**Volleyball team to defend title**

**Engineers ready for this weekend's NEW8 tournament**

By David Rothstein

Younger and stronger.

That's how coach Karyn Altman's assessment of this year's women's volleyball team compared to last year's squad.

Tomorrow Altman leads her team to the New England Women's Eight Conference championship held at Wellesley College. MIT hosted and won the tournament last year, beating Smith College in the final, and with a perfect 7-0 record in the NEWS8 Conference this year the Engineers are in a good position to defend their title.

Joining MIT (29-6 overall) at tomorrow's tournament will be Smith, Mount Holyoke College, Brandeis University, Wheaton College, Babson College, Worcester Polytechnic Institute, and host Wellesley.

Smith was the only team from the NEWS8 to beat MIT this year, which it did on October 15 in the Eastern Connecticut Invitational Tournament. The Pioneers scored a tight 7-15, 15-11, 15-9 win over MIT in a match which did not count on the teams' conference records because it was a best two-out-of-three rather than the best three-of-five required by the NEWS8.

In the teams' conference matchup, the Engineers topped Smith, 15-9, 6-15, 18-16, 15-7 at Smith.

Altman expects Smith College to be the biggest obstacle between MIT and the NEWS8 title, but says that Wellesley, whom MIT beat in last year's NEWS8 semifinals, Brandeis and WPI will also be tough competitors.

Smith is ranked third in the Division III East Region, which includes Massachusetts, Connecticut, Rhode Island, and Pennsylvania, while MIT is ranked fourth.

This year's team features a blend of older and newer players. Newcomers Suze Gardner '92 and Cindy Parish '92 have added strength to the Engineers at the net. Setters Karen Kayama '91 and Jennifer Harris '90 ran the offense, which relies primarily on the outside attack of senior Athena Cozakos, junior Cecilia Warpsinski and Gardner.

Altman has focused, particularly toward the end of the season, on strengthening the team's middle attack, which is in the hands of Deb Nungester '90, Tami Jacobson '90 and Parish.

MIT is coming off a strong performance at the Purple and Gold Invitational tournament last weekend at the State University of New York at Albany. The Engineers upset SUNY-Albany, ranked fourth in the nation in Division III to win the tournament.

Despite a 3-2 loss to the University of Lowell Tuesday night in the last match of the regular season, Altman hopes to capitalize on the momentum generated by the Albany win.

Tomorrow's tournament, which begins at 9 am, splits the eight teams into two pools of four. The winners of each pool, determined by round-robin play, will meet each other in the final.

**Sports Update**

Both teams in NCAA Division III top ten.

In volleyball and women's cross country teams both have been ranked in the top ten in the latest New England Division III Coaches' Polls. The women's team, which has completed its season with a 7-1 record, was ranked eighth. The men's team was ninth.

New England Division III Coaches' Polls

Women's Cross Country

1. Southern Maine ............ 95
2. Williams College ............ 95
3. Smith College ............... 90
4. Tufts University ............. 68
5. Bowdoin College ............ 57
6. Bates College ............... 52
7. Colby College ............... 41
8. MIT ....................... 38
9. SMU ..................... 18
10. Brandeis University ........ 11

Men's Cross Country

1. Brandeis University .......... 110
3. Bates College ............... 86
4. Tufts University ............. 73
5. Colby College ............... 65
6. WPI ....................... 57
7. Coast Guard ................. 45
8. Williams College ............ 31
9. MIT ....................... 20
10. Amherst ................... 12

**New England Women's Eight champs crowned**

Worcester Polytechnic Institute shut out Wellesley College 8-0 to win the New England Women's Eight Conference Championship in field hockey. Smith College blanked Mount Holyoke College 2-0 to top the conference in soccer. The women's title was Smith's second NEW8 crown this season; they captured the men's title two weeks ago at Brandeis University.

MIT is favored to win this weekend's NEW8 volleyball tournament at Wellesley College. The Engineers are the defending champions.

**Prather finally receives recognition**

Darcy Prather '91, MIT's outside hitter, was named All-Star team. Forward Kirsten Domingo '90 was a first-team selection. Forward Sonny Hwang '89 was named to the second team. Domingo has been elected captain of next year's team, and was also voted the team's most valuable player.

**Two named all-stars in field hockey**

Two MIT field hockey players have been named to the New Eng- land Women's Eight Conference All-Star team. Forward Kirsten Domingo '90 was a first-team selection. Forward Sonny Hwang '89 was named to the second team. Domingo has been elected captain of next year's team, and was also voted the team's most valuable player.

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