IM hockey 'going okay'

By Gordon R. Haff

After some early problems with scheduling, IM Hockey manager Dean Novelli '81 described this popular winter sport's season as "generally going OK."

Two major criticisms have been levied against the management of this year's IM hockey season. The first is that teams in some cases have not been told about rescheduled games. In one case, a varsity hockey game was not taken into account in the schedule. When an IM game between two Baker teams had to be cancelled to accommodate the Varsity game, the teams involved were never informed of the cancellation and a large number of spectators came to the rink for a nonexistent game. (The situation did, however, have the advantage of increasing the attendance of the varsity game well over the usual figure.)

The other major criticism is that cancellation has not been managed adequately. One of the greatest problems, according to Novelli, is that when teams cancel out of their games at the last moment, it is difficult to reschedule teams into the slots on short notice. Novelli said that this problem was particularly acute with departmental teams, for example, where a large number of phone calls are needed to get a team together. Novelli was asked if living group teams in which this problem did not exist could have been scheduled into the slots. He admitted that this might have been a possibility but mentioned that teams must end up with an equal number of games. In many cases those teams which were always available for rescheduling were not those who needed games. However, Novelli admitted that his inexperience contributed to rescheduling fewer games than he perhaps should have been able to.

Since IM hockey is always short of ice time for both practices and games, any inefficient use of precious ice time is instantly jumped upon by the participants.

Another problem arose from an experiment of Novelli's this year — leaving some open slots for scrimmages between interested teams during IAP. According to Novelli, only two teams — Baker and Burton Third — have difficulty at the start of the season has been worked out as well as could be expected. Mechanical Engineering and Metallurgy have each played several games and according to Novelli, the Mechanical Engineering team captain has been pleased with the way the situation has been handled although he is disappointed that he is not in a league.

On the bright side, hockey has not suffered one of the problems which plagued fall sports — lack of referees. Partly thanks to games which are more spread out than the weekend games of football and soccer, hockey has had no trouble in finding a sufficient number of competent referees.

Half Time

— applied for scrimmage time sufficiently in advance to schedule them.

The lack of an A-league, a major problem during the season, has been pleased with the way the situation has been handled although he is disappointed that he is not in a league.


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