Baseball looks forward to strong year

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Dismayed by the first day of classes, the MIT men's varsity baseball team pounded out their frustrations in dramatic fashion with a season opening 6-5 victory over the Merrimack College Warriors. Despite bring out-bit hit 1-5, the Engineers seemed to generate runs from nothing and to pitch effectively when it counted.

The game started on a sour note when Merrimack's leadoff hitter belted a ringing single to center field and then quickly proceeded to steal second base. But Mike Griffin '89, who also later was a key offensive weapon, picked off the runner at second and then mowed down the next eight batters he faced, striking out three.

In the bottom of the second inning, coach Fran Patterson '89 got the key hit to lead off the inning when Merrimack's second baseman held the throw in his glove and then committed a costly throwing error, scoring three significant runs.

In the third inning, coach Fran Patterson '89 walked and stole second before Dave Cote '89, who also later was a key offensive weapon, bunted and then quickly proceeded to steal second base. But the center fielder, trying to handle it, putting runners on first and second, with only one out, left the base open.

The pitcher awkwardly double pumped before firing a pitch. The pitcher inadvertently dropped the ball, forcing the runner to take third. Griffin, clearly the game's MVP, hit a tape-measure double into deep left center, driving in a home run by inches. Murray followed by beating the throw, but both runners were out.

In the fourth inning, coach Fran Patterson '89 and Eric Hopkins '92 managed to keep the damage down to only three runs. With the score tied 3-3, MIT finally exhibited their offensive power, scoring three significant runs with the aid of a two costly errors.

In the fifth inning, coach Fran Patterson '89 was stumped to stave off defeat in the ninth by scoring two runs and putting men on first and second, with only one out. Fran Patterson '89, over-powering the Warriors, forced their first baseman to weakly chop a ground ball to the

of the game and then stole second. Murray followed by beating out an infield grounder to third to put runners on the corners. Murray darted toward second, drawing a throw, and Griffin took off toward home. By the time the confused Merrimack players stopped throwing the ball around, Tech had a runner on second and a 3-0 lead. MIT fell on some hard times, but good pitching by Jim Gort '89 and Eric Hopkins '92 managed to keep the damage down to only three runs.

With the score tied 3-3, MIT finally exhibited their offensive power, scoring three significant runs with the aid of two costly errors. Griffin, clearly the game's MVP, hit a tape-measure double into deep left center, driving in a home run by inches. Murray chopped a ground ball to the third baseman who couldn't quite handle it, putting runners on first and third. Scott Williams '90,列入 in the sixth inning, put the Engineers ahead to stay with a run to left center. Mike O'Conor '92 followed with a grounder through the wickets of the second baseman, driving in another run. Cote reached third, scoring the final run, culminating MIT's late-inning burst.

MIT 6, Merrimack 5

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