UMass No. 1 in gymnastics meet

By Eric R. Fleming

The University of Massachusetts at Amherst won the Massachusetts Association of Intercollegiate Athletics for Women (MAIAW) gymnastics championship at MIT's duPont Gymnasium Saturday afternoon, buoyed by a one-two finish in the all-around competition.

Robin Low won the all-around title, which consists of combined scores in the vault, uneven parallel bars, balance beam, and floor exercise. Low took both the vault and floor exercises (the latter in a splendiferous performance) to earn her a 8.85 score. Her teammate Heidi Milender finished second in the all-around, with a score of 51.21. (Low ended up with 130.95 points.) UMass gymnasts captured individual honors in all four events en route to winning the four-team meet with a total of 130.95 points. Northeastern, winner in 1979, finished second (119.20), while Salem State and MIT finished third and fourth, respectively (Salem State earned 106.10 points, and MIT had 70.75).

MIT's fourth place finish was expected, as its three rivals Saturday were Division I or II schools. Due to a couple of injuries, Tech could only field three women in the uneven bars and floor exercises, which affected its scoring potential. Nonetheless, MIT came out of the meet well, according to coach Linda Laatsch. Laatsch spoke highly of the performances of Lillian Chang '84, and Claudia Buser '81. Buser had a good day on the bars and vault, while Chang has come a long way since the beginning of the season.

MIT's Sunny Young '83 qualified for the Eastern championships to be held next weekend. Young, a resident of Walnut Creek, California, qualified for the important meet in the uneven bars.