Sailors return with a second

By Ed Marcus

Eight MIT sailors represented the men's sailing team at this year’s Kennedy Cup held at Annapolis, Maryland. Held in the Naval Academy’s forty-four foot yawl rigged yachts, the Kennedy Cup is the national intercollegiate big boat championship. Eric Greene '79, an experienced offshore yachtsman, skippered the MIT boat throughout the three day competition to lead MIT to the overall second place. The first two days of racing were very close as several of the top crews from around the nation maneuvered their boats around the short race courses. Despite the second day's high winds, MIT's exceptional boat handling and consistently well sailed races helped move the MIT team into the lead for the final day's competition.

The third day brought erratic winds and bad luck to the MIT boat. A poor sixth race start and an inopportune wind shift in the seventh and final race allowed close competitor University of Pennsylvania to take the series victory and the trophy. Closer to home, several nationally ranked schools sent their best sailors to Tufts University in the two day competition for the Friis Trophy. A Saturday's end, MIT stood in sixth place. A-Division skipper Lenny Dubert '79 and crew Hoorn Wiss '81 returned with some good finishes on Sunday to take fourth place in their division and give MIT third place in the final standings. Skipper Jake York '80 and crew Steve Dallon '81 did well in the gusty conditions and took a fourth place in B-Division.

The women sailors showed improvement this weekend as they placed fifth in the Sloop Shrew Trophy. Sailing at Harvard in both the Interclub Dinghies and Lark sloops, the women encountered unpredictable winds. Skipper Sally Huston '78 and crew Marianne Salomone '79 teamed up for fourth place in A-Division while B-Division skipper Audrey Grondahl '79 and crew members Alex Connors '78 and Barbara Biber '79 placed sixth in the division.

The freshman sailors, competing at home in an MIT invitational, encountered the same unstable conditions as those experienced downriver at the women's regatta. After a slow start in A-Division, Dave Kaller '81 came back with strong final race finishes to place fifth in his division. Geoffrey Gardner '81 and Royce Barones '81 co-skippered the B-Division Tech Dinghy to fifth place, giving MIT a fifth overall for the regatta.

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