Undefeated Eckerd toppled by cagers

By Glenn Brownstein

Although the remainder of its southern trip was not as successful, the MIT men’s varsity basketball team gained some measure of satisfaction by upsetting previously unbeaten Eckerd College 92-79 in the first game of the Bears’ tour through Dixie last Friday night. The Tritons, hosts of the Sun- Coast Classic in St. Petersburg, Florida, had scheduled MIT in the first round of the tourney in hopes of getting an easy path to the finals against heavy favorite Transylvania, but the Bears, playing their best game of the season, thwarted Eckerd’s plan.

Guards Tom Berman 79 (27) and captain Peter Maimonis ’72 (21) paced MIT’s winning attack by combining for more than half of the Bears’ points. Maimonis hit six field shots in the last minute of play to seal MIT’s win and secure a spot.

Eckerd, playing a 1-2-2 zone, took an 8-2 lead after three minutes of the game but then inexplicably switched to a man-to-man setup. The Bears took advantage of the alignment by scoring layup after layup, and after five minutes they were up 10, and the deficit built to 45-35 lead at the half. After trimming away the deficit scoring layup after layup, and after six minutes, the Bears took an 8-2 lead after three minutes of the game. Maimonis demonstrated its cruelty to MIT basketball teams in the past, changed its face for one evening. Eckerd’s Jerry Jones appeared to interpret MIT’s outlet pass after the Tritons had cut the Beaver lead to three, but he lost the handle on the ball and MIT forward John Cavolowsky ’77 scooped it up and scored an easy breakaway layup.

Jones scored one minute later to bring Eckerd within three again, but two Cavolowsky baskets sandwiching a costly traveling violation called on Triton star guard Dick Danhorn gave MIT a seven-point lead with just 1:30 left. Although Eckerd fouled repeatedly attempting to get the ball back, guards Berman and Maimonis combined all four one-on-one situations to wrap up the win.

It may have been the letdown from the upset victory that caused the undermanned teams to finish with MIT and Transylvania, winners over Washington (Maryland) in the game Friday night. More probably, it was Transy’s three-inch average height advantage and scoring 20 per cent outside shooting that did the Bears in. At any rate, Transy’s Pioneers rolled up a 20-4 lead in six minutes and coasted to a 60-31 win over the Tritons.

The lone huge spots for the Bears were Cavolowsky, who shot seven of nine field goal attempts and finished with 18 points, and Maimonis, who only scored one basket of his own but passed off for ten others. Cavolowsky was the lone MIT player named to the all-tournament team, a squad dominated by Transy, Pioneer high score Jay Noel, who had 17 points in the final, was named the Suncoast Most Valuable Player.

Following the tournament, the Bears spent two days motoring to Williamsburg, Virginia to play the College of William and Mary, a National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics (NAIA) team and the equal to an NCAA Division II squad. One could make a million excuses for MIT’s lackluster performance Tuesday night against ACC, but regardless of the reasons for the Bears’ loss the lack of motivation, Atlantic City’s Jaguars turned MIT 93-52 in a game that featured little defense or excitement.

Men and women’s varsity basketball games remain Wednesday through Friday night. Women’s varsity basketball games will take place Wednesday night. The action is fast and furious as the intramural hockey season continues through IAP.

Cliffies take WBB

By Tom Curtis

Nervous turnovers and poor rebounding sealed defeat for the women’s varsity basketball team in their Wednesday game against Radcliffe.

Paced by Ellen Hart’s 16 points, most of which came on fast breaks following steals, the Crimson overwhelmed the Engineers 57-23. High scorer for MIT was center Diane Ouzlids ’79 with twelve points.

MI never really was in the game as Radcliffe scored the first six points of the game and cushioned their lead with a streak of nine points in the first half and a devastating seventeens-point streak early in the second half. The key to Radcliffe’s victory was its ability to shut off the MIT offense. The Crimson continually interrupted passes as MIT futilely tried to work the ball in to Ouzlids who, at 6’1”, was the tallest player on the court. Aggressive defense also led to several steals.

Another factor in Radcliffe’s favor was the Crimson’s superior rebounding. While the Engineers rarely got more than one shot on offense, Radcliffe consistently had two or more shots.

The Engineers, still looking for their first victory, play at Wellesley Saturday and at Lowell University Wednesday.