Men’s Track Team
Beats Rival Tufts

By Halston Taylor

The men’s track team defeated Colby, Tufts, and UMass Dartmouth this past Saturday in the Johnson Athletic Center.

The Engineers scored 229 1/2 points to win the meet, edging out Tufts with 221 1/2, Colby and UMass Dartmouth scored 86 and 39 points respectively.

The meet, which was the third of four quadrangular meets among New England’s top Division III teams, became a showdown between archrivals MIT and Tufts. MIT was one of the two undefeated teams left in New England, and Tufts’ only loss of the season was to undefeated Williams.

Tufts’ greatest strength lay in sprints and horizontal jumps, and the team performed well in these categories, scoring 71 out of a possible 86 points in the 200-, 400-, 500-, and 1,600-meter relays. Tufts also finished first and second in both the long jump and the triple jump.

While not as strong as Tufts in the sprints, MIT was well-balanced and had more depth. The Engineers’ best events were middle distance runs and vertical jumps, where they picked up 104 1/2 out of a possible 138 points.

After both teams performed well in their areas of strength, MIT held a slight lead which could largely be attributed to depth. With only the 1,600- and 3,200-meter relays remaining, the Engineers needed to finish third in both events to guarantee a tie. The Engineers ran exceptionally well in both events, finishing second in the 1,600 meter relay and first in the 3,200.

A total of 32 athletes scored for MIT, with top scoring honors going to Michael Piepergerdes ’93, who tied teammate Ethan Crane ’95 for first in the mile. He also won the 1,000-meter run and was the fastest leg of the 3,200-meter relay. Matt Robinson ’94 also performed well, winning in the pole vault with a personal best of 15 feet, 5 inches. In addition, John Walberg ’96 nearly won the 35-pound weight throw with a 50 foot, 6 inch effort, falling short of the MIT record by only one quarter inch.

Than Bogan ’93 scored in two events in which he does not normally compete. Bogan was thrust into these events at the last minute so that the Engineers could enter four men into the competition. He managed to score in all of his events.

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