Nichols edges softball 

By Eric R. Fleming

"We beat ourselves," those were the words of Coach Debbe Clem, spoken as the women's softball team, despite taking a 15-9 lead into the top of the seventh inning, dropped their seventh game in nine tries, a 17-15 loss to Nichols Saturday at Briggs Field.

The game was a roller coaster throughout, with both teams coming up with rallies. Nichols jumped out to a 5-1 lead after two innings of play, but Tech stormed back in the next two frames, as pitcher Jill Smith '81 breezed through the next two innings. Offensively, sophomores Lisa Richardson and Liz Bradley each delivered two-run triples to help bolster the Engineers in an 8-4 lead. The visitors scored three in their half of the fifth to go ahead 9-8, but then MIT staged an outburst for seven runs in the fifth and sixth innings.

The sixth saw third baseman Andrea Kress '82 single and move to second on a sacrifice bunt. After a walk to Giant Staudt '81, singles by Tahiya Fry '80 and Kelly McGuire '82 scored Kress and loaded the bases. Smith then lined a double to center, scoring McGuire, Fry and Staudt. When the dual finally settled, the Engineers enjoyed a seven-run advantage going into the top of the seventh inning. At this point, the roof caved in on MIT.

After the leadoff batter for Nichols tripled and scored on a throwing error, Tech settled down as the next batter grounded to McGuire at short. The third batter in the inning also boomed to McGuire, but Fry dropped the shortstop's throw. After a walk, another pitcher to McGuire left the Engineers needing only one out to go home with a win. They got the out, but not until seven more runs crossed the plate. The key play in the collapse was a pop-up to pitcher Smith, which she dropped. That miniscule put the lead back on first, and Nichols did not hesitate in bringing in two runs. (Please turn to page 7)

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