**sports**

**Cagemen win 2, end 6-game skid**

By Martin Dickau

Co-captain Mark Branch '83 scored eight of his 18 points in overtime, including a three-point play, to pace the men's basketball team to a 74-70 win over visiting New England College Saturday afternoon.

Co-captain Robert Joseph's basket at the buzzer knotted the score at 63, sending the game into the extra period. Joseph also had his finest showing of the season with 16 points, six assists, seven rebounds, and three steals, as the Engineers gained their second victory in as many games. MIT is now 2-6, while New England drops to 7-4.

Other key performers in the winning effort were Craig Poole '86, who had 16 points and eight rebounds, and center Mark John-son '84, who grabbed a career-high 13 rebounds, helping ensure the victory. At one point in the first half, the visitors led by 12, but MIT tied it at 34 at the half, largely on the strength of Poole's ten points.

Earlier in the week, the Engi-neers managed a 54-52 victory over Dartmouth. The win was the third straight for the Engineers, who now have a 2-1 record.

**Track loses third straight, 69-66**

By Martin Dickau

The track team continued its slide Saturday afternoon, losing a close 66-68 contest to visiting Bates College. The loss was the third straight for the Engineers, who now have a 2-1 record.

Once again, Bates' Pat Parris and Greg Procopio put MIT into an early lead. Parris captured first place in the 150-8, weight throw with a distance of 50'-10", and Procopio took second with a throw of 45'-11", giving the Engineers an 8-1 edge.

Bates bounced right back, however, sweeping the top three spots in the long jump to take the upper hand 10-8. The visitors followed up with first- and second-place showings in the 1000 meters.

Junior Joe Presing brought a halt to the Engineers' downward plunge, coming first in the 33-m Barber. Parris and Procopio were second and third in the shot put, but Bates still had a 27-18 edge.

MIT continued to turn the meet around, as Dave McMullen '83 and John DeKrahen grabbed first and second in the 400 meters, and Dave Richards '83 and John Taylor '84 did the same in the 500 meters. The Engineers found themselves on top of a 34-29 lead.

Taylor '83 finished first in the triple jump with a total distance of 44'-10. After that, however, it was all Bates, as the visitors placed first in the follow-ing six events.

Ed Arenberg '83 (55 meters), John Hradinsky '85 (3000 meters), Mark Dudley '83 (pole vault), Chris Kurker '84 (1000 meters), and Bill Bruno '83 (3000 meters) all won second place in their events, and Martin Taylor was third in the high jump. In spite of their efforts, Bates built up a 69-56 margin.

The Engineers did not give up, putting together two fine perfor-mances to take the 1600- and 3000-meter relays, making the final score 69-66 in favor of the visitors.

The team will try to get back on the winning track this Saturday when it goes to New London to take on the Coast Guard Academy. The squad will not be at home again until January 28 when it hosts Tufts.

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