Debaters flame anew

By Lisa Y. Bell

After two years of inactivity, the debate team started the 1984 season with a first-place varsity win, first and second-place speaker awards, and an overall team record of 8-4.

Three two-man teams traveled to the University of Rhode Island to debate this year's Cross-Examination Debate Association (CEDA) fall resolution: "The method of conducting presidential elections in the United States is detrimental to democracy."

Each team debated four rounds — two for the resolution and two against. A round consists of four segments of debate, alternating between the affirmative and negative. A sequence consists of a constructive case, cross-examination, and rebuttal delivered in an 8-4-3 minute format.

Every team member must give a constructive case, a cross-examination, and a rebuttal sometime in the round. Points are awarded at the end of each sequence on the basis of argument cohesiveness and delivery. The team with the most points at the end of the hour wins the round.

Twenty-five teams from 10 colleges participated in the competition, including the US Military Academy, Emerson College, St. Anselm's College, St. John's College, Bridgewater State College, University of Pennsylvania, Claire Azure College, and Southern Connecticut State University.

Team captain Derryl Moore '88 and his partner Richard Soto '88 went undefeated to clinch the first-place varsity trophy. The pair also took the first and second-place speaker awards, respectively.

MIT's two other teamssplit their rounds. Anthony Polito '86 and Tony Pac '88 scored one of their victories when they were pitted against teammates Elizabeth Doherty '86 and Brian Baker '86.

"The team's performance gives MIT the credibility it needs to go against even tougher competition later in the season," Matis said. The speech team will join the debate team at the West Point Speech and Debate Tournament Oct. 12-14 to compete in what they expect to be the toughest tournament of the season.

The Tech FRIDAY, OCTOBER 5, 1984

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