

COMEBACK KIDS

Softball bounces back to sweep Iona

By Jared Vichko
Sports Editor

Athletes shouldn't be judged when they win. Anyone can look good and say the right things when they come out victorious. It is only when they are faced with adversity that their character can be measured.

Last weekend, the softball team had doubleheaders against Fairfield and Iona. After dropping both games to Fairfield on Saturday, the Broncs came back to beat Iona twice on Sunday.

"The Fairfield losses were both really good games," said junior Courtney Weed, who had two hits in game one. "We just fell a bit short."

In the first game, freshman Kristin Kenavan hit an RBI single to give Rider a 1-0 lead in the first inning. The fifth inning the Broncs became unglued a bit, committing two errors and giving up four runs on three hits.

"We had a lot of physical errors," said junior Brandey Weed. "We didn't hit the ball particularly well and the errors came back to hurt us."

Game two was much



Photo by Jennifer Kuhn

Junior Amanda Tu looks to cross the plate in the first game of Sunday's 5-4 victory over Iona. The Broncs lost both games to Fairfield on Saturday but came back to sweep Iona on Sunday. Their record now is 12-14, 6-4 in the MAAC.

closer than the first, but still the Broncs came up short 4-3. Rider tied the score 3-3 in the sixth inning on an RBI single by junior Erin McGlynn, but gave up the game-winning run in the top of the seventh.

"They [Fairfield] didn't take us by surprise," said sophomore Maddy Boulden. "We knew they were a good team coming in. Our team left some runners on base and we didn't capitalize in situations where we should have. When we play good teams we need to be sharp for the entire game."

Freshman pitcher Heather

Beintema continued her strong play, allowing just one earned run and striking out five batters without allowing a walk.

Making amends for the previous day's defeats, Rider swept Iona in wins of 5-4 and 1-0.

In the first game, Rider grabbed an early lead, scoring four runs in the third inning to take a 4-3 lead behind singles from Boulden and Kenavan.

Brandey Weed doubled to lead off the seventh inning with the scored knotted at four, and scored the game-winner on a throwing error to first base.

"Our team really hit the ball well," said Brandey Weed. "We hit their pitchers and took advantage of their mistakes when we had to."

Game two, which turned into a defensive struggle, remained scoreless until Boulden drove in the winning run to put Rider up 1-0.

"Maddy is an awesome player," said Courtney Weed. "She always seems to get crucial hits when we need them."

Beintema shut down Iona for the entire game, striking out a career-high 12 batters to give her a three-hit shutout, put-

ting her record at 7-3 for the season.

"Heather doesn't play like a freshman," said Courtney Weed. "She has stepped it up all season and improves more and more each game."

"Every game we play better," said Brandey Weed. "If we continue to play as a team for the rest of the season, we'll be ready for the playoffs."



Photos by Jennifer Kuhn

Senior Casey Long (above) heads into third base standing up in Tuesday's win against 15-11 win against Temple. Freshman Bryan Wagner (right) tries to put a tag on a runner at a game earlier this season. The team has caught fire recently, averaging over 14 runs in their last two games.



Loadenthal and baseball team remain hot on offense

By David Hurka
Staff Writer

Now that the weather has warmed up on campus, the baseball team's bats have been doing the same, as they have lit up opposing pitchers in their last two games and have scored

some clutch hits in others.

The team's week started last Thursday with a game against Delaware that came down to extra innings and the final at bat. With the game tied in the top of the eleventh, Rider surrendered three runs to put themselves in an 8-5 hole.

With one out in the bottom of the same inning, three straight Broncs reached base on singles, bringing up senior slugger Carl Loadenthal, who got a pitch he loved and took it over the outfield wall for a dramatic 9-8 victory.

The home run was Loadenthal's fourth of the season and his second in the last three games.

"I wasn't trying to hit a

home run," said Loadenthal.

"Basically, I was just looking for a ball to lift. I took my normal swing and it just took off."

Of the eleven hits Rider collected, Loadenthal had one more. Junior Eric Weiner picked up the win in relief, raising his record to 3-1 on the year.

The team took its act on the road last weekend against Siena, and in the first game of the three game set, the result was eerily similar to Thursday against Delaware.

With the game tied at one in the top of the ninth, Rider again loaded the bases for

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