

# A CLASSIC SHOWING

## Volleyball doubles its 2005 season win total

By Eamon Ducey

The Rider's women volleyball team showed that it knows how to use home court advantage when it doubled its season win total at the Rider Classic, which took place Friday and Saturday, Sept. 16 and 17.

The Broncs started the season on a five game losing streak and were only 2-7 heading into the tournament, which featured Morgan State, Princeton University and Wagner University.

"We showed good intensity," said head coach Emily Ahlquist about how the team played in the tournament. "We were forever pursuing the ball."

The Broncs lost their home opener to their rival up the road, the Princeton Tigers. Rider gave a competitive effort in the first two games, losing the first 30-27, and forcing overtime in the second 31-29. The Tigers beat Rider 30-21 in the final game of the match.

Junior middle hitter Megan Smith led the Broncs with 16 kills. Freshman Lacey Johnson added 24 digs in the losing effort.

"Rider is digging themselves into holes and trying to climb out at the end," said former Rider volleyball player and

alumna Jaclyn Levi. "Princeton is a scrappy team."

When Rider went into its doubleheader on Saturday it had two things going for it: one is that it beat both teams already three games to none, and the other is senior leadership. The Broncs have four seniors this season including Kristine Dormer, Jennifer Drummond, Stefanie Lombardo and Embrey Minor.

"As seniors, we have a lot of chemistry with one another," Lombardo said. "We can pick each other up when we are down."

Saturday the team came out and had its most decisive victory when it beat the Wagner Seahawks in the first game of its match 30-13. In that game, the Broncs were able to go on a 13-3 run. The Seahawks fell again in the next game 30-20. Rider then gave away the next game when it lost 30-20 and then closed Wagner out 30-24.

Smith put forth another impressive effort with 14 kills. Sophomore defensive specialist Nastasja Avramovic had 23 digs to lead Rider's defense.

"We need more consistency," Ahlquist said. "We have to eliminate the hills and valleys in our games."

Morgan State was the final hurdle for the Broncs. It had its best shot to win in the first game but lost 30-27. The Broncs would not fall into another "valley" in the tournament. They closed out the match to win 30-18 and 30-23. Dormer, who had 18 assists, won the final game with a

block.

Lomardo showed that that she can be a factor on both offense and defense, compiling 13 kills and 10 digs.

"Both teams we faced today were good, but we pulled together," Minor said. "That is what got us the wins."

Smith was the Bronc that benefited most from the team's success this weekend, accounting for 38 of the team's kills at the Rider Classic and a .431 hitting percentage for the weekend. Smith was selected to an all-tournament team and, on Monday, she also was named the Metro Atlantic Athletic Conference Offensive Player of the Week.

Johnson has proven that she is a great asset to the Rider program. Even as a freshman, she played in 39 of the 40 games which Rider has competed in. She has 122 digs, second on the team, and 69 kills, fifth on the team.

"Lacey [Johnson] is playing great for a freshman," said Ahlquist. "She has great court sense. She played very competitive volleyball in Colorado and has brought that experience here."

Minor was another Bronc that had a great weekend by setting her teammates up. She had 24 assists in the first two games against Princeton and Wagner and finished with 19 assists against Morgan State.

"This team [Rider] has a lot of experience. They know where each other is going to be," said Ahlquist.

