Women's cross country team optimistic

By Julie Tiao

"In general, I was very pleased with the season," commented women's cross-country coach Chris Lane. "I was especially pleased with the people that showed an interest were able to carry through and experience a personal satisfaction with their progress."

MIT's women's cross-country team successfully completed its first season on November 13th with a 3:1 deal meet record. The team captains Urika Oster '81, and Terray Sutton '83, both expressed satisfaction with the team's performance. "I was really happy with the number of people that came out for the team," commented Sutton. "The response of the athletic department, as far as arranging meets, getting a coach and supplying equipment, was also excellent."

Eric R. Fleming

How to coach a basketball team

Ever wonder what it would be like to coach a basketball team? Even though you could do a better job than the best of the college or pro coaches? Does it look like a sports fan? It isn't necessarily so.

Before telling the story of my coaching debut, I should say that I was not coaching a pro squad, or even a college team. My efforts were for the Burton House Octathlon team in its game with Phi Delta Theta (PDT) last Monday night. Being the hoop nut I am, I offered to help out. Actually, I just went out and took charge. Bottom line, aren't I?

One thing I learned very quickly: coaching gives one grey hairs and high blood pressure, is a chore. I soon found myself pacing the sidelines, kneeling down to watch in persuasive thoughts, shouting and yelling with my head in my hands, "Oh my Lord!... All I needed was a rolled up sheet of paper in my hand, and a suit, and I would've looked the part.

In the first half, all my animosity did no good, as we, in a word, sucked. The one big man on the PDT team was free to do whatever he pleased (and he did), our offense resembled Park Street at rush hour, and rebounding was a forgotten part of our game. Burton was down by eight.

Like a good coach, I gathered the team around, and told them what I believed we had to do. Excruciating control and patience on offense, "boxing out" on the defensive end of the floor, and play a man-to-man defense, to neutralize our tall, lanky friend.

My strategy worked (with help from the team, who picked up other weaknesses) like a charm. Our forwards and center shut down their big man, which disrupted the PDT offense. Our offense started to click, and with some clutch play by the Burton guards in the last two minutes, we won the game by five.

We all jubilated, as this was a game we probably weren't supposed to win. The key was the second half adjustments, which is vital to winning - the ability to react to an opponent's strength.

Though I lost my voice (diastol for a loudmouth such as I), it was well worth it. All that I can say is, Free (O'Brien). I know how you feel!!"