Vorlicek wins new honors

By Gregg Stave

Preston Vorlicek '79 finished sixth in the 200-yard breaststroke race at the NCAADivision III National Championships held in Grinnell, Iowa, March 16 through 18. In addition to breaking two school records Vorlicek became the first swimmer in MIT history to qualify for the finals in national competition.

Vorlicek, captain of the men's swim team, earned the right to compete in the Nationals at the New England championships. Although he also qualified for the 400-yard individual medley, Vorlicek decided to enter that event in order to concentrate his efforts on the 100-yard and 200-yard breaststroke events. Needed fourteen in the 200-yard event, Vorlicek dived more than a second off of his performance at the New Englands to move up to sixth place. His 2:14.5 clocking smashed the old record he set at last year's Nationals. In the final he also finished sixth.

For this accomplishment Vorlicek received All-American honors for the second time. He also earned the Straight-T, MIT's most prestigious athletic award.

In the 100-yard breaststroke race Vorlicek set another school record by completing the four laps in 1:02.56. This placed him 17th. Vorlicek holds school records Vorlicek became the first swimmer in MIT history to qualify for the finals in the 200-yard breaststroke at this year's 1977 Nationals, Vorlicek has been highly prized "team turkey." Vorlicek swore he would not compete in the Nationals at the NCAA Division X18.

Preston Vorlicek '79 swims to new school records in the Nationals. (Photo by Gordon R. Haft)