Men's Basketball ends over .500

By Eric R. Fleming

The men's basketball team opened up the eighties in fine fashion, with this year's squad compiling a 13-9 record (including a forfeit win over Brandeis), its first winning season since 1972. The Engineers caught fire at the end of the season, taking eight of their last eleven contests. Forward Ray Nagen '80 took scoring honors for the second straight year, averaging 14.1 points a game, including a career high of 39 against Connecticut College, to close his fine career. Nagen won MVP honors, but was not alone. The team selected four MVP's, including freshman guard Mark Branch, leader in assists and free throw percentage, forward Gussi Holman '80, who was third in scoring; and forward Bob Clarke '81, the team's second leading rebounder. Aside from the Engineers' "big four," key contributions were made by forwards Mike Greer '83 and Dave Dellets '82, and guards Robert Joseph '83 and Steve Williams '82.

Coach Fran O'Brien, completing his eighth year with MIT basketball, calls the '79-'80 season "one of the most satisfying years I've had." O'Brien attributes the squad's late season performance to the constant development of the team, especially in the area of maturity. When asked about reasons for the selection of four co-MVP's, O'Brien points out that the team played unselfishly, citing an even distribution of shots to O'Brien.

Despite what O'Brien notes will be the "tremendous" loss of Nagen and Holman, "things look optimistic for the 1980-81 edition of men's basketball," (with strong electronics background)