Sports

Sports center work begins

Construction of the new indoor sports complex began this summer with the removal of the outdoor rink. (Photo by Gordon R. Haff)

By Gordon R. Haff

Construction has finally begun on the first phase of a new athletic center for MIT. A two level structure with a new ice rink/special events center on the lower level and a synthetic track/basketball courts/tennis courts on the upper level is now being built on Briggs Field.

The ice rink on the first level will be open from mid-October to mid-March according to Ross Smith, Director of Athletics. Seating for ice hockey will be about 1500. During the off-season, the first level will be used as a special events center with seating set at about 4000. Team locker rooms are also included in the plan. There will be no lockers for the MIT Community at large although the addition of lockers to the ice rink will free up space in Briggs Field House which will remain intact during this phase of expansion.

The second level of the new building will consist of a synthetic track and infield. The track infield will be readily convertible between track events, winter sports, tennis, and indoor track events. The basketball courts will be used primarily for intramurals.

In addition to the construction of the new building, a number of minor improvements will be made to the existing facilities next summer. Rockwell Cage will be recirculated and moveable bleachers with a seating capacity of at least 1100 will be installed in Du Pont gymnasium. This will provide seating for varsity basketball which will be moved to Du Pont from Rockwell Cage and for gymnastics which presently has no real seating arrangements.

According to Smith, the final cost for Phase I will be "in excess of eight million although they are still negotiating." Since this is more than the original allocation for the building, Smith said "cutting out some frills" was necessary but no major changes were made.

Since the old Geiger Memorial Rink was torn down in order to begin construction, there will be no hockey rink at MIT next hockey season. According to Tech Talk, the construction will be completed by the fall of 1980. However, one high source speculated that completion before the 1980-81 winter is unlikely since the beginning of construction has been delayed two months. The delay was partly caused by planning office delays and partly caused by negotiations concerning the final bids.

Intramurals provide participation for all

By Gordon R. Haff

An estimated 75 percent of the MIT student sports body participates in intramural sports. The most popular sport is usually softball followed closely by football. However, like club sports, it takes very little effort to start up a new sport-the only serious problem being facilities. Last year saw an Ultimate Frisbee league initiated and Fencing Club initiated.

In addition to the construction of the new ice rink facility, which currently provides seating for varsity hockey, it is speculated that the ice rink will be converted to a synthetic court/basketball court currently located in the old Geiger. This will provide seating for varsity basketball and for gymnastics which presently has no real seating arrangements. According to Smith, the final cost for Phase I will be "in excess of eight million although they are still negotiating." Since this is more than the original allocation for the building, Smith said "cutting out some frills" was necessary but no major changes were made.

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Everyone should get involved in the sports program here even if it's only to the point of paying occasionally on one or two IM teams. And if you want to be more active there is plenty of opportunity for that. Many people play varsity team sports. Finally, although the MIT sports program is participation oriented, remember that the intercollegiate teams, both varsity and club, like to get some support. No matter where you are living there are probably people you know participating on these teams. Go out and cheer them every now and then.

And remember, don't be surprised if you yourself turn out to be good at one of those sports you had never even heard of in high school—many of MIT's All-Americans never played their sport before coming here.

MIT's 21 sports is record

By Gordon R. Haff

MIT has the greatest number of varsity teams of any college in the country. However, even people who know this are often surprised to learn that many of these teams do well on the local level or even on the regional or national level.

In the fall Cross Country (6-2) paced by Barry Bays "79, finished third in the Easterns and nth in the NCAA Qualifying Meet, thereby just missing a trip to the Nationals.

Soccer's 300 season was highlighted by its first win over traditional rival Harvard in 15 years. In addition, the team defeated Brandeis 3-0 in an exciting win and placed Bob Currier "79 on the Greater Boston All-Star squad for the third consecutive year.

Water Polo finished third in New England for the second consecutive year. The team lost out to Yale during the New England Championships when Yale scored in the fifth overtime period in one of the longest games in New England history. The game went into overtime following a disputed goal by Yale which depended upon whom you (Please turn to page 11)