MIT takes second in the NIAC

By Robert E. Malchman and Omar Valerio

The volleyball team took second place in the Northern Intercollegiate Athletic Conference tournament behind Mount Holyoke, Saturday at Connecticut College.

MIT, the number one seed, opened the tournament with a loss to Mount Holyoke, but came back to beat Wellesley, Smith, and Williams. Bates and Connecticut College also took part in the competition. The Engineers' record now stands at 23-3.

The team encountered some difficulty at the beginning of the day. Wheaton, which was supposed to be MIT's first opponent, dropped out, giving the Engineers a first-round bye. Coach David A. Castenon said he had not been informed of the change, even though the organizers had had enough notice to delete Wheaton from the program.

As a result, the team left MIT at 7am for their nonexistant 10am match, and was left cooling its heels for an hour. At 11am a cold, flat Engineer squad took the court against a warm, psyched-up, third-seeded Mount Holyoke team, coming off a victory over fifth-seeded Wellesley. Mount Holyoke broke on top to take a 10-5 lead in the first game, as MIT had problems getting its serves in. MIT came back to close the gap, but lost 15-11.

The second game began more closely, but with the Engineers behind 7-3, Mount Holyoke surged ahead to 14-3. MIT again came back, partially powered by the serves of Janette Kauth '85, to close the gap to 14-41, but ended up losing 15-11.

The Engineers returned with a vengeance against Wellesley, scoring an 11-1 lead in the first game on some vicious Kauth spikes. Wellesley rallied to 15-15, but MIT came back, partially powered by the serves of Mary Petrofsky '85 and spiking by Anella Munro '85.

In the third match, MIT defeated Smith by identical scores of 15-8, 15-8. The Engineers put a wrap on the afternoon with a domination of second-seeded Williams, drubbing them in straight games, 15-4, 15-4.

The Engineers will next play Springfield away on Tuesday. MIT will also participate in the Massachusetts Class A championships on Saturday at Smith College.

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Photo essay
by
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Wesslund denies the Williams' defense with a wicked spike.

Munro gets airborne, as Michelle Heng '84 waits for the set.

Smithy on defense: Tri-captain Amy Smith '83 and Wesslund protect the net.

Munro winds up to unleash a serve.

Koster puts herself into a spike.