sports

Ref shortage hits IM b-ball

By Barry S. Suman

Captains of 140 intramural basketball teams will meet tonight and be faced with the grim possibility of cancellation of the remainder of the season. A shortage of available referees has forced IM Basketball Manager Kevin Coffey to offer a choice to the A and B league captains — provide referees for C and D league games, or end their seasons immediately.

According to Coffey, problems began to surface as early as November. "We may have scheduled too many games and allowed too many changes," he said. From an initial list of 35 referees, he was only able to get a fraction of them to participate.

Coffey dismissed the idea that low pay discouraged students from committing time to the program. "Referees," he responded, "make from $3.50 to $5.00 per game, based on the rating of an evaluator, and experience." He and Assistant Referee Andy Siciliano were forced to officiate as many as twelve games a week to maintain the schedule.

After consideration of proposals ranging from an abbreviated season or cancelled playoffs to outright cancellation of the entire season, Coffey decided to offer an alternative solution to the team captains. A and B league teams would, under Coffey's plan, provide two or three referees for three-game series the month. Players would officiate only in leagues lower than their own level of competition, and regular referees would take over whenever possible.

The 76 games remaining in the schedule would all be played between now and March 4, and A and B league playoffs would proceed as scheduled. As many as 24 games per night would be played.

Implementation of the plan is contingent upon cooperation of the teams involved. But Coffey is confident that enough will take part in the plan; the students are involved because they want to play. "We want people to play — I like to play," he said. If enough coaches agree, the season may be saved.

Bets picked

MIT Assistant Director of Athletics and Associate Professor Jane Betts was elected to the AIAW Executive Board. Betts, a staff member of the Institute since 1976, will act as a liaison between member schools and the AIAW Liaison Board.

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