Field hockey is improved

By Eric R. Fleming

The MIT women's field hockey team, in the only four years of existence, compiled a 5-4-2 record this season, and expects to better that mark next year, according to Coach Deborah Clum.

Added by the addition of Assistant Coach Diana O'Leary '79, a former varsity standout, the Engineers' four-game winning streak last year's 4-6 record. The team was led by Julia Nueseine '81, who led the club in scoring with 12 goals out of the team's total of 20, and by Captain West 82, Kelly Belshu 82, and Pauline Lisa Richardson '82 on defense, which, among other teams, allowed only 11 goals in 10 contests.

Clum remarked that the main focus of the team this season will be success in the conference; the first-year varsity players, and several women attending field hockey camps over the summer), and above all, a greater confidence in themselves, which developed into a working attitude. Evidence of that confidence points back to the engineer's "best game of the year," a 2-1 triumph over Fitchburg State, after a 7-2 defeat in 1976.

When asked about the team's chances for 1980, Clum was extremely optimistic. She noted that only two players are leaving due to graduation, including one starting forward, and that the team can be replaced by a player with experience. Defense again will be the team's major asset, though the engineers are in need of "scoring punch." The major weakness of the squad is lack of depth. A loss of one or two varsity players would hurt the team very badly, according to Clum, the junior varsity (in its first year, coached by O'Leary) has not developed enough to provide varsity-level players if needed. Particularly vulnerable are the forward and defensive back slots.

Despite the possibility of inexperience in certain programs, Clum hopes that a few freshmen will try out for the team next year, and that the team can continue building towards the goal of winning conference eligibility. She feels that the players will be able to make up the loss with the group of senior players.

The team's future looks promising, and Clum asserts that her Engineers will try out for the team next year, which will definitely put a lot more strength back into the cupboard. The team could be competitive by 1980.