

Winter Wonderland

Strong play over break puts Rider in first place

By Laura Sass
Executive Editor

The weather may be freezing and the rink may be frosty, but the Rider ice hockey team is on fire.

The team is currently in first place in the Mid-Atlantic College Hockey Association (MACHA) and is on its way to the championship.

"We are fully expecting to win," said Nick D'Aurizio, the sophomore center of the team. "It would be such a letdown if we lost. It would be a failure to us."

D'Aurizio is one of the leading scorers on the team, with 14 goals in eight games. Jonathan Bada tallied 19 goals and 34 assists in 18 games and Vince Saccente scored 13 times in 12 games. The highest scorer on both the team and in the entire league is Mike Cianfrani with 23 goals and 33 assists in 18 games. Goalkeeper Jeff Moyer also has the best record in the league, with only nine goals against and a 92.91 percent save rate.

In the plus-minus category, Ted Hynes is +16 while Cianfrani, Bada and Armagan are +24, +19, and +13, respectively. Defenseman Ken Ryker is +17 and D'Aurizio is +13.

"I think that the reason we have done so well is that the team is such good friends," said Mike Makovec, the vice-president of the club. "We get along so well off the ice that it transfers to our playing."

D'Aurizio agreed that the friend factor was the key to the team's success.



Photo by Jennifer Kuhn

A member of the hockey teams tries to slip one past the goalie during a recent practice. The team lost last Saturday, Feb. 8, their first defeat since November. Their final home game is tonight Friday Feb. 14, at 9:45.

"The camaraderie between us is really important," he said. "If there was dissension among us, it would lower our moral as a team."

The team is not only doing well individually, but also collectively.

They have beaten or tied every league opponent at least once, leaving

the Broncos with a 10-5-4 record overall.

"It's certainly been a great season," said Dr. Jonathan Millen, the assistant coach and faculty advisor of the club.

The ice hockey team has a small but extremely loyal group of fans whose support also contributes to the team's

success.

"Our fans are the best in the league," said Makovec. "They are incredible. It's unbelievable how much they help us."

The team has skated in every cham-

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Running fast and flying high

Team finds success with balanced attack



Photo by Jennifer Kuhn

Freshman Jay Smith executes a jump at a recent track competition against TCNJ. The team is having one of their best seasons ever, with several records being broken.

By Nicole Santore
Staff Writer

It has been a record-breaking winter season so far for both men's and women's indoor track.

Several individuals have broken school records, qualified for the Eastern Division Championships and both teams are going to the Conference Championship in two weeks.

"We have had great individual performers in the past, but teamwise this is my best season ever," said Coach Bill Hodge. "This is due to having more than one good performer in all events."

One of the teams biggest accomplishments was at their meet at the Delaware Invitational where the women came in first for the second year in a row and the men came in first for the first time.

Another was versus TCNJ, the women lost 93 to 96 and the men lost 76 to 113; however, it was probably their finest meet this season, as the team

competed as hard as they could.

"We had so many great performances, along with breaking records and individuals qualifying for Easterns," said Hodge. "It makes me happier to have all the kids do their best than to win the meet and have only 70 percent do well."

Both teams are young with few seniors and have high hopes of knocking off Manhattan College at the Conference Championship. Manhattan has been undefeated at the championships for years and it would be a huge accomplishment.

"We're a very young team and have a lot of growing to do but we will be a strong force at the conference meet," said sophomore Andre Middleton. "We go into every meet with poise and determination looking to win."

"We are big and strong and want to win the conference since we have been

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