Babson squeaks by MIT

By Glenn Brownstein

It will go into the record books simply as a 3-1 loss to Babson, but in one of MIT's finest games in many years, the Engineer soccer team played the defending NCAA Division III champions to a 1-1 tie in the first half before going down to a hard-fought defeat.

The Babson forwards, injury-prone the last two years and much-maligned for many more (the Engineers have not had a winning season in a dozen years), performed well in a critical "benchmark" game against one of the East's strongest teams, and gained some measure of respect for a squad that gets little, if any, public notice.

Engineer goalie Tom Smith '78 and halfback Laird Cagan '80 put pressure on the Babson defense for much of the contest.

The game was evenly played for about 20 minutes before Babson's superior skills gained them the edge for the remainder of the first half. Though play was consistent in the MIT end of the field, Babson could not put the ball in the net, hitting the crossbar and post a couple of times each.

In the second half, Babson again controlled play, but after Grueter's goal, MIT appeared to improve rather than fold, and had the advantage for about a ten-minute span.

Captain Frieder Krups '77 anchored the MIT defense, seemingly covering the entire field, and making the big stop almost every time Babson came downfield. Sophomore Paul Thompson also excelled on the Engineer backline.

Coach Walter Alessi remarked, "If we play like this all season, the wins are going to come."

He cited the play of Thompson and Smith, and added that "we have nothing to be ashamed of - it was a great game."

MIT will travel today to Worcester Poly, which received votes in the pre-season NCAA Division III small-college soccer poll, and lost to Babson 4-0 earlier this season. The Engineers then take on Trinity in Hartford on Saturday morning.

X-country takes Engineers' Cup

By Dave Dobos

Faced by senior All-American Frank Richardson, who had gone scoreless in a record-setting run, the MIT cross country team announced both Keppeler Poly in Troy, New York last Saturday to bring the Engineers' Cup back to Cambridge.

MIT's low score of 24 for out-distance runner WPY's 39. RPI trailed with 60. MIT had not captured the cup since taking it at RPI three years ago.

Richardson, who won the 5.0-mile race in 14:43 that shattered the course record of 20:06 with a time of 17:44 in second place was MIT's Chris Stenquist '78. His 26:11 performance in the 5,000m,

NCAA Invitational at Franklin Park. His time of 24:05 was only the cup since taking it at RPI three years ago.

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Ruggers edge Coast Guard

By Charles Cox

The MIT RUGBY Football Club played three games this weekend, scoring a victory over Coast Guard, defeating Babson in the narrow field, and handed a shocking defeat to the Engineers backfield. Play flowed up and down the field with advantage to either team until the Jumbos dropped a goal to the Engineers on the first half to grab a 3-0 halftime lead. MIT threatened several times in the second half, but to no avail as the Jumbos triumphed, 9-0.

The MIT C-team fared better against the Tufts B side. Early in the game the Jumbos boosted a penalty goal, then blocked an MIT kick to tally a try before Tom Bryant could answer with a penalty goal.

The Jumbos started second-half scoring with a try following a line-out. MIT fought back, taking the ball on a penalty kick by Bryant and a try by Walter Laird '79. Bryant converted the try.

MIT's lead evaporated on the next series of plays, when the Engineers were penalized at the Jumbos' three yard line. The try was converted, and Tufts was victorious in the 17-12 contest.

The Engineers traveled to Tufts on Sunday for two games matching the MIT and Tufts A teams, and the MIT C side versus Tufts' B squad. In the first game, the Engineers were hampered passing movements in the Engineers backfield. Play flowed up and down the field with advantage to either team until the Jumbos dropped a goal to the Engineers on the first half to grab a 3-0 halftime lead. MIT threatened several times in the second half, but to no avail as the Jumbos triumphed, 9-0.

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