

# BRINGING HEAT

## Baseball picks up road win at Marist

By David Hurka  
Staff Writer

While the weather has been wreaking havoc on its schedule, the Rider baseball team has been trying to wreak havoc on its opponents. This past weekend, the team took its act on the road to perennial MAAC power Marist for a three game series.

While the team only took one of the three games, it played strong in all three, and showed the determination and drive that has been its rallying point this season.

In the first game of the weekend, Rider took an early 1-0 lead in the top of the second with Erinn Pesaresi singling and later scoring on an error. That would be all the offense that the Broncos would get for the day, however, as Marist scored five straight runs to beat the Broncos 5-1. Senior Casey Long continued his excellent season, nailing two of Rider's five hits to raise his season average to an impressive .386.

Despite the loss, junior pitcher James Hoey played an excellent game, as he threw all eight innings, striking out three and walking none for the game.

The second game of the doubleheader was pushed back to Sunday due to weather, and Rider took advantage of the extra rest.

During that opening game, senior Carl Lodenthal smashed a two run home run in the top of the first to give Rider a 2-0 lead that they would not lose.

Junior Mike Rakoczy shut down Marist the entire game, raising his record to 2-1 and allowing only four hits and one run in a 2-1 Rider win. Rakoczy struck out four and walked two in what Head Coach Sonny Pittaro called "the highlight of the weekend."

In game two of the doubleheader, Rider again took an early lead when Long drove in his fourteenth run of the season in the top of the first.

Unfortunately, Marist came back in the bottom of the third to score four runs and never looked back. Rider junior Sean Whalen added two runs with a double to make the score 4-3, but the Broncos would get no closer to winning. Marist added three more runs and beat the Broncos, 7-4.

Despite only winning once over the weekend, Pittaro was still pleased with his team's performance.

"Marist is a tough team to beat," Pittaro said. "Our effort was good and we battled; we just didn't hit the ball very well. We lost two close ball games."

When asked about the weather, Pittaro explained that, "it's tough to go inside again and work. We're just trying to stay in shape and work on the basics."

Rider faces Siena this weekend in Albany in a pivotal MAAC three-game series.



Photo by Jennifer Kuhn

Junior pitcher James Hoey takes aim as he throws a pitch during a recent game against Canisius. The Broncos split a double-header with Marist last weekend.

## Despite weekend stumble, softball still playing well

By Jared Vichko  
Sports Editor

Every person encounters bumps on the road, obstacles that must be overcome. Last weekend, the Broncos stumbled a bit, dropping two games to Saint Peter's, 3-0 and 5-1.

The losses ended Rider's seven game winning streak and puts them at 10-10, 4-2 in the MAAC. The defense played strongly against Saint Peter's but the bats fell silent as they lost two defensive struggles.

"We played well defensively," said sophomore Maddy Boulden. "We didn't have too many errors, but we just couldn't get it going on offense."

In the first game, a 3-0 loss,

Rider out-hit Saint Peter's 7-5 but failed to produce any runs. Boulden pitched well, striking out six and walking three. Despite the loss, the Broncos were pleased that they were able to contain Saint Peter's main hitters.

"We shut down girls that usually beat us," said Boulden. "It was the freshmen and girls we weren't really familiar with who got hits. The rest of their team stepped up."

The second game was a repeat of the first, as the Broncos played solid defense but couldn't get anything going offensively as they lost 5-1.

"We played real well," said junior Brandey Weed. "We played strong defensively, but

we just weren't hitting the ball as well as usual."

The second game saw Amanda Tu join the 100 hit club as she cut the Saint Peter's lead to 2-1 with a solo home run. Tu and freshman Kristen Kenavan both had three hits for the day.

"Our hitting hasn't fully come through yet," said Weed. "We play great team defense, but as a team we need to pick it up on offense at times. Once we do that, we'll be fine."

The team has done better from the gate than in previous years, as they won seven games before losing to Saint Peter's.

"We got off to a great start

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Photo by Jennifer Kuhn

Freshman Jill Carrabus waits for a pitch in a recent game against Lafayette. The team dropped two games to Saint Peter's last weekend.