

# RANK AT THE BANK

## Rider suffers worst loss of season and lowest point total in Harnum's tenure

By Mike Caputo  
Staff Writer

As of last week, the men's basketball team appeared to be within reasonable reach of second place in the Metro Atlantic Athletic Conference (MAAC).

Only a week later, after the performance in the Sovereign Bank Arena, however, posting another victory against a MAAC team and scoring 60 points in a game seems to be an unreasonable goal.

In front of an energetic and loud Alumni Gym on Friday, Feb. 6, against Saint Peter's, Rider battled back from a 60-49 deficit in the last five minutes of regulation and tied it up at 64-64 after a three pointer from junior guard Robert Taylor with 23 seconds to go. Unfortunately, clutch performances from NCAA scoring leader Keydren Clark and Shane Nichols in overtime gave the Peacocks a 77-69 victory.

On Sunday, Feb. 8, Loyola came into a subdued Alumni Gym with its 1-20 overall record. Although the Greyhounds are perhaps one of the worst teams in the nation, it managed to play gritty bas-

ketball and keep itself within reach. As a result of a horrific exchange of turnovers, Rider found itself down at the half by a count of 24-23. Rider came out of halftime with much more energy and took a 39-28 lead.

While the Broncs seemed to be in control of the game, the Greyhounds continued to scratch its way back into it, but sophomore Edwin Muniz did not allow any sort of embarrassing upset. He took over the court and led the Broncs to an unimpressive 59-51 victory with his 14 points and 11 rebounds.

"At halftime we started talking to each other and understood what we had to do," said junior forward Andre Pereira.

Unfortunately, the pivotal game against Fairfield to determine third place in the MAAC took place at the empty Sovereign Bank Arena where the Broncs are now 2-9 all-time. Rider started out with a 10-4 lead after consecutive three pointers from senior forward Laurence Young, but that would turn out to be the best that it could do. After being down 12-6, Fairfield went on a

