

EYES ON THE PRIZE

Field hockey looks to repeat as champs

By Andrew Straub
Staff Writer

Boasting the reputation as Rider University's best athletic team, the 2003 field hockey squad seems to be poised for another dominating season.

So far this year, the team displayed great skill and raw talent throughout its first four games. They have notched a 3-2 record (1-0 NEC) and already have had winners for the NEC Player of the Week (Courtney Bertos) and NEC Rookie of the Week (Ashley Boulden).

With the return of 10 of its 11 starters from last year, and six newcomers, expectations are high for a team that won the 2002 NEC Championship Tournament, advancing to play in the NCAA Tournament play-in game, where they fell victim to a rigid Richmond defense, 2-1.

In addition to the 10 returning starters, the Broncs are again looking to advance to the NCAA tournament with the return of its experienced coaching staff. Fourth-year Head Coach Lori Hussong joined Rider athletics with 16 years experience at West Windsor-Plainsboro High School, where she had an outstanding record of 192-57-11. Since becoming head coach at Rider, Hussong owns a record of 35-26. The

leadership, enthusiasm and intelligence that she coaches with will surely give this year's team a shot to reach the tournament.

The list of returnees is led by juniors Katie Conlon, Maddy Boulden, Christina Ang and Stephanie Corradino as well as sophomores Courtney Bertos and Ally Hunter.

Conlon, the team's 2002 Player of the Year, is undoubtedly their leader on and off the field.

"Katie is intense, very enthusiastic, and she always puts the team first. She's awesome skill-wise and at maintaining team comradery," said Bertos. The team looks for Conlon to utilize both her intensity and skill (20 points in 20 games) to help lead the team once more.

Bertos plays alongside Conlon at the forward position. Bertos was last season's NEC Rookie of the Year and earned first-team All-NEC honors. She also scored Rider's only goal against Richmond's stingy defense in last year's NCAA play-in game.

Bertos looks to add to her total of 31 points from last season, which was second in the conference, and again be a key member in the team's explosive offense.

