Researchers to advance

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IMs managed poorly

By Gordon Haft

Interruption sports at MIT involve upwards of 75 percent of the student body. This column was originated in part to take those people behind the scenes of the sports; they are involved in — to show them the management side of the intramural sports program. In the course of writing this column, I have talked with a number of IM managers and members of the IM Executive Committee.

This research has led me to a seemingly inconceivable conclusion: many aspects of intramural management and execution are performed in a way which is very poor. Recently, there have been two managers, Mike Tani '77 of Volleyball and Rick Kunze '79 of Soccer, assigned the divisions and leagues of their sports in a logical structure and did the jobs which a manager is responsible for during the season, such as publicizing standings and results on a regular basis. The days IM manager were not as good.

Football had no A-League, nor were we able to obtain any results or standings. Tennis had a variety of problems including a diluted A-League, no team championships, and a poorly scheduled tournament. Hockey does not appear to be being run much better. At least one occasion, there has been an open IM ice slot in the evening with no teams scheduled. The only reference, Hockey has an A-League, but it is a mockery of one. Every team in it is essentially an A-League team drawn from all over campus. No living group could compete in it. Lambda Chi Alpha felt forced to drop down to B-League this year for that reason. A similar situation would exist with soccer, but the problem has been circumvented for the last several years by the establishment of independent and living group A-Leagues. This solution was not looked into seriously for hockey.

What is the cause of this problem? The reason is very simple: lack of concern. At present, there is no manager's assistance, there is no supervision. The old title of manager was basically a position for those who want to work under a faculty member.

The Senior Research Scientist position has existed for about 10 years, but Haft notes that the requirement that such researchers be given three years notice before that of any IM council appear-approved departments to make such appointments — with the title still ever been made, he said.

Department chair would have to grant permission to the new appointees before they could supervise the IM Council. The new structure of appointments would be similar those recommended by the Research Committee on MIT Research Scientists, which is coming from the press. Press, then chairmen of the Earth and Planetary Science Department. Press is now scientist advisor to President Carter.

The Press Committee report calls on MIT to "increase the attractiveness of research positions to interested personnel and constant of the highest-quality individuals." Haftner noted there would be "a significant increase in personnel" under the plan, and that there would be a major shift from the pattern of regular "structured" members serving as Principal Investigators for research projects. The Vision Memorial notes that the new appointees would be limited to non-members of regular faculty members serving as Principal Investigators for research projects.

The only objection raised to the plan at the faculty meeting, according to Haftner, was "the definition of Research Associate," a title that many departments use to denote a more highly-qualified person than the new title suggests. Most candidates for the new positions would come from the present sponsored researcher staff, Haftner said. At present, there no promotion available for staff involved only in research.

Haftner added that the plan would probably have not much effect. However, he said that it might improve the scope of undergraduate research.