

HOME SWEET HOME



Photo by Pete Borg

Becky Hower takes a shot against Mount St. Mary's at the Sovereign Bank Arena. The Broncs return there next weekend as they host the MAAC Championships. Both teams play next week, the women on Thursday afternoon and the men on Friday night. This is the first time Rider will host the tournament.

Broncs hope to defend their turf

By Jared Vichko
Sports Editor

Dorothy from *The Wizard of Oz* hit it right on the head when she said, "there's no place like home." Being at home, namely playing at home, is a comfort that is not to be taken lightly. By having the home-court advantage, breaks seem to fall your way, the calls are in your favor and the crowd supporting you becomes almost a sixth man.

On Thursday, March 6, when Rider hosts the Metro Atlantic Athletic Conference

(MAAC) Tournament at the Sovereign Bank Arena (SBA), the cards should be stacked in their favor.

The tournament gets underway Thursday afternoon when our very own Lady Broncs will play either Marist or Fairfield. If the Broncs emerge victorious, they will play again Friday and Saturday afternoon, concluding on Sunday at noon with the championship.

"We're glad to be hosting the championships," said sophomore Katie Hall. "It's good to get the Rider com-

munity involved. Last year they were held in New York. I'm glad they're so close this year. Having our fans there will be a tremendous advantage."

Hall, along with fellow sophomore Becky Hower, has been a spark for the Broncs all year. Hower is the team-leading scorer, with just under 18 points per game. Following close behind is Hall, who averages 17.3. Picking up the rest of the slack on the offensive end is sophomore Leanne Moore, whose strong playing helped bring the Broncs out of their

losing streak.

"In our last few losses, we knew we were improving," said Moore. "We saw what we had to do and [what] must be done to win, and we pulled together as a team."

The Lady Broncs started off the season on the right foot, but once break came, so did the losses, as they amassed 13 straight defeats.

"We got down on ourselves," said Hall. "We lost some confidence and it had a domino effect on the whole team, and the losses just piled

up."

Like any good team, the Broncs made a strong showing in their final two home games, winning them both to regain some momentum heading into the playoffs.

"Winning the last two home games really helped us with our confidence and self esteem," said Hall. "We started to play our best in the last couple games. We hope that momentum can carry us deep into the playoffs."

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Wrestling finishes strong

By David Hurka
Staff Writer

The wrestling team closed out the regular season on a good note last week, winning their final two meets before heading off to the Colonial Athletic Association (CAA) Tournament next weekend. The Broncs have been wrestling well ever since their mid-season slide, and have now won five out of their last seven meets.

Last Thursday, Feb. 20, in a CAA meet against Boston

University, the Broncs dominated almost from the beginning.

In a premier match, senior Greg Sawyer, the fourth ranked wrestler at the 197 weight class, defeated Chad Grant, the fifth ranked 197 in the CAA 4-1 to give the Broncs an 11-9 lead at the half way point. Sophomore Jim Dicicco made his return to the team after appendicitis and won his match 6-1 to close out the scoring for the Broncs.

Boston would win the final

two matches, but it was too little, too late as Broncs went on to win 20-12.

On Saturday, Feb. 22, the team defeated another conference foe Sacred Heart. Rider again took an early lead and never looked back, as sophomore Jared Terrell won by a fall to give the team a 13-3 lead after only three matches. In yet another critical match senior Derek Jenkins, the

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Photo by Pete Borg

A member of the wrestling team dominates his opponent at a meet this season. Their championships are next weekend.