Ready for playoff run

By Nicole Santore
Ad Solicitor

Track and field has spent this week getting ready for the Metro Atlantic Athletic Conference (MAAC) Championships that will be held Saturday at Manhattan College.

They have come second to Manhattan for many years and are determined to be number one this year.

“Manhattan is our rival and we really want to beat them,” said sophomore Amy Sura. “There will be other teams there but Manhattan is our biggest threat.”

Both the men and women competed in the University of Delaware Thompson Invitational this past weekend and came in fourth out of eight teams.

For the men, senior Olushola Ijalana won the weight throw and freshman Patrick O’Keefe won the 800m. Also the 4x800m team of sophomore Giovanni Ramos, freshman Ayutunde Owodunni, sophomore Robin Mesina, and sophomore Matthew Catinella ran the second fastest time for Rider ever at the Armory Invitational in New York. Their time qualified them for the IC4A Championships.

For the women, junior Jen Gramara won the 800m and Sura won the 60m hurdles. Also, sophomore Justine Diana placed second in the 60 hurdles, sophomore Sarah Peterson placed second in the 3,000m and freshman Meche Medine placed third in the long jump.

“We want to compete better in the MAAC Championships this week,” said Sura. “Personally, I want to beat the school record that was broken by one of my teammates this year since I beat it the year before.”

The team has suffered some injuries but their spirits aren’t down. They got together on Thursday to pump each other up.

Both the men and the women have done very well this year with records that they have set, all the individuals who qualified and their overall performance has been spectacular.

“We want to win, do as well as we can and be good spirited,” said Sura. “We are going to run as fast as we can and see where that takes us.”

Correction:

Last week’s issue of The Rider News falsely identified the athlete in the picture that accompanied the track and field article. The athlete’s name was Jay Hill, not Jay Smith. The Rider News regrets the error.

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Jared Vichko
Competing in vain

If a visitor from another planet were asked to analyze the world of sports, using media outlets such as newspapers, television or the Internet, they would assume that only half of our population participated.

Women have made major strides towards equality throughout our history, such as in voting, the workforce and the military, but in athletics, their feet are still stuck in the sand when it comes to sports recognition.

Take Miami University football. Many would name them as one of the top programs in the country, claiming five championships since 1980. While those stats are nothing to be ashamed of, comparing them to the UNC women’s soccer team is like comparing a snow bank and Mt. Everest. For the past 20 years, the Tar Heels have dominated like a bully against the captain of the chase team. UNC claimed 17 of the last 21 championships and made 22 straight Final Four appearances. Cheering for them to win is like rooting for rain in a hurricane.

Rarely does a college basketball team play perfectly for an entire season. For all of Duke’s excellence over the years, not once has one of Coach K’s teams emerged undefeated. Over the past decade, two women’s teams, UConn and Tennessee, have rolled over the competition like a marching band over an anthill. Last year, the Huskies went 39-0 and won their third championship. Four players were not only drafted into the WNBA but all four were drafted in the top ten, a feat that happens as often as snow on the Fourth of July.

This season, they haven’t missed a beat either, as they are enjoying the nation’s longest winning streak, 65 games. The other team they share power with, Tennessee, flicks away opponents with the disregard of a fly bothering their food. They also went 39-0 in 1997-98, displaying the same amount of command as the Huskies. Since 1990, the Vols have a winning percentage of .892, followed in second place by UConn, at .860.

Amika Sorestam, a golfer, made headlines recently by joining the PGA Tour, the first woman to do so in 58 years. Sorestam had a wonderful year in 2002, but few knew of it. She won 13 starts for the year, compared with Tiger Woods, who won six.

In tennis, it’s more about how a woman looks in her outfit than how

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Jessica,
I’m glad that we were together on this Valentine’s Day. I never knew that someone could bring me so much happiness. I hope that you...