The Wesleyan Cardinals clearly came to Cambridge ready to put aside any opposition. They were taller in crucial matchups, and able to make outside shots that few other schools in the league would attempt.

It became painfully clear in the first minutes of play that MIT was unprepared to counter their strong rebounding power or penetrate the Wesleyan defense adequately enough to put up any real shots. The Cardinals made six baskets in the first six minutes of play and the Engineers scored only two points on a basket by Monica Trapp. Several scoring opportunities MIT rarely found an opening in the defense before the shot clock ran down.

Both teams played a determined defense, and the backcourt became the scene of a number of scrappy struggles, with both sides accumulating numerous fouls. MIT was able to put up four more baskets, including two by Louise Jandura '86, in the half, which closed with the Engineers down, 11-22.

MIT also began to improve some of the glaring faults in their defense. Wesleyan star Mary Byrne, who used her long shot to score the first six points of the game in a stunning 90-second period, was not given the opportunity to perform that kind of swift damage in the second half.

The Cardinals' advance on the board was not stopped, but by halftime the MIT women had at least made it clear they were no longer going to be semi-collared by the competition. For those who look for omens, the second half started positively with the first basket going in at the hands of Darlene Dewilde '88. MIT came back on the court clearly much better prepared to get the ball through the Wesleyan defense to shooting positions. Wesleyan never got more than 15 points ahead of the Engineers, while the team prevented the Cardinals from putting the game away. Little progress was made in understating the margin until the final minutes.

MIT's effort with an energy that seemed personified in Grace Saccardo '88, who made two crucial baskets to nip a Wesleyan counter-attack. With little over two minutes to play the score stood at 35-45. Wesleyan scored only three additional points, all from free throws. MIT players Stacey Thompson '86, Irene Gregory '86, and Cragg put up eight points in the last minutes to bring the score to 43-45.

More than one person in the stands who would have liked to have been able to set the clock back a few minutes at the end. Then again, there are some naysayers who believe a moral victory is more durable than the score on the board.

MIT plays at Elms College tomorrow and then goes into hibernation until January.

Update

The Wesleyan Cardinals got the jump on the women's basketball team early in their meeting Monday night. A last-minute rally failed as the Engineers came up short 48-43.

Men's hockey club romps to third straight win

The men's hockey club continued its winning ways Wednesday evening, pounding the visiting Worcester Polytechnic Institute Engineers, 7-2, before a small but enthusiastic crowd in the MIT Athletic Center.

Dave Petke '86 led the MIT offensive effort with a hat trick. MIT has scored 25 points in its first three games, while compiling an unblemished 3-0 record. The squad will be in action again tomorrow afternoon, when Southern Maine comes to town. That game will begin at 2 p.m.

Squash drops fifth

The squash team continued its surge Wednesday afternoon and dropped its fifth straight decision, 7-2, to visiting Bowdon. Hunter Hancock '96 and J.T. Linn '98 had the lone wins for the Engineers, who are still looking for their first victory of the season.

The team will be busy in the coming week, hosting Trinity tomorrow afternoon and Harvard Tuesday.