Mens Tennis Plays Well in Spring, but Struggles in Fall

Roundup, from Page 15

Four-year letter winner: Manish Bhatai '94
Quarterfinals (8-7) (Combined seasons)

The team started out in spring season quite well, but ended up with disappointing results. During the spring campaign, the Engineers had lost only one match against the bottom two NCAA Division III schools until the final two dual meets, with crushing losses at the hands of Williams College (6-3), and Amherst College (5-4). As a result, the team was denied their third straight trip to the NCAA Division III Championships, and finished ranked 19th in the nation in Division III, lower than in past years.

However, some members of the team turned out some remarkable individual performances. Walpole became the first MIT tennis player to be named All-America in both singles and doubles. He and Muelhoefer, the team's top doubles pair, were for most of the season, at the top of the national rankings, and gained an entry to the individual tournament of the NCAA Championship. Bhatai, who never played tournament of the NCAA Championships, with crushing losses at the top of the national rankings, andhoefer, the team's top doubles pair, ranked 19th in the nation in Division III, lower than in past years.

Unfortunately, Muelhoefer and Tsai, who had come into the nation rankings in singles. In the fall season ranked 34 in singles, and Turner and Tsai '94 were named the All-Conference team in singles, and Bach and Valerie Tan '94 were selected in doubles as well.

The Engineers finished 6th in the New England Women's 8 conference, with a ninth-place finish at the New England Women's 8 tournament. Sue Bach '93; Fall, and Jerry Taubman '93; Fall, were named to the All-Conference team in singles, and Bach and Valerie Tan '94 were selected in doubles as well. Cady Roney was voted coach of the year.

The Engineers traveled to Northfield, Minn., for the NCAA Division III Championships. The team suffered setbacks at the University of California, San Diego (4-0), and the College of St. Thomas (6-3), before defeating Smith College, to finish the season ranked 19th in the nation. Individual players in the national rankings at the end of the 193-93 season were Frederica Turner '93 at number 34 in singles, and Turner and Tsai '94 in doubles as well.

Walpole had won the 1992 Rolex National Small College Tennis Championship, held at MIT, where Muelhoefer and Naa '94 made a miraculous comeback victory in the finals against a team from the US Coast Guard Academy. As a result, the duo earned a trip to the Roland National Small College Tennis Championships. It was a return trip for Muelhoefer, who was his third consecutive title in the regional tournament, with three different partners. He had won the singles semifinals at the previous two tournaments.

The highlights of the fall season were the Massachusetts New England Small College Regional Small College Tennis Championship, held at MIT, where Muelhoefer and Naa '94 made a miraculous comeback victory in the finals against a team from the US Coast Guard Academy. As a result, the duo earned a trip to the Roland National Small College Tennis Championships. It was a return trip for Muelhoefer, who was his third consecutive title in the regional tournament, with three different partners. He had won the singles semifinals at the previous two tournaments.

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