**SPORTS**

**Swimmers Break MIT and N.E. Div. III Records**

By Ogden J. Nestor Staff reporter

The men’s swimming and diving team ended its season with by plac- ing fourth out of 21 teams — tying its best finish ever — at the New England Division III Champi- onships held last weekend at Williams College. "I am very happy with the team performance," said Coach John Benedick. "It is tough to have an exceptional race performance such as this, but our team far exceeded all expectations."

The Engineers scored a total of 984.5 points, and were bested only by the winning teams: Williams with 1399.5 points, Amherst College with 1187.0 points, and Tufts University with 1166.5 points.

In the first day of the three-day meet, Tri-Captains Jim Judy '93 and Bob Rockwell '93, placed third and fourth in the 500-yard freestyle with times of 4 minutes and 41.67 seconds and 4:42.66 respectively.

In the 100-yard butterfly, Tri-Captain Brian Meade '93 finished third at 52.59, while teammate Ted Achtem '95 captured fifth place in his specialty event, the 200-yard backstroke. Achtem swam an exceptional race finishing at 1:56.24, a time that slashed the seven-year-old Institute record, held by Marco Fernandino '89, by almost five seconds.

Meade also captured a third place finish in the 50-yard freestyle with a time of 21.49, lowering his own MIT record by one hundredth of a second. The day concluded with the 400-yard medley relay, in which the MIT squad, composed of Achtem, David Ferguson '93, Meade and Chad Gunnlaugsson '93, finished fifth with a time of 3:31.84, breaking a nine-year-old MIT record.

Achtem continued his record-breaking performance in the second day of the Championships by plac- ing fifth in the gruename 400-yard individual medley with a time of 4:13:13 that established a new MIT record in the event for the first time in 11 years. Bandy, Gunnlaugsson, Rockwell, and Meade dominated the 200-yard freestyle by placing second, third, fifth, and ninth respectively. Bandy also lowered his own Institute record in the preliminaries of the same event with a time of 1:52.84. Richard DeCristo- faro '93 placed an excellent seventh in the 1-meter diving.

In the 100-yard freestyle relay, Meade, Rockwell, Bandy, and Gunnlaugsson not only crush- ed the competition in 6:53.54 to capture the title in the event, but also broke their own N.E. Division III record and qualified for the national championships.

In the final day of the champi- onships, Ferguson captured a thrilling second place finish with a time of 50.54 in the 100-yard individual medley, breaking Rockwell's MIT record by almost two seconds. Achtem was seventh in the same event. The 2-5-7 sweep of the 100-yard freestyle by Meade, Gunnlaugsson, and Bandy, indicat- ed the possibility of another spec- tacular performance in the final event of the championships, the 400-yard freestyle relay. For Meade, the second place finish in the 100 freestyle was the third year in a row repeat performance.

As expected, the mighty squad of Meade, Rockwell, Bandy, and Gunnlaugsson captured the second title for MIT in the 400 relay, with a brilliant performance and a time of 3:05:21. It again set a new N.E. Division III record, a pool record, and an Institute record.

"The Championships were a complete team effort," said Meade. "The hard work and well-planned taper paid off well, as most people achieved personal best performances, but were fun and absolutely worth it," con- cluded Meade.

**Baseball Heads South**

Column by Eric Oliver

With a high level of optimism and experience, this year’s varsity baseball team could prove to be one of the better teams of recent years. "The confidence is there, and the talent is there," said Coach Francis O'Brien. "This team could be as successful as the '89 team." The 1989 club won a record 17 games against nine losses and earned a berth in the Eastern College Athletic Conference Division III tournament.

The main reason for the optim- ism in the players’ experience. All five seniors have played for four years — led by Co-Captains Brooks Hinteregger '93 and Ian Somerville '93 — and all six juniors have played for two years. Several players have experience at more than one posi- tion, which should help the team in the case of unexpected injuries.

The team combines an effective combination of hitting, pitching, defense, and hustle that will account for an exciting year. The pitching will be led by Pete Hinteregger '93 (7-1, All New England selection as a sophomore), and Nate Ritter '93 (11-1, last year with a 2.83 ERA). Rob Lepard '95 should provide excellent relief from the bullpen, provided an off-season injury heals completely. Added to the four talented freshman pitchers are Lough '96, Steve Brauticchi '96, and Jeff Kyle '96, and one can see why expectations are high.

The team can hit," O’Brien said. "We’re not going to be a long- ball club, but we’ll do a little hit and run, some delayed steals, some bunting" — most of the strategies usually important to MIT’s success. When you mention ‘Beaverball’ to an ex-varsity player, he’ll conjure up stories of late inning five-run nal- lies, scoring runs on one hit, or stilling a bases-loaded no-out rally with two pick-offs and a strikeout. The leader of 1-2 punch will be provided by outfielders Jeff Olson '94 and Jon Gast '94. Somerville will be the catcher, and responded by being named to the Greater Boston League All-Star team (along with Rockwell said.

"Four years on the swim team and all the hard training, camaraderie, and competition were a major part of my time here, but we were fun and absolutely worth it," con- cluded Meade.

**GRADUATE STUDENT COUNCIL**

**MARCH MEETING**

Thursday, March 18

5:30 PM
Room 50-220

(directly above the Muddy Charles Pub)

For more information, call the Graduate Student Council office at x3-2195 or send e-mail to <gsc-request@athena>