In a stunning upset, track takes championships

(Continued from page 16) in qualifying for the final heat and then surged into third place on the final lap, edging out a Brandeis runner in the process.

The 500-meter run pitted two Brandeis runners against a pair of Engineers in the final heat. All four men started off hard and held on to finish in the same positions that they had throughout the race. Marc Light '88 and Charles Parrott '87 limited the Brandeis gain in the event to only four points, as they finished second and fourth, respectively.

Peters made up for his performance in the long jump by taking sixth in the 55-meter dash. At this point in the meet with only five events remaining, the Engineers' performance narrowed the gap to only five points.

Freshman standout Sean Walker '89 qualified for the final heat and held strong for an unexpected second place finish in the 400-meter run after leading for most of the race. This performance gave the Engineers the lead for the first time, a lead they would set over rival Colby on this evening. Light, who had previously set a personal best in the 60-meter hurdles, Brandeis failed to qualify a runner in this race, ordinarily one of their stronger events.

The Judges narrowed the MIT lead when Kyle Robinson '89 ran with an injured back to finish fifth in the 1000-meter run, while a Brandeis runner finished fourth. Sean Kelley '89, Tusen Erdogan '87, and Bill Mallet '86 represented MIT in the 3000-meter run, but the field proved too strong for them. Brandeis gained another point in this event, leaving the two teams tied with the three relays remaining.

At this point, the coaches decided to gamble with running an injured Hoff in the distance medley relay. Hoff's injury jeopardized this switch and may have been a blessing in disguise that saved the meet. Action Briefer '89 started very strong in the 800-meter leg and had the lead for most of the leg, but faltered in the last lap and finished stuck in the rear pack.

Mike Donohue '87 averaged his failure to tally any points in the 55-meter dash, staying in the pack in the 400-meter leg and making a brilliant handoff to Rod Hoff '88. Hoffman, who earlier had also missed scoring by a place in the 1500-meter run, took it out in the 1200-meter leg and ended it with a strong lock in the final lap that propelled the Engineers into fourth place with a 1600-meter leg remaining.

Holohan anchored the relay and cruised his way into a comfortable second place finish. Meanwhile, the Brandeis relay had trouble keeping up with the leaders and failed to score, giving the Engineers an unexpected and almost insurmountable eight-point lead.

The real effort followed in the 1600-meter relay, in which pride as well as the meet was at stake. Brandeis was confident that even with their top leg injured, they could still win the relay. The race quickly turned into a two-team showdown with Brandeis having the advantage over the first two legs, despite strong efforts by Ted Bixby '88, who had earlier failed to qualify for the 400-meter run, and Parrott.

But the Light 'n Lin combination caught up with Brandeis and sparked the Engineers to an upset win that ensured the title. Light overshot his runner in the final lap of his leg and posted a .03-second split in guiding the lead. Lin, already tired from the 400-meter dash, held on to victory, establishing a furious rush up to the final turn and posting a personal best split of 49.6 seconds.

The victory was impressive, as the final trio MIT legs had each run two races earlier in the day. The 3200-meter relay was anti-climactic, as all MIT had to do was finish to seal the victory. The team of Walker, Ben Callegaro '87, Robert Joy '87, and Asaad Ghide '89 completed a relatively uneventful but crooked relay, finishing in fifth, while Colby upset the favored Brandeis relay.

The coaches, just as drained as the runners, were pleased and stunned by a Cinderella performance in which every competitor's performance counted. The meet concludes the season for most of the team, although a few competitors will compete Friday and Saturday in the indoor All New England Track Championships, which MIT will host at the Athletic Center.

(Editor's note: Christopher Y. Kim '88 is the manager of the men's indoor track team.)

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A Talk By

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