Women's soccer defeats Pine Manor

By Paul Petersen

The women's soccer team played to way last Thursday in one of the most impressive victories in its brief history at MIT. An estimated home crowd of about 100 people watched the too-late Engineers trounce Pine Manor 10-1.

Under the direction of thirteener coach Shawn Ladda, a former Mid-Atlantic all-star at Penn State, MIT outdistanced Pine Manor from the opening kickoff. Very early did the opponents cross midfield, as the Engineers bottled them up in front of the goal.

The tempo of the game was set early by six-ticker Jeri Ikeda '87, Marjorie Bump '87 and Irene Gregory '86. Good passing and ball control by the three led to numerous scoring opportunities. Pine Manor's best defense was to kick the ball out of bounds. MIT got a lot of pressure with corner kicks and cross-ins as a result.

MIT scored its first goal ten minutes into the game. A perfectly-executed crossing pass led to an easy goal for left-winger Eileen Murphy '89. MIT continued to pressure throughout the first half.

Ladda used her whole bench. "We have 27 women here who are dedicated to playing soccer," Ladda said. No matter who was playing, the same aggressive, spirited style of play was MIT's trademark.

Irene Gregory '88 and Ikeda added two more MIT goals to give the Engineers a 3-0 halftime lead. The squad's 3-3-4 alignment (three fullbacks, three halfbacks and four forwards) seemed more like a 10-10 offense. The fullbacks played a crucial role in keeping the ball in the offensive zone. Kathy Liu '86, Sofia Merida '87, Jossamy Tsang '89 and Charlotte Weber '89 were instrumental in clearing away potential Pine Manor scoring opportunities and setting up MIT scoring drives. As a result, goalie Kathryn Silverstri '88 had an easy half.

This year marks the first year of varsity women's soccer at MIT. Pine Manor is also a first-year team, and, in its contest against MIT, had only ten players. In addition to being shorthanded, the Pine Manor players must have been tired after trying to keep up with the Engineers' potent attack.

Ladda mainly relied on second-stringers in the second half. Not only did they fill their respective positions adequately, but they aided in scoring seven second-half goals. A few team members had never played soccer before this year. "The nice thing about soccer is that the first time out, you can have some level of success," Ladda noted.

Murphy, Ikeda and Saccardo added early second-half goals to up the score to 6-0. MIT suffered its only setback at this point as a Pine Manor forward split the defense and beat Silverstri for the team's only goal.

The rest of the game was a continuation of MIT spirit, mainly carried out by Niki Pandian '88 and Christy Alvord '89, who continued to put pressure on their opponents. Pandian scored on an incredible turn-round shot, firing it into the upper left corner of the net.

Alvord, after nearly scoring numerous times, finally put one home off a defender. Laura Finkelstein '87 and Angela So '89 also scored to give MIT its 10-1 victory.

After losing to Brandeis Saturday, the team has a record of 6-6-1. The Engineers will play at Babson Thursday to complete their season.