Beavers surprise Providence, 21-14
Balanced offensive attack, dominating defense spark comeback victory

By Charles D. Robinson Jr.
and Harold S. Stern

In a come-from-behind victory, MIT's football team defeated the Providence Friars Saturday by a score of 21-14.

The Beavers were in trouble early in the game. Kevin Delane's passing led Providence downfield. A diving catch by Jeff Ofgam brought the ball to the one, and Kevin Nolan ran the ball into the end zone.

MIT had several opportunities to score on their first drive, but came up short. Shane Arnold '88 broke past several defenders, returning the kickoff to the MIT 41-yard line. Three plays later, a faking call on Providence brought the ball to the PC 23. With a first down on the 13, Peter Gasparini '88 threw two passes that would have been good for touchdowns if they had not been dropped.

The Beaver defense did better on the next series, disrupting the Friars' aerial attack with some excellent penetration. Richard Rice '87 recorded a sack, and Monty Olsen '88 came through with two more.

Providence managed to mount one more attack before halftime, as they drove down the the MIT 9-yard line. Excellent pass coverage by Rick Buellesbach '90 and John Dauley '87 broke up one attempt at a score, and sacks from Poulin and Rice on successive plays shut the door, as time ran out before the Friars could set up for a field-goal attempt.

Two factors enabled the MIT rushing game to pick up speed in the second half — Gasparini's open down the middle. Colless broke one tackle, and was finally dragged down at the PC 42. On fourth down and five to go, MIT went for it. Gasparini again found Colless free, and connected for a 37-yard pickup, giving the Beavers a first and goal on the six. Gasparini carried the ball into the end zone, and a new place kicker for the Beavers — Hereman Reyes '87 — converted the extra point.

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Page 16  The Tech  Tuesday, September 22, 1986