Jim Bittman (38) cuts behind Dan Curran's (81) block in Saturday's game.

By Martin Dickus

Strong defense and Fitchburg miscues paved the way to a 14-7 victory by the Engineers over the visiting Falcons Saturday afternoon. MIT moves ahead of Fitchburg in the league standings with a 2-1 record, while the Falcons' record drops to 1-2.

As in previous games, MIT came out strong in the first quarter. A fumble recovery by Tim Cox 35 set up a thirty-yard field goal by Tim Hastings to give the Engineers a quick 3-0 lead.

After forcing Fitchburg back on its next series, quarterback Vic Mazzonelli '83 zipped a fifty-one-yard touchdown pass to the team's leading scorer, Stu McKinnon '83. Hastings' kick raised the score to 10-0.

Although the Falcons shut down the Engineer running game in the second quarter, MIT did manage to score four points, thanks largely to Fitchburg's punting team. With slightly over one third of the period gone, the visitors found themselves gaining minus eight yards on a drive from their own twelve. When the center snapped the ball for the punt, it sailed over the punter's head and out of the end zone for a safety, making the score 12-0.

On its next drive, Fitchburg could not break free from the twenty-six-and-a-half and was forced to punt. Once again, the snap sailed over the punter's head. The punter, Mike Coyne, chased the ball down, but he was hit by MIT's Ed Grado '83 before he could get the ball out of the end zone. The half-time score stood at 14-0.

Fitchburg's lone tally came early in the fourth quarter on a twelve-yard run by Gordon Smith. Neither team had much success offensively after that, and the final score remained 14-7.

The MIT defense was, in the words of head coach Dwight Smith, "Just great." Besides holding Fitchburg to a net first half yardage of minus nine, the Engineers also forced seven fumbles, four of which MIT recovered.

The defensive star was Grado, who had five sacks for a total of fifty-five yards lost.

The Engineers, who were playing without the right side of their offensive line, are hoping for the return of some injured players before Saturday's game at Worcester State. Worcester is currently ranked number one in the league.

MIT's next home game will be October 16 when Bentley College comes to town for the homecoming game. That contest is scheduled to start at 1:30pm.

resumes may be turned in at the SWE T-shirt sale on Tuesday and Wednesday, Sept. 28 and 29 in Lobby 10 or at the SWE Happy Hour on Friday Oct. 1, 4:30-6, Chipman Room, 8-314 or they may be sent to:

Danielle Sherwood
McCormick Box 706, dl 8666
Peggy Pescatore
Baker Box 229, dl 7229