

Softball struggles

By Joe Haubrich

The softball team is off to a rocky start as its woes continued to mount in Wednesday's doubleheader at Delaware. The team now stands, barely, at 6-20 (0-4 Metro Atlantic Athletic Conference [MAAC]). The Broncs were out-scored 14-0 by Delaware.

Game one was dropped 8-0. Sophomore Desiree Harbaugh had two of the Broncs' three hits. Junior Heather Beintema pitched 4.2 innings, allowing eight earned runs on seven hits.

Game two had similar results as Rider lost by a score of 6-0. Once again, the Broncs only managed three hits. Like Beintema, senior Maddy Boulden lasted four-plus innings, allowing five earned runs on seven hits.

The team started the month of April with its only back-to-back victories of the season before dropping its next seven. Early losses could hurt a team that is so used to winning. The Broncs won the MAAC Championship two years ago and lost in the finals of last season's MAAC Championships.

"We've built [a great team] for the past two years," said Beintema. "We have respect

'We need to stay positive, have fun and play hard'

-Jennifer Cullen

and we haven't lost it yet. We've got to keep our self respect."

Though it has been tough, the Broncs are trying to stay optimistic.

"These losses are not affecting us," said Beintema. "We're staying positive and not looking at our start negatively."

Junior outfielder Jennifer Cullen believes that inconsistency has been the reason for the team's troubles.

"We're having a tough time getting more than one hit an inning and scoring runs," she said. "We need to piece things together to get some confidence."

Beintema agrees that once the team starts playing all facets of the game at the same time, it will see success.

"It depends on the day," she said. "Some days we play defense well, but we don't on offense and sometimes our offense is good, but our defense is not."

In the Broncs' doubleheader against Siena last weekend, Rider bombarded its opponent

with solo home runs, yet the team still lost 13-5.

"Last weekend, against Siena, we hit five home runs, but the other team scored 13 runs," said Beintema. "We haven't been giving 100 percent effort in all areas [of play]."

The stretch of MAAC games has only just begun and Rider could easily rebound.

"It's still really early," said Cullen. "The MAAC games are the only [games] that count. We just have to worry about the next couple of weeks."

The team would love to make it to the MAAC championships again this season, but it does not have any long-term goals at this point.

"We're just taking things day by day," said Beintema. "It's necessary that we win the majority of our next 12 [MAAC] games."

Head coach Tricia Carroll keeps telling her squad that it has the talent to make things happen.

"We need to stay positive, have fun and play hard," said Cullen.

Rider bats go silent in doubleheader

By Eamon Ducey

The baseball team came ready to play Sunday; too bad they had a doubleheader Saturday. During the doubleheader Rider's pitching was walloped and its batters were quickly sat down. On Sunday Rider showed it could score runs early and often, and, if needed, can score at the end of the game to win.

In the first game of the doubleheader the Broncs were shut-out by Siena pitcher John Lannan. Lannan pitched nine innings, allowing five hits and a walk to earn the win. Lannan also struck out eight batters. Sophomore catcher Scott Knazek was the only Bronc to have multiple hits against Lannan. Senior John Moronese got the loss forfeiting six earned runs in six innings.

In the second game on Saturday the team came out in the first inning and was able to put a run on the board early. Junior centerfielder Mike Poalise singled. He then advanced to third on two throwing errors. Junior third baseman Tom Letizia drove Poalise in when he sacrificed to first. However, that was the last run Rider would score in the game.

Siena pitcher Josh Burnett pitched seven strong innings allowing only two hits, with no walks and three strikeouts. Knazek, the designated hitter, was the only Bronc to get a hit after the first inning. Siena's shortstop Chris Klepps had two hits, two RBIs and one run scored. Siena's third baseman Jacob Willis scored two runs on a hit and a walk. Sophomore Mike Dyszel pitched the complete game for the Broncs allowing eight hits and two earned runs in six innings pitched.

"Things did not go our way," said Dyszel. "We needed to come back and show how we can play."

On Sunday the Broncs' bats showed up ready to display their potential. They came out early scoring two runs in the top of the first. They added two more runs before Siena was able to get a player across the plate. Senior second baseman Jon Rehm lead Rider with two hits, two runs and two RBIs, including a sacrifice fly in the first. Other contributors were junior shortstop Bryan Wagner and Poalise who each had two runs scored and an RBI.

Freshman pitcher Derek Caldwell started the game for

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