By Dennis Smith

The Vanity Ballroom team played to the fan-buzzer to defeat Babson 55-54 Tuesday night in Rockwell Cage. The game, which was not scored until after time had run out, was played before an enthusiastic, spirited home crowd, and became MIT's first win of the young season against the No. 12 team.

The game demonstrated one of the team's greatest attributes: an intense desire to win. "Victories that are easy are cheap -- those only are worth having which come as the result of hard fighting," reads an H.W. Beecher quote that is displayed boldly on the MIT locker room wall. But for a day, they did, after falling behind 104-1 in the early going, MIT came back to tie at 12-12. MIT led at 18-16, and did not fall behind again until late in the game. Both sides played rather sloppily, but the game was not without its notable efforts. Tom Berman '79 played aggressively at the guard position, and at one point drove inside, and having missed, get his own rebound and banked it in to put MIT ahead with thirteen minutes to go. Jonielle Gehoff's quick moves were good for two points and kept the Babson defense off balance. Keith Baker '82 came off of the floor with his four of five shots from the field in an impressive, inspired effort. Ray Nagem '80 had ten points in the first half and added three more in the second half before being forced to sit down with an injured ankle. Babson's '81 controlled the boards with eleven rebounds, including several in key situations.

The real action began with five minutes left, when Nagem was tipped in a missed free throw to go ahead for the first time since anyone could remember. '78, a crucial point arrived with two minutes to go when Babson, leading 56-48, stole the ball. Darryl Fraz '80 fouled the breaking Babson player in desperation. However, with the pressure on, the Babson player missed both free throws and MIT recovered the ball. With 42 seconds on the clock and Babson leading 52-51, Captain John Wozniak '79 went up for a shot underneath the basket, missed, and the foul was wasted in the process. Before Wozniak could go to the foul line to shoot, however, Babson called two time outs in an attempt to put more pressure on Wozniak. He missed the free throw, but MIT's Bobby Clark hauled down the rebound in an outstanding effort. MIT then worked the ball around to Wozniak again, who went up and was fouled again. This time he hit both free throws and the Engineers led 55-52 with 29 seconds to go. Babson immediately downcourt and scored within one, and then fouled Bobby Clarke with three seconds left, in a standard basketball strategem to get the ball after the foul shots. Clarke went to the line and sunk the intense pressure, missing both shots. Wozniak's second missed the rim entirely, and the ball was awarded to Babson at the sideline. After calling a time out to work out an inbounds play, Babson got the ball and quickly worked it over to their best shooter, Captain Mike Barbarta '79, and as the buzzer went off, Babson's signifying that time had run out, everyone watched breathlessly as the shot missed its target, and MIT's 55-54 victory was preserved.

The win was well earned; the team overcame incomplete play and communication problems through desire, hustle, and aggressive defense to come away victorious. The schedule is tough, but judging by the dedication of the men still coming to the home crowd, this could be a successful season.

Cagers take opener, 55-54

By Sharon Gardner

(Editor's note: Sharon Gardner is a reporter for the MIT women's rugby team.)

On November 11th, a hard fought 15-14 victory against the Concord Black Roosters, 16-10, MIT suffered the loss of two key players, Connie Cotton and Barbara Aubertin '79, due to injuries suffered in the game, and thus played two women down in the second half. Stalely fouled and Nancy Breen '80 each contributed one goal, with Liz Bradley '80 converted on one conversion kick. On November 25, nine members of the women's rugby club participated in the 21st annual New York Sevens Rugby Tournament, where MIT captured the consolation round. The raw and windy day started for MIT with a game against the Montreal Irish. Tech began slow, but at the half the score was 15-12 in favor of the home crowd, this could be a successful season.

Women's rugby boosted by NY tourney shutouts

By Sharon Gardner

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