Boxers Return after 55-Year Absence

By Cecile Pham

MIT’s boxers are back. On Saturday, Jan. 25, six MIT boxers fought Army boxers at West Point’s Arvin Gymnasium — the first time an MIT team has participated in an intercollegiate competition in 55 years. A team of boxers representing the State University of New York at Westchester also took part.

The last time MIT boxed Army was on Feb. 23, 1935, at West Point.

The bouts had no official results, because the meet was intended as a scrimmage. But biased MIT observers felt that three of the MIT team members won their bouts. One of the MIT boxers, Joaquin Abreu ’92, had to withdraw from his bout because of a twisted ankle.

The MIT men fought well and were able to hold their own against opponents with more experience in the ring. These bouts helped prepare the boxers for regional and national tournaments later this spring.

The competition also marked the first time that graduate students were permitted to compete in an event sanctioned by the National Collegiate Boxing Association. The rule allowing graduate students to compete, which was pushed by the MIT Boxing Club, permits graduate students and undergraduates to compete on an equal basis in NCBA sanctioned bouts.

The MIT boxers, coached by Col. Mahadevan Kandiah, were Abreu, Brendan Bellew G. Karl Handelsman G. Haachitaba Mweene G, Caleb Shepard, and Pavel Volfbeyn G.

The MIT Boxing Club meets three times each week in DuPont Gymnasium. For information on attending their workouts, joining the club, or intercollegiate competition, contact Cecile Pham at 225-6733. The Boxing Club is sponsored by the Athletic Department and the Undergraduate Association. Membership is open to anyone in the MIT community.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Wednesday, Feb. 12:
- Men’s Hockey vs. Worcester Polytechnic Institute, 7:00 pm, Johnson Athletic Center.

Join The Tech Sports Staff. Call 253-1541 evenings and speak to Dave Watt.