

sports cont.

Water Polo for the novice

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against a good backhand shot, in which the hole man, facing his own goalie, palms the ball and swings his arm around in one continuous motion toward the goal. Since the goalie also has very little chance of stopping a well-placed hole shot, the nose guard is thus under the obligation to foul the hole man every time he gets the ball.

Like basketball, physical contact, both legal and illegal, is very much a part of the game. However, in water polo, when an opponent is touching the ball, one is allowed to reach, pull, or even climb on him if one is "going for the ball." Similarly, a certain amount of violence in the act of shooting is also allowed.

In water polo, in almost every offensive drive, a "wet pass" is made to the hole man, such that the ball lands in the water in front of him, or with his body between the ball and the defender. He is then fouled by the guard, to stop play, which gives him a "free throw." Within five seconds, the fouled player must pass the ball to a teammate, or drop it into play. During "dead time," or the time between the whistle and the time the ball is put into play, the offensive players start swimming furiously, hoping to put themselves

between their defender and the goal. If the player who is passed the ball does not have a clear shot, he can pass it back to the hole man — for if the same player on team A fouls the same player on team B three times consecutively (without an intervening foul), he is ejected for 30 seconds, allowing the offense to play a ball-control game while they have the one man advantage.

Water polo, like soccer and hockey, has a penalty shot when a foul prevents an otherwise inevitable goal. As in basketball, the face-off is used sparingly, after a double foul, or when the responsibility for knocking the ball out of bounds is unknown. The full-court press, man-on-man defense, and passing the ball around the perimeter of a defensive shell are also tactics borrowed from basketball.

Water polo is an action sport, and a violent one, though much less violent than football or hockey. And when well-played, it is a very exciting game. This weekend offers a good opportunity to see water polo at its best: some of the best teams in New England will be in the Alumni pool from 4pm until 9pm today and tomorrow, during the MIT Invitational Tournament.

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sporting notices

The first playing dates for Intramural Tennis will be Saturday and Sunday, September 30 and October 1.

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The Women's Tennis game that was to be held October 10 against Holy Cross, has now been rescheduled for Thursday October 5, at 3:30pm.

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The MIT cross country team opened its season last Saturday with a victory over WPI and RPI (MIT 25, WPI 33, RPI 66). The race was a 4.9 mile hilly course over the Worcester streets. It was the first loss for both WPI (4-1) and RPI (2-2). A new course record of 24:59 was set by Captain Barry Bayus '79.

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