Hoop starts up, falls to Babson and to Harvard

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An aggressive game on defense by taking several charging fouls led to a 16-9 run to pull Tech within seven at 23-16, but Harvard’s size and strength eventually prevailed at both ends of the floor. The first half ended with the home team up by 12, 43-31.

The second half was much the same as the first. Though MIT crime up with a number of good plays, especially on defense, it wasn’t enough to handle Harvard, who on the strength of 58 percent shooting, outsized MIT 40-27 in the final 20 minutes.

Fresh Greg Wildes led the hosts with 20 points, including 12 in the first half, while sophomore Bob Ferry chipped in with 16, most of which came from the perimeter. Branch, MIT’s sixth all-time leading scorer, led both teams with 27, including 12 from the line. Joseph played another fine all-around game, with 14 points and four steals. Other encouraging notes included a 6-for-32 performance from the charity stripe (following a 13-for-27 gain against Babson), and 11 steals versus nine for Harvard. Turnovers, however, continued to be a source of worry as MIT gave up the ball 26 times, for a two-game total of 58.

The schedule for the balance of December isn’t exactly an easy one. Tomorrow MIT faces Tufts (ranked in some polls as the best in New England Division III) in Medford before winging to Chicago to participate in the Illinois Tech Tournament Friday and Saturday.