Volleyball spikes SMU

By Gary S. Engelson

The MIT varsity and JV women's volleyball teams turned in some fine performances against Holy Cross and SMU last Tuesday. The varsity showed that by strengthening only one area of the game, they could go all the way to three games.

The first varsity match was against SMU. MIT's women had very little trouble beating a weak SMU team. The SMU quicks were completely disorganized as the Engineers put the pressure on. In a game in which the serve changed hands only four times, MIT shot out SMU 15-0. Going into the second game of the match, the Engineers were able to push the score up to 8-0 before SMU could call a time point. Keeping the pressure up, MIT allowed only three points before going on to win the game and match 15-0.

In the match against Holy Cross, MIT also had a strong showing, winning a two-game sweep. Holy Cross could not score more than six points in either game. They appeared to be getting sloppier after a loss to SMU, and gave the Engineers a 15-6 win in the first game and 15-4 in the second.

The JV played two very exciting matches, the first against SMU. In the first game the Engineers forced SMU to fall apart early, taking advantage of their opponents' weaknesses to gain a 15-6 victory.

At the beginning of the second game, the Engineers jumped to a seemingly overwhelming 9-0 lead but SMU closed the gap, making the score 10-8. Time was called by MIT and the Engineers tried to regroup. The score went to 10-all, before the Engineers took control and opened up a slim 14-13 lead. SMU managed to tie the score at 14-all, but after reaching the serve twice the Engineers finally scored the two points needed to win 15-14.

The final JV match was one of the closest matches of the night, as the Engineers faced Holy Cross. In the first set both teams fought very hard, but Holy Cross was always one step ahead of MIT, taking the game 15-13.

The Engineers began to feel the pressure on them and then they entered the second game, and were spurred on to a 15-8 victory.

By the third game the pressure and the long evening were telling on both teams. Soon after the game began, the teams were tied 3-all. Holy Cross went on to take a slim 7-5 lead before the Engineers battled back to 7-5. Holy Cross went on to open a 10-9 lead. At that point MIT began to rally, bringing the score to 11-all and then on to a 15-11 victory, to cap a good meet for the Engineers.