Hockey wins its fourth consecutive game, 10-2

By Peter Dean

The Beavers men did it again. The MIT men's hockey team extended its winning streak to four games, defeating the University of Rhode Island, 10-2, to clinch the New England champion title in the semifinals of the Fourth Annual Ben Martin for Hockey Tournament.

The victory, coupled with Tufts' 6-3 win over Suffolk University, gives MIT the opportunity to win its third straight championship to open the season. The Beavers suffered a 4-3 loss at the hands of Tufts in December, and will get another chance as the two teams meet in tonight's championship game.

The game against URI was again dominated by MIT's power-play and penalty-killing units, coupled with sparkling performances by Alex Jessiman '88 and Peter Gasparini '88 in goal. Defending the Beavers scored its goals and had one assist.

The first period began with the Beavers dominating the neutral zone and the Rams' defensive zone with a lot of good fast-checking. URI's inability to keep out of the way and prevent the Beavers from scoring.

As the game progressed, URI gained composure and began to play Efficiently, but still lost the game.

The Rams kept their pressure up high, extending their lead to 6-1. Again, the MIT power-play squad showed its prowess at the Beavers scored two goals with man advantages. Jessiman put both of them in the net from the point.

The game became more physical at this point, with both teams displaying some finesse.

The Rams only goal of the period came from the swift Mike Fishback '89, who appeared strong on defense and facing shots with crowds on the near side of the net.

The lone URI goal of the period was scored by the MIT power-play unit. URI did not manage to score a single power-play goal while the Beavers scored two goals while short-handed.

A great deal of the efficiency of the penalty killing must be attributed to Gasparini, who made several brilliant saves on breakaways and facing shots with crowds on his crease.

Two of MIT's third period goals (including one of the short-handed goals) came from Jessiman, this time showing how much of a threat he is from the point. Both shots came from deep at the blue line, although one goal was due more to a nasty bounce that the puck took in the net than the accuracy of Jessiman's shot.

One power-play goal was scored as Gary Zoswanek '88 took the puck from the faceoff outside the URI blue line, beat the URI defender, and put it past the Rams' goaltender. The last MIT goal, putting the Beavers into double digits, came from the swift Mike Fishback '87 while MIT was again short-handed.

Unfortunately URI spoiled Gasparini's excellent display of goal-tending when, with under one minute left in the game, a Rams forward came streaking up the left wing to put a backhand past Gasparini into the upper right corner of the net.

With the 10-2 win and the momentum of a four game winning streak, the Beavers are sure to do well against Tufts in the championship game tonight at 9 pm in the New Athletic Center.