1500 Participate In Summer Softball

By Mareno de Jesus Taverez and Oscar Yeh

The MIT Community Summer Softball League was created in 1973 by a group of students, staff, and faculty whose goal was to provide a softball league that was enjoyable for everyone. The league was popularized in the fall of 1968 and was also head coach of the Engineering Co-operative and Industrial Liaison Companies. The league has been run by a group of students, staff, and faculty members since that founding year by present Muddy Charles, manager Joe Contrada and current faculty member Paul LaGauche, and with the help and support of the Athletic Department, the league has grown to exceed 92 teams this year with well over 1,500 players.

These players mostly consist of undergraduate and graduate students, but alumni, staff members, and Industrial Liaison Companies are participating as well. The MITCSS is actually three separate leagues.

The fun and relaxed Kentucky Fried Pitch league basins 40 teams this year competing in six divisions appropriately entitled Box, Barrel, Bucket, Nuggets, Extra-Crissy, and Original Recipe. There are no pop-offs or umpires, so games tend to be informal but still extremely fun for all of its players.

The Fast Pitch league features very competitive games where pitches are sometimes thrown at 80 miles per hour. The high pace creates exciting and entertaining games, but the lack of true Fast Pitch pitchers has led to a decline in the number of teams competing in this league. This year’s league consists of only four teams, but league organizers are encouraged by the participation of some players from the Women’s Softball Team, most notably Lynn Albers ’92 and Lori Swenson ’93. Albers pitched very effectively last year, and Swenson is picking up where she left off with strong performances this year.

The Serious Slow Pitch league is for those looking for very organized and competitive games. The league is divided into seven divisions based on skill level of competitiveness. This league features umpires, pop-offs, and pitches that have a mandatory six to 12 foot arc. Forty-eight teams represent this league. Teams compete in games played every week, Monday thru Friday, at Briggs’ Field at 5:30, 6:00, or 8:00 pm. The league started play in late May and will continue until mid-August. Schedules, standings, and other information can be found on the Rockwell Cage bulletin board.


MIT Baseball Dominates Academic All-America Team

By Roger F. Crowley

MIT baseball players dominate the recently released GTE College Sports Information Directors of America (CoSIDA) Academic All-America Team. History-making player Peter Hinteregger ’93, pitcher, and his catcher Ian Somervile ’93, were each named to the first team while outfielder Books Mendell ’93 was a second team selection. Hinteregger was 8-2 for the Engineers with a 2.58 earned run average and is an architecture major. Somervile, who majors in mechanical engineering, led the team in hitting (.373) and fielding (.987). Mendell, a political science major, batted .311 and led the team in runs batted in (27). The three seniors were also selected to the most valuable players on the team.

Other Academic All-Americans

In other Academic All-America news, Seema Jayachandran ’93 and Rob Silva ’93 were each named first team CoSIDA Academic All-District in the “At-Large” category. Jayachandran is a tennis player and carried a double major of physics and electrical engineering. Silva played both lacrosse and hockey and majored in mechanical engineering. Named to the second team All-District squads were gymnast Julie Lyren ’93, skier Kate Bergeron ’93, men’s volleyball player Satoshi Asari ’93, and pole vaulter Matt Robinson ’94.

Yachting

Paula Lewin ’93 and Gina Middaugh ’93 recently capped their careers by winning post-season honors. Lewin was one of 20 skippers nationally to be named to the women’s All-America team, and was also one of two women named to one of ten honorable mention All-America spots on the co-education team. Middaugh was named to one of the 20 national All-Star Crew positions. MIT finished sixth in the recently completed Intercollegiate Yacht Racing Association Women’s national championships held at St. Mary’s College in Maryland. In the “A” Division Lewin and Middaugh finished their careers by tying a squad from Connecticut College for the low point total in the division. The pair lost a tiebreaker for first place. The Engineers’ “B” Division entry finished in tenth place.

Track and Field

Mike Piepergerdes ’93 was the only Engineer track athlete to place at the recently completed National Collegiate Athletic Association Division III National Championships held at Baldwin-Wallace College in Ohio. Piepergerdes placed second in the meet and earned All-America honors for his school record performance in the 1500 meter run. Piepergerdes was forced to run a trial to qualify for the finals, fly back to MIT for graduation, and then fly back to Ohio for the finals of the event. Piepergerdes took the lead early in the race despite a strong wind, but was unable to hold on to the lead in the last stretch. Piepergerdes, who was voted the team most valuable player, lost by one second.

Men’s Tennis

MIT tennis player Alan Walpole ’93 has become the first Engineer player to be named All-America in both singles and doubles. Walpole received the singles honor by beating a seeded singles player at the NCAA Division III Championships in Kalamazoo, Michigan. Walpole and teammate Jay Muelhoefer ’94 reached the semi-finals in the doubles competition before losing to the eventual champions.

O’Brien coaches all star team

MIT baseball coach Francis C. O’Brien Jr. coached the Division II and Division III All-New England baseball team in their annual game against the Division I All-New England team on June 7 at Fenway Park.

This honor came after O’Brien’s 25th and most successful season at MIT in which he led the Engineers to a 22-11 record and guided them to an Eastern College Athletic Conference New England Division III Championship. The baseball team’s success also earned Coach O’Brien the distinction of New England Division III Coach of the Year by the New England Intergallicoe Baseball Association and the American Baseball Coaches’ Association.

O’Brien began coaching the baseball team in the fall of 1968 and was also head coach of the Engineers’ basketball team from 1972 to 1986. Aside from his duties as baseball coach, O’Brien has served as Assistant Athletic Director for Intercollegiate and Club Sports since 1986.