Runners split three meets

By Lew Bender

Editor's note: Lew Bender is a member of the indoor track team.

The track team competed against Colby, Tufts, and Bowdoin this past week. The team finished the week with an even record of one win, one loss, and one tie, putting its season record of one win, one loss, and one tie, putting its season record at 4-2-1.

The MIT-Colby-Tufts triangular meet was Wednesday night. MIT defeated Colby, but tied Tufts. A tie score in a track meet is very rare. The score was MIT 69, Tufts 69, Colby 28.

The meet started off well for the Cavaliers, as they took the first, second, and third in the weight throw, with Steve Sifferlen G winning (22’9”). MIT went on to win only four more events, however. Jason Tong ’91 won the one mile run, Barry Beves ’79 the two mile, and the relay team of Jim Dunlay ’79, Fred Berretta ’79, Frank Luedke ’81, and Ron Adolph ’81, the mile relay. The majority of the team’s scoring came from second and third place finishes; eighth seconds and seven thirds.

The meet between Bowdoin and MIT was won by Bowdoin, 919 to 441. For MIT it was a meet in which many things went wrong.

A foreshadowing of how the meet was to turn out came before the team even left. The food service would not honor the meal tickets that were presented for breakfast. When that was finally cleared up, the team left for Bowdoin. About 100 miles from Boston, the bus broke down, leaving the team stranded. Finally a new bus showed up and the track team was taken to Bowdoin, arriving one and a half hours late.

Although they lost, some bright spots for the team were the winning performances of Sifferlen and freshmen star Jeff Lukas in the weight throw, two mile run and 1000 yard run, respectively.

North Carolina routs fencers

By Brian F. Wibecan

Editor’s note: Brian F. Wibecan is a member of the men’s fencing team.

The men’s fencing team raised its record to 5-4 by winning three of five meets last weekend. The Friday meet, against University of North Carolina, was a devastating defeat, the worst in varsity loss in UNC, which took last in last year’s national championships, rolled over the Tech fencers 15-12.

MIT won the foil 5-4, led by Rich Hemphill ’79 and Eric de Beus ’82 who took two bouts each. Jim Freidah ’81 had one victory. The only saber victory went to Adolph ’81.

Saturday morning, the MIT fencers fared better, losing 15-12 to the third-ranked Clemson.

The foil squad continued its excellent season by winning six bouts, three by Hemphill, two by de Beus, and one by Freidah. In sabre, Nager and George Gonzales-Rivas ’80 each won two. John Rodrigues ’80, replacing Johan Harmenberg as captain since Harmenberg returned to Sweden, posted the epee squad on the board for the first time in two days with his victory. Chris Braun ’82 gave the squad a second epee win.

MIT put back on the winning track in the quadruple meet that afternoon. The team won all three of its meets, starting with a 17-19 defeat of Southeastern Missouri State University. All three weapons won, led again by the foil squad. de Beus won all three, and Freidah took two, leading the squad to a 6-3 victory. In epee Braun, Brian Wibecan ’79, and Bob Schonberger ‘79 lost only to SMU’s first apostle to bring in six wins. Sabre’s 5-4 victory was highlighted by Nager’s triple win.

The University of Maine was missing its epeeist and a sabreur, thereby forfeiting six bouts. This ended up not making much difference as MIT won fourteen more bouts, trouncing Maine 20-7. Foil won six bouts against a complete squad, led by Freidah’s sweep of three. Rodrigues and Grenier each added a win.

Davie Heller ’79 defeated both of their Maine opponents in epee. Gonzales-Rivas led the sabreurs, going undefeated in two bouts.

The winning trend continued as MIT demolished Baruch 25-2. de Beus again swept three bouts, and Hemphill and Freidah both won two for two, out to a 9-0 rump in foil. Sabre took eight, led again by Nager’s three and Gonzales-Rivas’ two. Epee also went 8-1, as Rodrigues, Schonberger and Wibecan each took two.

The performance of the foil squad has sparked hopes of a possible championship performance at the Northeastern Championships this March. MIT won the foil championship in 1974 and 1975, taking second in 1977.

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