RIDER SINKS MARIST

Swimmers, divers beat last year's champions

By Eamon Ducey

To be the best, you have to beat the best, which was the opportunity granted to the men’s and women’s swimming and diving teams.

Marist, the 2004-2005 Metro Atlantic Athletic Conference (MAAC) champion, walked into Maurer Gym on Saturday, Nov. 5, looking to show off its swagger. But the Marist men’s team had another thing coming to it when the Broncs won the meet 127-50, 115-50.

“It felt good to finally beat Marist,” Head Coach Steve Fletcher said. “They have a very impressive program.”

This was an outstanding victory because it ended Marist’s streak of 60 wins over its MAAC opponents. It was also the first time the Broncs beat the Red Foxes since ‘94.

“It is a great accomplishment to snap a winning streak like that,” said Fletcher.

The women’s team was on the short side of the same score, 127-50-115-50. This was the slightest loss the women have ever suffered against conference foe Marist.

Senior Dan Burgess’ win was a big factor in the men’s success when he won the 200-meter freestyle and 100-meter freestyle.

“Dan has been a very consistent swimmer this year,” Fletcher said. “I think that his success is the year-round training.”

Burgess also swam on the winning men’s 400-meter medley relay team that set the Coppola Pool record time of 3:29.43. Others who swam on the relay team were freshmen Josh Rosenbluth and Stuart Barr and junior Brandon Modrov.

Rosenbluth also won the 200-meter individual medley as well as the 200-meter backstroke and Modrov also won the 1,000-meter freestyle.

“He has won every race he has been in this year,” Fletcher said. “He is a local kid that has been a great addition.”

For the Rider women, junior Courtney Clark won all three of her events including the 1,000-meter freestyle, the 200-meter freestyle and the 500-meter freestyle.

Freshman sensation Priscilla Modrov set a record for the Rider team and Coppola Pool record in the 200-meter individual medley with the time of 2:08.42.

“We were able to use her brother Brandon to recruit her,” Fletcher said. “She has been a great contributor to the women’s team.”

Also for the Rider men, sophomore Dylan Korn won the 1-meter dive, junior Eric McFerin won the 50-yard freestyle and senior Chris Coles, 2005 Diver of the Year, won the 3-meter dive.

The MAAC awarded Rosenbluth and Clark the male and female swimmers of the week for all Oct. 31 - Nov. 6 competitions.

“I am glad that we have had swimmers recognized in both of our meets,” said Fletcher. “It shows what can happen when there is commitment.”

On Saturday, Nov. 12, the Broncs traveled to the University of Penn and Lehigh. Neither team participates in the MAAC conference.

The women’s volleyball team enjoyed its first Metro Atlantic Athletic Conference (MAAC) victory of the season on Saturday, Nov. 5, with a come-from-behind win over Marist. But on Sunday, the Broncs were trampled by Siena 3-0 and became mathematically eliminated from the conference playoffs.

The volleyball seniors were feeling strong emotions as they partook in Senior Day Saturday, but on Sunday, those same seniors were feeling emotions of another sort.

Seniors Stefanie Lombardo, Jennifer Drummond, Embry Minor and Kristine Dormer were honored before Saturday’s match. The team felt extra excitement and passion and after falling, 30-23 in game one, the Broncs defeated the Red Foxes in consecutive games 30-28, 30-21, and 30-21.

Minor had 39 assists and 13 digs; Stefanie Lombardo (New Castle, Pa/Laurel) had 10 kills and 24 digs; senior Kristine Dormer (Bowie, Md/Elizabeth Seton) added 13 kills and 17 assists.

Siena swept Rider in the final home match of the 2005 season, and the final home match for the four graduating seniors, by the scores of 30-22, 30-26 and 30-18. It was Siena’s fifth straight win.

“We were a little flat today,” said head coach Emily Ahlquist. “A lot of emotion came out yesterday with that win over Marist. It was disappointing to go out this way at home, but we will always hold our heads up.”

After the loss, the Broncs were disappointed in their inconsistent efforts. They seem to play better when having fun for special occasions, like Saturday’s Senior Day.

“I don’t know why we can’t focus the way we do when we have a special occasion all the time,” said Minor. “The whole team is frustrated about it. It’s not a coaching thing because you can’t coach desire or heart.”

Minor had 14 assists, three service aces and nine digs. Minor is three digs away from 1,000 for her career. The Broncs have two more road games this weekend where Minor can reach that milestone.

“For me, that’ll be the culmination of the year,” said 5-3 Minor. “It means a lot. It’s kind of an emotional high because it’s the end of the season.”

See ‘Volleyball,’ p. 10