Rugby club defeats Boston Minutemen, 26-11

By Mike Murphy

The MIT Rugby Football Club opened its season last Saturday on Briggs Field with a 26-11 defeat of the Boston Minutemen. The game was part of the Boston Rugby Club’s 25th anniversary celebration, which was hosted by MIT.

Sloppy play marked MIT’s efforts in the early part of the first half. Boston quickly took advantage of MIT’s play to score a try and go up 6-0 after five minutes. A penalty kick made it 0-7 before MIT began to settle down and assert itself.

Solid play on loose balls with aggressive rucking and running put Boston under heavy pressure as the half wound down. The penalty was a try wide of the posts as the clock ran out by Rich Selesnick G. The conversion made the halftime score 6-7.

MIT came out in the second half fired up and Boston was soon reeling. Continuous pressure on the kickoff led to an apparent try in the corner by Leo Casey G. MIT drove in another try in minutes later under the posts on a pass from Casey to Chris Kuszmaul ‘86 to make it 10-7. Boston struck back with a try on an MIT breakdown to go up 10-11. Captain Joe Goss G made a fine run leading to a try by Casey off a pass from Dave Simson ‘86. Selesnick converted and then scored again to run the score to 10-11. Scoring was wrapped up with two penalty kicks by Selesnick.

(EDITOR’S NOTE: Murphy is President of the MIT Rugby Football Club.)

Football to open vs. Stonehill

By Jerome Braunstein

The MIT football team will open its season against Stonehill College tomorrow at 1 pm at Steinbrenner Stadium.

Head Coach Dwight Smith said tomorrow’s game will be “one of the most difficult games of the season,” but he predicts the team will hold its own throughout the season.

Coach Smith described this year’s defense as better than in past years. He said the offense is not quite as good as it was in the past, but it is improving. He plans on an overall team equal to, if not better than, any other team he has coached in his last seven years at MIT. Because the team "lacks depth," Smith hopes his starters will stay healthy.

This year’s starting quarterback is Peter J. Gasparini ‘88. He started a few games last season, when last year’s starting quarterback was injured. Joining Gasparini in the backfield is fullback Hugh B. Ekberg ‘88, weighing approximately 255 lbs. Ekberg is one of the fastest runners on the team.

Blocking for Gasparini and Ekberg are two of the most experienced offensive line players on the team. They are John L. Newton G and co-captain Arthur B. Gregory ‘87. Newton, in his fifth year as offensive guard, keys the other offensive linemen of their blocking assignments.

Defensive co-captains Larry S. Monroe G and Nicholas S. Nowak ‘86 both mentioned that the defense looks really good. Most of this year’s team played last year.

Last Saturday, the Engineers held a practice scrimmage against Bentley College. Monroe estimated that the defense really moved the ball, gaining two touchdowns in the three fifteen-minute quarters played. The defense claimed many interceptions and fumbles, keeping Bentley scoreless.

The Engineers’ record of five wins and three losses sent the team to club finals last season. Their loss in the NCFA semifinals was disappointing, since they were leading Worcester State at the half. Worcester State then went on to win the championship, and it is now a member of Division III.

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