

KICKING INTO GEAR

Women's soccer sets sights on a title run

By Jared Vichko

For the Rider women's soccer team, last season ended with many questions of what would have happened if certain events occurred. What if the team had played its best soccer in the home playoff loss to Loyola? What if Rider hadn't been the victim of several questionable calls which led to crucial goals?

This afternoon, when Rider begins conference play at Siena, the time for questioning is over as the team begins its quest for the postseason.

"We are definitely excited about playing teams in our conference," said junior defender Aileen Ascolese. "This is what we prepare for in the offseason, the reason why we practice. We are ready."

It would appear that the Broncs have been ready ever since its first game, as the team has jumped out to a 5-2-1 record.

"We feel that we are playing excellent in every area," said Ascolese. "[The team] is constantly improving and striving to be the best. We're taking more shots and putting more in the net and at the same time our defense isn't letting anything in. We've been getting solid contributions from the

9/26 (OT)
Rider 2
Northeastern 1

whole team."

Being the best hasn't been too difficult for the Broncs, who have been led so far by their offensive dynamo, senior Tami Coyle. Coyle who is chasing down the all-time scoring record at Rider (with only seven goals to go). She has twice been named the MAAC Player of the Week and leads the conference in goals (eight) and total points (18).

"She's the hardest working player I've played with or against," said Ascolese. "She's hungry to win and she never quits. She's a great teammate."

While many of Coyle's accomplishments are recognized in the box score, it is her leadership that the team values most.

"She is our coach out there on the field," said Ascolese. "She's our captain and we definitely follow her lead. Whatever our coach wants us to do, she makes sure we do it."

The Broncs know what it will get from Coyle each and every game, but it has been the emergence of freshman defender Shana Herman, who already



Photo by Pete Borg

Sophomore Kelli Burke is driving towards the goal during a 4-1 win against Army last week. The Broncs have a 5-2-1 record.

has scored two game-winning goals, that has provided the team with a spark.

"We knew coming in that she was talented and a terrific player," said Ascolese. "But no one expected a freshman to

be scoring game-winning goals. And she does it while playing defense. She brings a lot to our team."

One of the game-winners came in the 2-1 overtime

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Tennis aces first tests of the fall season

By Joe Haubrich

The fall tennis season has begun and the Rider men's and women's teams are playing at full force. The men's team, in particular, has impressed in magnificent fashion. The women's team has started steady and strong as well, but is not racking up wins the way the men's squad has done.

Stellar single performances by members of both teams have kept the tennis program formidable this season. In what was supposed to be another year of mediocrity, the two teams have turned heads and seem to be producing some excellent singles stars.

The men's tennis squad has jumped out to a 4-1 record while the women are 2-2 as of Thursday. Ed Torres, head coach of both the men's and women's teams, predicts that

the winning pattern will continue. He thinks very highly of the team's recent winning, especially the men.

"[This is] the best start that we've had in my nine years [at Rider]," said Torres.

The key to this great start has to be attributed to the play of sophomore Ragdee Saberon, and the improvement of senior Elliot Eiche. Saberon and Eiche are both 4-1 in singles competition. Torres calls Saberon, who recently transferred to Rider, his "number one guy."

"The team's a lot stronger with [Saberon]," said Torres. "He made us go from a good team to a very good team."

It takes more than two outstanding players to transform a formerly dismal team into a successful one. Torres credits the output of veterans Chris Stanco and Mike Greenberg, both juniors, and the addition of three quality freshmen with

'A mix of the new and old gives us very good depth'

-Ed Torres,
head coach

helping this team reach such a great point early in the season. Torres takes pride in recruiting the freshmen that give him a lot of options when filling the fifth and sixth position in matches.

"A mix of the new and old gives us very good depth," said Torres.

The women's team has not won as much as the men's team, but Torres is pleased with his players and believes that they can turn things around by the end of the fall season.

"We might lose some matches, but we always play hard," he said.

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Golf conquers

Cornell
By Mike Caputo

Golf is the only sport where a team or player can consistently score less than the other team or individual and gain an abundance of success. Past history has shown that Rider has been unable to achieve such a feat, but this season things have changed for the positive (or if one is going by the numerical score, it is really the negative).

The golf team has started its season on fire as Rider is still enjoying its tournament victory at the Cornell Invitational on Sunday. It was the first time in years that the team finished in first at a meet. This victory came after a third place finish at the Colgate Invitational on the weekend of Sept. 11-12 and a dual meet victory against Monmouth and Lafayette.

"Our capabilities have been the same, they haven't changed," said freshman Josh Krumholz. "We really just executed this time [at Cornell]."

Although the entire Rider team shined at Cornell, Krumholz was the true star as he finished in first place as the individual medalist. He finished with an eight under par total of 208 over the entire weekend. Krumholz's individual scores throughout the tournament were 67, 68 and 73.

"It was most outstanding performance in Rider history," said head coach Chet Dalgewicz.

Other than Krumholz's stunning performance, the remainder of the team did beyond their share of the duties. Junior Dan Winokur finished in sixth place individually with a weekend total of 219 (76/72/71). Freshman Tyler Brewington was 10th overall with a score of 221 and junior Brad Domenico was 40th overall with a 232 score in a field of 79 golfers.

"Winokur and Domenico have done some real good things so far this year," said Dalgewicz.

The high energy level is apparent among the golf squad as the Broncs head over to the St. Bonaventure Invitational this Sunday and Monday. "The kids are really working hard," he said.

After the impressive showing at Cornell, Rider feels it can take on anyone.

"We are capable of winning every tournament if we continue to shoot this well," said Krumholz.