

# SWEET VENGEANCE

## Broncs defeat defending champs on road

By Jared Vichko

For the field hockey team, its first hurdle on the road to the NEC Championship was cleared last weekend.

After defeating Fairfield 1-0 on Friday, the Broncs traveled north to take on their rival, Quinnipiac. With revenge on its mind, the Broncs handed Quinnipiac a 2-1 defeat, while improving the team's record to 10-1. The win also snapped Quinnipiac's 16-game home winning streak.

"Getting wins is always exciting, but it means more when it comes against good competition," said senior midfielder Katie Conlon. "We have never won on Quinnipiac's field so it feels great. Our team really stepped up when they had to."

**10/3  
Rider 2  
Quinnipiac 1**

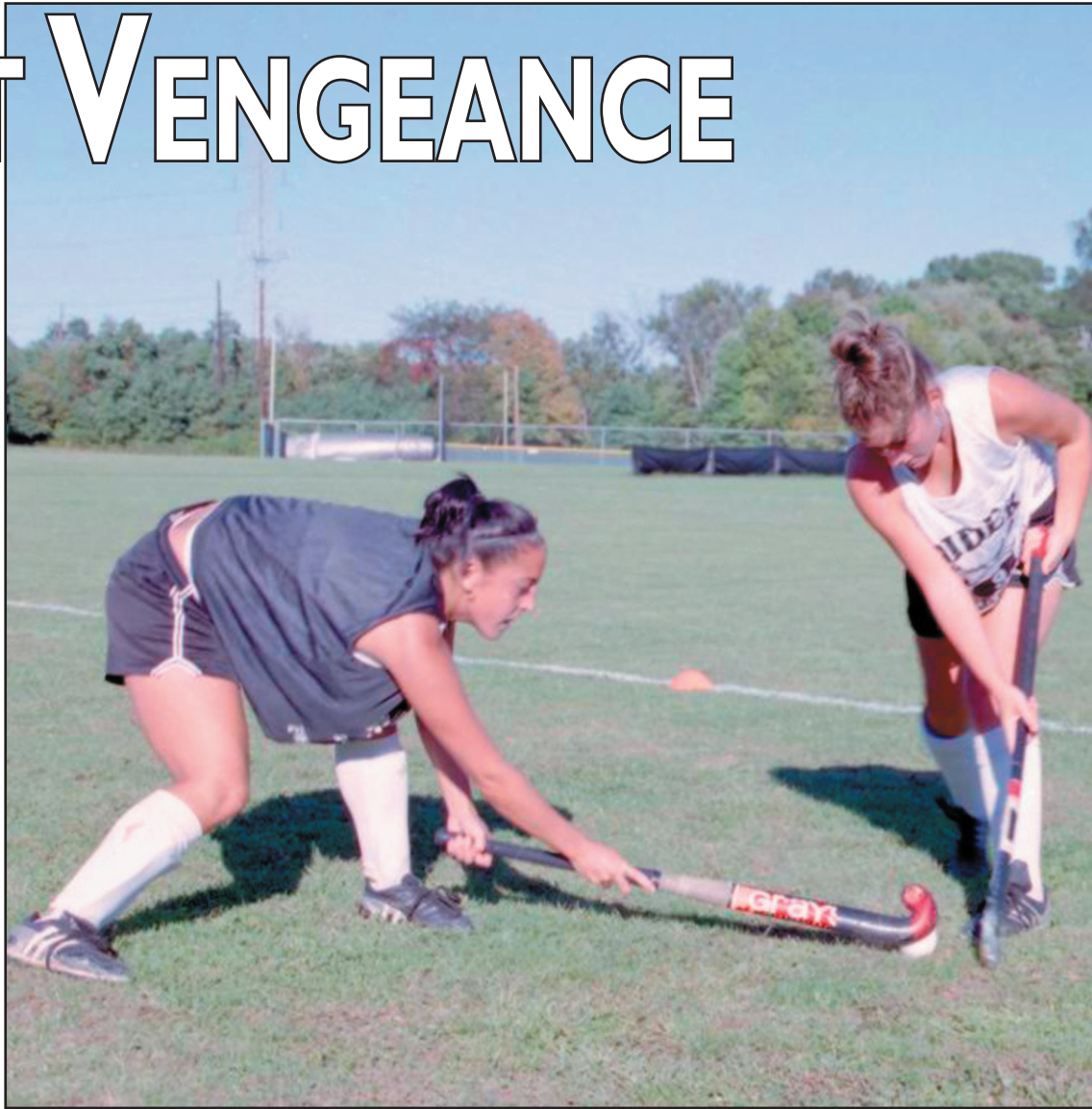


Photo by AlViedo

Junior Stephanie Corradino defending sophomore Meaghan Schweers during a recent practice. The Broncs are preparing for its home conference game today against Sacred Heart at 4.

