

Broncs' Bits



Scores/Records

(*denotes conference game)

Men's Basketball (4-2, 2-0 MAAC)

12/3

Rider 76 Marist 75*

12/5

Rider 62 Iona 61*

12/9

FDU 76 Rider 74

Women's Basketball (1-5, 0-2 MAAC)

12/3

Niagara 78 Rider 70*

12/5

Canisius 62 Rider 40*

12/9

Rider 66 St. Francis-NY 63

Wrestling (0-1)

11/20

#6 Lehigh 31 #23 Rider 9

Men's Swimming (2-5)

12/5 (at Princeton Invitational)
Fourth Place

Women's Swimming (0-7)

12/5 (at Princeton Invitational)
Seventh Place

M/W Indoor Track (0-0)

Ice Hockey (6-12-1)

12/3

NYU 13 Rider 3

12/4

Rider 5 TCNJ 3

...And More Sports

The **men's basketball** team was on a four game winning streak entering last night's home game against Farleigh Dickinson. Two of these wins came over the weekend against MAAC teams Marist and Iona.

The **women's basketball** team continued its woes on the road this weekend, as it had a five game losing streak entering last night's match-up at St. Francis (NY).

Rider News Bronc Players of the Month

Sandro DeCristofaro is the *Rider News Male Bronc Player of the Month* for November. DeCristofaro is a senior on the **men's soccer** team. He scored four big goals in the last three games during the team's playoff run. Three of those goals came in the upset of top seeded Loyola in the MAAC semifinal game. In that contest, the Broncs won 3-1. A week earlier, DeCristofaro put in a goal in a game that sealed the Broncs' playoff berth.

Jennifer Lane, a freshman on the **volleyball** team, is the *Rider News Female Bronc Player of the Month*. She was a major factor in gaining the team's first-ever MAAC playoff appearance. Lane earned MAAC rookie of the week honors twice and led the conference in service aces.

'FALL'

from page 12

a No. 4 seed and eventually knocked off previously undefeated Loyola in the semifinals.

"They are a very, very young team and it showed throughout most of the season," said Blake. "Then an element of maturity started coming around during conference play and it earned them the right to compete in the MAAC tournament."

Coming off a 2003 MAAC semifinals loss, an experienced women's soccer (12-7-2) team, headlined by senior Tami Coyle, made it all the way to the championship game. Unfortunately, top seeded Loyola ended the Broncs season in the MAAC Tournament for the third consecutive year.

"Women's soccer had its best year that they ever had, in terms of how far they went," said Blake.

The volleyball team (15-13), directed by senior first team All-MAAC Jaclyn Levi, stunned the conference by earning its first spot in the tournament since Rider entered the MAAC in 1997. This came after a terrible 2003 season in which the Broncs went 0-9 in league play. Rider managed to win six MAAC games in 2004.

"Volleyball had their best year since we were in the MAAC," said Blake.

Golf and tennis made great progress in the fall season, especially golf. The golf team, guided by outstanding freshman Josh Krumholz, won its first tournament in school history when it was victorious at the Cornell Invitational back in September. Golf concluded the fall season with two tournament victories, a second and a third place finish.

"What they accomplished in quality competition is incredible," Blake said.

Men's (9-5) and women's (8-3) tennis improved greatly upon their sub .500 records in the last fall season. Both teams will enter the spring season on a four match winning streak. The only thing that looks like a negative on paper during the fantastic fall turns out to be a positive. This was the cross country team, which Blake likes to refer to as a team in a "rebuilding" stage.

"We are moving in the right direction with these two programs [men's and women's] and that equates into strengthening our indoor track and field program with more distance runners," Blake said.

It may seem like an exaggeration, but the accomplishments that Rider's fall sports achieved this year will pave the way for the winter and spring programs. Blake agrees and observes this phenomenon occurring already.

"These particular programs can build on the success they've had, [while] other programs can feed off that success," he said. "I already see that happening in the winter sports and quite honestly I think our fall sports teams are pumped up and excited too."

'CUP'

from page 12

leagues for sports such as football and women's water polo, which is non-existent at Rider. These are points that the Broncs miss out on every year.

The Commissioner's Cup is a very serious prize when it comes to smaller Division I conferences such as the MAAC and the NEC. I hate to use the term mid-major, but unfortunately Rider's lack of a multi-million dollar football program and a smaller enrollment will never allow the school to be considered major. Major or not, Rider is definitely visible and "on the map" according to Blake.

There is much more excitement towards athletics at Rider than in past years, even from last year into this year. If the campus isn't excited already, the success of athletics along with the building of a student recreation center, the residence halls, a new baseball field and maybe a potential renovation of Alumni Gym should do the job. Hey, you never know, maybe a few recruits that would normally look past Rider will give it a second look.

If Rider patches together a pattern of outstanding seasons, such as this fall, Commissioner's Cups will be on the bottom of the list. I envision Rider eventually doing what Manhattan did in men's basketball last year. But for now, we will focus on the chase for the cup.

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