second to Maryland, and MIT's tiddlywinkers placed second in the North American championships.

Besides the achievements of the crew and sailing teams, a number of other spring varsity squads had distinguished seasons.

Outdoor track set a number of school records and finished with a 4-1 mark, while varsity baseball, although unable to reach its goal of a post-season tournament, completed a respectable 14-11 year.

Senior Mike Royal anchored a generally strong pitching staff, and hurled a 14-strikeout, one-hit

shutout against ECAC tournament-bound Bates during the year. In addition, MIT edged its crosstown nemesis, Harvard, 8-7, with a seven-run sixth inning and a game-saving tag play at home plate in the contest's last frame. To win was the Engineers' first over the Crimson in eight years.

Although it's unfair (and inappropriate) to compare MIT's athletic fortune with those of Division I powerhouses, the Institute varsity program remained the largest in the nation with 29 intercollegiate sports, and the teams concerned combined for an overall winning record and a all-time high level of participation.

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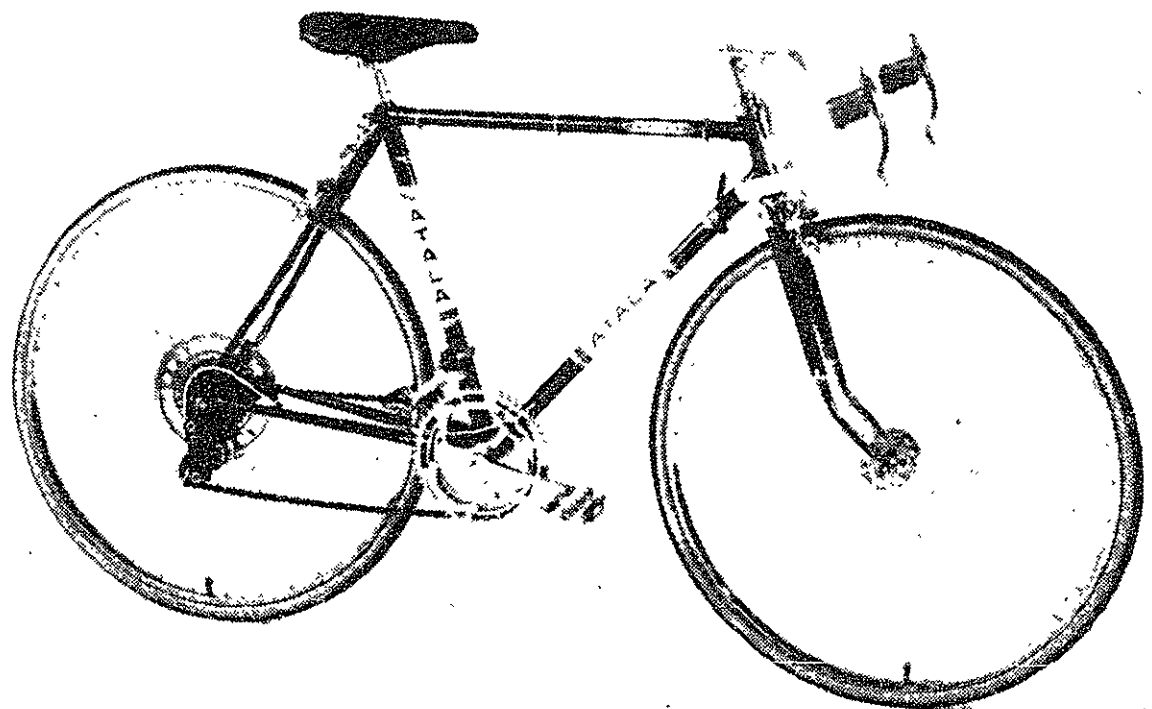
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