Defense fails; soccer gets blanked 5-0

By Arthur Lee

Under soaring sun and humidity of a Labor Day afternoon, the men's soccer team suffered its second defeat and first shutout of the season, losing 5-0 to the WPI Engineers at Steinbrenner Stadium. MFT's record fell to 1-2.

Just seven minutes into the game, the MIT backfield was caught off guard as the WPI Engineers took the lead with an unassisted goal. Communication broke down between the defensive players, as they stood and watched the ball go in. The defense quickly scrambled to tighten up and did not allow another goal to be scored for another thirty-four minutes. The WPI offense, nevertheless, dominated the first half by continuing to probe for weaknesses in the MIT backfield.

The MIT defense allowed twelve shots on goal to slip during that time. Goalkeeper Robert Neecker '85 had to make saves on four of those that got too close to the goal. In contrast, the MIT offense only chalked up three shots on the opponents' goal, with only one coming close enough to require a save.

After thirty-four minutes of WPI's probing attacks, the MIT defense totally collapsed. John Meehan of WPI easily slipped by a defender on the right-center side of the backfield and found a good angle for a shot. Neecker dove to his left, but the ball was already out of reach as it sailed into the goal.

Thirty-four minutes later, in the second half of the game, the home team received another shock as its crumbling defense gave up another easy goal. This time, however, the threat came from the left side of Neecker. WPI's Dave King was not marked tightly enough as he found ample time to kick a twenty-yarder toward the goal. Neecker misjudged the flight path of the ball and jumped too early. The ball flew over his hands and into the net, making the score 3-0 at the half.

The second half of the game not only brought any better luck to the MIT Engineers. Once again, WPI outshouted the home team 8 to 3. 10:05 into the half, Caneiro scored again with the able assistance of his teammates passing game. About twenty minutes later, Caneiro teamed up with Gazan Namogolu to humiliate the MIT backfield. The ball passed no less than three times between Caneiro and Namogolu before Caneiro decided to collect his hat trick for the afternoon.

MFT coach Walter Alessi said basically one thing to his team after the game: "It was pathetic." According to assistant coach David Aptaker, at least it was "a team effort." But Alessi noted, "If we continue to play the way we did today, we will not win any more games."

Baseball — The baseball team fell to 5-9 on the season with a 4-3 loss to visiting Northeastern Wednesday afternoon.

Golf — The golf team dropped another close triangular match Tuesday afternoon. Host Bentley won the event with a 391. Boston College was second at 395, and MIT was third with a score of 399. Rick Jones '84 led the Engineers, firing a 79. Chris Furlong '83 and Dave Limmer '85 were one stroke behind their teammates, and Erik Axel '87 finished two strokes back.

Tennis — The women's tennis team upset their record to 2-1 Tuesday afternoon, defeating host Brandon 6-3, Janet Schnee '84, Jennifer Hymas '87, and Francie Garney '86 all won their singles matches in straight sets, while Jennifer Shandling '84 came back to take her match after losing the opening set. Hyman and captain Jennifer Lin '84 combined to capture their doubles match in straight sets, and the team of Schnee and Lisa Shields '85 staged another comeback performance for another doubles victory.

The men's team went up against strong Boston College team Tuesday afternoon and lost 7-2. Rob Craig '86 was the only singles winner, and he also teamed up with Ramy Rizk '86 to chalk up the only MIT doubles victory.

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