



Photo by Pete Borg

Head Coach Don Harnum and the basketball team, along with the Rider faithful, look on as the season comes to an end. The Broncs lost in overtime to Saint Peter's in the first round of the MAAC Tournament, which was held at the Sovereign Bank Arena.

Broncs fall in overtime thriller

By Jared Vichko
Sports Editor

It was almost 10 years ago to the day that Darrick Suber, the most famous Rider basketball player not named Mario Porter, hit "The Shot," which came as the buzzer sounded against Wagner in the NEC Championship, propelled the Broncs into the NCAA Tournament.

Against Saint Peter's in the first round of the MAAC Tournament, lightning almost struck again. Robert Taylor hit a deep three-pointer as time

expired to send the game into overtime. His shot may have been remembered as "The Shot II" or "The Three"—if they had won.

This marks the second year in a row the Broncs have lost in the opening round of the MAAC Tournament, each game going to overtime. This year they fell victim to Saint Peter's 77-73.

"We were all very disappointed," said freshman Paul Johnson. "We worked hard all season and it's a shame it had to end like that. We showed

resilience throughout the year, but in the end we just came up a bit short."

Rider had the lead in the first half 21-16, before Saint Peter's went on a 16-0 run, behind eight points by freshman phenom Keydren Clark, to take a 34-26 halftime lead. Clark entered the game as the MAAC Rookie of the Year and sixth in the nation in scoring.

Rider trailed throughout the remainder of the second half as well, down 52-43 with 5:30 left in the game. But then, as they always seem to do, they

clawed their way back in the game, cutting the lead to 56-55 with 19 seconds left. Johnson contributed down the stretch as usual, scoring 11 points in the final seven minutes of the game.

Johnson had trouble shaking off some rust as he struggled to find his shot in the first half. The first team All-MAAC selection missed the last game of the season and a week of practice due to an ankle injury.

While Rider had done a good job of playing catch-up, they still had a little ways to

go. With Saint Peter's ahead by two points and 3.9 seconds remaining, Rider fouled Devin Thompson. Thompson made the first free throw, setting the stage for Taylor's heroics.

Thompson missed the second foul shot and Robert Reed pulled down the rebound. Reed quickly threw an outlet pass to Taylor, who caught the ball at midcourt, took a few dribbles, then pulled up for a long three pointer that sent the game into O.T.

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Women lose in first round

By Nicole Santore
Ad Solicitor

The women's season ended on Thursday, March 6, when they lost to Fairfield 67-53 at the MAAC tournament.

Short of players, the women stepped it up, playing with the most energy they had all season. The Lady Broncs played well, but couldn't get the win.

"The girls aren't afraid of challenges and wanted to show that they could do it," said Head Coach Eldon Price. "The energy and effort the girls put

into that game was tremendous and is what we need to do in every game."

The ladies were excited for the tournament and although they lost a couple of players to injuries or illness, they were ready to prove themselves.

"We started the season off great, played pretty well," said Price. "We didn't have as many wins as we would like to but the girls never put their heads down."

The team has a lot of talent and will build upon that

for next year. Becky Hower was chosen for second team all-MAAC and Katie Hall was named to the third team. Price felt that Leanne Moore also should have been recognized.

Hall and Hower were ranked first and second, respectively, in three-pointers. Melanie James played very well and Lauren Thomer showed much improvement through the season. Tami Coyle also did very well but her season was

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Photo by Pete Borg

Junior guard Lauren Thomer brings up the ball against a defender in the Broncs first-round loss in the MAAC Tournament.