Winning season first in 13 years for soccer

By Tom Curtis

On November 7, 1963, the varsity soccer team ended a 5-4-2 winning season by tying Boston University, 4-4. For the next 13 years, however, the story of the soccer team was one of frustration as the team had 13 straight losing seasons. Saturday, the frustration ended. MIT beat Coast Guard 2-0 and finished with a 7-6 winning season.

The team's 7-6 record does not seem very impressive until one considers the facts surrounding this season. First, the team's defense allowed just 14 goals. Only three teams (Clark, WPI, and Tufts) scored more than one goal against MIT.

Second, four of the team's six losses were 1-0 shutouts. Only WPI beat the Beavers by more than one goal.

Third, the schedule included three games against Division I schools. MIT defeated Holy Cross while losing to Boston College and Boston University by one goal.

Finally, MIT played several of the very best Division III colleges. In the greatest upset in the MIT sports scene since the baseball team beat Harvard two years ago, the MIT booters belted Brandeis, the defending Division III National Champions, 2-1 in double overtime. The team also gave a valiant effort against Babson, the current Division III front runner. Babson's Beavers took a 1-0 victory over MIT's Beavers early in the season.

The Beaver defense - particularly goalie Jamie Bernard '79 - deserves much of the credit for this fantastic season. Bernard's performance this season has been nothing less than spectacular. Many times Bernard was called upon to make difficult saves, and many times he was equal to the task. Even one-on-one, the opposition had problems scoring. Bernard was responsible for all four of the team's shutouts. Only Tufts scored more than once against him.

Halfbacks Robert Currier '79, Mike Raphael '79, and Luis Boza '79 and fullback Paul Thompson '79, Tom Theurkauf '79, Bob Sullivan '79, and Jeff Tyrrell '80 exhibited strong defensive teamwork by keeping the ball from reaching Bernard much of the time.

While the MIT defense was of a high caliber, the Beaver offense was less than overwhelming. Five times the Beavers were shut out. In all, the Beavers scored on only 20 goals. Five of them in a game against ULowell. When the offense did get moving, though, Zanda Ileri '79 was the one who provided much of the team's offensive punch. Heri scored or assisted many of the team's goals.

One other person deserves credit for the Beavers' performance. He is third year coach Walter Alessi. Alessi took over the team after its pitiful 1-10-2 season in 1974 and transformed MIT into a winner.

The team's future appears bright. Only senior Rich Okine will be leaving the team. With a strong core returning, the Beavers should be able to do even better next year and - if the team can strengthen its offense - may be a contender for a bid to the Division III playoffs next year.

Rifle wins Sat. vs. USCGA, URI

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for shooters under 19 years old.

In the Air Rifle competition, the winner was L. Ramely of Wilbraham with a tight 727 out of 800. Martin Simine '81 topped the Master class with a 601, while Zell came through again to win the Expert with a 708. That score earned him the title High Junior once more. MIT's virtual monopoly was finally shaken by two shooters from Barre, VT, R. Brousseau, who took first sharpshooter with a 702 and D. Goulette, whose 657 topped the marksman class.

On November 19 and 20, the MIT squad travels back to Norwich to take on all seven teams of the New England Collegiate Rifle League.

scoreboard

Tuesday
BU 1 . . . . . . . Soccer 0
Saturday
Soccer 2 . . . . . Coast Guard 0

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