Volleyball still searching
to struggle within the conference

By Jared Vichko
Sports Editor

The school of hard knocks continued for the volleyball team, who dropped two conference matches to Fairfield and Iona last weekend. The two losses made it six straight conference losses for the Broncos, putting them in last place in the Metro Atlantic Athletic Conference (MAAC).

On Friday, Oct. 25, they took on Fairfield, one of the top teams in the conference. Sophomore Jaclyn Levi had 13 kills and seven digs and junior Amy Householder had seven kills and 10 digs. Senior Laura Berger contributed as well, with 18 assists.

Despite losing the three sets 30-17, 30-20, and 30-16, the scores were a lot closer than indicated. The Lady Broncs were competitive, but they just couldn’t pull out a victory.

“On Friday, our offense played strong,” said Levi. “In practice, we worked on hitting around the block because we knew they had a lot of size.”

Though the offense played well, the defense struggled at times. “Our defense was kind of lagging,” said Levi. “We are usually very good on defense, we just couldn’t get a lot of digs.”

Despite losing, the team was able to gain some positives. “We had some really good points,” said Householder. “We need to be able to put them together at the same time.”

Junior Lauren Niewender and sophomore Jaclyn Levi try to block a kill in a recent game. The team has struggled and is trying to get back on track.

“We picked up our defense,” said Levi. “We need to be able to put them together at the same time.”

On Saturday Oct. 26, the Broncos were swept again, this time by Iona, 30-25, 30-23, and 30-21. Again, the games were competitive, but they just couldn’t manage to pull out a victory.

Levi played strong again with 14 kills and 15 digs, as did Householder, who had seven kills and 16 digs. Berger played well too, totaling 29 assists and eight digs.

Against Iona, their defense played well, but it was the offense that was behind. “We need to be better as a team,” said Householder. “We are both scrappy teams on defense, but our offense needed to play better.”

Even though the team has struggled recently, they learned something from each game. “We need to improve and be more aggressive on offense,” said junior Lauren Niewender. “Other teams seem to be digging more than we would like them to.”

“We need to be better as a team,” said Householder. “Sometimes we tend to play as individuals, and when we do, we get out of the flow of the offense.”

The team is hoping they can gather some momentum for the upcoming playoffs.

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Jared Vichko
Talking the talk
T alk the talk and walk the walk. That phrase has been around for a very long time, and everyone knows what it stands for.

The sports world is no different. If you talk a big game, your actions should back up your words.

It’s a shame that talking your talk on the field or court more often than not will get you penalized. This penalty-happy era has forced players to control their emotions and actions and to monitor their own behavior more than ever before. Referees and the commissioners of the professional leagues should swallow their whistles and let the players talk and brag all they want.

Thank God for players like Terrell Owens. His choice to put his John Hancock on the ball after scoring a touchdown was hilarious. His touchdown celebration was not his first that caught the attention of people. Many remember his display at Dallas two years ago, turning their emblem of a star into his very own altar. To all those people out there who had a problem with his antics: get over it. If someone wants to celebrate after scoring, let them do it.

His kind is now a dying breed. Players are cautious of unpatriotic-like conduct penalties or technical fouls, so they keep the bragging to a minimum. The result is that the games have lost some flair and appeal. Gone are the likes of Deion Sanders, who fully lived up to his nickname of “Prime Time.” He was the ultimate braggart—he walked the walk, but was more known for talking big than walking it. His touchdown celebration was not in line with what he was going to do; he did it, celebrated, and then told you how he would do it again next time.

Games are so much more exciting when we see players woof at each other and celebrate big plays. It works on both sides of the ball. When one of the players on your team scores, you look forward to watching his actions. But when an opposing team scores or begins to talk, you get upset. The point is they both end with the same result—more people watching the game.

Rivalries mean so much more with taunting and trash talking. Imagine an Eagles-Giants game without bad blood. On the college level, where there are more rivalries, talking trash brings something extra to the game. Michigan-Ohio State,