Rider will host Saint Peter’s tonight at 7:30 p.m.

Center Steve Castleberry attempts a layup in the Broncs 74-21 win.

By Mike Caputo
Staff Writer

Consistency has proven to be an ingredient to success in sports. This covered characteristic mixed with teamwork is a coach’s dream. The 21st ranked Rider wrestling team possesses these ingredients plus more.

Much like this year’s Super Bowl champion the Patriots, the Broncs wrestling squad does not have any particular superstar that carries the team on his back, but an entire lineup of stars that brings a continued string of victories.

“The whole team has a positive approach,” said Head Coach Gary Taylor.

To complement its team ranking, the Broncs have an impressive total of five wrestlers that are ranked nationally in their respective weight classes. These include 125 Bobby Strinnsen (19), 133 Don Fisch (14), 147 Labe Black (17), 184 Stinson (19), 133 Don Fisch (14), 147 Labe Black (17), 184 Stinson (19), 133 Don Fisch (14), and 197 Jared T erell.

Don Fisch has earned rookie of the week honors five times this season and holds an individual record of 27-3.

“Fisch is one of the best freshmen since I have been here,” said Taylor.

The individual rankings are an illustration of talent and success, but also dedication.

“Fisch and Catone are really hard workers,” said freshman Jeff Black. “There is only one other team that has more ranked players in the Colonial Athletic Association (CAA) and that is first place Hofstra with six. Other notable recognitions include CAA ranked wrestlers 157 Dave Miller, 165 Ryan Cunningham, 174 Chris Marold and 197 Jared Terell.

The recent national recognition comes during a time when Rider has been victorious in eight straight and has not lost as a team since Jan. 10 in the competitive Virginia Duals, when the Broncs went 3-2.

“The Virginia Duals was a breakthrough tournament for us. When you beat the big boys, people take more of a serious look,” said Taylor.

These “big boys” that the Broncs defeated in Virginia include North Carolina, Cleveland State and Wyoming. Rider also engaged in hard fought battles against large powerhouse schools such as Nebraska and Wisconsin.

The Broncs then went on to defeat Drexel (28-10), Clarion (31-7) and Rutgers (22-12). Rider next dominated at a CAA dual meet held at George Mason University on the weekend of Jan. 23 by defeating George Mason (29-12), Old Dominion (39-6), Campbell (36-9) and Wagner (50-5). The squad continued its winning streak by overpowering Binghamton (36-7).

The Broncs have exposed its supremacy especially at dual meets.

“We are a stronger dual meet team than a tournament team,” said junior 165 Jack Fiana. Rider continues its schedule on Feb. 14 in a CAA meet against James Madison and brings in a CAA record of 6-0 (12-3 overall).

Ranks are not an issue when it comes to a confidence and ego check, according to Taylor.

“Confidence comes from knowing that you are improving. Evidence of improvement is the national rankings and all that means is for people to say we are one of the best in the

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Freshman Don Fisch upends a Rutgers wrestler during a recent match. The Broncs are currently ranked 21st in the country and have won its last eight matches. Fisch has been named the CAA Rookie of the Week six times and is ranked nationally.

Staff Writer

By Andrew Sraub

Rider’s men’s basketball team may miss winter break a little more than the rest of us. While most of us were back at home, enjoying having nothing to do, the Broncs were here at Rider going 6-2 for the month of January. Led by junior guard Jerry Johnson, recipient of the Metro Atlantic Athletic Conference (MAAC) Co-Player of the Week for the month of January, the squad has defeated Loyola, Pennsylvania, Niagara, Canisius, Siena and, as of Saturday, Marist.

Unfortunately, Rider’s luck ran out as it lost its first game of February, and the first at Sovereign Bank Arena, to the UMass Minuteman 74-61.

“Last year we didn’t play so well in January so this year our focus was to play better and just get it done,” said sophomore forward Paul Johnson.

Hosting Marist on Saturday’s Hall of Fame Day, Rider played inspired basketball overcoming a six point deficit at the half to take a 56-55 advantage with three minutes to play. The Broncs then went on a 5-0 run, taking a 61-55 lead on a three-point field goal by freshman Terrance Mouton.

The score, however, wasn’t the freshman’s biggest play of the game. With Rider holding a 61-59 lead, the 5’11” Mouton rejected a shot by guard Jared Jordan with three seconds left, preserving an important MAAC victory. Jerry Johnson scored 16 points and had five assists to lead Rider.

Rider couldn’t keep the winning streak going, falling Tuesday night to Atlantic 10 Massachusetts 74-61 at Trenton’s Sovereign Bank Arena. Controlling the tempo early, Rider got off to a commanding 20-9 lead. With the score 26-18, UMass out-scored Rider.

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Men’s hoops falls to UMass

By Andrew Sraub
Staff Writer

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