Field Hockey fails to score despite 14 shots on goal

By Eamon Ducy

Rider's field hockey team found out how difficult conference games can be when its offense was shut down by the Eagles of Robert Morris College (RMC).

RMC was the first team to shut out the Broncs this season. In fact, RMC was the first Northeast Conference team to shut out Rider since the 2001 conference championship game, when Rider lost to Quinnipiac University 1-0.

"We are in a slump [offensively]," said sophomore Emily Egan. "We are working hard in practice to fix it." Rider was able to get 14 shots on goal, but Eagle goalie Kate Dunlop turned away all attempts.

Sophomore forward Stephanie Walker, the Broncs' leader in goals with seven, was held to two shots on goal. Junior Meghan Schweers, who has six goals on the season, was able to fire five shots on goal, but none of them could reach the back of the cage.

RMC was able to capture lightning in a bottle when it was able to score on its sole shot on goal. The Eagles' Jessica Hammaker scored the goal 20 minutes into the game and was assisted by Sarah Schrott.

On Sunday, Sept. 25, Rider played another 1-0 game against out-of-conference foe La Salle University, but this time they came out on top. Freshman Tricia Croty scored her second goal of the season three minutes into the second half. Senior Courtney Bertos assisted on the goal.

Sophomore Stephanie Walker leads the field hockey team in goals and is a big reason why the defending NEC champs are still a team to fear in 2005.

Men's soccer gets the monkey off its back

By Joe Haubrich

Don't let the men's soccer team's 1-5-2 record fool you. The team scored its first goal of the 2005 season in a 2-2 tie against George Washington before picking up a 1-0 win against Delaware on Tuesday. Early losses might disappoint the best teams, but the 2004 MAAC finalists stayed positive.

"This season we've played tough teams out of conference," said sophomore goalkeeper Jesse Forsythe. "We wanted to challenge ourselves.

As if losing and being unable to score a goal wasn't enough, Forsythe suffered a stress fracture in his right foot after getting action in only one game. He was left on the bench watching his team struggle early on.

"It's always tough watch- ing," he said. "The hardest part about sitting on the sidelines was knowing that I couldn't do anything."

The Broncs were able to see what they were doing wrong and then correct mistakes in practice. "We didn't have a fierce- ness," said junior Tim Jones. "We know that we can score, but we were playing lackadais- ical."

Jones scored the lone goal in Rider's victory over Delaware. His effort has given his teammates confidence going into their final non-conference matchup at Richmond this Saturday.

Despite the early struggles on offense, the defense has been excellent and the goaltending of junior Dan Rivero has kept the Broncs in most of their games so far. Rivero made five saves in their last outing, and an incredible 11 saves in the tie, with five in overtime.

"Our defense has been solid," said senior forward Brian Laurinaitis. "We just hadn't done well offensively."

The losses against tough non-conference opponents did little to spoil the hopes of the team. "It was a learning expe- rience," said Forsythe. "The record doesn't show it, but we have been turning things around. We're confident."

Rider's game against Richmond is the Broncs' last test before heading into compe- tition against MAAC rivals.

"We're building confidence with each outing," said Jones. "We're expecting the best out of each other and want to be at our peak heading into MAAC competition."

Rider has two impressive freshmen. Croty and Julie Vaccarelli have started all nine of Rider's games. Croty is tied for fourth on the team with goals and fifth for points. Vaccarelli has assisted on two goals this season.

"Julie has been great on defense," said Egan. "Tricia might be the fastest player on the team. She has great stick work. She has made a big impact on the team."

Rider restarts its conference schedule today when it travels to Siena. On Sunday, the Broncs have to trek to Sacred Heart University who are undefeated in the NEC.

The Broncs are looking for- ward to their conference sched- ule after they won the NEC regular season championship and postseason tournament.

"It feels pretty good to play games that matter," Egan said. "The Broncs have five seniors.

Christina Ang, Maddy Boulden, Katie Conlon, Stephanie Corradino, and Katie Sebastian were the seniors lead- ers on the 2004 team.

Ang has been hardest to replace. She had 21 goals last season, which is the Rider's single season record. She is the all-time leader for goals (66) and points (144) in a career at Rider.

The team will need to break its 'shame' in time for Sunday. Sacred Heart has not allowed a goal in its first two NEC games.

"A lot of people have been stepping up," said Egan.

Forward Sandro DeChristofaro was the first Bronc to net a goal in the 2005 season in a 2-2 tie at George Washington University on Saturday, Sept. 24.