Lightweight frosh win regatta

By William Hou

The first frosh lightweight crew was the only crew among the MIT, Princeton and Harvard crews to claim victory at the Charles River, while the heavyweight squad banked Princeton and Harvard into the top two in the ranked collegiate crew in the competition.

The first froshmen victory was the first official victory this season. Because of the unusually rough and windy river conditions, all lightweight races began at 7 am, about three hours before the scheduled start.

The frosh lightweight race was one of the last to finish. MIT jumped to a slim lead at the outset. However, poor steering by all three crews caused difficulty in determining which boat was ahead during the race. All three crews crossed the finish line within five seconds of each other.


"We had tough practices before the race," said Ken Goodson '89, "but we hope to build on last weekend's performance and keep improving for the Spriats next month."

The Eastern Spriats Regatta was the largest spring race for lightweight crews in the US.

The varisty lightweight eight rowed with a strategy similar to their winning race against Coast Guard the previous week. MIT rowed the first 1000 meters of the race at 32 strokes per minute, five strokes per minute slower than Cornell. MIT was never more than two seats down.

At the 1000-meter mark MIT pulled even with Cornell and was one boat length ahead of Columbia. But MIT lacked the spark it had a week ago, and the last 1000 meters belonged to Cornell.


The lightweight race again over the weekend against a fast Rutgers crew in Mercer County, New Jersey.

Harvard dominated the heavyweight races and easily defeated both Princeton and MIT. The heavyweight traveled to Syracuse on Sunday.

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