Lightweights best Harvard, Dartmouth in Biglin

By Jim Van Deusen

The lightweight crew team moved closer to fulfilling the high expectations held for this season with varsity and junior varsity victories over Dartmouth and potential favorite Harvard Saturday on the Charles.

Conditions on the river were far from ideal, with 20-30 mph tail winds kicking up one-foot chop in the basin where the races were held. The 2000-meter course started at the Longfellow Bridge and ended at the MIT Boathouse — lower in the basin than normal — in an effort to put at least part of the race in better conditions.

The varsity boat, consisting of Mike Cafferky '83 (bow), team captain Dave Payne '83 (2), Randy Schwickerdt '83 (3), Cliff Olson '83 (4), Kim Marvin '83 (5), Jay Keith '83 (6), Mark Schaefer '83 (7), Tom Rucker '83 (stroke), and Steve Kim '83 (coxswain), moved strongly through the Harvard boat, establishing more than a boatlength's lead over the 1982 Eastern Sprint champions. The Engineers fought off a strong Crimson sprint at the finish, winning in 5:47, with Harvard only one second behind. Dartmouth was never in the race, coming in about one boatlength behind the victors.

The victory was only Tech's fourth in thirty years of racing between the three schools for the Biglin Bowl. The last was in 1980. This win could foreshadow the remainder of the season for the lightweight varsity, which, under coach Frank Nezcyzor, is a serious contender for the national lightweight championship.

The junior varsity showdown, which preceded the varsity race, saw the Engineers gain a significant lead early in the race and maintain it for the rest of the 2000 meters. Final results showed the same one-second margin over Harvard, with Dartmouth behind by half a length. The same JV boat came up just short of victory in a heavyweight race at Coast Guard the following day, losing by only a few seats.

Nezcyzor, who coached the freshman lightweight last year, was very pleased with Saturday's results: "I thought the varsity rowed a very strong race — especially in handling the difficult conditions on the river. The JV boat it played according to plan — getting out early and fighting off any challenges. Harvard's surge during the race had no effect."