

# HOME STAND

## Weiner's no-hitter leads Broncs

By David Hurka  
Staff Writer

After almost a month of delays, the Rider baseball team finally had its home opener last weekend, taking on Canisius College in a three-game series. The Broncs enjoyed playing at home again, as they won all three games with scores of 16-3, 9-5 and 6-0.

In the first game of a doubleheader on Saturday, the Broncs jumped out to an early lead and never looked back. They scored in every inning except for the fifth and ended up winning by a score of 16-3.

Junior Scott Rich had a big game, hitting a home run in the bottom of the third to give Rider a 6-0 lead. Rich finished with another hit and two more RBIs to give him three for the game. Junior pitcher James Hoey made short work of Canisius batters as well, striking out six and only allowing two runs in seven innings.

Rider took their momentum into the next game of the doubleheader.

Under the threat of rain, Rider fell behind in the first inning of the second game, but came back strong, scoring a run to tie the game in the bottom of



Photo by Jennifer Kuhn

Junior Eric D'Allesandro takes a pitch during the first game of Saturday's double-header against Canisius. The Broncs swept the double header, winning the first game 16-3 and the second 9-5.

the first. Rider went on to take the lead for good with four runs in the bottom of the second.

Senior Casey Long led the charge and showed his experience, hitting a three-run double in the second to give Rider a 5-1 lead. Other batters contributed as well, such as junior catcher Sean Whalen. He hit his first career home run in a three-run fifth inning to give Rider a commanding 8-2 lead, and never looked back. Pitcher Mike Rakoczy shut down the Golden Griffis again, allowing only two earned runs in five

and two-thirds innings for his first career win as a Bronc. The final score was 9-5 Rider.

The real highlight of the series was on Monday, as junior Eric Weiner threw a no-hitter to shut out Canisius 6-0 during the third game. The effort is the first no-hitter in ten years for the Broncs, and only the second in the teams history.

Weiner faced the minimum 27 batters, and struck out twelve. He walked the lead-off batter to start the seventh inning, but forced the next batter into a double play to erase

the only base runner Canisius had all day. Rider bats were active as well, as both Long and Rich had RBI singles in the seventh inning to lead the way for Rider.

"He pitched incredibly," said Head Coach Sonny Pittaro. "It was the highlight of the weekend."

Pittaro had nothing but praise for his team following an excellent series.

"It was pretty much a team effort; we swung the bats very well," he said.

Pittaro also expressed hope

that the offensive output this weekend wasn't just a one time deal.

"The team's offense really picked up over the weekend. Hopefully we can keep it up for the rest of the season," he said.

After a slow start due to road games, the Broncs are now 6-9 and will look to improve on their record this weekend in a three-game series at Marist College.

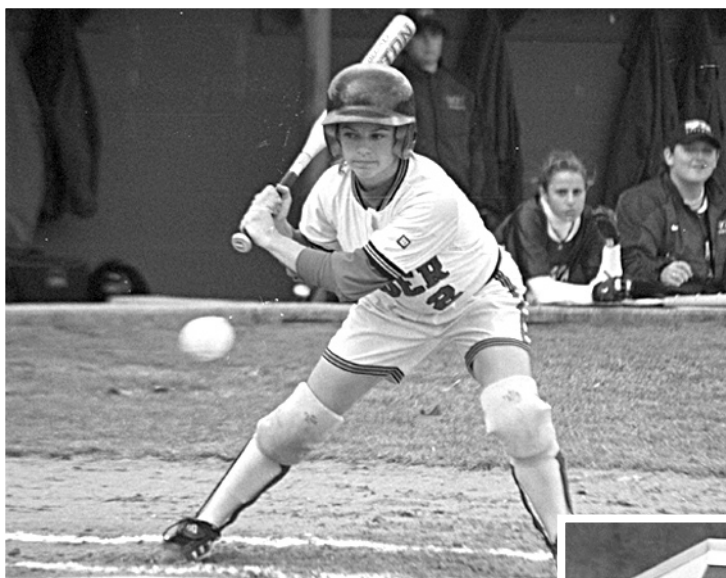


Photo by Jennifer Kuhn

Junior Brandey Weed (above) and freshman Kiera Fox (right) both decide to take pitches during the first game of Saturday's double-header against Niagara. The Broncs won both games, extending their winning streak to seven games.



## Seven-game winning streak propels softball team

By Nicole Santore  
Ad Solicitor

An undefeated conference record for women's softball has made them the current number one team in the MAAC.

On Monday, the team finished their fourth conference

win by sweeping Canisius, last season's MAAC champions.

"When the pre-season rankings came out in the newspapers, we weren't ranked very high, which wasn't that great," said junior Irena Burgos. "But now we are ranked number one and showed everyone that those rankings don't mean anything."

Their season began in Florida over Spring Break where they got off to a slow start, but once they came home, they have been nearly unbeatable. This past weekend they beat Niagara University. On Tuesday, the team beat Lafayette.

"We really picked it up with our defense and our offense has really been doing

well," said freshman Kiera Fox. "We really would like to go all the way. We can do it as long as we stay healthy and continue to hit well."

The team's offense has been very strong with many hits and homeruns, as well as dominant pitching.

"We are very supportive of each other and the defense and offense have been working very well together," said junior Amanda Tu.

The team's two pitchers freshman Heather Beintema and sophomore Maddy Boulden have been a strong force in their undefeated record. In the games against Canisius, Beintema

See 'Softball' page 13