Nelson leads MIT basketball win

By Paul Paternoster

Aggression was the key to the Engineers' overwhelming 82-46 basketball victory over visiting Emerson College. MIT dominated both the offensive and defensive boards, accumulating 49 rebounds to Emerson's 40.

The tempo of the game was set early in the first half by forwards Bruce Mihura '88 and Evan Pratt '87, who out-hustled the Lions' starting five.

After allowing Emerson to stay close in the first couple of minutes, MIT exploded for 36 points in the first half, outscoring the hapless Lions by 17.

The opportunistic Engineers were sparked by Randy Nelson '86. With MIT leading 11-9 at Emerson threatening to tie the game, the 6'3" guard from Buffalo, N.Y. stole the ball from a Lions player, strode down the court, and finished the play with an exciting slam-dunk.

Following that play, the team got fired up. They outscored Emerson 46-10, to finish the half. The Engineers came out even more tenaciously in the second half, scoring as many points as the Lions did the entire game — 46.

Nelson finished with 18 points on the game, followed by Mike Poole '87 (12) and Craig Poole '86 (12). Mihura led the team on the game, followed by Mike Nelson '85 (9 each).

The victory increased MIT's record to 6-14. This record can be misleading when one tries to evaluate the team's performance. Six of the team's losses were decided in the final 30 seconds of the game. Also considering that the Engineers only won two games last year, Coach Fran O'Brien is very pleased with the team's showing.

"I feel very positive about the progress the team has made this year," O'Brien remarked. In particular, he cited "the improved play of Nelson and Pratt, and the leadership provided by the senior members of the squad on and off the court."

Although John Wolfe '85 did not see much playing time this year, his enthusiasm and hard work in practice rubbed off on the other players. "He always gives 120 percent," O'Brien commented.

The 13-year coach foresees the possibility of a 500 season next year. The team will have a nucleus of six experienced players returning next year — Nelson, Pratt, Poole, McElroy, Mihura, and Jim Egan '86.

The Engineers will be on the road for their remaining three games of the season. Their next game is Thursday at Worcester Polytechnic Institute. That match begins at 8 pm.

Unbeaten indoor track team beats Bowdoin Polar Bears

By Christopher Y. Kim

BRUNSWICK, MAINE — The indoor track team broke a 14-year jinx at the Polar Bears' den, defeating Bowdoin on its home track for the first time since 1971.

Last Saturday's 92-43 victory ended the Engineers' dual-meet record to 6-14. This record can be misleading when one tries to evaluate the team's performance. Six of the team's losses were decided in the final 30 seconds of the game. Also considering that the Engineers only won two games last year, Coach Fran O'Brien is very pleased with the team's showing.

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The Engineers secured the top two places in the shotput when Parrin won on his last attempt with 44' 3". Procopio finished second with a put of 42' 4¼". The other fieldmen held their own. Ed Freeman '86 finished in the long jump with 20' 5¼" and Joe Peters '88 finished third with his final jump of 19' 10½".

The Engineers fared better in the triple jump, as Ed Martin '85 won with 41' 2" and Kirk Beatty '85 took third with a jump of 40' 10½".

Co-captain Ron Smith '85 captured second in the high jump, clearing 6'. The pole vaulters dominated their events, as Hugh Ekberg '88 and Ross Dreyer '86 finished first and second, respectively, with vaults of 13' 11½".

The depth and strength of the Engineers' runners proved to be too much for Bowdoin to handle. Gordon Holtsman '87 started off with a relatively easy victory in the one-mile run in 4:29.5. Rod Hitchen's '88 roared from behind to edge out his opponent for second in 4:31.6.

The short sprinters proved to be a source of strength to the team. Sean Garrett '88 had an easy victory in the 45-yard hurdles, winning by half a second in 5.9 seconds. Ed Aernberg '85 returned from injury layoff in fine form, winning the 400-yard dash.

By Pat Grogan

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