Crain, Darley Lead Men's X-C to 10th at NCAAs

By Arnold Seto '96

On Nov. 19th, the men's cross country team competed in the National Collegiate Athletic Association Division III Championships in Bethlehem, Pa. Racing against the best in the nation, the Engineers scored 258 points, tying Haverford College for 18th place.

Ethan Crain '95 and Jesse Darley '95 took their rightful place among the champions with All-America performances. The pair went out with the lead pack of runners and remained there for the entire race.

Both had hopes of winning the race outright, but Crain was plagued with a recurring stomach ailment, while Darley, on this day, didn't possess the concentration to match his desire.

Darley said, "I felt like a spectator with a very good seat," with little control over the events unfolding.

Still, both Crain and Darley finished extremely well. Crain ran the five-mile race in 25 minutes, 15.0 seconds for ninth, and Darley was right behind in 25:15.8 for 106. Thus both received All-American honors, the highest award available to college athletes. Most of the other MIT team members also fared well in the race, even if not as well as they hoped.

Josh Feldman '97 and Dan Hegelsson '97 ran a conservative race strategy, and together passed many runners in the later miles. Of the approximately 190 elite runners in the race, both Feldman and Hegelsson started near the 150th position before gradually moving up to finish in the 120th and 120th places (27:03), respectively.

Arnold Seto '96 had a disappointing race, possibly due to pre-race anxiety. He started in good position but lost ground quickly as cramps and tightness came on. Struggling to maintain position, he finished 146th in 27:28.

Mark Feldman '96 ran one of his best races of the year. He steadily pulled out the miles to finish 133rd in 27:43. Tye Schlegelmilch '98, the only freshman in the varsity top seven, used the excitement of the race positively to finish 169th in 28:23.

MIT tied for 10th place in a tight team competition. Their score of 218 (individual runners were removed from the team score calculation) narrowly beat out the 11th place score of 210 and the 12th place score of 306. All of the MIT runners fought hard for every place, which made a big difference in the final results.

Although the Engineers were ranked 12th going into the meet, they anticipated that they could finish anywhere from eighth to 14th, depending on how well each member raced.

Coach Halston Taylor summed up the result in stating, "It was a good race. About what we expected."

The race gave the team some much needed experience running against elite competition. Darley, the team captain, stated that he was "happy to have the team gain some experience running in nationals" so that next year it can be even more prepared.

Williams defeats North Central

Williams College, MIT's main rival in the New England Region, ran a well-executed race to defeat the perennial powerhouse North Central College and capture the championship.

Williams scored 98 points, besting North Central by 12 points. Williams' performance was exemplified by Jerome Perry, who took the lead after two miles and won by a large margin.

UPCOMING HOME EVENTS

Saturday, Dec. 3

Women's Gymnastics vs. Rhode Island College, 1 p.m.

Men's Basketball vs. Wentworth Institute of Technology, 4 p.m.

Tuesday, Dec. 6

Women's Basketball vs. Simmons College, 6 p.m.

Men's Basketball vs. U.S. Coast Guard Academy, 7:30 p.m.

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