By Robert E. Malchman

The women's volleyball team at Western Massachusetts 3-0 to advance to the quarter-finals of the NCAA Division III Championshi at Westminster, Maryland. Friday night, they fell 2-1 to Sonoma State on Saturday, bringing MIT's Cinderella year to a close.

"The squad tied for fth place in the NCAAs. They are champions of the EAC. Our final record of 33-5 is an MIT record."

All the more surprising is the fact that MIT fielded a first-line team of three juniors: trip-captain Amy Smith and Barbara Wassend, and Michelle Heng, and two sophomores: Lori Cautts, su- pervisor Kathy, Julie Koster, and Marta Petrofsky. Trip-captain Peggy Kiffin was the only senior on the squad.

The youthful team is one of if not the best, in the East, accord- ing to head coach David A. Cas- tenon. "We beat the rest of the East (Case and Fordham) rather easily," he said.

In Friday evening's match against East Coast, the Engineers jumped ahead 2-1 in the first game. At that point MIT committed some errors, according to Castenon, and fell behind 4-2. Here Cautts stepped up the line and proceeded to serve nine straight aces. The

opposition could not solve Can- ton's vicious topspin, and fell behind 13-8, never to recover, as MIT was 15-8. Canton's win was the turning point of the match, Castenon said. "The demoralized hometown favorites went belly-up, as MIT, never trailing, rolled to 15-7 and 15-11 victories.

Saturday's match against fourth-seeded Sonoma State (California) did not go as well. Numerous sideouts led to a 4-7 MIT deficit and Castenon per- mitted no more substitutions. "I had to switch offenses," he ex- plained, "and unfortunately the team was not used to it."

The Engineers lost 5-15.

MIT dominated the second game by hitting off Sonoma balls. The squad played their spikes well, slamming the ball off the sides of the defenders' heads, sending unreturnable volleys into the enemy court. The Engi- neers romped 15-5.

Game three was pivotal to the match. Sonoma mounted its de- fense by not attempting to block all MIT spikes, taking their chances trying to save the hits before they touched floor. The strategy worked, as the Engineers grew tentative, unsure of what form the Sonoma defense would take on any given hit.

Worse for MIT, Sonoma's transition game took off; the Californians got off their shots about twice as fast as MIT, Castenon said. The run-and-gun for the Engineers to assemble for position without time to set up their traditionally awesome defense, leading to another 5-15 defeat.

By game four the Engineers were too tired to keep up with Sonoma's passing defense-set spike attack. The weary team lost 9-15, as Sonoma advanced to the semi-finals next weekend in San Diego.

Despite the closing loss, Cau- tenon was not unhappy with the season. "I feel excellent," he said. "We achieved much more than we ever thought we could at the be-

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