

ON THIN ICE

Ice hockey goals are slowly slipping away

By Joe Haubrich

The Rider ice hockey team is not familiar with losing. Winning is just something the players and coaching staff expect to do each and every year. Yet, after the first eight games, Rider ice hockey is 4-4, which translates as "not good enough" for the team. The Broncos haven't given up hope on their early objectives though.

Before the start of the season, Rider set two goals for this year: 20 wins (out of 35 games) and to win the Mid-Atlantic Collegiate Hockey Association (MACHA).

"The team's [aim] is 20 wins, and that's number one," said freshman defenseman Greg Burke.

"We set a goal and that's what we're striving for," said assistant coach Teddy Gerry. "We can't alter it around injuries or by who's playing well and who's not."

Gerry assures that the season has not been a total disappointment so far.

"4-4 is a respectable start," said Gerry. "It might make



Photo by Allen Huang

Three members of Rider's ice hockey team are sprinting down the ice during a recent practice. Ice hockey has not played its best in the first half of the season, starting off with a 4-4 record.

it harder on us [to make up ground] second semester, but after a long break, we'll be ready for it."

The players agree with Gerry's assessment.

"I don't think we're too far off pace. We're in pretty good shape," said junior goaltender Joe Dato.

The ice hockey team has

suffered some early injuries.

"We lost some guys to injury which has definitely been unfortunate for us, but I don't see our health being a problem down the road," said Dato. "Thankfully, [none of the injuries] have been permanent."

Almost a quarter of the way through the season, this young team is still in the process of

getting to know one another.

"I think we're still adapting and coming together as a team," said senior team captain Nick D'Aurizio. Everyone's still getting to know each other, and once [we do] we'll continue to improve and play a lot better,"

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Hoping to field its dreams this weekend

Rider hosts the NEC Tournament, beginning today against Monmouth

By Mike Caputo

Respect is a difficult title to earn in college sports, especially for a school that is considered in the "mid-major" category. The Rider field hockey team hushed all possible critics right before the Northeast Conference (NEC) Tournament, as it quietly defeated Rutgers, of the Big East conference, 3-2 in double overtime on Tuesday.

"It was probably our best all-around team game of the season," said junior Courtney Bertos. "Everyone spilled their guts out on the field."

The Broncos struck first, about 31 minutes into the first half, as freshman Stephanie Walker put in her eighth goal of the season. Senior Rider points record holder Christina Ang added onto the lead with a goal assisted by Bertos early in the second half. Rutgers stormed back with two goals, including the game tying goal with only five seconds left in regulation which sent the game into overtime. After a scoreless first



Photo by Al Vicedo

Sophomore Meghan Schweers is being defended by junior Angela Fuoco in preparation for the NEC Tournament.

overtime, Ang scored the game winner in the second overtime on a breakaway assisted by Walker. Sophomore goalkeeper Krysta Bearish, second in the nation in save percentage, made seven saves in the game.

"Luckily we started peaking at the right time to win," said Bertos.

It was only the second time that Rider has defeated Rutgers

in its 17 all-time meetings. The last win against the Scarlet Knights was in 1991.

"This game was our best of the year," said junior Ally Hunter. "It gets us fired up for [today]."

The Broncos (16-2, 7-1 NEC) secured home field advantage and the top seed for today's NEC Tournament when it beat Siena 6-1 and Robert

Morris 4-0 at home over the weekend. The team also locked up Rider all-time field hockey records in wins (16) and winning percentage (.888). No one would ever know this fact judging by the realistic attitudes of the players.

"We know as a team that the tournament is its own separate season," said Bertos. "It is a brand new start."

Rider's first challenge in the NEC Tournament is the gritty Monmouth Hawks (9-9, 4-4 NEC). According to Bertos, the Hawks are "very skilled with the stick" and "pass well" as a team.

"We know anything can happen in the tournament," said Hunter. "We can't look past anyone."

Number three seeded Sacred Heart matches up with number two Fairfield after the Rider-Monmouth game.

Rider looks to eclipse its finish in 2003, in which the top seeded Broncos were

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Mike Caputo
Political players

Still undecided on who to vote for on Election Day? Then why not check out the candidates' platforms regarding sports? You may ask, are sports really relevant in one of the most important elections in American history? The candidates seem to think so.

In reality, sports are important because of their effect on the economy. An example is the dispute currently taking place in New York. Opposing sides are battling over the proposal of a multi-billion dollar project to build a new football stadium on the West Side of Manhattan for the New York Jets. It would also serve as a potential Olympic stadium if New York is granted the 2012 Summer Olympic games. Beyond the money concerns, the project would require a transformation of the west side rail-yards into an accessible place for people to attend a major event.

Sports issues go way beyond New York and the candidates are recognizing that. According to *Sports Illustrated*, President George W. Bush and Senator John Kerry have athletic backgrounds that support their interests in the sports realm.

Bush played sparingly for a year on Yale's freshman baseball team as a relief pitcher in 1965. After his stint with baseball, he finished his college career participating in a variety of intramurals, including rugby. Bush's other key athletic connections include finishing the Houston Marathon in 1993 and being the managing general partner of the Texas Rangers from 1989-1994.

Kerry has taken part in a vast array of sports as well. At Yale, Kerry was a dedicated member of the junior-varsity ice hockey team and the intercollegiate lacrosse and soccer squads. His other athletic

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