

Squash record 1-18, Swimmers top 5 records but morale is high

By Steve Kim

One win and eighteen losses is not exactly a record that you would want to write home about! One would think that team morale would be even lower than that of the Red Sox last September. Yet, team spirit and the pure enjoyment of playing the sport still thrive on the varsity squash team.

Kevin Burns '80 is the number one man for the starting nine, and at 10-9, he also has the best record on the team. The second best record is only 6-13 and is held by the number three man John Walsh '80. Yet, Burns will tell you, "We may not win often, but we always have a lot of fun. That's the most important thing about our team." Watching the team before its last match of the season against Dartmouth on Saturday, it was obvious that he meant what he said. Whether discussing their respective games or ogling the gymnasts in the adjacent gym, the team members all seemed to be in good spirits and were looking forward to the match.

This is not to say that the MIT squad is made up of people who are indifferent as to whether they win or lose. On the contrary: Dave Hashim '83, the only freshman on the team this season, says, "We work just as hard as any other team that we play. It's just that we don't have the talent to compete successfully against teams whose members have been playing squash for a lot longer than we have at prep schools like Andover and Exeter." Coach Ed Crocker agrees. "Most of our kids have never touched a squash racket before coming here. Also we get a lot less people with raw, natural talent that the Ivies do," he says. One of the aforementioned Ivy League schools publicly ridiculed the poor performance of the Tech squad this season, angering many of the players, Hashim most noticeably. "The Harvard Crimson printed a story that referred to us as 'MIT wonks.' We may have lost, but we played a fair-and-square match and did our best. They had no right to call us that. It was a cheap shot, and you can quote me on that," said the freshman.

The match against Dartmouth got under way at 2pm. When it was over, the Engineers came out on the short end of an 8-1 score, Hashim being the only winner. Thus, Tech ended the season at 1-18, the lone win coming against Cornell. There are some talented freshmen coming up from the freshman team next year though, and with them, team fortunes should improve.

Tiddlywinks places second in North American tourney

By Fred Shapiro

The MIT tiddlywinks dynasty, dormant for the past seven or eight years, appears to be on the way back. A young and lightly-regarded Tech team scored an impressive second-place finish in the North American Team Championships in Ithaca, NY last weekend, missing the title by one-sixth of a point, the smallest possible margin in a tiddlywinks tournament.

The "Relix" club, captained by Bill Renke '73, placed first with 90 points, followed by MIT with 89-5/6 and "Moosewinks" with 86. Although most top tiddlywinks teams are club teams,

there are also collegiate teams at Cornell, Harvard, and Boston University.

The MIT team has been revitalized this year by captain Arye Gittelman '83, who is considered the best freshman player of all time, having placed sixth in the 1979 North American Singles Championship, an unprecedented finish for a high school winker. The team's top scorer at Ithaca was Rick Tacker '80 with 55 individual points, followed closely by Ross Callon '73 and Fred Shapiro '74 with 54 points each. Outstanding performances were also turned in by Gittelman, the other nr hm n ion, David Desjardins and Jim Roberts. Ed Seim

By Rich Auchus

The MIT men's and women's swimming teams established a total of five school records Saturday against Bowdoin at the Alumni Pool. The men won for the first time since 1969 by a decisive 71-42 score, but the women lost, 86-54.

The men's team made it two victories in a row after defeating Amherst a week before. Last Saturday, the 400-yd medley relay team opened the meet with an MIT record time of 3:42.0. This time qualified the team of John Schmitz '83, Chris Moss '80, Mark Larow '82, and Dave Erickson '82 to compete in the Division III national championships. Team captain John Dieken '80 broke the school record in the 200-yd backstroke with a time of 2:04.5. With these two victories, the Engineers closed out their regular season with a highly respectable 5-3



Tuesday

Women's fencing . . . at Brandeis

Thursday

Women's swimming: New England Championships at Southeastern Massachusetts

record.

Though not victorious, the women accounted for three of the school records broken on Saturday. Karen Klincewicz '82, enjoying an outstanding year, set new MIT records in the 200-yd freestyle with a time of 2:01.2 and in the 200-yd individual medley relay with a 2:16.9 clocking. Captain Sheila Konecke '80 established the fifth new record with a time of 1:15 flat in the 100-yd breaststroke. Nevertheless, the women ended their regular season with a 6-3 record.

The swimmers next compete in the post-season tournaments for which they have trained all season. Coach John Bernedick, extremely pleased with the team's performance, said, "We've done

everything we need to do — all we have to do is finish the job."

The first big challenge, the New England Championships, will be held this weekend for the women and next weekend for the men; the Division III Championships follow two weeks after each team's New England Tournaments.

The swimmers have proven that they can compete successfully against some of the East's best teams, and have the potential to place among the top schools in New England and to make a fine showing in the Nationals. Their times have improved all year, and there is no reason why they should not peak during the post-season tournaments.

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