By Robert E. Matcham

The beginnings of MIT women's volleyball games are mixtures of anticipation of smooth, powerful style that has made the Engineers the powerhouse in the Northeast. A Division III team in the nation, frustration with the time it takes them to un-track and play the way they want.

The team eviced its quality against visiting Division II powerhouse Northeastern University Wednesday night. Despite showing only occasional flashes of excellence, MIT overcame a lackluster Huskie squad, 15-13, 15-8, 15-11.

MIT and Northeastern began the first game evenly, moving slowly to a 6-6 tie. Servers missed repeatedly, as the teams traded sides-out. Annela Munro '85 was the only hitter to connect well on her side and the Huskies defense succeeded in containing her drives.

Lori Cantu '85 finally led the Engineers out of their doldrums, igniting a rally with two hard spikes and an ace on one of her three scoring serves. Northeastern called a time out after Munro's light tap over the defense brought MIT to a 12-8 lead. The breather cooled the Engineers, and the game resumed with another trade of points and sides-out. MIT moved to game point, 14-8, but the Huskies died slow. Northeastern crept back to 14-13, before beating themselves sides-out. MIT moved to game four, 15-8.

The Engineers fell behind in game four, 3-1. They scored four straight points, however, including two on a block and a spike from Koster. Northeastern tied the score at 5, and the teams resumed trading points and sides-out to 7-7.

Once again MIT demonstrated its explosiveness, rallying off seven unanswered points. Koster contributed points with two soft taps and a block, and Munro and Wesslund added a spike apiece. MIT ended it all with a slam, 15-8.

The win lifted the Engineers to 27-0. In those matches, MIT, the best Division III school in the East, has only lost three games: to Occasional Helysoxy, and now Northeastern.

Altman was pleased with the victory, despite her team's inconsistent play. Cantu and Munro "hit exceptionally well," she said after the game, and Cantu "played well on defense, too."

The team "always starts out slow," Altman said. "That's just the way they play. They don't panic" when they fall behind by a few points at the beginning of a game, she continued. Northeastern did not play well, but it does have a good team, she noted.

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