Men's volleyball squad easily sweeps Harvard

By Jacqueline D. Glener

The men's volleyball team shut out Harvard University on Saturday, winning the match 3-0. Harvard's offense had some problems early on, but started to come together as the match progressed, giving MIT its stiffest competition in the third game.

In the first game the Engineers came on strong to take an early 6-1 lead over the Crimson. Harvard came back with great defensive play and good blocking to tie the score, 6-6. Two kills called against their setter upset their momentum, however, and the Crimson failed to score again.

The Engineers seized the opportunity with kills and hits by Allen Downey '89 (44 hitting average and five kills for the match) and Roland Racofort '90 (12 kills and a .34 hitting average). Tom Klemas '91 and Alan Peyrat '92 contributed with strong serves which prevented the Crimson from setting up their offensive attack. MIT won in the game, 15-6.

Game two started with a closer score of 8-4 in favor of MIT. The teams traded service, volleying after scoring eight points before side-out. Then Charles Lee '89, the setter, began to read the block which he placed open. MIT took a strong lead which they never let up on. Racofort, who played quicker on defense, and Downey led the Engineers' hitting. Joe Tang '89 also played a strong game defensively. Although MIT faltered in the evening set, they scored 25-17 and 15-9, taking a 2-0 lead into the locker room.

With 7:41 to go the score was 68-64, the Engineers leading by 4-2. Then came out red hot after halftime, and their lack of consistent playing showed as the Crimson' turnover. MIT then went on a 11-3 run which forced Connecticut to the basket. MIT defeated the Camels, 77-62, with a 12-5 lead over the Engineers, 7-2.

The biggest problem for the Engineers during the game was their lack of consistent play. They came out cold as the second half started, missing their first three shots and going on to shoot only 42 percent. Connecticut slowly chipped away the lead by posting up inside for an easy two and causing turnovers with their full court pressure. With 8:44 to go the score was 52-51 and the Engineers' lead was in jeopardy. But once again, it was the defense that maintained the momentum. Dave Tomlinson '91 rejected three consecutive shots, lifting the crowd to its feet. MIT then went on a 15-3 run which forced Connecticut to call a time out.

With three shots, the Engineers came out red hot after halftime, consecutively sinking two three-pointers. And their pressuring defense caused two crucial turnovers which resulted in points. With 3:46 left on the clock and the score 68-64, the only hope for the Connecticut was to foul. Unfortunately, Tomlinson took a foul by taking a blow to his face, but he made both of his free throws to increase the lead to 70-64.

But with no time left on the clock, a Camels gave Delta Grote a cheap shot to the nose. As the players were shaking hands, Delta Grote took his free throws and made the final score 72-66.

The Engineers took their 12-point lead of the season — one more than they recorded last year, with five games left to play.

Men's basketball dunks Connecticut

By Kevin T. Hwang

Trac Shattuck '90 led the Engineers with 21 points and 10 rebounds. The MIT men's basketball team (12-5) beat the Connecticut College Camels on Thursday night in the Rockwell Cage.

The sub-freezing temperature seemed to have kept many MIT fans away from the game; the stands were filled with a Connecticut crowd. By Eric M. Reifschneider

Jay Fraser '89 beat two defenders to the basket. MIT defeated Connecticut College, 77-66, and took a 12-point lead after the match was over. Fraser had 13 points, and the Engineers' defense kept Connecticut's offense in check.

But the Engineers showed poise as their solid defensive plays brought them back. A blocked shot by Shattuck and a steal by Mike Casagranda '89 sparked the Engineers' six unanswered points as they took an 8-7 lead — a lead which they never relinquished.

The defensive patience of the Engineers neatly complimented their defense. MIT repeatedly made the extra pass that was needed to create an open shot and then hit the offensive boards, fighting for every loose ball. With 7:41 left in the first half, the Engineers answered with a turn-around jumper by Shattuck and a three-point play by Dave Delta Grote '90. As the half rolled to an end, MIT took a 42-33 lead into the locker room.

The biggest problem for the Engineers during the game was their lack of consistent play. Their offense was on edge, and their defense was strong. The Engineers had an eight-point lead and seemed to have kept many MIT fans away from the game, the stands were filled with a Connecticut crowd.

Connecticut slowly chipped away the lead by posting up inside for an easy two and causing turnovers with their full court pressure. With 8:44 to go the score was 52-51 and the Engineers' lead was in jeopardy. But once again, it was the defense that maintained the momentum. Dave Tomlinson '91 rejected three consecutive shots, lifting the crowd to its feet. MIT then went on a 15-3 run which forced Connecticut to call a time out. With three shots, the Engineers came out red hot after halftime, consecutively sinking two three-pointers. And their pressuring defense caused two crucial turnovers which resulted in points. With 3:46 left on the clock and the score 68-64, the only hope for the Connecticut was to foul. Unfortunately, Tomlinson took a foul by taking a blow to his face, but he made both of his free throws to increase the lead to 70-64.

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