

TWICE AS NICE

Wins propel Broncs to third

By Mike Caputo

In sports, teams have been known to turn their seasons around, but what the Rider men's soccer team pulled off this weekend was beyond belief.

After an 0-8 start overall, the Broncs won two Metro Atlantic Athletic Association (MAAC) games over Fairfield and Iona and now finds itself in third place.

"We are a lot more confident now that we have our first win under our belt," said sophomore Chris Hilinski.

The two wins for the Broncs last weekend match its entire season and playoff total from the 2003 campaign. Last Friday, Rider upset Fairfield on the road by a score of 1-0. Sophomore Tim Jones scored the winning goal eight minutes into the second half, assisted by sophomore Adam Bailey. The defense led by sophomore goalkeeper Dan Rivero, kept the lead intact until the final whistle.

"Getting a goal at Fairfield was huge," said Hilinski. "We just had to defend the lead the rest of the game."

Defending the lead would not have come so easy, if not for the outstanding perfor-

mance from Rivero.

"Rivero's save in the first half prevented us from being down 1-0," said sophomore Ryan Kettles. "He saved the game for us."

As a result of Rivero's wall-like efforts this weekend in goal, he was named the MAAC defensive player of the week for games played last week.

The Broncs finished the road trip with a 2-1 victory over Iona. Rider fell behind Iona 1-0 early in the first half, but a goal from sophomore Dylan Matlack only four minutes later evened up the score. Bailey put in the game winner on a penalty kick with 20 minutes left in the game. Rivero shined once again with three key saves to solidify the Broncs' second straight victory.

"We didn't play our best, but we found a way to comeback," said Hilinski. "We are finding ways to win, not like how we were before."

That winning attitude alongside a sense of urgency has been demonstrated more than usual during practice over the past week.

"On the field, everybody is getting along a lot better," said freshman Lee Tomasso. "There is much less arguing."



Photo by Pete Borg

Sophomore Adam Bailey celebrates after scoring a goal.

Kettles said he feels that the talent was always there, it just needed to figure out how to come out and translate into victories.

"We have always been a good team, but we finally started to play together and win

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Women's soccer puts up two shutouts

By Eamon Ducey

The Rider women's soccer team has proven that a 1-0 lead is insurmountable. The Broncs have shown that it can dominate at least half of the game by not allowing a goal over this past weekend.

Freshman goalkeeper Kim Carter led her team to shutouts against conference rivals Fairfield on Friday and Iona on Sunday. The Broncs were able to improve its home record to 5-0 and its conference record to 3-1.

Rider handed Fairfield their first conference loss of the season with a 2-0 score. The key was keeping Fairfield's leading scorer forward Meghan Smith to one shot on goal. Carter turned away seven shots on Friday. Senior Leah Craig was able to score at the 8:45 mark in the first half, assisted by junior Aileen Ascolese. Senior Andrea Giuliani was able to score her second goal of the season to create breathing room in the second half.

Sunday the Broncs were



Photo by Allen Huang

Freshman Michelle Ripoli attempts a shot on goal during last Friday's 2-0 victory over Fairfield. Rider faces Manhattan today.

able to match its effort level when it hosted Iona. Rider had another great defensive victory 1-0.

"The team played well defensively, I just tried to keep up," Carter said.

Carter only had to turn away four shots and was able to earn the third shutout of her

young career.

"We cleaned up our defense this weekend," said head coach Kevin Long.

The entire team played so well that they only allowed six shots and four shots on goal. They were able to shut down Iona's leading scorer Catherine Nathans. Sophomore Lauren

Terzyk was able to break the tie in the first minute in the second half to give Rider the lead that would give them a victory.

"The whole team is excited when someone earns an individual award," Long said.

Carter was able to earn Metro Atlantic Athletic Conference Defensive Player of the Week award for the week of October 4-10. She had two shutouts during the period and turned away 11 shots. Carter, a freshman, has already been recognized by the MAAC with rookie of the week in early September.

"I do not see this as an individual award, I think it is the conference recognizing our team," said Carter.

They will have an opportunity to improve their offense when they visit some of the weaker teams in the conference, Manhattan on Friday and Saint Peter's on Sunday.

"We are trying to peak at the right time, during conference play," said Long. "We showed the conference our strength on defense."



Mike Caputo

Midnight Magic

All Rider students have dealt with the feeling of being "left out." This feeling arises because of the absence of a typical homecoming in the fall. We all know that there is no football team, but unfortunately the hard work of Rider leaders has continually failed in keeping students on campus during alumni...I mean, homecoming weekend. The simple solution this year is "Midnight MAACness."

Many will agree that more than half the campus will empty out to their respective destinations immediately after the event takes place, but it is an improvement on the past where there was virtually nothing to do the night before homecoming. MAACness, usually held on a Friday night separate from homecoming, will instead be held tonight.

It provides us with the opportunity to celebrate our two teams, whether they have succeeded or not. It is our version of a homecoming, or pep rally.

Midnight MAACness, more commonly known as "Midnight Madness" in other institutions has been a mainstay in college basketball all over the nation. It is the day that the men's and women's basketball teams are allowed to begin "official" practices.

It is a night where students can proudly wear their colors, whether it is on their clothing or on their face, and get an opportunity to meet the new teams that will represent their school. It is also the big debut night for the performance squads such as the cheerleading and dance teams. More importantly, there are plenty of free food and beverages to go around.

So my message to the student is: stay on campus and go to MAACness tonight. Hey, you never know, Midnight MAACness may pave the way for another kind of madness in March.