MIT defeats Dartmouth

By Tim Holt

After a long season filled with great promise for the upcoming season, the MIT men's gymnastics team began its season with a strong performance, beating Dartmouth this past Saturday by a score of 184.15 to 175.55. Although the team is somewhat young, several members returned from last year. Captains Eric Reifschneider '89 and Norman Chen '88 were returning with hopes for higher scores for all-around competition.

Two other all-around competitors also represented MIT: Alan Nash '89 and Mark Malonson '89. The last veteran from last year was Jason Kimis G, who competed on every event except vaulting. Due to the vacancy of several spots, many new members of the team had a chance to compete for the first time.

The first event in the competition was floor exercise. Joe Fugaro '91, the newest member of the team, had his first chance for intercollegiate competition on this event. Some exciting highlights of this event were Malonson's back-hand spring-back with a full twist and Nash's versatility of flexibility.

Pommel horse was the second event of competition. Tim Holt '90 tried this event for his first intercollegiate meet. This event proved difficult for both teams. But Reifschneider pulled off a routine that was the highest on the event, a 6.45.

Finishing off the first half of the meet with rings, several of MIT's gymnasts had exciting routines. Kipnis had an excellent routine, with moves such as a back sprite handstand. MIT's strength showed through when Reifschneider, Malonson, and Chen held iron crosses for strong moves on this event.

Vaulting started off the second half of competition. All of MIT's vaulting resulted in high scores. MIT picked up the momentum going into parallel bars. The MIT gymnasts dominated on this event, winning the event by over 5.7 points, a rather large difference in this sport. Malonson's planche press to a handstand was one of many of the great moves performed on parallel bars.

(Tim Holt is a member of the MIT men's gymnastics team.)