Men’s Soccer Improves
Duo of ties break 11-game losing streak

By Mathew J. Schreibman
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Rider is still winless after 15 games, but things are starting to look positive as the men’s soccer team managed two ties.

In these games, Rider has managed two goals in five games but in the past four Rider’s defense has given up two goals. According to Head Coach Russ Fager, director of Media Relations for the MAAC, being winless is common for a MAAC conference team.

“Last year Iona went 0-8-2. If Rider continues to lose they could end up in a category with past bad teams,” Skotarczak said. “In 1995, Niagara went 0-5-15, in 1994 they went 0-16 and in 1991 they went 0-17.”

“We played amazing games over the weekend, said Head Coach Russ Fager. “If we win conference games and play well at tournament time that’s the key.”

Over the last couple of games Rider played Marist, Siena, Iona and Fairfield.

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The second half proved to be the same as the first. Marist’s offense had five shots, two of them on goal. Rider’s goalkeeper Brian Gell held them out of the net with two saves.

In the next game, Rider played Iona to a scoreless tie. Both defenses proved to be on top of their game. In the first half, Siena’s offense went on a shooting frenzy by taking seven shots, five of them on goal. Gill stopped all five shots on goal. After the first half, the game remained scoreless.

In the second period, Rider had four shots, two of them on goal. Siena’s goalkeeper stopped both shots. Siena had seven shots on goal. Gill stopped all of them. During the second half of the game, Gill suffered a broken nose when a Siena player accidentally ran into him.

“He was at the right place at the wrong time,” said Fager.

With Gill hurt, Rider replaced him with freshman goalkeeper Daniel Riverso. Rider’s defense and Riverso came up large did not allow a shot and ended the game with three of four saves.

“I was mad it was a fluke goal,” said Riverso, “Stupid stuff happens sometimes.”

With 1:30 left in the game a fight broke out between Rider and Iona after Iona player from scoring. Rider’s defense stepped its game up one more level to prevent any Iona player from scoring.

The game remained 1-0 until about 2:30 left in the game, when Iona shot the ball. Rivero came out of the net and stopped the ball, but he ricocheted off of him and Iona’s Giovanni Treglia, took the rebound and scored the goal. The game was tied at 1-1.

“Rider’s defense has given up two goals. After regulation time ended, the score remained 1-1.

Rider had an opportunity to score in overtime when Sandro DeChristiano went for a goal, but it was deflected by McAllen and almost went in.

The anxious crowd erupted, but immediately sat down when they realized that the ball rolled away from the net.

On the following series of plays, Rider’s defense stepped its game up one more level to prevent any Iona player from scoring.

In this game Rider had no offense. The team only had three shots and one of them was on goal. Fairfield’s first goal was scored 13 minutes into the game by Trevor Warwick with a high crossing pass by Ed Meyer. The game remained 1-0 at the end of the first half. In the second half Warwick scored an insurance goal on an Andy Uria pass.

Ron Poyle played excellent defense so that Riverso didn’t have to fight for the save.

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With Gill still suffering from a broken nose, Rivero made his second consecutive save.

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