Ang was an absolute offensive monster last season. Her

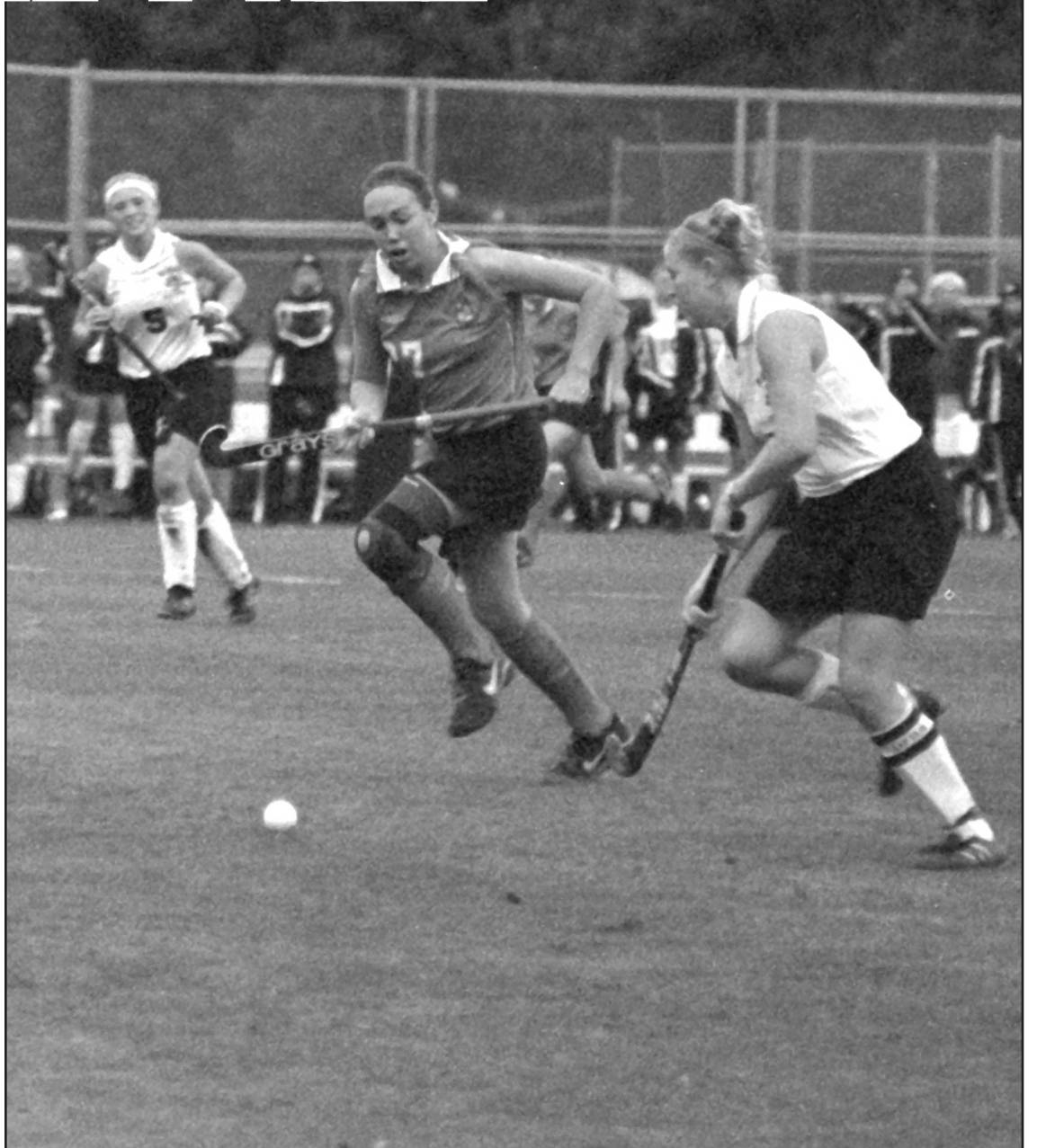


Photo by Jennifer Kuhn

Senior Karen Pettyjohn fights for a loose ball in last year's playoff game as sophomore Courtney Bertos looks on. With 10 starters back, the Broncs are counting on repeating as NEC Champs.

18 goals set a NEC record and were just three shy of the Rider record set in 1984. In addition, her 40 total points were 13th in the nation, and were also just three shy of the Rider record, also set in 1984.

Ang is described best by teammate Corradino as "goal

hungry" and "a great offensive threat to the opponent's defense." Both fans and teammates hope that Ang's tenacity will lead the team once more.

The standout newcomers include goalie Krysta Bearish, forwards Stephanie Durante and Kristi Cannarella, as well

as midfielders Ashley Boulden, Meaghan Schweers and Elizabeth Butterbaugh.

The NEC is following a new format in which each conference opponent only plays

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Photo courtesy of gobroncs.com

Sophomore Joe Rados will try to bring the 0-6 Broncs out of its early season slump.

Men's soccer struggles to find offense early in season

By Mathew J. Schreiber
Staff Writer

The Rider University men's soccer team looks to turn its season around after getting off to a rocky 0-6 start.

The Broncs open the season with losses to Stony Brook, Mount Saint Mary's College, Monmouth University, Lehigh University, University of Delaware and Lafayette College.

Rider opened the season at home on August 30-31 in the Bronc Fall Classic, taking on Mount Saint Mary's College and losing 3-2.

Rider scored first on a goal by Brian Laurinaitis. Joe Rados assisted on the goal which was scored 30:56 into the game.

The score remained 1-0, until Francis Ndangum of Mount Saint Mary's scored 73:26 into the game. Andrew Frasser assisted on the goal.

Rider answered Mount Saint Mary's goal with a goal by Rados. Dan Harris assisted on the goal. With Rider up 2-1, Mount Saint Mary's scored on a Pierre Del Aguila unassisted goal.

Going into the final minutes of play the game remained tied until Mount St. Mary scored the game winning goal by Kieran Ryan. In the loss, goalkeeper Brian Gill contributed with seven saves, giving up three goals.

After Mount Saint Mary, Rider played Monmouth

University in their second game in the Bronc Fall Classic, losing 2-1 in double overtime. Rider and Monmouth did not score in the first period.

Monmouth out shot Rider 7-3 in the first period of the game. The game remained scoreless until Monmouth University scored on an unassisted goal by Steven Holloway. Rider then tied the game up with a goal by Chris Hilinski. Hilinski goal sent the game into OT. Neither team scored in overtime, so the game headed into double OT.

"It felt good because it was a time that we really needed a goal," said Hilinski.

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