

# FOCUS ON MAAC

## Men's soccer suffers a defeat at Richmond, but sets its sights on a conference title

By Jason Christodoro

The Rider men's soccer team will head into the Metro Atlantic Athletic Conference (MAAC) to play on a losing note after a 2-1 loss Saturday night at Richmond. The loss concluded the Broncs' non-conference schedule; Rider went 1-6-2 in those non-conference games.

The Broncs got off to a slow start last season going 0-8 before starting conference play with three straight wins, en route to the MAAC championship game.

"The team is gaining confidence and has a realistic chance to get back to the conference championship this year," Rider head coach Russ Fager said.

Anders Wallack put a free kick over Rider's wall of players and past goaltender Dan Rivero to give Richmond a 1-0 lead late in the first half.

The score remained 1-0 until early in the second half until junior Adam Bailey took a pass from Lee Tomasso and went on to score on a breakaway 11 minutes into the half to tie the score at 1-1. The goal was Bailey's fourth of his career here at Rider.

However, the Broncs couldn't hold onto the lead for long, as Scott Loesser scored five minutes later to give Richmond a lead that they wouldn't relinquish.

Rider got out-shot 15-5 in the game and had no corner kicks compared to four for Richmond. Rivero made five saves in the game.

Fager felt his team didn't give 100 percent and was upset with his team's effort in the game.

"The whole team didn't show up," Fager said. "It is important that the team comes to play every game; we need to put together a string of good games. We didn't put forth a stellar effort in this game, but the team is gaining confidence."

Rider opens its MAAC schedule this Friday when they host Canisius. According to Fager, everyone is decent in the conference this year. Their chances of returning to the championship game is 50-50. The team is starting to come together, but they need to score goals.

"If we could put together a few wins, we could be dangerous," Fager said.



Photo by Peter G. Borg

Sophomore forward Lee Tomasso has been one of the Broncs' most consistent players, having started every game and compiling two assists in Rider's non-conference games.

Fager said the upper classmen need to step up. They are getting good contributions from their sophomores and they have a deep roster on their team this year. They have the ability to come together and go back to the championship game again this year.

According to Fager, Fairfield and Marist are a lot better this

year with both teams picking up some good non-conference wins. Rider looks to perform better in conference play, which is more important.

"The conference is up for grabs, everyone is good and everyone has a chance to win the conference championship," said Fager.

## Freshmen pull women's soccer ahead

By Eamon Ducey

When on a losing streak, you sometimes have to look in unexpected places. That's what the women's soccer team did this past weekend when they leaned on a couple of freshmen.

The youth movement was led by Jen Vroman and Amanda Scully. They each had great individual games against Metro Atlantic Athletic Conference (MAAC) opponents.

"Both freshmen work hard and show that they are excited to be out there and play well," said senior Jen Marcella.

The Broncs allowed another goal early in the first half against Siena College. In their previous two games, they allowed a goal six minutes into the first half; both were losses.

The Saints' Susie Blaisdell scored the first goal of the game 12 minutes into the game.

The assist was credited to Amy Loughridg.

Chelsea Maguire added to the Sienna tally 14 minutes later when she scored her goal unassisted.

Rider's first goal came 15 minutes into the second half when Vroman scored the first goal of her collegiate career unassisted.

Courtney Preziosi scored Siena's third goal of the game at 66:47, which was eventually the game-winner.

Vroman scored her second goal of the game 1:13 later, cutting the Eagles' lead down to one goal.

Vroman was the third Bronc this season to score three goals in a game. Sophomores Stephanie Madden and Brittany Smith were the first two to accomplish this feat.

Rider was riding a five game losing streak heading into its game against Marist. The

Broncs also wanted to earn their first MAAC conference victory.

Rider came out and played outstanding defense. Sophomore goalkeeper Kim Carter made six saves and earned her first shutout of the season. She had five last season.

"It felt great to get the win," said Marcella. "It changed the atmosphere in our locker room."

Another freshman came up big for Rider when Amanda Scully scored her second goal of the season 15 minutes before halftime.

Then at the 75 minute mark, Scully produced her second assist of the season when she passed the ball to Madden, who scored. Madden currently leads the Broncs with four goals.

"We want to win as many games as possible so we can get one of the top four spots so we

can get a bye," said Vroman.

The Broncs will be challenged this weekend when they travel to 2-1 Fairfield today, Oct 7, and then they visit Iona Sunday, Oct. 9. Iona is undefeated in MAAC conference games.

"We always look forward to games against Fairfield," said Vroman. "This is a good test to find where we are in the

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Eamon Ducey

## The value of sports? Priceless

A column in *The Rider News* has sparked a debate about sports and if they are worth having.

The value of sports cannot be measured by a balance sheet. Sports are a key factor in a lot of people's decisions in picking colleges. I would not have come to Rider if it did not have sports.

Part of the increase of freshmen could be attributed to the notoriety Rider received from playing two games on ESPN.

Sporting events are the centerpiece for most college homecomings. Homecoming is a time when a lot of alumni come back to Rider and make their donations to the school. These donations pay for things like computer labs, construction and other improvements to the campus.

A lot of athletes do not have a full ride to Rider and have to compete for the same grants and scholarships a non-athlete student applies for.

You have to consider the intangibilities that sports brings to a college campus.

Our small University segregates itself as much as possible. We break ourselves down into social groups, such as Greeks, residents and commuters, but when we show up to Alumni Gym we have the homecourt advantage: we celebrate as one.

Sure, I recognize the faces of the people who go to classes in the Fine Arts building, but how often do I meet accounting or actuarial science majors other than during sporting events? I know I am going to see 2,000 students at a basketball game on a Tuesday night.

Sports also gives on campus jobs to students including statisticians, the Zoo Crew, and the sports editor.

The value of sports is not only respected by students, but also faculty. Last year the men's basketball team played in the Metro Atlantic Athletic Conference Championship

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