Two one-goal losses end soccer's year

By Dennis Smith

M.I.T. Varsity Soccer closed its 1978 season last week with two one-goal losses. The team lost to Boston University Tuesday night, Nov. 7, 1978, at 2:11 p.m. on Saturday, and fell to Coast Guard 3:2 on Saturday. With the two losses, Varsity Soccer's final record for the year became 6-6-1, and the losses culminated a disappointing 1-4-1 second half of a season for which hopes of a tournament berth were high and for which hopes of a winning season were never realized.

In Wednesday's game against BU, MIT started fast in its upset attempt, scoring first just three minutes into the game. BU's record showed that coming into this game they had not been able to win a game in which the other team scored first. The goal came on the first MIT rush upfield. On a surge led by Luigi Boza '79 and Francis Awaush '79, Rob Currier '79 fed Awaush who beat the goalie to make the score 1-0 MIT.

Despite excellent hustle and ball control on the part of MIT, along with a good scoring chance by Jay Walsh '81 and Boza, most of the play was controlled by BU. Late in the first half, BU tied the game after a flurry of shots, the goal coming on a shot deflected past goalie Tom Smith '79. BU went ahead for good midway through the second half on a long shot that slipped inside the corner of the goal.

Saturday, the Engineers dropped a thriller to Coast Guard, in one of the most exciting games of the season. Both teams played with intense desire to win.

It was a seesaw battle from the very start, and both MIT and Coast Guard had several near-successful scoring threats. One reason for the all-out play on the MIT side was that for many of the MIT players, this was the last game they would play in MIT uniform. In this, their last game, the starting formation for MIT was all seniors. Forwards Zanda Ilori, Francis Awaush, and Jim Arwood, along with halfbacks Rob Currier, Luigi Boza, and Mike Raphael, fullbacks Dan Devine, Paul Thompson, Bob Sullivan, and Tom Theraske, and goalie Tom Smith, played to their maximum in attempting to end the season with a victory.

After Coast Guard took a 1-0 lead on a perfectly angled shot into the corner, Arwood tied it up with a header at the start of the second half, and Boza put MIT ahead on a beautiful give and go with Ilori and a perfect shot. Two and a half minutes later, however, Coast Guard made it 2-1 with a long shot into the upper corner from one of their fast forwards.

The game-deciding goal came on a very close howling call at the edge of the penalty area. Referee's Association President Clive Davies awarded a penalty kick to Coast Guard, which was converted, and MIT was left to attempt to tie the game with just six minutes left. Pressure was applied to the Coast Guard defense until the final seconds, but as MIT couldn't score, the 2-1 score was finalized.

The season for MIT Soccer overall was a frustration, but it had its high points. The team perhaps won some games that it shouldn't have, but it also lost a few that it shouldn't have. Coach Almii looks to next year as a rebuilding year, but many players are developing into legitimate starters. With a few good freshmen, next year could be another story.

By Tom Curtis

SUNY-Stonybrook overcame a 3-0 deficit by putting in three goals in the final 12 minutes for a 3-3 tie with MIT Wednesday night, Nov. 7, 1978, at 8:45 p.m. in one of the most exciting games of the year.

The Beavers put together their most spectacular drive of the year. Starting from their own 12 yard line, the Beavers charged downfield on the strength of Wrobel's passing. Thirty yard and 28 yard passes to Bobby Joe Anderson '81, and a 50 yard pass to Steve McKenna '80 put the Beavers in striking range. Wrobel scored the touchdown himself on a one yard touchdown run. McKenna's extra point kick was good, and the half ended with the two teams tied, 13-13.

After a scoreless third quarter, Stonybrook unleashed a fearsome offensive attack for two touchdowns early in the fourth quarter. The Beavers did score one touchdown on a 67-yard drive for a touchdown. Jim Dunlay '79 scored the touchdown on a four-yard run. The extra point attempt was no good.

Later in the quarter, the Beavers put together their most spectacular drive of the year. Starting from their own 12 yard line, the Beavers charged downfield on the strength of Wrobel's passing. Thirty yard and 28 yard passes to Bobby Joe Anderson '81, and a 50 yard pass to Steve McKenna '80 put the Beavers in striking range. Wrobel scored the touchdown himself on a one yard touchdown run. McKenna's extra point kick was good, and the half ended with the two teams tied, 13-13.

After a scoreless third quarter, Stonybrook unleashed a fearsome offensive attack for two touchdowns early in the fourth quarter. The Beavers did score one touchdown on a 67-yard pass from Wrobel to Anderson, but the effort was not enough. Stonybrook tackled on one more touchdown late in the quarter to assure victory.

The team's 187 rushing yards, and 195 passing yards were somewhat negated by 167 yards of penalties. On one play alone, MIT was hit with three penalties for 30 yards.

The three touchdowns in the game were a season high for the Beavers. Their twenty points were also a season high. For the first time, MIT had no turnovers.

In its six-game season, the club was ahead in the third quarter in one game, tied in the third quarter in one game, tied in the third quarter in two others, and behind by less than a touchdown at the end of two of others. Only Brooklyn College dealt the club a convincing loss. Even then, the Beavers managed to score two touchdowns on a good defensive team. The club never embarrassed itself.

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