Women’s basketball records first victory

By Eric R. Fleming

Led by junior guard Karen Samuelsen’s 22 points, the women’s basketball team scored its record at 1-1 with a thrilling 46-43 victory over Regis College in Rockwell Cage Saturday afternoon.

Despite the fact that the score was close throughout, the Engineers generally had command of the game. Coach Jean Henry’s squad forced many Regis turnovers, with guard Susan Flint ’81 playing a very strong game defensively. However, MIT shot very poorly, missing a number of fast break opportunities.

MIT took an 18-17 first half lead, led by Joyce Kelley ’83 and Samuelsen with six points each. The team shot a horrendous eight-for-39 from the floor. Regis, fortunately for the hosts, could not do much better, shooting only six-for-26. Guard Susan Stule ’80 was injured on a drive to the hoop with 7:23 left in the half, leaving the team with only eight healthy bodies to see action.

The second half saw the Engineers continue to control most of the play, but again they could not capitalize on fast break chances. Regis stayed within striking range with the aid of the one-and-one foul situation early in the half, and some excellent outside shooting by Regis guard Ann Manning. MIT at one time had a five point lead in the second half, but the Regis women hung tough until a last minute shot from the corner put the visitors up 43-42 with only 29 seconds remaining. The Engineers got the ball and set up their offense, realizing that since they had to shoot within 30 seconds, Regis could have one more opportunity to score. The team worked the ball around the key, and a pass from Kelley found Samuelsen alone to fire in a 17-footer to put MIT ahead by one, 44-43 with 25 seconds left. A Regis pass following the inbound was intercepted by Flint who gave the ball to Samuelsen. Quickly fouled, she dropped in both ends of the two shot free throw to tie the game for the MIT women.

Though Stule was injured, and the Engineers were riddled with fouls, Lisa Richardson ’82 and Kate Moloney ’80 came off the bench to provide important defensive and rebounding help down the stretch. Stule, who was helped off the court, checked in to local hospital for knee surgery, and it is uncertain when (and if) she will be able to play again this season. Fortunately for the Engineers, their next game is not until January 9, when they face Gordon in the Cage. By then, it should become clear whether the senior guard will see action in the new year.

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The women’s basketball team in action. (Photo by V.H. Ute)