Miyasaki headed honors athletes

By Bob Host

At the annual awards ceremony last Tuesday in Little Theater, Helen Miyasaki '78 received two awards to add to an impressive list of present MIT athletes.

Miyasaki won the MIT Athletic Association (MTA) Peaster Bowl for outstanding contribution to women's athletics, as well as the Admiral Edward L. Cochrane Award, given to the senior best demonstrating "humility, leadership, and scholarship" in intercollegiate athletics. In presenting the Peaster Bowl, Women's Athletic Director Jane Bets said Miyasaki "has never relented when she has been asked to serve MIT athletics."

Miyasaki was given the Cochrane Award for her participation in the Women's Athletic Council, Varsity Club, and the Task Force for Women's Athletics. Athletic Director Ross Smith said Miyasaki "set the example for dedication and hard work."

The Class of 1948 Award, presented to the Senior Athlete of the Year, went to fencer Mark Smith, who as a freshman was part of the "Iron Man Team" that won the Easterns, where he placed third individually. His year was underlined as a sophomore, and his victory was an unexpected New England Champion in sabre, in addition to taking first place in foil at the Easterns, where he won the prestigious Counte Award. As a junior, he finished ninth in sabre at the Nationals. This year in the New Englands, he was third in epee. He placed sixth in the Nationals, where he was named the Outstanding Fencer. His only regret, he said, was that he will miss the opportunity to be on the same team as world elite champion Johann Hamburger, who will be coming to MIT this fall.

Senior Sheila Luster won the Jenny Schumacher Award for excellence in athletic competition by an undergraduate woman. Luster was a member of the tennis, softball, basketball, and volleyball teams and was characterized by Bets as a "deserving recipient."

The Malcolm G. Kispert Award for Senior Scholar-Athlete was given by Mrs. Kispert to Neal Rockowitz, who was seven varsity letters, four in tennis and three in squash, during his MIT career. At the scholastic level, Rockowitz was accepted by four medical schools and will begin studies this fall at McGill University.

The Burton R. Anderson, Jr. Award for outstanding manager was shared by Brian Weheam '79 and Joan Sienkiewicz '79. Weheam took care of the complicated equipment needs and travel arrangements of the fencing team as well as working at the athletic midway, while Sienkiewicz helped set up the Women's Invitational Basketball Tournament.

To nobody's surprise, the Varsity Club Award for the outstanding freshman athlete went to Leslie Harris, who was underdefeated in gymnastics this season and was MIT's first female All-American as well as first All-American gymnast. Finally, the Harold J. Pettigrove Award for outstanding service to intercollegiate athletics was presented to Craig Wallach '78 by Intramural Chairman Jon Torg '80.

Kracunas's big plays lead baseball by NU

By Tom Curtis

In a game last week, he singled three times, walked once, scored three runs, batted in two runs, and stole two bases. Also, he prevented three runs with his defensive play. Who is he, Rod Carew or Pete Rose?

The answer: neither. He is MIT's own Joe Kracunas '79, captain of the baseball team. Against Northeastern Thursday in Brookline, Kracunas almost single-handedly carried the Beavers to a 7-6 victory, MIT's fourth consecutive win.

Each time he stepped to the plate, Kracunas was responsible for a run. In the first, he batted in MIT's first run with a single to left field, stole second, and scored MIT's second run on a single to Carl Nowinski '81 who was the team's RB1 leader Thursday thanks to his position in the batting order following Kracunas.

In the sixth, Kracunas led off with a walk, again easily stole second, reached third on a hit-and-run play, and scored MIT's fourth run on a wild pitch. In the sixth, Kracunas hit his second single to left field and thus advanced the runner, Pete Steinighen '79, to second. Then Nowinski slammed a double to deep left field which easily scored Steinighen for MIT's fourth run and also allowed Kracunas to try to score. Even though the ball best him home, Kracunas plowed into the catcher, jarred the ball loose, and scored MIT's fifth run. In the eighth, Kracunas hit a single to right field which allowed Steve Garverick '79 to score. MIT's sixth run.

Ironically, Kracunas played no part in MIT's winning seventh run. Pinch hitter Tom Congreg '80 scored it in the ninth after he led off with a walk. Sophomore Tom Congreg's sacrifice moved Congreg to second. After George Noah '81 struck out, Jeff Felton '79 hit a grounder toward the second baseman for what appeared to be an easy out.

However, the ball took a bad bounce and rolled into right field giving Congreg enough time to score.

Defensively, the Beavers also locked to their captain to provide leadership. That catcher Kracunas did as he picked off two runners who tried to steal third and tagged out a runner in a close play at the plate.

Despite Kracunas's outstanding performance, Northeastern kept the game close throughout. MIT never led by more than two runs; Northeastern tied the game three times, in the fifth, seventh, and eighth innings. Only strong relief pitching by MIT's Nowinski kept Northeastern from taking the lead late in the game.

Besides being the Beavers' leading RBI man, Nowinski was also the winning pitcher.

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