Eric R. Fleming

Thinkin’ warm thoughts on a wintry night . . .

A few thoughts as the long winter season winds down.

The indoor track team deserves a lot of praise for its best season ever. Coach Gordon Kelly’s group is obviously talented and dedicated, and epitomizes the word “team.” Although guys like Martin Taylor and Paul Nevez get a lot of the ink, the 10-0 record and showing in the New England Division III meet has to be attributed to effort all down the line. The squad’s performance proves that MIT athletics are not for “losers.”

On the controversy with Tufts: just a case of simple human error. In the rush to provide participants and fans with up-to-date info, an oversight was made. That same day, a similar error was made at the Big East track championships in Syracuse. New York when Villanova was credited with twice as many points as it should have in an event. The corrected score was Seton Hall 110, Villanova 108. The team found out about the error just as it was leaving the Carrier Dome, with the little trophy in hand.

My gut feeling on the issue: MIT has the stronger case. Whichever way the decision of the Games Committee turns out, the Tufts-MIT track rivalry has become one of the best in New England, and to let a dispute over two points spoil it would be a shame.

On the ice: Who needs Wayne Gretzky? MIT has one of its own in Tom Michalek. The grad student from Dearborn, Michigan, who was the captain of Notre Dame’s varsity hockey team, has 43 goals (14 games) and 47 assists in leading the Beavers to a 10-4 record. Watching Michalek play is like watching a man play among boys.

Mike Greer made big contributions this season. The freshman forward from Washington, D.C., has 57 points as it should. His style of play is reminiscent of Mike Weiss, Greg Bartlett, Jeff “Vanilla Shake” Bornsides, and “Bud the Snake” Tuddiken. They all played their best game ever against Connecticut College last Saturday (his parents were in the crowd; maybe we should have ‘em come more often!).

Did you know the men’s and women’s cagers had ten common opponents this season, eight of which were both at home or away? An effort should be made to schedule men’s-women’s doubleheaders, which could save on travel costs, and put more people in the stands. The Bates twin bill of last year was a success, with a good crowd and some excellent basketball.