

Women's soccer improving

Team can clinch playoff berth with wins this weekend

By Nicole Santore
Staff Writer

Many freshmen are not expected to make immediate impacts on their teams. Fortunately, at Rider this is not the case.

Freshman Ashley Johnson was named Metro Atlantic Athletic Conference (MAAC) Rookie of the week for her performance in the games during Oct. 21-27.

Johnson scored the winning and only goal for Rider with 1:13 remaining against Marist last Friday night. It was her first goal of her collegiate career.

"Having scored has given me a little more confidence," said Johnson. "It was very exciting. I haven't had too many opportunities before that game. Everything came at once."

Goalie Erin Wolleon had 10 saves in the game for yet another shut-out. Rider knocked Marist out of the tournament with this win.

"It was a solid team effort," said Wolleon. "Everyone played hard and did what they had to do to win the game."

Wolleon had her fifth shut-out against Sienna on Sunday. This puts Rider in third place in the MAAC.

Sarah Artale scored the first goal of the game with 4:46 remaining and Colleen Evans scored her fourth goal of the season with 2:13 left to give Rider a 2-0 victory.

"We played very well," said Wolleon. "We kept the lead and put in another goal on top of that, which shows what the team is made of."

Although Rider was suffering from



Photo by Jennifer Kuhn

Sophomore midfielder Tami Coyle clears the ball in a recent game. The team started the season off slowly, but has been playing well as of late. They picked up two wins last weekend over Siena and Marist. The victories placed them in third place in the MAAC, with two conference games remaining.

a couple of injuries that game, the team stepped it up against Siena and played the hardest that they could, even though they were tired from not having many available players on the bench.

Both Tami Coyle and Andrea Giuliani will be out for a few games. Giuliani was injured in the game against

Siena. The team has faith in their players and are not worried about their upcoming games.

"The girls are being filled in with excellent players," said Artale. "We know they can do the job."

Rider is in third place right now and has one of their biggest weekends

coming up when they play two home games. Friday is against Iona at 3:00 p.m. and Sunday is at 1:00 p.m.

If the women's team wins the game on Friday they will go on to the MAAC tournament. If they lose, they will still

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Ice hockey hoping for consistency



Photo by Jennifer Kuhn

Two members of the ice hockey team try to gain position during a recent practice. The team is 3-3-1 so far, splitting their games every weekend.

By David Hurka
Staff Writer

The Rider hockey team has continued an early season run of splitting their games each weekend, beating Seton Hall in an extremely physical match-up 8-3, and losing to a powerful Stony Brook team 12-7.

Against Seton Hall Friday, Oct. 25, the Broncs took an early first quarter lead and never let it go. Junior Mike Cianfrani, the team's leading scorer, put in two goals within minutes of each other in the first quarter to put the game out of reach for good.

Seton Hall scored twice in the third quarter, after Rider had a commanding 8-1 lead. The only downside to the game was that the physical style of both teams that led to injuries on both sides of the ice.

"Games like Seton Hall are very hard because when it's that out of hand, there's really not much to gain for either team, except somebody getting hurt," said Dr. Jonathan Millen, the team's faculty advisor.

The Broncs faced a very tough Stony Brook team on Saturday, and

despite scoring seven times against a physical defense, they gave up 12 goals, which led to the loss.

Stony Brook is a very powerful team against anybody, as they finished third last year in team rankings in the northeast by ACHA, and played in the 2002 National Tournament, where they finished 12 out of 18.

Millen was pleased with the goal scoring against Stony Brook, but had some problems with the defense.

"It's very big that we scored seven goals against Stony Brook, but when you give up twelve, it's not that good," Millen said.

Rider plays two very tough opponents on the road this weekend, taking on Marist and NYU. Both teams have already beaten Rider this year at home, Marist 5-4 and NYU 7-4. Added into the competition this weekend is the fact that many of the team's players have come down with illnesses that travel quickly from one teammate to another.

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