

Broncs' Bits

Scores/Records

(*denotes conference game)

Men's Basketball

(6-2, MAAC 1-0)

12/2

Rider 79 Binghamton 65

12/7

Rider 69, Iona 55

Women's Basketball

(0-5, MAAC 0-0)

12/2

La Salle 88 Rider 76

Wrestling

(1-1, CAA 0-0)

12/2

at Las Vegas Invitational

18th of 47

M. Swimming & Diving

(0-6, MAAC 0-1)

W. Swimming & Diving
(1-5, MAAC 0-1)

Schedule

Friday, Dec. 8

M/W Indoor Track

at Fordham Invitational

at Princeton Invitational

Women's Basketball

at Saint Peter's, 7 p.m.*

Saturday, Dec. 9

Wrestling

vs. Maryland, 12 p.m.

Men's Basketball

at Siena, 1 p.m.*

Sunday, Dec. 10

Women's Basketball

vs. Loyola, 2 p.m.*

Tuesday, Dec. 12

Women's Basketball

at Princeton, 7 p.m.

Tuesday, Dec. 19

Women's Basketball

vs. UMBC, 7 p.m.



Wednesday, Dec. 20

Men's Basketball

at Villanova, 7 p.m.

Friday, Dec. 22

Men's Basketball

at Fairleigh Dickinson, 7 p.m.

Thursday, Dec. 28

Men's Basketball

at Notre Dame, 8 p.m.

Friday, Dec. 29

Wrestling

at Midlands Championships
(Northwestern), 10 a.m.

Women's Basketball

at Wagner Christmas Classic:
at Wagner, 7 p.m.

Saturday, Dec. 30

Wrestling

at Midlands Championships
(Northwestern), 10 a.m.

Women's Basketball

at Wagner Christmas Classic

vs. St. Bonaventure or Cornell

...And More Sports

Junior Jason Thompson of the basketball team was named the co-winner of the MAAC Player of the Week award for all games played Nov. 27 to Dec. 3.

Thompson and senior Lauren Urbanski of the swimming and diving team were named Rider Athletes of the Month for November.

Rider's Phi Beta Sigma Step Team, which won the national championship for step dancing on Sep. 1, 2006, will be appearing in a behind-the-scenes documentary on ESPN2 on Dec. 16.

B-BALL

Continued from p. 11

they don't box out properly, and therefore they are rarely in proper position to rebound the ball. Furthermore, the team regularly sets up its plays around the perimeter, which also contributes to the team's lack of rebounding.

"They throw the ball down low to [freshman center Stephanie Wisniewski] too much," said Henderson. "That's a lot of pressure on such a young player."

I know the opposing argument: all the games have been against non-conference foes so far, and for all I know, Rider could run the table and knock my socks off (I really hope they do), but let's face facts: If the first five games are any indication, we're in for a long, tiresome, *The English Patient*-like season.

Rider has trailed by 16 or more at some point in every one of its games this year. In two of those games, the Broncs didn't have the lead once. Every loss they've had has been by double digits. They've lost twice by 30 points or more.

And in the last two seasons, they're a combined 3-31. Yikes!

The losing is beginning to take its toll. Community college teams now generate larger home crowds than Rider does. Last Saturday, La Salle fans seemingly outnumbered Rider's two-to-one. The loudest voice in the gym belonged to the La Salle head coach.

When the cheerleaders came out to do the whole "Rider, Go!" dance, only a few fans clapped. And you know the male cheerleader who runs around the court with the big Rider flag during timeouts? At men's games, he runs around gleefully three, four, sometimes five times. On Saturday, he ran around just twice.

Before the game, near the left entrance, a couple walked in with two kids, one boy and one girl. Startled, the boy stopped, yanked on his father's sleeve and asked, "Do we really have to stay?"

"Yes," the father snapped back. "We're staying and you're going to behave."

"But I promise not to do it anymore," cried the boy.

"Enough," said the father, and the four of them headed up the bleachers together.

Now when going to a basketball game becomes a punishment, you know something's wrong.

WRESTLING

Continued from p. 12

said Umbehauer. "I was a little disappointed with the way I finished, but I was battling exhaustion near the end."

Morrison, ranked 14th in the nation, lost 2-1 to an All-American who won the tournament before being pinned by Harry Zander of George Mason in the consolation quarterfinals. Morrison won 6-5 in the consolations against Eliot Kelly of Cal Davis, and won by forfeit in the battle for seventh place.

"Personally, I didn't wrestle very well," said Morrison. "I finished seventh, but my goals were higher than that."

Junior Don Fisch (141

pounds), ranked 16th in the nation, lost in the consolations by a score of 6-0 to No. 4 seeded Charles Griffin of Hofstra on Saturday morning. Fisch won four bouts in consolations on Friday night, and was 5-2 in the tournament.

"Don is one of our best wrestlers, but he's not hitting eight cylinders right now," said Taylor. "He had a bulging disk problem last year and was off of the mats for awhile. He will rebound because he's putting things together in terms of timing, he's being built back up to where he was, but [he] can't do that without competition."

Rider hosts Maryland tomorrow at noon.

"The University of Maryland is a tough program and their head coach was one

of the key assistants at Lehigh when they had a nice run of championships about five years ago," said Taylor. "It's not just him; they have a great coaching staff and they've done a great job recruiting. They're a tough team and we'll be challenged in this match."

Morrison looks forward to the challenge and is grateful for the level of competition.

"You need to wrestle good people all the time to get better," he said. "It lets you know that you're right there with the best in the nation. We have our goals set at [being in the] top 15 in the nation, which is very easily achievable. We're wrestling the right opponents, and have the team to do it."

Taylor knows Maryland will be tough, but always likes

his chances at home.

"We seem to be drawing an exciting group of people," he said. "This is my 29th year, and this is by far the best following we've ever had. When you can get your crowd into the match it really motivates the kids."

Morrison also enjoys having a hefty, deafening home crowd.

"It's been awesome having everyone come out," he said. "When you're out in a match you really don't hear much because you are really focused on what you have to do, but it fires everyone up and gets them ready to go."

The Broncs will follow up their match against Maryland with a trip to the Midlands Championships on Dec. 29.

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