sports

Harrismakes All-American

By Helen Miyasaki

Leslie Harris '81 became MIT's first All-American gymnast at the Small College Nationals held at the US Air Force Academy in Colorado March 31 and April 1. Harris, who has amassed a number of firsts at MIT, finished an undefeated season with a fifth place finish in the all-around in the prelims, before falling in the finals.

In preliminary competition, she had a rough start with two falls on the balance beam that dropped her score a full point to 7.55. On floor exercise, she scored 8.2. She qualified for the finals in vaulting with a well-executed handspring full-twist (8.75), and in bars (8.6). In order to qualify for the finals, one must be among the top ten scorers.

Harris has been a very consistent, strong competitor in the intercollegiate meets and was one of the fourteen all-around gymnasts selected from across the nation to participate in the Nationals. In addition, fifteen qualifying teams were invited. The team champion was Centenary College (La.) and the all-around champion, also from Centenary, was Kathy Johnson. The top six competitors in each event were named All-American gymnasts.

Men's tennis loses first home match

By Helen Miyasaki

The MIT men's tennis team dropped their first home match to Wesleyan by a score of 8-1. The lone winner was third singles Sean Drobac '79 who defeated his Wesleyan opponent 6-1, 7-6.

On a very chilly, windy Saturday afternoon the Tech men were plagued with physical as well as elemental problems. Members of both teams suffered muscle cramps from the cold. In addition, tennis strategy was often foiled when the wind carried lobbed out of bounds.

First singles Neil Rackowitz '78 played an exceptionally tough match against a ranked junior from New Jersey, who came back after losing the first set 6-3 to defeat Rackowitz 6-2, 6-4. Varsity coach Ed Crocker remarked, "Neil played the best I have ever seen him play here at MIT."

Newcomers to the team are fifth singles Joe Pasquale '80 and second doubles Mark Getnet '80. Both have played in a few matches during the fall season but are expected to play more this spring season. There may be a few more surprises hidden in the freshman team — coach Jim Taylor feels it is the strongest team in twenty years.

The loss of the tennis bubble for early practice was felt during the team's spring break tour down south, where the sole win was against Georgetown University 5-4. But as the season progresses, the team is expected to improve. Their next home match will be Wednesday against Bowdoin.

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