Nagem, O’Brien cop post-season awards

Forward on academic team

By Bob Hunt

Forward Ray Nagem ’80 was selected to the Academic all-American basketball team by the College Sports Information Directors of America, it was recently announced.

The 1979-80 team was presented at Madison Square Garden Wednesday during the intermission between the National Invitation Tournament (NIT) first place and Championship games.

Nagem became the first MIT basketball player to make the first-team squad in the college division, sporting a 5.0 grade-point average while leading the Engineers in scoring, field-goal percentage, and rebounding.

According to Tim Simmons, sports information director at the University of Colorado, who heads the selection committee, in addition to maintaining a 4.0 (on MIT’s grading, scale) average, a person must be either a starter or important sixth player to be nominated for the team.

Nagem finished sixth in the balloting, just missing a $500 scholarship from the team’s sponsors.

MIT executive director Peter Carlesimo, who serves as Fordham University’s sports information director, noted that “the National Invitation Tour-

Coach Fran O’Brien was named coach of the year in the Division III Northeastern Conference for leading MIT’s basketball team to a 13-9 record this year. (Photo: N.D. Lam)

nament started in 1938. We have always been known as a great name in college basketball. We are proud to be able to bring this outstanding tournament and these outstanding scholar-athletes to the basketball fans of America.

Nagem, who appeared in 21 of MIT’s 22 games this year, shot .553 from the floor and .480 from the free throw line for a total of 108 points, second on the team to Mark Branch ’83. Since Branch played all 22 games, however, Nagem’s 14.7 points per game average stood out Branch’s 16.9 average to top the team.

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By Eric R. Fleming

Another page in MIT’s successful 1979-80 basketball season has been written this week as Coach Fran O’Brien received a major award.

O’Brien was selected NCAA Division III Northeastern District coach-of-the-year by National Association of Basketball Coaches. The graduate of Tufts, in his eighth year as Engineer head coach, guided his squad to a 13-9 record in its last 11 games, Tech’s first winning season in eight years, and its best record since 1968. The award is expected to be presented at the NCAA Division III basketball championships in Indianapolis this weekend.

O’Brien will not be there to receive the award, due to the upcoming NCAA Division III baseball season (O’Brien is also head coach of the baseball team).

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