

Wrestling battles to second place finish

By Eamon Ducey

Rider's wrestling team knew what they had on the team but wanted to show everybody else at Colonial Athletic Association Wrestling Championships at Boston University. Rider was able to cement their place in the conference with a second place finish.

No. 1 Hofstra (No. 11 in the nation) scored a school record 136 points, Rider put across a total of 84.5 to take second and Drexel came in third with 69 points. The Broncos won one weight class, had three wrestlers in the finals and four that finished in third.

Most impressive Bronc was sophomore Don Fisch who won his weight class; he was the No. 2 seed in the 141 pound weight class.

"Don got hot at the right time," said assistant coach John Hangey. "He beat a kid that was ranked No. 7 in the country, [which] was good for him."

Junior Dave Miller, ranked No. 11 in the country in his class, was the top seed in the 157 pound division. Unfortunately for Miller, he was defeated when he lost a close decision in the finals by a score of 3-0.

In the 174 pound division, the No. 2 seeded senior Sean Jenkins finished second when an injury forced him to forfeit in the finals. The team held him out due to a nagging chest injury.

"[Head coach Gary Taylor] decided to protect Sean and have him sit out the match so that he would be healthy for the NCAA's," said Hangey.

Rider was able to see its

bright future when it showed off four freshmen and a sophomore in the consolation finals. Rider won four of those.

"We have a bright future if we can keep the team together and keep them in [the correct] weight classes," said Hangey.

Freshman Tim Harner came in third in the 133 pound weight class after suffering a loss in his first match of the tournament. He won his consolation match 15-4.

After losing in the quarter-finals in the 165 pound division on Friday, sophomore Ryan Cunningham took third as he won his consolation match 4-1. He had a great showing after being seeded fifth going into the tournament.

Freshmen T.J. Morrison (184 pounds) and Jeff Black (197 pounds) also came in

third. Freshman Ryan Smith finished fourth in the 125 pound weight class when he lost in a competitive 8-6 decision during the consolation final.

Fisch, Miller, Jenkins Harner and Morrison will head to the National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) National Championship tournament held in St. Louis on March 17-19.

The team is focused on the opportunity to give the program more prestige.

"The guys get to start brand new and all have a chance to do well," said Hangey.

The team knows that the only thing left to do is win some matches.

"We have a great chance to bring home some hardware," said Hangey.

'BUFFALO'

From page 11

stayed after watching their team win its semifinal game. But the Rider fans made sure that their Broncos were the undisputed home team that afternoon. The Broncos led throughout most of the game, but was threatened during the final stages of the game. Rider pulled through with a 76-74 victory over Fairfield and now had a date with destiny. But Niagara stood in the way.

The conference championship game on Monday night was a media frenzy that is uncharacteristic of a MAAC event. It was televised nationally on ESPN2 and Niagara made sure that it transported as many students as possible to the game (the campus is only 20 minutes away from HSBC Arena). The largely outnumbered Rider fans were welcomed with jeers, taunts and obscene remarks.

"Niagara fans were intimidating because they outnumbered us greatly," said Goldstein. "It was everyone against us."

Unfortunately, the Broncos did not have anything left in them as the noticeably fresher Purple Eagles expanded upon their lead in the second half and never looked back. Something to keep in mind is that Niagara did not have to play on Saturday by virtue of the tiebreaker it had over Rider for the No. 1 seed.

The optimism and heart that this handful of Rider faithful had probably was equal to the 7,000 Niagara supporters that showed up on Monday night's championship game. Other than in the stands though, that heart and resolve was expressed on the court by the team that the faithful fans ventured to see.

Rider's season is not over yet. The team's 19-11 record, its share of the regular season championship and its appearance in the championship game may earn a spot in the National Invitation Tournament (NIT). The NIT was once the premier tournament and at one point had more clout than the NCAA Tournament. Now it serves as a consolation tournament for those teams who are good, but just miss a spot in the NCAA Tournament. Rider has not made an appearance in the NIT since 1997, head coach Don Harnum's first year as head coach. The final rounds take place at Madison Square Garden in New York.

Fan trip saved at last second

By Eamon Ducey

For the first time in Rider's history with the Metro Atlantic Athletic Conference (MAAC), it had a share of the men's basketball regular season title. But that was not enough for this team or its loyal fans; they wanted to win the MAAC tournament to secure a guaranteed bid to the National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) tournament.

Rider had its first game of the tournament on Saturday, and a group of students wanted to be there to support the Broncos. The Office of Campus Life (OCL) sponsored the trip to Buffalo, N.Y., and had a deadline of 3 p.m. last Friday to sell 30 spots for the trip at

only \$40 each which included hotel, bus and game-tickets

Three professors, Dr. Frederick Turner, Dr. Thomas Simonet and Dr. E. Graham McKinley wanted the students to be able to make the trip in order to support the team. The professors apparently acted too late, and the students were sent a voicemail that said the trip was cancelled. After some strings were pulled, OCL resurrected the trip. Turner explained the reason for it.

"Simonet, McKinley and I were frustrated over the plan to cancel the bus, so we decided to buy the last three tickets," said Turner.

The students headed on a seven-hour trip to Buffalo on Saturday as they watched Rider win its quarterfinal game

against Canisius.

On Sunday, Rider won its semifinal game against Fairfield. The students were no longer concerned about classes on Monday and wanted to stay in Buffalo for another night to encourage the team in the title game when they would take on Niagara, a local favorite. The administration was able to come up with a plan for students to stay mostly conducted by Dean Anthony Campbell, associate vice president of Student Affairs who planned to write a letter to professors explaining the students' absence on Monday.

"We knew we needed to take the opportunity to show fan support for the basketball team after a great season," Turner said.

'DREAM'

From page 11

theme for the nationally televised championship game. In front of a Niagara home crowd, with a handful of Rider fans, the Broncos had as much as a four-point lead in the early stages of the first half, but fell behind for good when Niagara stormed into the locker room with a 7-0 run and a 42-30 lead at the half. The Rider offense was frozen in the second half and Niagara took full advantage. Niagara won the title by beating the Broncos 81-59.

Rider (19-11) had its best season as a member of the MAAC. It awaits a possible invite to the NIT (National Invitation Tournament). The team will find out its fate on Sunday night.

Internship Opportunities

The Lawrenceville School's Communications Department is seeking creative, energetic, and reliable interns to assist with graphic design and publicity. Hours are flexible. Candidates must have their own transportation.

Publicity Intern

Communications and journalism students wanted. Duties include: writing and editing for both print and web, proofreading, creating targeted media lists, interviewing students and faculty, and covering campus events as well as routine office work. Must be an imaginative, detail-oriented, team player who can juggle multiple projects simultaneously. Occasional evening and/or weekend work may be necessary. Photography skills a big plus.

Please e-mail cover letter and resume to Lisa Gillard Hanson at lgillard@lawrenceville.org.

Graphic Design Intern

Duties include: assisting in the design and typesetting of School magazine, designing smaller projects and performing administrative tasks. Must possess typographic sensibility, be organized, detail-oriented, and able to juggle multiple projects simultaneously. Photography skills a big plus. Knowledge of current versions of Quark, Photoshop and Illustrator required. Only students pursuing a BFA or the equivalent will be considered.

Please e-mail resume and pdf portfolio to Brian Hodge at bhodge@lawrenceville.org.

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