MIT rows by USCG, sunk by Harvard

By William Hsu

It was almost like Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde. The meet's lightweight varsity crew (2-0) rowed extremely aggressively in a losing effort Saturday against Harvard and Dartmouth but calmed down on Sunday to defeat Coast Guard on the Charles River. The heavyweights (2-0) also decisively beat Coast Guard.

In an early surprise, the lightweights led the first 750 meters of the race against Harvard and Dartmouth. Harvard traditionally is one of the top three lightweight crews in the country. MIT started the race at 44 strokes per minute and settled to 36 after twenty strokes. Harvard and Dartmouth both settled to 34.

The lightweights rowed a completely opposite race on the next day against Coast Guard. "We rowed low for the first 1000 meters and stayed behind Coast Guard by half a length," said captain Gary Frazier '86. "Then we popped the rating up two strokes per minute and finished with a 37-stroke advantage in the last minute." Rowing at a higher stroke rate allowed the Engineers to be at race one boat length ahead of Harvard and Dartmouth at the beginning of the race, but MIT did not have "Get well beyond our planned strategy," coach Peter Holland said. MIT dropped behind at the end to finish 2.4 seconds behind Dartmouth and 14 seconds behind Harvard.

The second varsity and freshman boats, plagued by illness and last minute personnel changes, lost both races.

The lightweights will race Cornell and Columbia next Saturday on the Charles River.

Heavyweights defeat Coast Guard

The men's heavyweight varsity crew (2-0) continued to show their potential, easily defeating Coast Guard Sunday on the Charles River. MIT was in control of the race from start to finish.

With a race strategy similar to the lightweight varsity race against Coast Guard, MIT set its lead to a comfortable 34 strokes per minute after the start and had a three-seat advantage after 500 meters.

Poor steering by the Coast Guard coxswain allowed MIT to increase their lead to six seats through 750 meters. "We were rowing very smooth and relaxed compared to last week's race against Columbia," recalls sixth man Geoff Kelch '87.

After 1500 meters MIT had open water (greater than a one boat length advantage) and finished with a strong sprint.

"We've been bringing our sprint all week, and it felt a lot better than last week," Kelch said. MIT finished in 6:41 with a twelve-second advantage over Coast Guard.

The second varsity and first freshmen boats were both ahead after 1000 meters, but both crews lost by two lengths and two seats, respectively.

The heavyweights race number-one-ranked Harvard and Princeton at Princeton next Saturday.

Baseball pulls off last-inning rally

By Eric Reifsneider

The MIT baseball team split a double-header with the University of South Florida Sunday, winning the first game and losing the second.

MIT won the opener in dramatic fashion. Trailing 3-2 entering the seventh inning (college games are shortened to seven innings for doubleheaders), the Engineers scored four runs to take a 4-3 victory.

The rally began when right-fielder Ken Schwer '86 lined a one-out single to right field. Third baseman Tom Hoffman '86 contributed a double down the left field line allowing Switzer to score. After an infield out, first baseman Mike Griffin '86 drew a walk. Coach Fran O'Brien then called on Henry Hoeh '86 to pinch-hit. Hoeh responded by hitting the second pitch to him over the left field fence for a game-winning three-run homer.

Hoeh later said that the game's last pitch was an inside fastball. He speculated that the pitcher thought he wouldn't swing, but said he was thinking about hitting a home run when he first stepped to the plate.

Coast Guard scored their three runs in the top of the seventh on two doubles, a walk, and an infield out. Pitching pitcher Paul Saly '86 shut out the opposition on three hits for the first six innings, but tired in the seventh. Winning pitcher Mack Carroll '88 relieved and retired the side, setting the stage for Hoeh's heroics.

After the exciting win in the first game, the Engineers seemed ready to complete the sweep in game two, but Coast Guard literally threw them a curve. The off-speed breaking pitches served up by Coast Guard's Priceless, Priced Less.

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