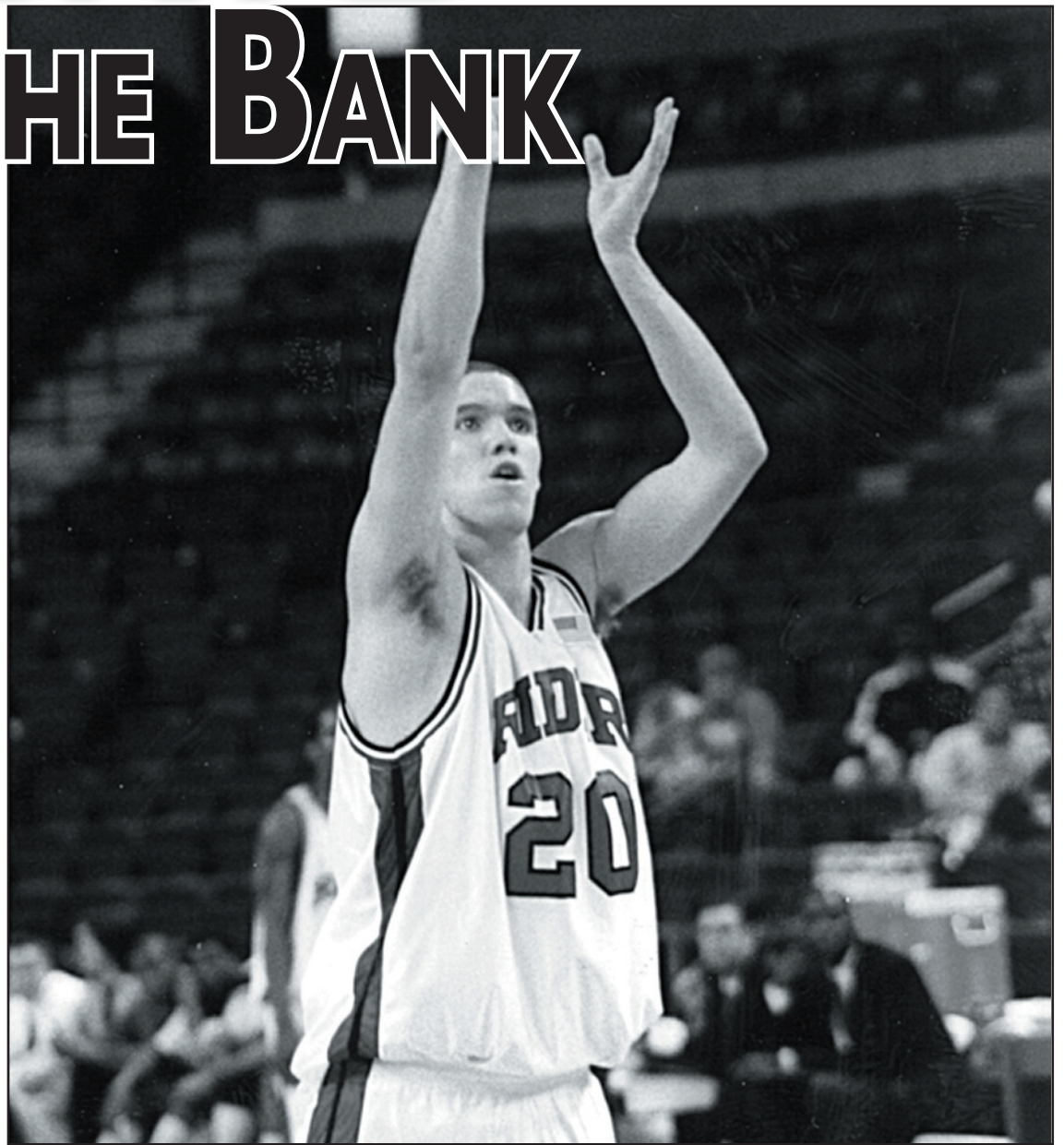


Photo by Nicole Santore

Sophomore Edwin Muniz attempts a foul shot during the 65-40 drubbing at the hands of Fairfield. The loss is the worst since Don Harnum's arrival. Rider plays away at Marist tonight.

14-2 run and took a 33-22 lead at halftime.

"They were all over us from the start of the game," said Rider Head Coach Don Harnum.

Junior guard Jerry Johnson finished the half with eight points for the Broncs while Fairfield center Rob Thomson put up six points and five rebounds.

"We wanted to carry that [performance] into the second

half," said Thomson.

That is exactly what the Stags did. Fairfield stormed out of the locker room and went on an electrifying 15-0 run. As a result, Fairfield took a commanding 20 point lead in the early stages of the half. Muniz hit two free throws to get Rider's first points of the half about six minutes into the second half. He turned out to be just about the only offensive production for Rider, finishing

with 12 points. Rider was down as much as 29 at one point and ended up losing to Fairfield (8-4 MAAC, 15-8 overall) by a miserable 65-40 deficit.

"That's as good as anyone has played against us," said Harnum. "You have to give them [Fairfield] a lot of credit."

The Broncs produced a

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## HITTING THE WALL

### Women drop 12 of 14 games

By Jared Vichko  
Sports Editor

Taking a page from its male counterparts, the women's basketball team lost at the Sovereign Bank Arena Wednesday night 64-49 at the hands of Iona.

The Broncs are now 4-18 and have dropped 12 of its last 14 games. Despite the slump, junior Becky Hower still finds positives from the losses.

"We played really good defense," said Hower. "We couldn't find any offense throughout the game so we had to rely on our defense to keep the score close."

Rider kept the game within

reach throughout the first half. After Kara Borel converted a layup the Broncs had a 17-14 lead with a little over five minutes remaining in the first half. Heading into the break, Rider trailed only 24-21.

"Coach [Eldon Price] didn't really tell us anything specific at halftime," said Hower. "He was pleased with what we were doing. He said we had a good first half and he wanted us to keep it up in the second. He didn't make many changes or adjustments."

As the second half began, the Broncs began to unfold yet again. After a missed layup by Monica Welborn, two missed

free throws by Leanne Moore and a turnover by Lauren Thomer, Rider found itself down 29-21.

With gritty defense, Rider managed to claw its way back in the game and never let Iona pull away. With just under eight minutes left, the Broncs were down by only five at 47-42. But the lack of firepower prevented Rider from making up the deficit. Iona went on a 6-0 run to go up 51-42 and seal the victory.

"Offensively we were very weak," said Hower. "We missed

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Photo by Hugh Tsung

Kara Borel goes up for a layup during a recent game. The team lost to Iona on Wednesday night. Rider is now 4-18 on the season and has lost 12 of its last 14 games.