On Friday against Fairfield, Rider relied on its speedster, junior forward Courtney Bertos, to get the offense started. Just two minutes into the second half, Bertos took a pass from Conlon and found the net for the game-winning goal. For Bertos, it was her sixth goal of the season, which also earned her the NEC Player of the Week honor.

"She's done a great job of getting the ball in the cage all season," said Conlon. "She's doing well and she capitalizes in

big situations."

After the victory, the Broncs stayed in Connecticut to take on Quinnipiac, the reigning NEC champ, who also ended Rider's season last year in the conference title game. Bertos continued her heroics against the Bobcats, as she got her squad on the board with just 40 seconds remaining in the first half. Conlon, who handles all the corners for Rider, found Bertos, who then found the net to put her team up 1-0.

"It was exciting to score

first," said Conlon. "It lifts us up even more and it also intimidates the other team."

As the game moved into the second half, the Broncs increased their lead on goal by defender Stephanie Corradino. The senior capitalized on a penalty stroke and managed to slip one past the goalie, giving her team a 2-0 lead.

"[Stephanie] is always our go-to person on penalty strokes," said Conlon. "She put

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## Running away from past disappointment

### Men's and women's cross country looking to improve in 2004 season

By Mike Caputo

A characteristic that is required in cross country is endurance. Unfortunately, in the past, Rider men's and women's cross country has had to endure long seasons that had frustrating endings at the Metro Atlantic Athletic Conference (MAAC) Championships.

However, the 2003 season marked a year of improvement on the men's side, as the team finished fourth. The women finished a disappointing eighth place, matching its 2002 finish, but feel that it is their time to turn things around.

"We are running much better as a team," said junior Beth Bond. "Since we have a small team, we have been working much better together."

While the women's team



Photo by Marie Brophy

Members of the men's cross country team training for tomorrow morning's Rider Invitational.

boasts plenty of experience, the men's side is quite the contrary. The men's roster lists only two upperclassmen next to 11 freshmen. Senior Matthew Catinella and junior Matthew Ciociola represent the veteran leadership on the men's squad.

"Matt and Matt have done a great job breaking all of us in," said freshman Joe Lucchio.

Veteran leadership is important, especially on the men's side, but freshman John

Smith has stolen the spotlight so far this season. He finished in fourth place out of 69 in the Broncs Invitational on Sept. 18 and 78th out of 163 Division I runners in the Paul Short Invitational on Sept. 25. Another notable young achiever is freshman Paul Matuszak, who placed fifth in the Broncs Invitational.

On the women's side, the veterans have provided all of the highlights. In the Broncs

Invitational, Bond finished in ninth out of 44 and sophomore Laura Carpenter was 23rd. Bond was also the top Rider finisher at the Paul Short Invitational with a position of 151 out of 175 other Division I competitors.

The teams have had only two true tests so far this fall. The first exam was in the form of the Broncs Invitational. The

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## Rider mauls Marist 6-1

By Eamon Ducey

Very few teams in sports can claim they are of one mind and one body. Throughout the season the women's soccer team has proved just that. Coach Kevin Long, Senior forward Tami Coyle and freshman goalie Kim Carter all agreed on one description of the Broncs performance on Friday against Siena being "the team came out flat." Conversely, the response on Sunday after a victory at Marist from these three people was "the team came out fired up."

On Friday, the Broncs defense allowed Siena's Erin DeMatteo and Lauren Stys to score the first two goals of the game. Tami Coyle was able to cut the lead to one goal late in the first half. Siena's defense was able to turn away all nine shots attempted by Rider in the second half to win a tight 2-1 game.

From monotonous to dazzling, the Broncs jumped off the bus and stomped on Marist with a 6-1 victory. Junior Aileen Ascolese was able to get the ball to Coyle for a score twice in the first ten minutes. With the three goals this weekend Coyle is now only five goals away from tying the all-time goal leader in Rider history.

Ascolese added another assist and put in Rider's sixth goal of the day. Carter was unable to gain her second collegiate shutout when she allowed a goal with less than two minutes left in the game.

The first weekend of conference games was a mixed result of both the team coming out unprepared and displaying what they are capable of when all pistons are firing.

"Friday we came out flat," said Coyle. "It was a reality check showing us that we must come together."

Carter put on a decent performance during her first conference game as a Bronc on Friday.

"I was nervous, and we did not play well so that made me feel it even more," she said.

Rider will start its home conference schedule this weekend. On Friday the Broncs host Fairfield, with whom they finished tied for third last year in MAAC

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