Football is popular

By Gordon R. Hall
The recent decision of the Athletic Board to drop football for the second time in five years was met with mixed feelings by many people around the Institute, leading some to question the wisdom of the decision and to speculate on whether football will return to MIT in the near future.

The question of football at MIT has been a topic of discussion for many years, with advocates and detractors on both sides. In 1972, the Athletic Board decided to drop football due to budgetary concerns, but the team returned in 1973. However, in 1978, the Board again voted to eliminate football, citing budgetary pressures and the need to redirect funds to other programs.

Although the decision to drop football was met with disappointment by some, others saw it as a necessary step in order to maintain financial stability for the Athletic Department. In a presentation to the Board, Ross Smith, the head of the Athletic Department, explained that the club had been losing money and that the team needed to operate within reasonable budgetary and academic considerations.

In terms of spectator interest, the Institute stepped in and formed a Department. In conjunction with this, they applied to the Finance Committee for a feasibility study to determine whether football could be viable. They were told that a feasibility study would have to be done before they could be affiliated with the Institute, and that the club had to be self-sufficient in order to operate.

When Bruce Wrobel '79 and a few other frat people started knocking around the idea of starting a football team at MIT, the idea was hardly a new one, even in recent history. Indeed it was a notion which seemed to go through something approaching five year cycles. In fact, the Athletic Department had in their possession two fat reports which had twice in the last decade and a half proved that football at MIT could indeed be within reasonable budgetary and academic considerations.

Half Time

When the idea began to pass the planning stage, many people began to get -scored. The Club applied to its, Association of Student Activities for permission after the Athletic Department told them that a feasibility study would have to be done before they could be affiliated with the Department. In conjunction with this, they applied to the Finance Board of the Undergraduate Association for money. All this was done outside of the Athletic Department.

At this point, with grave concern about insurance and other similar matters facing them, the Institute stepped in and formed a special committee to study football at MIT. The Club's request to the ASA was dropped. Over the summer, a report was produced by this Committee on Football which recommended that football be instituted on a one-year basis provided that concerns about budget and medical care were met.

In terms of spectator interest, the Institute stepped in and formed a Department. In conjunction with this, they applied to the Finance Committee for a feasibility study to determine whether football could be viable. According to Professor, of Aeronautics and Astronautics James W. Mar, chairman of the Board, the conditions on the football club pertain to sources of funding and medical care. The club must obtain its money from within the Dean for Student Affairs' budget without taking away from existing programs. In addition the Medical Department must be able to provide whatever care they deem necessary for the team.

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