Men's basketball drops two

By Eric R. Fleming

The men’s basketball team dropped both of their games in the Illinois Tech tournament held in Chicago last Friday and Saturday. Following Wednesday’s thrilling overtime loss to Tufts, Coach Fran O’Brien’s men flew into the windy City confident and ready for a good showing. The host Scarlet Hawks from Illinois Tech, however, came in with a more talented squad, and were determined not to let the home fans down. They didn’t, winning Friday by a score of 80-79. Though MIT enjoyed a solid 31-34 edge in rebounds (Mark John- son ’84 pulled in 15 to lead both teams), and co-captains Mark Branch led all scorers with 18 points, the Engineers could not handle Illinois Tech’s outside shooting or transition game. Numerically times 117 (turned missed shots or turnovers into fast-break buckets.

Tul’s Bill Ewing (no relation to Pat) was an alley-oop over Robert Joseph, who was right there with him. One inch higher, and Ewing does not make the shot; one inch lower, and Johnson picks off the pass (Please turn to page 11).

Saturday, MIT squared off against Rochester Tech, which was the eventual champion. Captain Jim Strooksman of Indians on Friday, MIT and Rochester hooked up to a 28-28 tie, but as the second half began, it appeared as if three games in four nights began to take its toll on the Engineers. MIT hit on just eight of 37 field goal attempts in the final twenty minutes, while Rochester poured in 31 points, including 21 ft. from the free throw line. The final score read 79-56.

Bright spots for MIT included Branch, who was named to the all-tournament team on the strength of 43 points in two games, Johnson’s rebounding (12 in the game against RIT for a two-game total of 27) and the play of freshmen Alex Romeo in Saturday’s game. The Engineers have the rest of the season off, resuming play on Saturday, January 16 at home game versus Bates College.

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