Women's hockey frozen 8-1

By Peter Dunn

The MIT women's hockey team, sporting a 6-2-1 record and experiencing some success, was favored to defeat Bowdoin College with high hopes late Monday. But missing star Jennifer A. Smith '87, the Engineers only put on an on-off performance as they lost to the Polar Bears 8-1 before a sizable crowd at the New Athletic Center.

The game began well enough as MIT ended the initial faceoff and managed to keep the puck in the Bowdoin zone. But after that initial burst, the tide turned as Bowdoin took the play to the opposite end of the rink and kept the puck in the MIT zone for most of the remainder of the period.

The Engineers faced a multitude of problems. Bowdoin had excellent control of the puck behind the goal line, which gave the Polar Bears several scoring opportunities with passes from behind and near the net. These passes often found their marks as the Engineers had trouble clearing players out of the slot early in the game. The speed of the Bowdoin forwards was also a problem for the Engineers. The Polar Bears often stickhandled up the slot so quickly that they retained unhindered all through the neutral zone. Despite these hindrances, the Engineers held three scoreless frames for the first five minutes. The MIT team thwarted Bowdoin scoring opportunities time and again. This was not to last, as Bowdoin finally put the puck past goalie Kelly Grant '86 at the 5:26 mark. As MIT defenderwoman's gaffe set up the goal, as mentioned unhindered all through the neutral zone.

In the first, a Bowdoin player wound the puck into the right side of the net and, initially thwarted by Grant, took the puck unhindered behind and to the side of the net on the opposite side. The third goal of the period came at the 8:48 mark as a pass from behind the goal line was slapped on the fly to squeeze between Grant's goal pads.

Down 3-0, the Engineers regained some of their composure during the last ten minutes of the period their defense tightened up, although they did allow one more goal on a pass from behind the goal line. Despite the 4-0 deficit, the tide seemed to be slowly turning in MIT's favor.

The Engineers' play continued to improve in the second period, as MIT kept Bowdoin scoreless for 17 minutes while managing to put a goal on the scoreboard. This goal came at the 14:51 mark on a power play as Michelle Bowdoin's pass lifted a pass from behind the net from Tonya Parker '86 into the upper right of the net. The better defense was in part due to better coverage of players in the slot but also due to stronger pressure on the Bowdoin blueliners in the neutral zone. The Engineers began hindered the Bowdoin forwards at the MIT blue line, allowing the forwards to catch up to the play when the Bowdoin players played stick-high past them. The pressure forced Bowdoin to give up the puck more and presented MIT an opportunity.

Women's gymnastics plagued by injuries

By Catherine Rocchio

The MIT women's gymnastics team has had a rough time over the past two weeks of competition. The injuries that hindered two of the team's strong all-around competitors, MIT into Rhode Island College 109.30 to 132.50 on Jan. 31. Several members showed strong performances, in spite of the team's overall loss to Rhode Island. Allison Arnold '90 took first place in the vaulting event, executing a solid twisting vault for a score of 8.30, the highest score given throughout the competition.

Arnold also displayed her consistency by placing third overall in the meet with a 28.30 score. Rosemary Rocchio '89 also had an outstanding meet, placing second on the balance-beam and floor-exercise with scores of 7.2 and 7.65. Rocchio placed second overall in the meet with a season's personal best of 29.20. The newscast to the team showed marked improvements, including two floor exercises by Charlotte Grant '90 and Andrea Pes '89. Last weekend, MIT faced two of its toughest competitors of the season. Experienced teams from Cornell and Alabama State met at home on Feb. 7.

First-time competitors Christine Pan '89 and Elizabeth Greyber '89 filled the gaps in the lineup created by injuries. They showed strong support with routines on both the balance-beam and uneven bars by Pan and an artistic routine on the floor by Greyber.

Rocchio showed her talent again, with a beautiful hand-spring-full twist vault for a score of 8.35, a 7.80 on the floor exercise, and a second in a row "no falls" beam routine of the season for a score of 7.20. (Please turn to page 15)

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