sports

By Peter Dunn

The MIT men's hockey team played its home opener last Saturday against the Skidmore College Thoroughbreds, losing the closely fought battle before a sizeable opening day crowd. Skidmore, whom the Engineers had beaten last February by a score of 3-2 in the first OT, returned the favor by beating MIT by the same margin.

The Engineers were checking harder than Skidmore, but the Thoroughbreds skated the puck out of their zone quickly and seemed a classic confrontation of power versus speed.

Unfortunately it was Skidmore that drew first blood at the 3:30 mark as a short shot from behind the goal crease. Later, midway through the period, the Engineers seemed to line all comers as Skidmore controlled the play deep within the MIT zone, but the MIT team managed to weather the storm giving up a score.

The lack of time the MIT team has had to practice together (MIT's defense has risk only been open a week) seems apparent as the Engineers' defense faltered on Skidmore's second and third goals. In both cases the defense allowed the opponents clear shots from the slot, failing to pick up the proper men.

With a 2:42 left in the first period, Skidmore scored its second goal as a player picked up the puck from the blue line, glided unchecked to the top of the slot and deflected in a shot off the crossbar. MIT's first goal came on a power play at 14:28 of the second period when Alec Jesimen '88 took a short pass behind the Skidmore net and slipped the puck around the goal for the score. Likewise, Jesimen scored MIT's second goal on a power-play when Jeff Bates '90 blasted a rocket from the blue line, the puck dropped at the crease, and Jesimen lifted a backhand into the upper right of the net.

MIT's scoring opportunities increased in the latter part of the second period on several good shots from the blue line, but the Engineers could not convert on these. As the other end of the risk, Guaparini kept the Engineers in the game with excellent goal tending, but could not prevent Skidmore's fluke fourth goal at the puck, after deflecting several players in front of the net, handcuffed across the goal line. This left the score at 4-2 with a period left to play.

If overing the margin seemed out of reach as the third period began, that thought was quickly dispelled by John Santoro '89. Just 16 seconds into the period, Santoro drove the puck down on a glove shot from the slot. As a forward picked up the puck off the goal line as a defensive gaffe was committed by usually soundbated Rich Russell G. A long pass from the Skidmore blue line should have easily been intercepted by Russell, but he missed the puck and the Thoroughbreds forwards scored on the ensuing breakaway. This final goal ended the game at 5-3.

The Engineers put up a strong fight against a faster team which has had more time skating together, and the 5-3 loss was no terrible disappointment for the opening day crowd. The Engineers have yet to gain full consistency and confidence, but with more ice time it is clear they are bound to have just as successful a season as last year.

The maximum score possible was 4-4-3-7 in smallbore. St. John's usual score is 1700, 10 points per shot. Despite Gooden's score jumped over 50 points from her last competition to a 1050. Sohn shot well, finishing 1600, 10 points per shot. Despite the fact that the MIT seconds on Wednesday, December 1, 1987

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