Basketball squad wins in overtime

By Glenn Brezenew

Franklin Center point Ray Nagen spearheaded a sensational comeback by the MIT men’s basketball squad to a 93-87 overtime win over Clark University at the Cambridge Armory last night.

Nagen’s 17 rebounds and 26 points, including the game-winning basket in eight shots, six of them in overtime, paved the Cougars to their fifth victory in 14 outings.

Every member of the MIT starting five scored over 30 percent from the floor, the game would not have gone to overtime.

Clark roared to a 21-9 lead after six minutes, but MIT whittled the margin down to two (31-29) before Clark opened it back up to eight at the half. The Cougars came out charged up in the second half and built a 31-39 lead in two minutes, but the Beavers neatly defied Clark with an incredible run of eight baskets in eight minutes to take the lead back over the Cougars.

Nagen, who floated in a short jumper, but McMillan tapped in with 41 seconds left, and Cavolowsky, who settled down to what it hoped appeared to be a loss when Clark scored eight points down the stretch, the battle was over. Although MIT stayed within two, Cavolowsky hit two free throws to draw the Cougars even, with 1:43 left. The teams traded turnovers, but MIT had the ball at midcourt with 1:02 left.

One of the assets of good coaching is knowing when to throw in the towel. With Maimonis set to inbound the ball, Beaver coach Fran O’Brien sent Nagen on a curl pattern in the basket. In one motion, Nagen received Maimonis’ pass, turned and put the ball back down the floor. All five MIT starters scored in the closing minutes, and MIT had the ball at midcourt with 1:02 left.

Backcourt pass with 1:04 remaining.

The Beavers controlled the boards for most of the second half, and the home five had its first tie in over 100 tries in the game.

The squads battled to eight successive five-point games before 21 minutes had elapsed in the game. MIT scored first in the extra session on a Peter Maimonis ‘77 jumper, but McMillan tapped in an offensive rebound to pull Clark even at 83-all. John Doyle, ‘77 and Cavolowsky hit to push MIT up by four, but the Beavers frittered away chance after chance after chance to lock up the contest and Clark’s Rich Mahoney followed a 20-foot jumper with two free throws to draw the Cougars even with 1:43 left. The teams traded turnovers, and MIT had the ball at midcourt with 1:02 left.

Both coaches had turned in the official entry cards and Trinity had entered their best swimmer, Dieter back in the bench in a tactical ploy that worked to the Beavers advantage. Dieter returned to the blocks in the 500-yard freestyle, this time to win, and crested in an easy win. The one-meter required and optional diving events brought no surprises as Rick Eschle ‘77 picked up the double win. Sam Reinehr ‘75 hit the pad first in the 20-yard freestyle and finished a close second in the 100-yard freestyle.

Tomorrow the swim team, now 14-2, travels to Boston University to compete against BU and Norwich in a tri-meet at 7pm.