Men's hockey falls short against URI

By Peter Dunn

Considering that the University of Rhode Island was shut out by Tufts 10-0 in the opening round of the Ben Martin tournament, and considering that the MIT men's hockey team has usually played at the same level and intensity as Tufts, and further considering MIT's rout last year of URI by a score of 10-2, the Engineers probably did not expect much of a contest in the consolation game of the Ben Martin Tournament against the URI Rams. Instead the MIT team quickly got itself behind the eight-ball in last Wednesday's game and had to fight back in the last period, only to fall short with a 5-4 loss.

The game began as quietly as the audience - slow, with hardly any checking by either team. Neither the Engineers nor the Rams played poorly; they just played without any spark.

The Rams extended their lead to 5-1 in the second period as loose, bouncing pucks on long shots from the boards were deflected, swiped at, and kicked into the MIT net. Confusion reigned in front of the Engineers' net and URI made the best of these opportunities, though one would hardly call any of their goals pretty.

MIT came out strong at the beginning of the second period, and had several chances to shorten the gap with power-play opportunities, but despite strong pressure could not convert on these. The remainder of the period URI drove up the ice unhindered as MIT allowed them to pass too easily, failing to cover the passing lanes. The Engineers showed promise during their power plays but their offense dwindled when both teams were at full strength.

URI was dominating the game but, considering the quality of the MIT squad, they could not convert on these chances by MIT (especially a backhand at an open net that trickled just wide) might have cut the margin, but as usual the Engineers had nothing but bad luck.

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URI further extended their lead to 3-1 - the Engineers could not prevent URI from scoring on their only two power plays of the period. In both instances URI gained control of the puck in the slot for good shots from near the net. Some excellent scoring chances by MIT (especially a backhand at an open net that trickled just wide) might have cut the margin, but as usual the Engineers had nothing but bad luck.

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