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 Bronc's 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 goal tender 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.

Sophomore forward Lee Tomasso has been one of the Broncs' top four scorers so we will want to earn their MAAC conference victory.

Rider opened the 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.

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

Fager said the upperclassmen 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 Ducy

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 also wanted to earn their first MAAC conference victory.

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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 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 conference."