Olympics to tiddlywinks: a sports recap

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crewed placed fourth overall. Alanna Connors '78 also sailed for the Engineers, who took 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.

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Injuries forced wrestling coach Bill Chasse 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 Brandeis and Harvard. 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 Perger tapped 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 England at Tufts.

Women's basketball had a 300 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 line, losing one regular season match and placing a best-ever fourth in the New England.

In less conventional sports, an Intramurals Council-sponsored coed team outpadded 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 the Engineers' first over the Crimson in eight years. Although it's unfair (and inappropriate) to compare MIT's athletic fortunes 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.

As was not totally unexpected, most of the athletic glory, of both the previous school year, the fall season was dominated by the achievements of one well-established team and one first-year varsity squad.