MIT Hosts Annual CRASH-Bs; Olympians Participate

By Dan Dunn

MIT's Rockwell Cage was host to the 1993 CRASH-B World Indoor Rowing Championships on Sunday. Fifteen hundred competitors from more than a dozen countries came to Cambridge to compete on the rowing ergometers, or "ergs." The erg machine requires great strength and endurance, but very little skill. As a result, indoor rowing is accessible to all athletes, especially cross country skiers and long distance runners.

The MIT boat club had entries in five of the 11 events. Engineers competed in the men's and women's lightweight and collegiate events, and the collegiate doubles challenge. The first events were all 2500 meters long, while the challenge was 1000 meters.

MIT placed fifth in the Collegiate Challenge. The Engineer time each event Challenge was 1000 meters. The CRASH-B stands for the Charles River All Star Has-Beens. The group was started in 1992 by a Harvard alumnus. Membership was once restricted to former and present Olympic or national team members, but this restriction has been relaxed over time.

The CRASH-Bs treat the events rather irreverently. The winner of each event does not win a medal, but a hammer. The term "hammer" refers to an oarsman who has a great deal of power, but who is completely lacking in finesse. The group also reserves the right to rewrite the rules so that it can win the overall points trophy every year.

This group has organized the sports for 11 years, with mounting success. Last year's 16 finalists, including five of them gold medal winners. Most of this year's competitors competed at the 1992 Summer Olympics in Barcelona.

Fencing Teams Lose Narrowly to Crimson

By Mark Hurst

The fencing teams both lost close matches to Harvard University in the Du Pont Gymnasium on Saturday. The women's team suffered a narrow loss to the Crimson. After sixteen bouts the score was tied 9-9, and the match had to be decided on the basis of indicators, or number of touches, which were scored. The MIT women lost by two touches.

The men's team was also defeated by the smallest margin possible. Although both the sabre and epee squads won 6-3, both squads could only produce one victory, bringing the overall score to a 13-14 loss. Team captain Mark Hurst '94 and epee squad leader Kris Giesing '94 both won perfect three-bout sweeps.

This was the last varsity dual meet of the season, so personal and squad records have been finalized and are being used to determine who will qualify for regional championships in March. Outstanding personal records that will qualify belong to Hurst, Keith Lichten '95, and Charles Baroud '93. The sabers will also be treated as a squad, having ended the season with a 21-4 varsity record.

Player of the Week

The Tech player of the week goes to gymnast Janet Sollod '96, who had personal best scores on Saturday both on the vault (8.55) and in the all-around, totaling an impressive 33.4, placing her behind captain Julie Lyren '93.

BLUNDER OF THE WEEK

This week's blunder belongs to the previously undefeated Zeta Beta Tau C league intramural basketball team for its superb defensive effort. In its game last Wednesday against Random Hall, ZBT managed to keep its opponents to a mere 73 points. Considering the fact that C-league games are 40 minutes running time, this performance is really pathetic. However, it seems that the team's woes may be finally over since the season is.

UPCOMING HOME EVENTS

Tuesday, February 16
Women's Basketball vs. Babson College, 6 p.m.

Wednesday, February 17
Men's Ice Hockey vs. Springfield College, 7 p.m.

Thursday, February 18
Men's Basketball vs. Worcester Polytechnic Institute, 7:30 p.m.

Saturday, February 20
Women's Basketball vs. Smith College, 2 p.m.
Men's Ice Hockey vs. Emerson College, 2 p.m.

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