

NOT TOO SWEET

Women's soccer falls at home

By Mike Caputo
Staff Writer

Good things may always come to an end, but in the case of the women's soccer team, great things are just beginning. A program that once lived in the basement of the Metro-Atlantic Athletic Conference (MAAC) has progressed and transformed into a conference powerhouse after only seven seasons of existence.

Its 2003 destiny revealed itself on Rider's home field last Friday, Nov. 7, as the fourth seeded Broncs were pitted against top seed Loyola Greyhounds. Loyola came into the match-up with an undefeated MAAC record and a 2-1 victory over Rider in Maryland only a couple of weeks earlier.

The dreams of a conference title began to become a reality when Sarah Artale scored an unassisted goal about nine minutes into the first half. Electricity and excitement were beginning to flow through the Rider supporters in the stands. Then Loyola attempted to pull the plug.

The Greyhounds proved its offensive worth when the team went on to score a goal four minutes later to tie the game. It



Photo by Hugh Tsung

Sophomore Jennifer Marcella (right) stumbles as teammate Molli Burns (left) looks on during the playoff loss to Loyola. The Broncs took a 1-0 lead, but ended up losing 4-1. The team will lose senior leaders Sarah Artale and goalkeeper Erin Wolleon.

then took the lead with another goal at the end of the first half.

The game was not over for the Broncs. Head Coach Kevin Long said he encouraged his team to keep fighting.

"I told them I believed in them and that basically it was a mentality scenario," said Long. "We had to simplify the rest of the game and not sit around to accept losing."

A few spurts of bad luck and questionable calls by the referees that were acknowledged by the fans led to two more insurance goals by the Greyhounds, putting the team

up 4-1.

Loyola still did not manage to silence the Rider crowd, who still held hope of a monumental comeback.

"Even down 4-1, we never lost confidence; we kept fighting hard," said junior Leah Craig.

To the delight of the dedicated Broncs' fans and players, Tami Coyle kept hopes alive by scoring a goal with about 20 minutes to go in the game. Unfortunately, the Loyola defense was too much of a barrier for the Broncs' full attack down the final stretch

as the Greyhounds emerged victorious.

While Rider didn't make excuses for the loss, it did acknowledge the poor officiating.

"There's nothing we can do," said Coyle. "We can't change his [the ref's] decisions. I think the bad calls by the refs contributed, but I also think we should have stepped up more and scored more goals."

Artale, Rider's leading career scorer, got her 11th goal of the 2003 campaign and added her third assist of the season in the game, which turned out

to be her final game in a Rider uniform. Coyle added to her season high goal totals by scoring her 17th.

Artale and Coyle, along with seven others, were honored at the pre-MAAC tournament awards banquet. Coyle's offensive dominance throughout the entire season earned her the MAAC offensive player of the year award and first team all conference honors. Junior Andrea Giuliani also received first team honors while Artale

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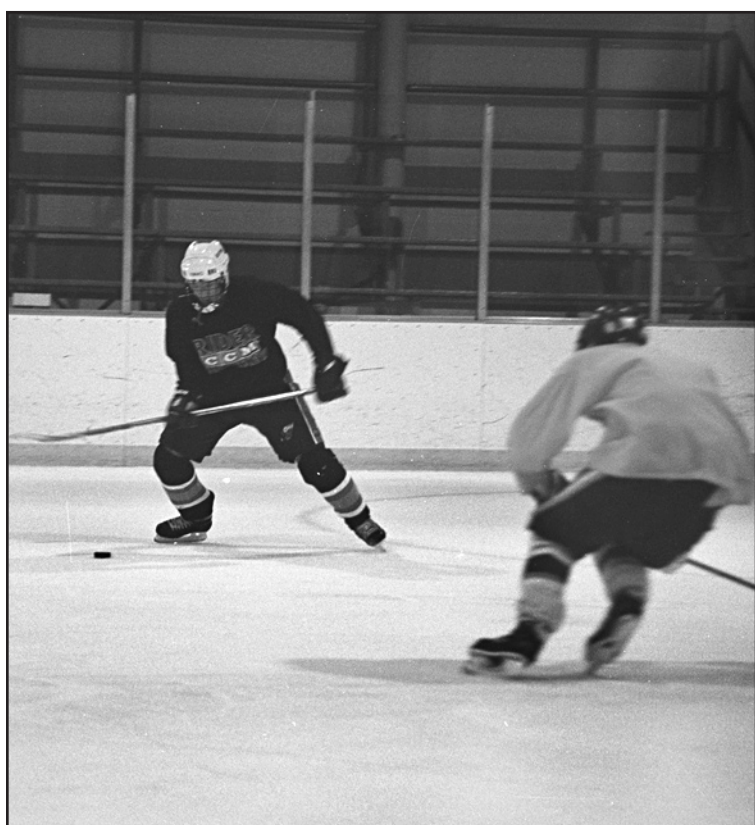


Photo by Jennifer Kuhn

Two members of the ice hockey team work out at a recent practice. The team is currently 8-5. Despite the winning record, the team feels it hasn't played its best hockey yet.

FIRE ON THE ICE

Ice Hockey off to fast start

By Andrew Straub
Staff Writer

The term Icy-Hot is not just a great name for a medicated lotion; it is the perfect description of how the Rider ice hockey team has played this season. The Broncs have amounted an 8-5 record thus far but have not managed to go on a decisive winning streak longer than three games.

Last weekend was no different for the Broncs. The home games were full of ups and downs which resulted in Rider splitting the games. With a tough loss to Lafayette 6-5 on Friday, Nov. 7, the Broncs bounced back to crush the University of Virginia 5-0 the

following night.

"We've had a lot of illnesses and injuries early in the season," said junior defenseman Ken Ryker. "As soon as we can get some people back and clicking again, I think we'll play consistently better for the rest of the season."

The Lafayette Leopards came out firing to start the first period. Scoring just 20 seconds into the game, Lafayette showed Rider what it was up against. The Broncs responded with three goals in that same first period to go up 3-1. Exchanging goals in the second period, Rider maintained its two goal lead at 5-3. The third period was a far different story.

With a few questionable calls by the referees, Rider squandered its lead late in the period. Leopard Pete McLane sealed the Lafayette comeback with a power-play score past freshman goalkeeper Damon Noonan with only 17 seconds remaining in regulation.

"We didn't play great from start to finish," said junior Co-captain Nick D'Aurizio. "We came out sluggish for the game; you could tell in warm-ups." There will always be games you don't play 100 percent. This was one of those games."

Saturday's game was a much different story. Regrouping

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