

# UPS AND DOWNS



Photo by Jennifer Kuhn

Freshman outfielder Jennifer Cullen throws to the cut-off during the second game of Tuesday's double-header against Bucknell. The Broncs (15-17) went 2-2 during the week.

## Baseball bats cool off after recent hot streak

David Hurka  
Staff Writer

Even though the school year is winding down, it doesn't mean that the Rider baseball team has been winding down its season.

They played several games this week against some of the best conference and non-conference teams on its schedule, and while the results weren't always favorable, the Broncs did come out with a sense of accomplishment.

The first game of the weekend was played as part of a three game series with MAAC rival Iona, and Rider continued their hot play from the past week, scoring 13 runs on their way to a 13-2 win.

The team jumped on top early, scoring seven runs in the first two innings, and pitcher James Hoey played one of his best games of the year, pitching eight scoreless innings, and striking out five to improve his record to 3-4 for the year.

Junior Eric D'Alessandro had a big game with a three run home run in the seventh inning to make the game a rout.

On Saturday, the team closed the series with a doubleheader, and split the games by scores of 6-1 and 7-2. Iona broke a 2-2 tie in the bottom of the sixth inning in the first game by scoring five runs on route to the 7-2 win.

Casey Long had tied the game up at two the inning

before with a sacrifice fly, but Iona stormed back.

Rider returned the favor in the second game, behind some timely hitting and great pitching by junior Eric Weiner.

Rider took a 1-0 lead into the bottom of the seventh, but then busted it wide open with five runs of their own coming off four hits and two Iona errors.

Junior Sean Whalen had the hit of the inning; a key two run single that put the Broncs up to stay. Weiner pitched a strong seven scoreless innings, striking out six and improving his record to 4-1 on the year.

Head Coach Sonny Pittaro

See 'Baseball' page 14

## Softball searching for consistency

By Jared Vichko  
Sports Editor

The weather around our campus has been somewhat unpredictable as of late. It seems that day-to-day we trade in our t-shirts and sandals for wool hats and a hood. Sad to say, as the temperature has hit highs and lows recently, so has the softball team.

After defeating Bucknell in a doubleheader 3-2 and 8-0 on Tuesday, the Broncs returned on Wednesday and came up short twice, dropping two games to Lehigh 8-0 and 10-2.

"We're still trying to be a little more consistent," said sophomore Maddy Boulden. "Once we all start clicking at the same time we'll be fine."

In the first game against Bucknell, the Weed sisters, juniors Brandey and Courtney, proved to be too much to handle. Down 2-0 heading into the sixth, Brandey cut the deficit in half with a triple, bringing in her sister Courtney. Brandey then tied the game on a sacrifice by freshman Jill Carrabus.

Courtney stepped into the spotlight in the seventh inning, scoring the winning run on a two-out, two-strike single, scoring sophomore Erin McGlynn. Junior Devin Karcesky came in and pitched two innings of relief to pick up her first win of the season.

"It was a good win for us," said Courtney. "Everyone did what they had to do. We hit the ball well and played good defense. Devin came in and shut out the other team in the

last innings."

The second game proved to be the opposite of the first, as Rider's bats were loud early and often, and they coasted to an 8-0 five-inning victory.

Freshman Heather Beintema pitched five solid innings, allowing only one hit and recording five strikeouts. It was a good day for other freshmen as well. Jennifer Cullen went three for three with a double and fellow freshman Kiera Fox had two hits, including her second home run of the season.

"That second game the entire team was playing great," said Courtney Weed. "Everyone was on. Heather pitched well and Kiera had a big home run."

Weed reached the 100 hit plateau for her career, becoming the thirtieth female athlete to do so, and the second one this season. Junior Amanda Tu reached the mark a few weeks ago.

But what goes up must come down. On the very next day, Rider dropped two games to Lehigh, 8-0 and 10-2, with both losses only going five innings.

In the first game, Rider could manage only three hits as Boulden took the loss, dropping her record to 5-7. In the second game, Courtney Weed went two for three with an RBI. Freshman Heather Beintema, struggled on the mound and took the defeat, leaving her

See 'Softball' page 14

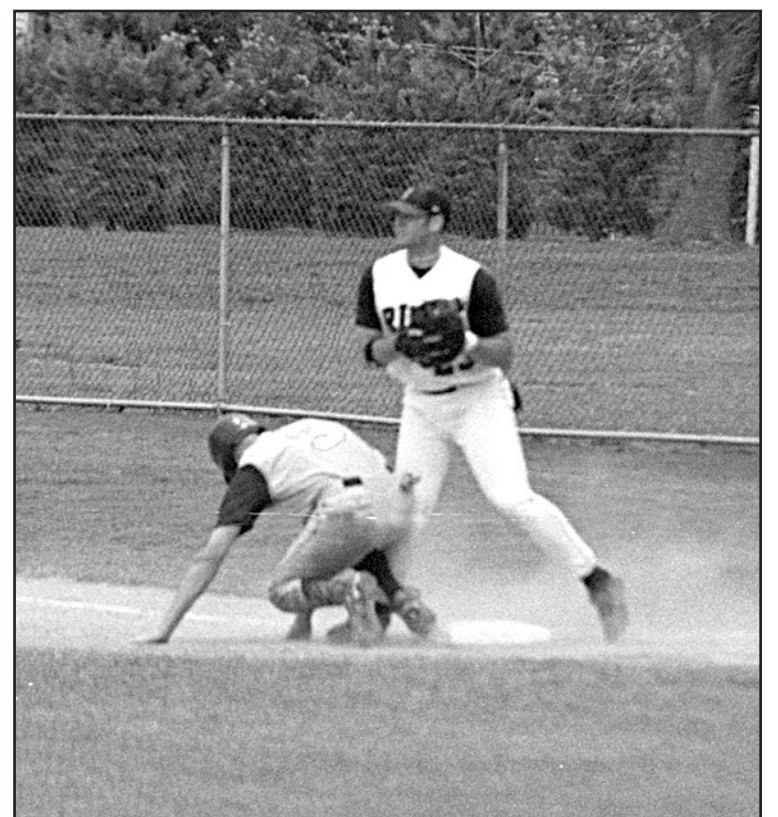


Photo by Jennifer Kuhn

Junior Eric D'Allesandro tries to put a tag on the runner during Tuesday's game against Seton Hall. The Broncs have stumbled as of late, losing three of their last four.