IM's need more referees

By Gordon R. Haff

The Intramural Council may have many of its problems with managers this year, but these problems have never been as severe as the lack of qualified referees. There has never been a surplus of competent referees, especially for those sports like football and soccer whose games are clustered into the daylight hours of the weekend instead of being scattered over evenings throughout the week. Indeed, about five years ago IM's encountered problems similar to those being experienced this fall. At that time an incremental pay scale for referees was introduced, replacing the old fixed hourly rate, thus providing incentive for improvement. According to Dave Michaels, the IM supervisor, this helped alleviate the problem for a while.

In 1975, the Physical Education Department sponsored a refereeing course in all major sports. In all but one case, these courses were taught by students. Michaels said, "These were very helpful." He added that they were used primarily by the getting number of referees but in terms of improving quality as well. According to some sports, this was brought together by Dave Michaels and Ed Crocker, of the Physical Education, about 25 per cent of the people who took the PE course went on to referee.

Since the PE classes had large enrollments, this figure represents a good percentage of the number of officials. However, when the athletic busts have suffered this year, these courses were one of the first things to go. Why is it that many refereeing problems cropped up this year? Michaels says there are two major reasons. The first is that the number of refs has always fluctuated from year to year. In many cases, even moderately experienced referees will cover a variety of sports, as opposed to most of the referees presently around who do only one or two. Michaels said that the possibility of giving PE credit for refereeing has also been considered, although this has a variety of problems.

According to Ed Crocker, this option will probably once again feature at least one PE course in refereeing. The course or courses would probably concentrate on the sports which have had the greatest difficulty getting referees. It is of interest to note that basketball has regularly had a course in officiating ever since IAP and has had no serious problems with officiating during the last few years. For that matter, this year 75 people turned out to the two-night officiating clinic. In short, a turnout which Michaels called "outstanding.'

Crocker said that he felt one of the major problems with IM referees right now, in addition to not having enough of them, is that many don't have enough background in officiating in general. As a result, he says they tend to lose control a lot of the time.

Hopefully, the reinstatement of PE courses will rectify the serious problems encountered in football and soccer this year. As these seasons showed, forcing teams to find higher leagues to contribute referees is a solution because more often than not, those officials who are only refereing because they have to are incompetent and unreliable. The course for these officials is probably the key to not only getting more referees but making them more reliable. If needed, incentive to take these courses might be obtained by giving higher grades and organizations are encouraged in coming out of these courses than teams who aren't.

In many cases, even moderately experienced referees can learn a great deal from the courses. For example, the hockey officiating course which Tom Stagliano taught last IAP, although it drew only a small number of people, many of whom were already referees, was still instructive even to those already officiating.

Finally, there is much to be said for getting to a core of people who will refill a number of different sports. While there are surely difficulties and organizations are encouraged to enter a team or teams. A brief sending meeting will be held at 8pm Monday, December 4, at Sigma Alpha Epsilon, 484 Beacon Street, Boston. The Athletic Chairman or a representative from each team is urged to attend this meeting. 3.

Rosters are due in the IM Wrestling Office by Monday, December 11.

Women's fencers triumph

By Amelia Phillips

On Saturday, November 11, while the rest of MIT was enjoying the unexpected sunshine and warmth, the Women's Fencing Team was busy fighting its way to victory against the University of Connecticut. The final score was 5-4, in favor of MIT.

Michelle Prystynian '79, as always, came through with her slashing coups (cuts). She confidently bid her time on each and picked her opponents apart. Deep into the action of the second round, Sayuri Kuo '81 brought her defense, but deadly, attacks into play. These penetrating maneuvers brought her second bout quickly to an end with her the victor at 50.

Junior Julia Shimakawa's lightning fast touch to the face is the undoing of several of her opponents. When not using that tactic, Julia moved swiftly in and out with straight attacks.

Nancy Kallinoff '81, victorious in three out of four bouts, went on to be the only member of the team with a perfect record. Nancy systematically guided her to her opponent's target area. The two substitutes afternoon were Debi Burnos '80 and Amelia Phillips '81, each fencing one bout. Debi fought valiantly to the bitter end, but lost 5-4. Amelia went in eagerly, but also lost.

The weekend of December 1 and 2 marks the biggest event of the season, except for the New England finals, as the team packs up and rides down to New York City to go against other teams.

The next event in this area will be Friday, December 8, at 7:30pm at Harvard Gym against Radcliff.

IM Soccer
Final Standings

Team

W L T Pts

A Living Group

5 1 0 14

Lee

3 2 1 2 3

LCA

3 2 1 2 3

Kappa

3 2 1 2 3

Mecca

3 2 1 2 3

Marc

3 2 1 2 3

Phi Chi

3 2 1 2 3

Delta

3 2 1 2 3

AEPi

3 2 1 2 3

No. Kigers

3 2 1 2 3

Rugby

3 2 1 2 3

Sorority

3 2 1 2 3

Bat

3 2 1 2 3

ATG

3 2 1 2 3

Glee Club

3 2 1 2 3

Chord

3 2 1 2 3

Lamberti Phi

3 2 1 2 3

Big B's

3 2 1 2 3

Maccabees

3 2 1 2 3

Avon

3 2 1 2 3

Phi Delta

3 2 1 2 3

Sigma Chi

3 2 1 2 3

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