Baseball Drops Doubleheader to Coast Guard

By Thomas Kettler

The men's baseball team lost a doubleheader Saturday to the Coast Guard Academy Bears by scores of 3-1 and 3-0 at Briggs Field. The losses have left the team 6-9 overall and 1-4 in the Constitution Athletic Conference (1-4).

In the first game, the Coast Guard scored all their runs in the first inning. Aaron Waters led the game with a double, hit Zawrotny then followed with an infield single but Waters could not advance. After the next batter flew out, Bob Blackerstaff forced Zawrotny at second. Then Eric Belfiore hit a home run to left that just stayed fair while clearing the fence.

The Bears could have scored another run in the third if not for an excellent defensive play. Zawrotny led off with a single. He advanced to third on an excellent throw by pitcher Brooks Mendell. Dave King of the Academy hit a fly to deep right. Right fielder Rob Leonard '94 caught the ball and then threw a perfect strike to nail Zawrotny at third.

In the seventh inning, MIT had their final chance. With one out, Jeff Olson '94 singled. Olson to second. Brian Christensen enabled Waters to take second. He went to third on Zawrotny's single. To attempt to get another run, Zawrotny stole second but MIT's catcher Mueller threw third to try to pick off Waters. With the infielde, Mendell induced an infield fly from King. Blackerstaff then flew out to center to snuff out the threat.

Finally, MIT scored in the sixth. With one out, Jeff Olson '94 singled. Jon Gass '94 then singled Olson to second. Brian Christensen enabled Waters to take second. He went to third on Zawrotny's single. To attempt to get another run, Zawrotny stole second but MIT's catcher Mueller threw third to try to pick off Waters. With the infielde, Mendell induced an infield fly from King. Blackerstaff then flew out to center to snuff out the threat.

Men's Tennis Takes On Top Teams, Loses

By Daniel Wang

Last Friday morning, the men's tennis team flew to the Philadelphia area to play against two of the nation's top NCAA Division III teams. The players arrived with high hopes of pulling off an upset, but came up short, losing 5-4 to Swarthmore College and 9-0 to Trinity University (Texas).

The trip resulted in the team's first two losses to Division III teams this season, bringing its record to 3-6 for the season. The next day, the team took on Swarthmore, ranked 13th in the nation. After singles play, Swarthmore won 4-2 lead. Jay Muelhoefer '94 continued his perfect spring campaign record at first singles, with a 6-2, 6-0 win over Barry Mook. However, the Garnets quickly put-three points on the board. Their players defeated Marcio Lomelin '94 at second singles, Nick Tsai '94 at fourth singles, and Jason Weintraub '97 at fifth singles, all in straight sets.

Tsai sprained his left ankle during his match, which required an injury time-out, and ultimately affected his performance. The fifth singles match-up featured an interesting pairing, as Swarthmore player Chris Pearson out-hit and out-powered Lomelin, 6-2, 6-1. Two performances kept MIT in the game. Sixth singles player Dan Wang '97 came through with his first win of the spring, by outslogging Paul Purewal, 7-5, 6-4. In front of a large enthusiastic crowd, the third singles match-up of Mark Erickson '94 was the last one to finish. Erickson's serve-and-volley game helped him win big points, and even gave him some chances to take either of his sets. Unfortunately, his opponent proved to be slightly better, holding off Erickson, 7-5, 7-5.

MIT needed to sweep the doubles to capture the team win, but their chances did not look too bright. There seemed to be a chance when first doubles team of Muelhoefer and Tsai, and second doubles team of Erickson and Weintraub, both won their first sets rather easily.

The glimmer of hope was shattered when third doubles team of Lomelin and Wang, playing together for the first time, faltered against the team of Mook and Purewal. The duo failed to follow suit with their teammates, and were the first ones off the court, losing in straight sets, 6-1, 6-4.

MIT struggled with both services and returns in the first set, which resulted in an easy first set for the Swarthmore team. Both Lomelin and Wang improved in the second set, but still fell behind, 5-2. The pair fought back to 5-4, but could not follow through on completing the difficult task of breaking Mook's serve.

The loss, which clinched the team victory for Swarthmore, seemed to subdue the excitement of the other doubles matches. The MIT players remaining were relegated to playing for themselves, and keeping the score close.

Muelhoefer and Tsai had some close moments in their match, but managed to win in straight sets, 6-3, 6-4. Despite his injury, and even injuring his other ankle to a lesser degree, Tsai managed to contribute. Erickson and Weintraub also had a chance to win in two sets, but their final-up opponents went on a roll to capture the second set tiebreaker.

The MIT team rebounded and dominated the set to finish off the match. The 6-2, 6-7 (7-4), 6-3 match concluded with Erickson hitting an unreturnable overhead smash.

The next day, still sore from the