Women's water polo defeats Harvard, 9-8, in last quarter

By Buzzy Sawyer
MIT women once again demonstrated their strength in New England water polo, turning in a 4-1 performance at the Harvard Invitational. The highlight of the weekend was the victory over archrival Harvard, in which MIT outscored the Crimson by four goals in the fourth quarter to win by a score of 9-6.

URI proved to be as easy opposition for MIT in the first game of the tournament. MIT took advantage of this situation to give game experience to all of its players. The depth of the squad was clearly demonstrated by the 14 to 7 final score, which included two first-time goals by novice MIT players. The Harvard Crimson team surprisingly challenged the MIT women, but it was unable to withstand MIT's outstanding fourth quarter play. MIT scored the initial goal of the game, but soon lost the lead to a strong Harvard offense. The Tech women rallied through most of the game. Faced with a 7-4 deficit at the end of the third quarter, the MIT coach delivered an exceptional pep talk. Newly inspired, the MIT team scored four unanswered goals to take the lead in the final minutes of the fourth. A strong drive by Harvard tied the game at 8-8, but a remarkable team effort in the final 40 seconds gave Tech an exciting 9-8 win. The victory was MIT's first against Harvard in the Crimson home pool.

MIT woke up Saturday to a fast-winning Brown team. Brown was hot for revenge. Once again, the Tech team was behind for most of the game, but MIT persevered, coming out like a buzzsaw in the fourth quarter to win, 9-7.

Queens College handed the Tech women their only loss so far this season in a close (9-8) game. MIT failed to defend against strong inside drives, which resulted in several goals by the Queens offense. MIT also failed to score on several man-up situations, which cost them an equalizing goal in the final seconds of the game. The two teams have now won one game apiece against the other. MIT and Queens will meet up at least one more time this year at the MIT tournament. Queens College went on to beat Harvard in the deciding match, giving MIT second place for the tournament.

Pitt State forfeited in its final game against Tech, giving the MIT team a 3-1 record for games played at the tournament. MIT's season record stands at 6-1.

The Tech women play in two more tournaments this year, Eastern Regionals at Bucknell University, April 25-26, and the MIT Invitational Tournament, May 1-2 at the Alatinti Pool.

(EDITOR'S NOTE: Buzzy Sawyer is a part-time coaching assistant for the women's water polo club.)

Richard Zermani '87 pitches towards a Suffolk player in Wednesday's game. The Beacons lost, 9-6.

Ken L. Church/The Tech

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