Stickmen finally tide the stem of 'almosts'

By Glenn Browstone

For all the successes of the 1977 story of MIT lacrosse has been the tale of almosts. There was an 8-7 loss to Amherst after a comeback from a 5-0 deficit, a 6-4 loss to Boston College that almost decided by a furious MIT rally in the last four minutes, and a fine defensive performance that held Trinity to seven goals last week. Unfortunately, rain, mud, and inconsistency plagued MIT’s lacrosse-men, who scored just four goals and lost again.

But there were no almosts Saturday afternoon in Springfield, when the Beaver lacrosse-men, led by sophomore attackman Al O’Connor’s double hat trick, conquered the Awesome and the superior stick skills of Springfield, pulling away to a decisive 13-5 victory. MIT, now 6-4, outscored the Indians in every period, trailing only 1-0 in the first quarter. One of the game’s turning points came midway through the opening quarter, when after Springfield had normally missed two opportunities to open up a 2-0 lead (both poke shots), Brian Hurring-ton ‘77 quicksticked Springfield goalie Jim McNally’s save of an O’Connor shot into the net to tie the game 1-all.

Phil MacNeil ‘79 bounced one in with one minute left in the first quarter, and MIT then broke the game in its own right in the second. After McNally just 33 seconds after Poehlman’s goal to break the Indians’ back. In a day of so many excellent performances, two stood out: the first third period, but MacNeil took a pass from co-captain Roger Renshaw ‘78 and pumped one past McNally just 31 seconds into Poehlman’s goal to break the Indians’ back. In a day of so many excellent performances, two stood out: the remarkable 3-10 effort of senior middie best in his career, and the superior stick skills of Springfield, pulling away to a decisive 13-5 victory. MIT, now 6-4, outscored the Indians in every period, trailing only 1-0 in the first quarter. One of the game’s turning points came midway through the opening quarter, when after Springfield had normally missed two opportunities to open up a 2-0 lead (both poke shots), Brian Huntington ‘77 quicksticked Springfield goalie Jim McNally’s save of an O’Connor shot into the net to tie the game 1-all.

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