Football team ends season on losing note

By Bob Host

The football team ended its season on a losing note Sunday with a 34-12 defeat at the hands of the State University of New York at Stony Brook.

The day started off with the Engineers (3-4) going from their own 29 to score a touchdown when quarterback Bruce Wrobel G scrambled in from the one to put MIT ahead, 6-0. Wrobel was shaken up on the play, and MIT subsequently used the shotgun formation and even the single wing on many plays. However, this was not due to Wrobel's limited mobility; sources close to the team told The Tech earlier in the week that the team would use such offensive patterns frequently. Nonetheless, coach Dwight Smith mentioned after the game that everything the team had practiced last week was practically useless after the first series. Sources suggest that the unusual maneuvers paid off; frequently, they did not.

After Stony Brook scored on a 12-yard pass culminating a series marked by poor defense and made the conversion to go ahead 7-6, a fumble which they never relinquished. Jay Napolitan '81 took over as quarterback, and MIT lost the ball on a pitchout. Stony Brook fumbled on its first play, and MIT then gave the ball right back to them. Stony Brook could not move the ball after an initial 39-yard pass, and a field goal attempt was blocked. Wrobel shotgunned the team from the MIT eleven into Stony Brook territory, but three incomplete passes forced a punt. Stony Brook had a 79-yard pass to put the ball on the Engineers' four, and on fourth-and-goal, a field goal attempt was faked with Stony Brook connecting for a touchdowns to put the score at 14-6.

The teams traded possessions after this until Stony Brook took an MIT fumble on the Engineers' 47 and scored a touchdown from two yards out to take a 21-6 lead. A blocked Stony Brook punt set up MIT's last touchdown of the year when, upon taking over at the Stony Brook 30, Barry Jordan '81 took two passes out the back and scored on the two-yard run.

Stony Brook finished the game with 429 total yards, 77 rushing and 352 passing. MIT's season was marked by poor defense and capitalizing on MIT errors. The team lost two fumbles and had a 26.8-yard punting average. Stony Brook gained 170 yards rushing to go with 372 yards passing on 17 for 34, for a total of 429 total yards, but was penalized eleven times for 105 yards and lost four fumbles. In all, Stony Brook's victory could be best attributed to its capitalizing on MIT errors.

(No photo)

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