Harriers tip Tufts, Williams

By Dave Dobos

Racing to a dual meet performance in the men's mile, the MIT cross country team soundly defeated Williams and Tufts last Saturday at Franklin Park. Frank Richardson '77 and Chris Svendsgaard '78, taking individual honors, provided the only bright spot for the Engineers.

MIT placed sixth in the top ten and compiled a low score of 24 points, its finest of the season. Williams and Tufts traded conference titles 7-3, respectively.

Richardson returned to his winning ways in impressive fashion, running a personal best 22:42 over the 5-mile course. Not only was it the fastest time of a New England Division III champion this fall, but it certainly ranks among the top in the country for the small college division.

Richardson's effort was seven seconds faster than the winning time of the Division III National meet last fall. The New England meet is another testament to his depth.

Svendsgaard, in placing second, turned in his best time at the Division III level. He ran simultaneously with Williams' third placer, who completed nine miles at the national level.

Although the winning team has compiled a perfect 11-0 record, MIT has not had a good season against the Engineers. The 15 point margin was quite an impressive victory. Williams had been undefeated up until that time and had also run a good race against MIT. The Engineers, however, whose 7-1 dual meet final record in MIT's best since winter, were not too good for the Williams squad.

Boston State's coach Billy Squires, who chairs the selection committee which chooses the New England area small college to compete in the Division III Nationals in Cleveland next month, stated that MIT ranks among the top three (along with Lowell and Brandeis) in the six state area. MIT has not received an official bid to the Nationals.

Although Martin's runners raced metropolitan distance dates, they have hustled and disciplined their training. The MIT squad is looking forward to competing against the very best colleges in New England, even though MIT is a small college and many of its opponents are large (having more than 3,000 women students). This invitation represents the team's goal for the season, and if the best level of play continues, it should be forthcoming.

The JV was less fortunate, losing in straight sets to both opponents. The victories over Bridgewater and U Mass have enhanced MIT's chances for a post-season berth at the Eastern Zone Championships. The team has clearly shown the potential to compete with the very best colleges in New England, even though MIT is a small college and many of its opponents are large.