Wrestling ends season at 14-5

By Rich Anson

Last Saturday, the MIT wrestling team closed out its dual meet season on an ambivalent note. The Engineers crammerched the University of Vermont, 59-0, but bowed to Amherst, 29-25.

Against Vermont, nine of Tech's ten skaters ended their matches early with pins. Their success in all weight classes is indicative of the balance which this year's squad possesses.

A forfeit at 118 (MIT's wrestler did not make weight) proved to be the fatal blow in Tech's match against Ambrosi. Freshman Steve Ikeda and Pat Peters registered their second pins of the afternoon at 142 and 187, respectively, in a losing effort.

The split gave MIT a dual meet record of 4-5, certainly one of their best seasons in the past decade. Thanks to some excellent young talent — including five freshmen who start regularly — coach Tom Walsh has reversed MIT's record from a hapless 3-13 in only two years. Ikeda gave a particularly strong showing in his rookie year, best in one of his opponent's points than any other individual on the squad.

In coach Walsh's view, however, the season is only beginning. "Wrestling is an individual sport," he notes, looking optimistically to the Northern New England Tournament this weekend, and to the New England Championships next weekend.

Walsh describes the Northern New England as an "opportunity to show how good we are," and he expects his team to battle Plymouth State for first place, aiming to avenge its loss to Plymouth in dual meet competition last year. The return of Ken Shull, last year's outstanding wrestler, would be a big boost to MIT's post-season prospects. Knee trouble has kept Shull out of the lineup in recent weeks.

Gymnastics — Continuing its winning ways, the MIT women's gymnastics team took a 156.55-123.13 decision over Vermont Saturday at MIT. After a match at Springfield with Lowell, the squad turned to DuPont to face Lowell Saturday, February 13 at 7pm.

Whole Island College defeated the women's team Saturday, by a score just one point, 104-103.

Melody and Smith come to MIT for a match this Wednesday at 7pm.

Swimming — The men's swimming team continued its drive toward the New England Championships with a 57-26 win over Southern Connecticut at Alumni Pool. Seven lifetime bests were set by the Tech swimmers in a meet that coach John Bendick described as one of the best this season. MIT travels across the river to Harvard tonight for the Greater Boston Championships.

Basketball — Balanced scoring carried the men's wrestlers to an easy 83-58 triumph over St. Francis of Maine Saturday in the first meeting ever between the two schools. Junior forward Robert Joseph paced the MIT attack with 18 points, while contributing five assists. Four other Engineers scored in double figures, including Mark Branch, who went nine for 17 and seven of 17 free throws with 27 points.

Meanwhile, the women's team had a tough weekend in the Tufts Invitational meet at Medford. Saturday, MIT lost to eventual winner Rollins College of Florida 81-46, and Sunday, Wellesley handed Tech a 57-44 defeat.

Freshman Julie Koster stood out for the Engineers, pulling down 17 rebounds in the two games, and scoring nine points in each. The skaters did not lose as had been previously reported. MIT takes a 4-4 record into tomorrow night's game against Curry at 7pm in the New Athletic Center.

Princeton in a match held at Harvard Saturday, and the women dropping a match to St. John's on Sunday.

Correction — The men's hockey club defeated the Tufts Jumbos 9-4 Tuesday, January 26. The skaters did not lose as had been previously reported. MIT takes a 4-5 record into tomorrow night's game against Curry at 7pm in the New Athletic Center.

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