Winter's chill has arrived, but things are heating up for the swimming and diving team. "Everyone is stepping up this year," said senior Trevor Vernal.

Rider showcased its skill at Rutgers University's Super Splash Invitational Friday, Dec. 2, through Sunday, Dec. 4, and was among 12 schools at the invitational. Others included La Salle, Rutgers, Lehigh, Columbia, Drexel, UConn, UMass, The College of New Jersey (TCNJ), Shippensburg, American and Villanova.

"You can really step up your game and learn a lot from this event," said sophomore diver Dylan Korn. "Since there are so many seniors here, you can see where you fall." The invitational gave the Broncs an opportunity to test the water against more teams than usual.

"It makes you try harder," said Coach Stephen Fletcher. "There's more competition with all of these schools here so it's a great learning experience and motivator. We respond well to better competition." On Sunday, Dec. 4, the men's team had an up and down day. Senior Dan Burgess finished second in the 100-meter freestyle (46.00); senior diver Chris Coles finished fourth in the three-meter (444.35) and 17th in the one-meter (180.15); junior Andy French placed eighth in the 1650-meter freestyle (16:31.68); sophomore Dylan Korn placed sixth in both the one-meter dive (262.60) and the three-meter dive (433.35) and junior Eric McFerin placed sixth in the 100-meter freestyle (47.23). "We are doing lots of things that we have never done before," said Dempsey. 

As the holiday approaches, the men's basketball team's season is going better than its 2-4 record might indicate. "I think the season is going very well," said Coach Thomas Dempsey. "We've played a brutal schedule so far and we've had a chance to win in every game except for the one at Villanova." On Saturday, Dec. 3 the Broncs beat Monmouth 75-67. After several lead changes, Rider held a small lead at the end of the first half. The seesaw battle continued into the second half until 14 minutes remained, when Rider was able to hold the lead until the final buzzer sounded.

"It was great," said Dempsey. "It was our first road victory against a tough team." After the Saturday game the team's record was 2-3. Though it was still down on wins, it had a positive outlook.

"It was going how we thought it would," said Dempsey. "It's a tough schedule. Even though we're 2-3, I think we've passed the test to prove we're a competitive team." After losing so many seniors last year, it takes awhile for the team to develop an identity," said Dempsey. The invitational gave the Broncs an opportunity to test the water against more teams than usual.

The invitational gave the Broncs an opportunity to test the water against more teams than usual. "It makes you try harder," said Coach Stephen Fletcher. "There's more competition with all of these schools here so it's a great learning experience and motivator. We respond well to better competition." On Sunday, Dec. 4, the men's team had an up and down day. Senior Dan Burgess finished second in the 100-meter freestyle (46.00); senior diver Chris Coles finished fourth in the three-meter (444.35) and 17th in the one-meter (180.15); junior Andy French placed eighth in the 1650-meter freestyle (16:31.68); sophomore Dylan Korn placed sixth in both the one-meter dive (262.60) and the three-meter dive (433.35) and junior Eric McFerin placed sixth in the 100-meter freestyle (47.23). "We are doing lots of things that we have never done before," said Dempsey. On Wednesday, Dec. 7, the Broncs faced their first Metro Atlantic Athletic Conference (MAAC) opponent, Iona, in a game they lost 59-80. Iona was picked to finish first in the MAAC during the preseason. The Broncs held the lead over the favored Gaels for most of the first half. Rider's See 'Roadtrip,' p. 10

Rider women compete in one of this year's earlier meets. The women placed sixth out of 12 teams at the Rutgers Invitational this weekend. Eric McFerin placed sixth in the 100-meter freestyle (47.23). "We are doing lots of things that we have never done before," said freshman Frank Ippolito. Junior Brandon Modrov, who was named the Metro Atlantic Athletic Conference (MAAC) Male Swimmer of the Week, led Rider to a fifth-place finish out of 12. He placed sev-