Hockey loses second in a row, beaten by Stonehill

The first period of the game against Stonehill buried the Beavers for good. Stonehill put four unanswered goals into the net while MIT could not even score on three powerplay opportunities.

The first three minutes of the game were dominated by MIT as Stonehill could not get the puck out of their own zone. However, even though the puck remained in the Stonehill zone, the Beavers could still not manage to put many shots on goal, instead mostly playing against the boards. Thus, three minutes into the period, an interference penalty against MIT resulted in a power-play goal for Stonehill and the Beavers lost the game.

MIT's losses of confidence was so great that their usually powerful power-play unit fell totally apart (some might attribute this to the absence of Jessiman who plays center in one power-play line). During the first MIT power-play Stonehill scored short-handed while the Beavers did not even put one shot on goal. More scoring opportunities arose during MIT's second power play as Rick Russell G took several shots from the point. However, the MIT forwards failed to screen the Stonehill goaltender during these opportunities and he had no problem seeing and stopping Russell's shots.

After an initial burst of good playing, the Beavers had plenty of trouble getting the puck out of their own zone. In addition they failed to clear opponents out of the slot so that two goals were scored as the MIT goaltender, Doug Shukert G, was screened. The other two Stonehill goals were scored as speedy Stonehill forwards outraced Beaver defenses and in both cases, beat Shukert with backhanded shots.

Down 4-0, their power-play unit unproductive, Coach Joe Quinn had a very long talk with his team during the first intermission — so long that one of the officials had to come and get the team from the locker room. The stands had by now filled up to about 150 spectators — still a small crowd but not quite so depressingly small as earlier — and Peter Gasparini '88 led several woops and cheers as the team filed onto the ice. The Beavers came out during the second period passing better and skating harder but again, during a power play early in the period, could not produce a goal. It was becoming increasingly clear that Stonehill's penalty killing squad was far superior to MIT's power-play unit.

As the roles reversed three minutes later when the Beavers were assessed a holding penalty, Gasparini, who had replaced Shukert in goal, showed the stuff of which goaltenders are made of when he made several amazing saves. This sparked some pressure from the MIT offense but despite good scoring opportunities, the Stonehill goaltender also made some amazing saves, keeping the Beavers scoreless.

The period was fast paced, perhaps too fast for the slower MIT players. The Beavers had problems passing out of their own zone and were continually stopped at the Stonehill blue line as they attempted to stickhandle into the zone. It might have been better to reverse strategy, stickhandling out of their own zone and passing more in the neutral zone to break into the Stonehill zone.

Despite the better play in the second period, Stonehill still put two more goals on the scoreboard while keeping their shutout secure. The first goal came as a Stonehill forward pushed his way past three MIT players, each of whom got a check in but did not manage to knock the forward off the puck. The second goal came as the MIT defense was again caught too far up the ice and a long pass by Stonehill resulted in a breakaway.

The third period started getting out of hand as several fights broke out while the officials seemed to turn a blind eye. The game was more aggressive which was more to MIT's advantage since they play a slower, harder hitting game. The Beavers, now playing their game instead of Stonehill's, outscored Stonehill 2-1 for the period.

The first MIT goal came as Eric Brown '87 put the puck through the Stonehill goaltender's legs on a two-on-one breakaway. Later, the MIT power-play unit finally scored a goal when Russell took the puck in and broke down the Stonehill goaltender made several

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