sports

Feature

Everyone loves her but the ducks

By Amy S. Gorin

MIT is not generally known for its athletics. Muscle bound bodies sweating and straining on the playing field are just not what the Institute is all about—usually. Elizabeth Bradley '83 talks almost going to the Olympic Games the way some people talk about graduate fellowship. She is not counting on it, but it would be nice. Bradley always wanted to play football. Instead, she came to MIT and chose rugby, becoming team captain by her sophomore year and a member of the Boston Women's Rugby Club shortly thereafter.

Bradley had to quit last year when her doctor told her that she had suffered too many concussions. But her stickers that read "Give blood. Play rugby" are not kidding.

The rugby club's loss was the crew team's gain. Bradley decided to return to the sport she had tried briefly in her freshman year. The coach of the novice squad sent her to then-varsity coach Douglas Clark, since she had already learned the basics, until the rest of the novice team could catch up. Clark never gave her back.

A friend of Bradley's accused the coach of brainwashing her. "As the [racing] season approaches," Bradley says "you get totally drawn into it, physically and emotionally. People start calling you a fanatic. The day of a race, you don't want to deal with non-crew. They don't understand. My parents came to see me the day of a race, and I practically threw them out."

"You've run thirty miles a week, lifted weights, spent months getting perfect. The two days before a race you're peaking...When you go out to the starting line you're terrified. The coach says you look like you want to throw up. The first stroke you're so nervous you forget to breathe."

The training, serves notwithstanding, paid off. This year the women's team has been fast and powerful enough to win bronze medals at the Bay State Games and the US National Championships, and a silver at the Olympics festival. They were also fast enough to run down a couple of ducks on the Charles River—justice, it is claimed, for what the ducks do to the ducks.

Ducks are not the only obstacles the team has to overcome. Crew shells made in the early 1970's were designed for use by women weighing between 130 and 140 pounds. The coach had to rig splash-guards at the national to prevent the heavyweight shell, riding low in the water with four women weighing about 165 pounds each, from filling with water.

The equipment has not kept up with the women using it. One member of the varsity, in the Department of Ocean Engineering, spent the summer designing a better crew shell.

Winning has an added meaning for Bradley. Jack Kelley, an official at the US Sports Festival, while hanging a medal around her neck, offered a special congratulation to the granddaughter of John Calvin—a former member of the US Olympic Rowing Committee.

Water Polo — John Friedman '83 was awarded a $2,000 postgraduate scholarship by the National Collegiate Athletic Association this summer. Friedman had been named a Division III all-American in four of his four years at MIT and holds the school records for goals in a game, in a season, and in a career.

Academic All-Americans — Louise Jandura '84 was named to the 1983 College Sports Information Directors of America (CoSIDA) College Division Women's Softball Academic All-America first team. Jandura batted .379 with 23 RBIs last season and pitched in two games, posting a 1-0 record.

The MIT men — John Friedman '83, Ken Shull '84, and John Schmitz '83 — were named to the first CoSIDA Academic All-America College Division at-large team. Friedman was the nation's top vote-getter among College Division at-large candidates. Shull was named to the second New England Division III champion wrestler at 134 pounds and was 16-1 last season. Schmitz, captain of the men's swim team, was a two-time Division III all-American and was twice the New England champion in the 400-yard individual medley.

IM notices

There will be an Intramural Council meeting tomorrow, September 14, at 7:30 in room 4-370. All athletic chairmen must attend. FIFA will be collected at this time.

Soccer entries will be due at a mandatory entry meeting on Thursday, September 15 at 7:30 in room 4-370. All athletic chairmen must attend. FIFA will be collected at this time.

Football entries will be due at a mandatory entry meeting on Sunday, September 18 at 8:00 in room 4-370.

Referee clinics will be held September 21 and 22 at 8:00 in duPont gym for anyone interested in officiating IM football. Also, a P.E. course is being offered this fall for anyone wanting to learn how to officiate football and soccer. Register Tuesday in duPont.

Picture

The MIT Varsity Soccer Team will open its season against Harvard tomorrow at 3 pm in Steinbruner Stadium.

Tech photo by Omar S. Valerio

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