Men's basketball drops heartbreaker

By Martin Dickan

The Engineers gave it their best, but came up one point short, as senior Bill Ewing sank a shot with two seconds left to lift the Tufts Jumbos to an 88-87 victory at Tufts Tuesday night.

Although they put up 20 of 28 shots in the first half, the Engineers found themselves trailing 41-40 at halftime. Undaunted, MIT fought back to take a two-point lead by the middle of the second stanza. The edge, however, evaporated, as the Engineers were unable to contain 6-7 senior Troy Cooper. Cooper led all scorers with a total of 31 points.

The contest will remain in the contest, MIT co-captain Robert Joseph '83, who led his team with a career-high 24 points, had a basket to give the visitors an 87-86 lead. MIT's other co-cap- tain, Mark Branch '83 (21 points), almost managed to steal the inbound pass, but Ewing got the ball and gave the Jumbos the victory.

Despite Joseph, three other Engineers had career highs. Forward Chris Wilson '86 sank five from the floor and added three free throws for 13 points. Forward Ted Tschikm '85 was right behind him with 12, and guard Jeff Barstow '85 clipped in with a total of seven.

Despite the loss, the Engineers continued to show a great deal of improvement, especially in taking foul shots, a source of difficulty in the season opener against Babson. MIT sank 17 of 23 from the free throw line for 74 percent, a figure much better than the 45 percent of last Tuesday's game. The 63 percent accuracy for field goal shooting was also very encouraging.

Today and tomorrow the team will be in Chicago for the Illinois Tech tournament. The squad will then take it easy for the rest of the month before returning to action January 8, when MIT will host Brown in a game scheduled for 2pm.

Fencing — Tomorrow both fencing teams will be at Columbia for a three-way meet with their hosts, Rutgers, and St. John's.

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