

THE NEXT GENERATION

Two new head coaches hired at Rider

By Mike Caputo

There was much excitement and buzz created during the summer in the Rider athletics department. It was not because of a signing of a potential basketball star, or a lighting fast track sprinter for that matter, but the hiring of two new coaches. The moves were made to fill in the slots vacated by retired head coaches Sonny Pittaro (baseball) and Eldon Price (women's basketball).

Taking over the reigns of the baseball team is Barry Davis. Davis is very experienced and highly respected nationally throughout the college baseball ranks. He led Gloucester County College to four National Junior College Athletic Association (NJCAA) championships was named the NJCAA Coach of the Year four times. After a successful 11 years at Gloucester CC, he went on to post a 137-87 record in four seasons at Georgia Southwestern of the National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics (NAIA). Between his



Photo Illustration by Allen Huang

Newly appointed head coaches Tori Harrison and Barry Davis are pictured together. These two images were taken when the two were introduced at their respective press conferences. Harrison will coach women's basketball and Davis will coach baseball.

stints at Gloucester CC and Georgia Southwestern, Davis compiled a career total of 571 wins.

Davis has been faced with two difficult tasks coming into his tenure at Rider. The first is the transition from NAIA and NJCAA to NCAA Division I.

"The only thing I have to get used to is the NCAA rules," said Davis. "Every job for me has been an adjustment."

The other task is that Davis will have mighty big shoes to fill. These shoes are referring to the legacy of Pittaro, who posted a career victory total of 766 at Rider.

"He [Pittaro] was basically 'Rider baseball' for the last three

and a half decades," said Davis. "This is an opportunity for me to come home again. There are still a lot of challenges here and I enjoy doing what I do, so I am excited to be here."

The newly appointed head women's basketball coach is Tori Harrison. Harrison brings a championship mentality to the program, as she was an outstanding player during Louisiana Tech's Final Four years in the mid 1980's. The incredible success that she had as a player also translated into a coaching career full of experience and excellence. She was the head coach of Coppin State of the Mid Eastern Athletic Conference in 1992-1997 where

she was named the MEAC Coach of the Year in 1995. Since 1999, she had served as the assistant head coach at George Washington of the Atlantic 10 Conference. A notable achievement on Harrison's resume is that she transformed a 6-20 team into a 22 game winner in just one season at Coppin State. It is not a coincidence that she was hired to take over a Lady Bronc team that finished with a horrific record of 5-23 in the 2003-2004 season.

I don't care if we only had five wins last year, it doesn't take away work ethic, that's what we

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Men's soccer winless, but not clueless

By Andrew Straub

The 2003 Rider Broncs men's soccer season was a tease of what the squad can do when they get in a rhythm. After a dismal 1-14 regular season, the Broncs headed into the Metro Atlantic Athletic Association (MAAC) Tournament as the 10th and final seed.

But just when it looked like Rider would just lay down to its competition, the team defeated Manhattan in the first round and then went on to upset second seed Fairfield in the quarterfinals. However, the surge of confidence and continued luck soon ran out as the Broncs fell to third seed Saint Peter's in the semifinal round.

Rider has been much more

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Monmouth 2
Rider 1

optimistic heading into the 2004 season with the help of 15 returning players, eight of which were starters. With only two seniors and four juniors among the returnees, the team must look to their younger players to accept the leadership role.

Among the returning starters are senior back Chris Trump (captain), senior forward Sandro DeCristofaro, sophomore forward Dylan Matlack, sophomore backs Chris

Hilinski, Graham Arnold and Billy Eismann; sophomore mid fielders Adam Bailey and Tim Jones, junior mid fielder Kyle Pillitteri, junior forward Brian Laurinaitis and sophomore goalkeeper Daniel Rivero.

The season kicked off on September 4th with the Bronc Fall Classic hosted at Rider. During that tournament, the Broncs lost the first game of the season 2-1 to Appalachian State.

Unfortunately, the patterned bad luck continued for Rider with close losses to Rhode Island (3-1), Lafayette (2-1), Buffalo (3-2), and Monmouth (2-1).

"Obviously our confidence has been shot because we have been losing," said Matlack.

The only lopsided loss was

a 5-0 defeat to Lehigh at the Lafayette Invitational. The low scores hint at their strength on defense.

"We are a defensive team, but that really isn't on purpose, said Matlack. "We have to play better on attack."

Rider (0-6) opens up its MAAC schedule with a home contest against the Loyola Greyhounds. The Greyhounds are 2-4 overall in non-league competition so far this season. The game is Saturday at 1 p.m.

The Broncs are hoping that this game will give the team an opportunity to forget the past and start over new.

"It is the first MAAC game and we need to pull out a win," said Matlack. "It will definitely turn the season around after all of our losses."

Navy sinks volleyball at Classic

By Eamon Ducey and Joe Haubrich

At times last season, the Rider women's volleyball team found itself a victim of a stampede. This past weekend, the Lady Broncs demonstrated signs of trotting over the competition. Unfortunately, Rider managed to stumble at key points last weekend during the fourth annual Cranberry Classic hosted at Alumni Gym.

The Broncs were able to win two out of three matches by defeating La Salle on Friday (3-2) and Fairleigh Dickinson (FDU) on Saturday (3-1). The only loss came at the hands of the Naval Academy (Navy) by a count of 3-1, also on Saturday. Navy won all three of their matches during the tournament.

"The teams [were] very equal this weekend, there was no team [that dominated] over any other team," said head coach Emily Ahlquist.

The two victories at the Cranberry Classic could be what it takes to erase the memories of a poor performance in the LaQuinta/NAU Invitational earlier in the season. Rider lost all four matches in that tournament hosted in Arizona.

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