

HIGH EXPECTATIONS

Field hockey looks to go further this year

By Jared Vichko
Sports Editor

Setting a goal and achieving it is a great reward in itself. It provides you with a feeling of accomplishment and gratification. However, when you do not achieve your goal, two things can happen to you. You can either pack up and call it quits, or you can try again and finish what you started.

The Rider field hockey team has no intentions of quitting. Coming off a bitter and heartbreaking loss in the North Eastern Conference (NEC) Championship last year, the team hopes not to view it as a disappointment, but as a catapult into this year. The team is stockpiled with young talent and veteran leadership that should carry them further than last year.

The team is anchored by reigning NEC goalkeeper of the year, Jen Cushinotto. Her record speaks for itself: NEC Tournament MVP in 2000, 7th in the nation in goals against and 14 in DI in save percentage. Cushinotto led the NEC in both categories the last 2 years, and she was the 2001 NEC Scholar Athlete of the Year Award.

"Cush will be counted on to be our leader," said head coach Lori Hussong. "Jen is like our coach on the field. She is an excellent role model for our younger goalies to look up to."

Filling out the rest of the defense is Meghan Shanley, who started every one of her 41 games since transferring to Rider.

"Meghan is a veteran who serves as a great role model for the younger players. She continues to improve and has matured into a steady and reliable defender," said Hussong.

Veterans lead the defense. In stark contrast, the offense is loaded with freshmen and sophomores who are learning to gel more and more each day.

"We started five freshmen last year and will start a few again this year as well, so the transition for the rookies should be smooth, playing with teammates close to their age," said Hussong.

Forwards Maddy Boulden, Christina Ang, and Katie Conlon lead the sophomores.

Boulden was the NEC Rookie of the Year last year and also All-NEC second team.

"We're looking for big things from Maddy," said Hussong.

Last year Rider got just that, as Boulden recorded seven goals and seven assists while leading Rider with 64 shots.

"We lost one nothing in the championship and hopefully we're going to make it there again, that is our goal," said Boulden. "I think we can step it up a little higher than last year."

Playing up front with



Two women fight for a ball during a recent practice. The team is ready to pick up where it left off last season. After losing in the North Eastern Conference Championship, they are anxious to play.

Boulden will be fellow sophomores Conlon and Ang. Ang was second on the team in goals last year during her rookie season.

"Chris had a great freshman year, she scored a lot of big goals in key situations, and should have even more of an opportunity to score this year," said Hussong.

The other forward, Conlon, started all 19 games last season and was fifth on the team in shots.

"Katie also had a great

freshman year, she's a real workhorse who hungers to improve," Hussong said. "We were very happy with her performance last year, and we're looking for more this year."

Another bright spot for the offense has been freshman Courtney Bertos, who already has scored three goals, two of them game winners. She was also named the NEC Rookie of the Week the first week. Bertos, aware of how last year ended, is confident this year.

"As long as we are not sat-

isfied with last year's outcome, we can keep building and building I think we'll be ok," said Bertos.

Coach Hussong expects big things from Bertos too.

"With her quickness and burning speed she has a great ability to move the ball down the field," she said. "Our goal is always to get to the next level."

With a fine cast of players returning, that goal is more than within reach.



The Rider Men's Cross Country team trains for an upcoming meet. This is the first time in recent years that they will have a home meet.

Cross country ready to set a fast pace and take over

By Nicole Santore
Staff Writer

Landing in the top 5 is the goal for both the Men's and Women's Cross Country team this year, according to the coach Bill Hodge.

This will be Hodge's fourth year as head coach and he has high expectations. He is very excited to have Bob Marchetti as his assistant coach and feels that together they can reach their goals.

"I'm happy to have Coach Marchetti," said Hodge. "He has a strong background from Mercer County College with three or four All-Americans. I think he is going to do a wonderful job both coaching and recruiting."

Returning this year as a

sophomore, Sarah Peterson will hopefully further her success here at Rider and be a top runner along with upcoming freshman Ashley Liberatore. As for the men, Robert Broomhead and Matt Catinella should be top contenders for their team and league.

For the first time in years, the Cross Country team will have a home meet. This meet will take place on Saturday, October 12th with the men racing at 10:30 a.m. and the women racing at 11:30 a.m.

It will be the first match because Rider has cleaned up the Cross Country track. They made it easier to run on and more attractive, which hopefully will help with recruiting.

"We are working with

maintenance to have a nice country course for the team and for the people on campus. They are doing a great job helping us out," said Hodge.

Women's Team: Erica DellaBonta, Elizabeth Bond, Elizabeth Buatti, Kate Henninger, Laura Henry, Ashley Liberatore, Alejandra Mondragon, Megan O'Halloran, Sarah Peterson, and Carolina Valera.

Men's Team: Robert Broomhead, Matt Catinella, Matthew Ciociola, Pat Coyne, Deawaika Dolo, Isaac Franks, Brendon Gildea, Daniel Gray, Quesi Lewis, Thomas Misiak, Brian Styler, and Jeff Zola.