Football gains experience

By Rob DeMarino

If you happen to wander down by Steenbrenner Stadium this Saturday at 1:30, and you decide to watch for a few moments, you might come away with the impression of watching a football team, not a football game.

Although only two years old, the presence of football at MIT is its own little success story, having about as many heroes as there are persons involved in the story. The tale starts in the summer of 1978 when Walter Crosby '80, Gary Splett '79, Bruce Wrobel '79, and several other students met to discuss the general plan of attack in getting the Athletic Association to support them in their project. It was decided that the MIT AA should be presented with a project that was already well on its way to success. To that end, an Institute fraternity, Sigma Alpha Epsilon, put up $1,000 with which used equipment from Rochester Tech was bought. However, the Administration was not fully convinced; they wanted a feasibility report.

In a short span of time Splett and Jack Barry, Assistant Athletic Director, prepared a report describing student interest in an MIT football team and proposed budget expenses. After a disconcerting length of time, the Athletic Association finally gave the go-ahead to play in the Autumn of 1980, just two weeks before practices were scheduled to begin. The '80-'81 season was marred with problems of inexperience, both administrative and on the field. According to Keith Therrien '80, President of club football, the task of finding a suitable head coach, having him get accustomed to the team as well as the university's pressure to know him, and organizing the whole conglomerate into a single working unit in four weeks was a little too impossible for a first-year team.

In addition, as Walt Crosby revealed, the lack of administrative personnel and funds required many of the players to spend long hours with paperwork. So, what does the football team have this year that it didn't have last year? Organization seems to be the keyword. Primarily, the team has an organized and efficient coaching squad. Dwight Smith, first-time head coach this year, was responsible for pulling the team together last year when its seeming as if nothing was going right. Now, in full command, he has instilled confidence and control into the team. Assistant coach Charlie Sardo is a veteran of the Canadian football League; he now volunteers his time to the MIT football team and the players readily admit that they couldn't function without his constant inspiration. Mark Shapiro, another volunteer, has done an excellent job with the offensive players on the effective backfield. Completing the staff is MIT track coach Gordon Kelly.

Second, the team has developed an attitude that has proven beneficial to its game. The players realize all to well that MIT is not the football community that for, example, Ohio State is. In no way to they wish for that type of popularity. The men on the team are happy that they can contribute to the team.

None were recruited. None were pushed onto the field because they want to play and not because there is (Please turn to page 22).

Volleyball record 1-4 with loss of Chrion

By Rich Auchus


The Beavers looked very sharp in their game against Northeastern. Excellent teamwork and coordination enabled Tech to keep the pressure on and to wait for their opponent's mistakes. Karen Samuelsen '81, Caroline Weber '82, and Joan Mitchell '82 led the scoring attack, and Kathy Chrion '80 and Linda Pano '82 made some sparkling saves.

Tech's attack remained consistent during frequent substitutions of inexperienced players. MIT's strong showing, however, was marred by an injury to Chrion. Tech's only senior starter, who is now out for the season with torn ligaments.

The loss of a key player is always hard to bear, but the volleyball team, comprising primarily of freshmen and last year's JV, is compensating well. Samuelsen, the team's most experienced player, is playing an outstanding all-round game. She admits that it is difficult to adjust to playing without Chrion, "a strong player and a team leader."

Melissa Miller '83, Rose Weston '81, and Caroline Weber '82 are all hitting well, and although the team is not playing badly at all, they suffer from inconsistency without Chrion.

"With inconsistency you have inconsistency," commented coach Dave Castanon. He and Samuelsen agree that the team is looking better each game as the women gain confidence playing in starting roles. MIT must develop its young talent if it is to have a successful year, but the future looks promising for this dedicated squad.

Tomorrow is homecoming day

By Bob Host

Tomorrow marks Homecoming Day at MIT. A variety of sporting events will take place, among them the club football game against New York Maritime at 11:30 in Steenbrenner Stadium, as well as sailing, field hockey, baseball, and volleyball.

The football team is currently 2-1, having lost 19-7 to Fairfield last Saturday. The team's only score came on a Mike Barrett '81 touchdown, with John Kirch G adding the extra point. Team members pinned the loss on the team's weakness, in well, as a good scouting job by Fairfield. MIT was filled with an offensive, one which they had not yet encountered this year. However, one team member noted that the loss brought the team back to the ground. The team has 100 percent on the field because they want to play and not because there is (Please turn to page 16).

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It also comes as no surprise that many children are fans of the Pilot FinePoint. "I give all the other pens to my friends while I always get one of the Pilot FinePoints," says one elementary school student. It's a great way to stay on top of your game.