Next weekend Rider goes

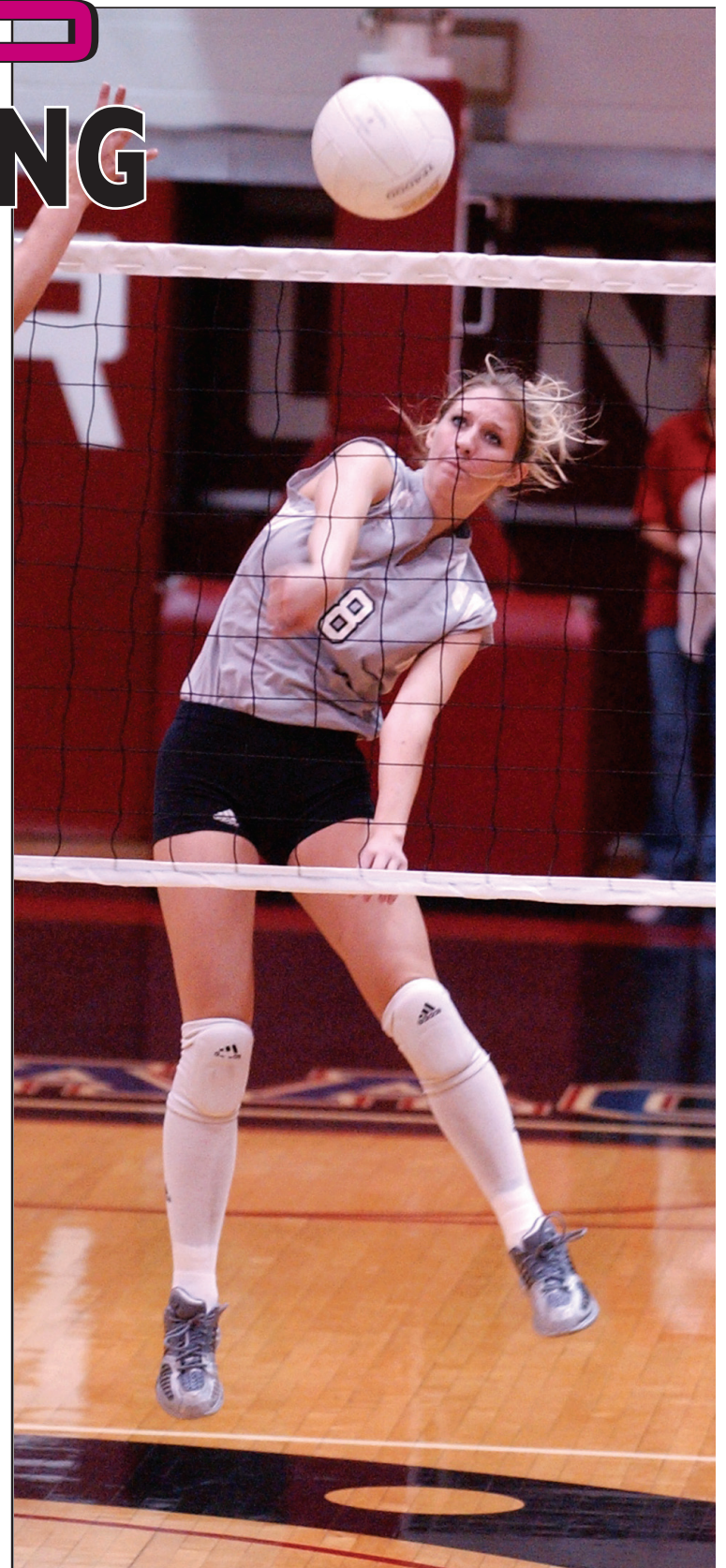


Photo by Peter G. Borg

Megan Smith had enough kills during the Rider Classic to earn herself Offensive Player of the Week honors.

back on the road to play in the Sacred Heart Invitational, facing Sacred Heart University on Friday, Sept. 23 and then play-

ing the University of Maryland Eastern Shore on Saturday, Sept. 24.

## Don Harnum takes over the reigns in Athletics Curt Blake announces retirement; Harnum named interim AD

By Joe Haubrich

When Curt Blake announced his retirement in August, President Rozanski promptly promoted Don Harnum, the men's basketball head coach, to take his position as Interim Director of Athletics.

Rozanski needed a director with no fear. Some have questioned his decision to take Harnum out of the helm of the Rider basketball ship that sailed all the way to the MAAC finals last season, but Harnum is ready and determined to prove that the president's decision is not a roll of the dice.

"I found out about everything all at once," said Harnum. "I was on vacation when I was



Photo by Peter G. Borg

Don Harnum led the men's basketball team to last year's MAAC championship, and now he'll head another nineteen programs as interim athletic director of Rider.

told that I was recommended for the position and that the president had an interest in me."

Things started to roll immediately and Harnum was soon responsible for 20 Division I athletic programs with over 150 student athletes.

"When I got back, [Rozanski] laid everything out for me. He issued a little bit of a challenge, and I accepted it," said Harnum.

Harnum replaces Blake who was the Athletic Director for 14 years. Blake, 63, retired to be with his wife and plans to relocate to South Carolina. During his tenure, four women's teams were established, Rider switched conferences twice and many building projects and renovations were undertaken,

including the new recreation center. Blake was named the 2002-03 Athletic Director of the Year for Division IAA/IAAA Northeast region.

The administrative changes will be crucial as many new things are being done at the Rider campus.

"We have a lot of really good things going on here. You can see [the changes]. They are tangible and visible," Harnum said.

Those on campus can clearly see the changes, but Harnum is getting his hands on some major athletics projects, which will affect the future of the school. Currently, the University is planning on building a new arena, or expanding

See 'Changes,' page 15