Behind MIT's academic reputation lies a vast and top-notch athletic program. Not top-notch in the sense of producing pro superstars or "National-one" ranked teams, but in a more important sense — service to the community. Here, the emphasis is on participation, diversity, and what may be called "the personal touch."

Participation. The numbers tell the story. Statistics from the Athletic Department's Annual Report to the President for the 1980-81 academic year show that 17 percent of enrolled undergraduates men, and over a quarter of enrolled undergraduate women, took part in intercollegiate sports during the past year (there are 21 varsity sports for men and 11 for women, with cross country added this year). The 25 club programs, which allow both undergraduate and graduate students to participate in highly competitive sports on a non-varsity level, boasted 599 participants, up over 25 percent from 79-80. Most impressive is the 28-sport intramural program, which registered 12,067 cumulative student participations among two-thirds of the undergraduate population, as well as a large number of graduate students. Add in over 6,000 physical education registrations, and it is obvious that the MIT athletic program is one of the largest in the nation.

Participation is not limited to just the MIT community. Groups from throughout Greater Boston use our facilities year-round, ranging from fencing to soccer to lacrosse. Rarely a day goes by when a non-institute organization is not using one or more of our facilities.

Diversity. If you are looking to play a particular sport, chances are MIT has it in one form or another, on all levels of intensity and skill. With such a range of activities, a true sports fan can gain an appreciation of sports that he may have seen before. Also, it is easy to try out a new sport. Many varsity athletes are introduced to their sport upon arrival at MIT.

George Gonzalez-Rivas '80 had never picked up a sword before arriving here five years ago. But with the training of Coach Eric Sollee, he became an All-American, and led Tech to a third-place finish in the NCAA focusing championships his senior year.

"The Personal Touch." What I find best about the program is the degree of interaction among both athletes, coaches, and the general student body. At many schools, athletes live in a special dorm, take classes together, and are generally kept away from mainstream campus life. Not so here. The guy (or gal) who hit the winning hoop last night could be your lab partner, or a suite mate. Coaches are easily accessible, and understand the student-athlete's problems in dealing with life at MIT. Being able to talk and interact with members of a program the size of MIT's is probably the best reason to get involved with the program, in any capacity. To sit on the sidelines is to pass up a rare opportunity.

Eric Fleming

Athletics stress participation

By Brian Schultz

Baseball — A strong pitching performance by freshman Mike DiChristina and generally strong team play resulted in a 5-3 victory over Massachusetts Bay Community College last Wednesday at MIT. DiChristina turned in a complete game victory over Mass Bay on Wednesday. (Photo by Ray Henry)

Golf — The MIT golf team participated in a match against Boston College and Bentley at Bentley last Tuesday. At the choice of the home team, the match was played as match play as opposed to tournament play. MIT defeated Boston College, but lost to Bentley. In the victory over Boston College, Scott Nyberg '82, Neil Nordstrom '82, and Pat Faller '83 each won their matches. The final tally was three wins, two losses, and two ties for a final score of 4-3.

Field Hockey — The women's field hockey team started off its season with a pair of road victories. They defeated Pine Manor 3-0 and edged Nichols College 2-1. Off to a strong start, the team returns for a pair of home games this weekend. Today, they take on Colby at 4pm. On Saturday, they meet Bates at 12:30pm. 