Brons pushed to limit
By Mike Caputo

Youth was prevalent on the 2004 men's and women's cross country teams, and both teams suffered through growing pains as a result. Although the 2005 version of the cross country roster is not old by any means, experience is a major factor toward the potential that the Broncs have for this upcoming season. One of the qualities that experience brings is a hard work ethic.

Senior Beth Bond said that her fellow runners have been preparing as a team for the season since the summer:

“We spent all summer running and we have been working together,” she said.

Rider had its hands full last weekend when it hosted the Bronc Invitational against Marist, Rutgers and Seton Hall.

Both the men's and women's teams finished in third place. Marist placed first on the men's side and Rutgers won the women's event.

Sophomore John Smith, is not upset about the team's performance, but does not accept it either.

“We didn't do as well as we would have liked to. It was the first event, so there's nowhere else to go but up.”

One option is to renovate Alumni Gym. Another option is to destroy Alumni Gym and rebuild it. The final option is to build a new facility at another location on campus.

“Building a new arena is the preferred option at this point,” said Hurman. “Whatever we decide, it will be donor driven. I'm hoping to be a part of the fundraising efforts.”

Hurman has been the athletics director in an interim position for only one school year. A national search for a full-time director has already begun.

“I've agreed to one year and that's still the arrangement right now,” said Hurman. “My intent is to return to coaching.

The men's basketball team is coming off a regular season championship and its best play-off performance in the school's participation in the MAAC. The incoming freshmen class, recruited by Hurman is arguably his most talented. The team's position makes Hurman's promotion so unique.

“I'm looking forward to the decision is a bit unorthodox. The basketball team is a difficult thing to walk away from, even for a year,” Hurman said.

The team has been named interim head coach. Hurman is content with leaving the team in his hands, but is uncertain how hard it will be to watch the team function without him.

“I think the program is in really good shape,” he said. “I think it's in really good hands with Tommy Dempsey. I don't want to seem like I'm hovering [over his shoulder] because I know I have to give him his space.”

Hurman let the coaching staff and his players know that he is available if they need him. He has made a sincere effort to help his players both on and off the court. He acted in a commendable way upon making his decision to become athletic director.

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“A lot of times coaches who have had success walk into a meeting telling their teams that they’re leaving for greener pastures. I’m still here this year,” he said.

Instead, Hurman talked to players individually, answering questions and explaining his decision.

“It’s not like I walked in and said, ‘Hey, I'm going to UConn; I’ll see you later.’ That’s not the way I am,” said Hurman.

Hurman is excited to give the back to the school that has been so good to him.

“I’ve been here for 16 years. I’ve been selling the school because I believe in it. Given the circumstances and the fact that I’ve been here so long, which is a little strange these days, it is not as unorthodox as it may appear to those on the outside,” he said.

The reaction to the decision was mixed. Some were as excited as Hurman, yet others thought that something must have happened.

“For the most part, the reaction has been positive,” he said. “There were a lot of people, especially outside of Rider, that thought something had gone wrong, or that I’d gone crazy. I told everyone that this is a good thing.”

One thing is for sure. Hurman’s relationship with Rider has been strengthened and the team will work closely during the upcoming year.

“Part of the reason why I accepted this position was my belief in his vision,” Hurman said. “He’s a good salesman, which is why a lot of things are happening on campus. He sold me his vision and I’m excited to accept his challenge.”

Hurman has been the head coach of the basketball team for the past eight years. In that time he’s compiled 127 victories and his team has won two of the last four regular season championships.

Basketball will still be on his mind this year, but Hurman will be introduced to a bigger portion of Rider athletics. He refuses to fear what may come of this athletic year.

“I’m not afraid,” he said. “There’s a lot going on, but ‘fear’ is not a word I would use to describe it. You can call my decision ‘gutsy’ or ‘risky.’ Maybe it is, but that’s okay with me.”

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Joe Haubrich
Future is Bright

It’s an exciting time in the development at Rider’s campus and soon entering graduates might be caught off guard when they see all of the growth the campus has experienced.

President Rozanski has been hard at work designing ways to make Rider a more appealing, fun, and picturesque place to live. New dorms have just been completed, and everyone who enters the campus gets a look at the construction of a Student Recreation Center (SRC) and its connection to Alumni Gymnasium no matter which entrance they choose to come in.

President Rozanski has made athletics and recreation a top priority. A new baseball field was inaugurated during the spring. Money will be raised for Phase II of the field, which calls for stadium style seating stretching from first base to third base, with a press box behind the plate.

Phase III, the final phase of the baseball field will allow the Broncs to play night games, as lights will be erected. Landscaping plans have been developed which could see more greenery and brand new baseball fields.

Plans for the SRC are constantly changing. The SRC promises to have three indoor courts, which can host events including basketball and volleyball, but still be available for intramural activities. Weight stations and aerobics classes will be offered in the new facility.

An indoor track, snack bar, lounge with a big screen television, and individual LCD screens on heavy equipment are pluses that make most students want to work out in the center.

Phase II of the SRC is underway as a façade has been built to connect the SRC to Alumni Gymnasium. The SRC promises to have a really strong presence and attract more students.

Bright future promises to bring many new opportunities to Rider’s campus, and students should look forward to the many changes that are on the horizon.

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