



Photo by Jennifer Kuhn

Freshman Aaron White brings the ball upcourt in an earlier game this year against Towson. The Broncos are currently 10-11, though they have won five of their last six. They play their final home game tonight at 8:00.

## RIDER READY BRONCS GEARING FOR FINAL HOME STAND

By David Hurka  
Staff Writer

Not even the blizzard that dumped record amounts of snow on the Northeast could cool off the Rider Broncos this week, as they continued their impressive tear through the upper tier of the MAAC, winning two more games this week, making five of their last six games victories.

Last Thursday, Feb. 13, the Broncos played an Iona team that had defeated North Carolina earlier this season. With the game knotted at 20-20 with five and a half minutes to play in the first half, Rider jumped on Iona, closing out the half on an 11-2 run to take a 31-22 lead at the break.

In the second half, Rider held onto their slim lead with sophomore Jerry Johnson leading the way. Johnson put in 25 points and was an impressive 8-8 from the foul line during the game. Iona closed the Broncos' lead to 56-50 with two and a half minutes to play, but the Broncos again started a run, outscoring Iona 8-2 over the next 90 seconds to close out the game. Both Robert Taylor and Robert Reed performed well, adding ten points apiece, and a combined 13 rebounds. The final score was Rider 69, Iona 58.

On Monday, as the rest of the east coast dug themselves out of a foot and a half of snow, the Broncos ventured up to play Fairfield, the second ranked team in the MAAC and just coming off a win against the top team in the MAAC, Manhattan.

Rider again started strong, jumping out to a 17-4 lead early in the first

half. Johnson had five points during the initial run and 21 for the game. Fairfield showed why they were one of the top teams in the conference, erasing the deficit and tying the game at 52 all with 2:42 left in the second half.

The Stags then made the mistake of fouling Johnson, who continued his hot streak from the charity stripe by making five consecutive free throws to make the score 57-52.

Fairfield had a shot to tie the game with seven seconds left, but a desperation shot fell off the front of the rim, and Rider held on for a 58-56 victory. Laurence Young scored 12 points and 4 rebounds as the Broncos won their second game in a row and fifth out of their last six.

With only four games left in the regular season, the Broncos are ready to surpass the .500 mark for the first time since late December. They've also gotten rid of the memories of their seven game losing streak throughout January, as they have peaked at the perfect time.

As of right now, the Broncos are

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**Final Rider  
Broncs' Home  
Game**

**Tonight  
at  
8 p.m.**

## Playoff bound Hockey clinches top seed

By Jared Vichko  
Sports Editor

There comes a time when every athlete must put up or shut up. Call it what you want—performing in the clutch, crunch time, or delivering down the stretch—it remains a true mark of champions. This weekend, the ice hockey team has a chance to do just that, continue their control of the regular season and claim the MACHA Championship.

From the first time the puck was dropped, the Broncos made it clear that the championship was theirs to lose. They returned leadership to defense with Kevin Voit, and also to offense, with senior Oktay "Oak" Armagan and junior Mike Cianfrani. Once the season began, so did the domination, as the Broncos stormed through the conference schedule without a loss. Their commanding performance throughout the year earned them the first seed in the playoffs and also a bye.

"We have played well all season," said Voit. "We always played together as a team and there was nothing

that came up that we couldn't overcome together."

Voit said he recalls past seasons and sees this team as different from those in previous years.

"Last year we were a little more worried and nervous. I think we felt too much pressure. This year I can't see that as a possibility," he said.

Sophomore Ken Ryker also said that this year's team has grown and become more mature since last season.

"There is more camaraderie this year; it's a very different atmosphere," Ryker said. "We have a lot more depth, which was big when some players got hurt. John Bada got hurt and the freshmen really came through and filled in. We didn't have that depth in previous years. We played our best games without really trying."

That confidence derived from a wonderful season of team play. In Rider's victories, they have outscored



Photo by Jennifer Kuhn

A member of the ice hockey team takes a shot on goal at a recent practice. The team is ready for the playoffs this weekend.

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