Basketball drops a pair

By Paul Panreuter

"Champions are not sitting in all cylinders." That's how Coach Fran O'Brien described the plight of the men's basketball team after it dropped a pair of weekend games on Jan. 17 and 18.

The Engineers (3-9) fell to low-
ly Skidmore College on Friday, 70-66, and then were defeated by highly rated Coast Guard, 83-66 on Saturday. The twin losses, with a forecast of MIT's losing streak to six games, were marked by abysmal shooting and the team's general lack of confidence.

Independent Activities Period has spelled disaster for O'Brien's troops. The team has been unable to string together a full 40 minutes of basketball since returning from the holiday break. O'Brien believes that the squad, which up to this point has been relying on three players, needs to get more people involved.

With Craig Poole '86 and Ran-
dy Norton struggling, Mike McElroy '87 has been forced to carry the team. While McElroy has established himself as a force in New England, it is clear that one man cannot win basketball games.

Against Skidmore, McElroy scored a career high 31 points, and grabbed 13 rebounds. Yet, only one other Engineer - Poole, with 10 points - scored in double figures. McElroy saw double and triple coverage much of the game, and paid for it as he was fouled numerous times. Fir-
teen of his 31 points were scored from the line.

The Engineers shot 35 percent from the floor. Friday. With the Thoroughbreds hitting 37 percent of their shots, it seemed that MIT was doing well with this vast dis-

ance in shooting. The Engi-

neers were never out of the game.

The first five minutes of the second half exemplified the team's frustrations. MIT looked tense - forcing passes, missing easy shots, and displaying minimal in-
tensity on defense.

After allowing Skidmore to run up its biggest lead of the game 56-43, MIT fought back by pressing the Thoroughbreds. The tide appeared to turn in favor of the Engineers, who were exploiting Skidmore's mistakes. With five minutes to play, MIT was only down by two points, 60-58. The Thoroughbreds were able to regain momentum, and they held on for the win.

MIT faced a more formidable opponent the following afternoon in Coast Guard. While one can expect MIT to make a final score may not have shone as brightly as it did against Skidmore. (Please turn to page 15)

Track victory extends streak

By Christopher S. Kim

The men's indoor track team continued to dominate its New England Division III opponents, handily defeating the Coast Guard Bears 89-44 at home Sat-

turday. MIT, who has not lost to a Division III opponent in three years, improved its record to 4-1 with this meet.

The depth of the Engineer team proved too much for the Bears, who mustered more than one place in only 3 of the 16 events, none of which were run-
ning events.

The Engineers' weightlifters started the meet off on a high note, led by Scott Deering '89, who captured both the 150-pound weight throw with a toss of 44'

11" and the shot put with a 42'

4) toss. Mike O'Leary '87 topped a third place finish in the 15-pound weight throw with a hurl of 39' 4)3. The Bears did not fare as well as the incoming events. Ed Freeman '96 leaps to second place

in the 35-meter hurdles with a time of 7.92 seconds. Kyle Robinson '89 also came up short in the 800-meter run, taking second place with a 2:01.11 time. Teammate Bob Bob '87 finished third with 2:01.41.

The distance runners turned in strong per-
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Despite the injuries of several of its key runners, the intermedi-
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