Women look to improve

By Nicole Santore
Staff Writer

All the women's basketball team needs is a win to turn their season back around.

The team got off to a great start and left for Christmas break with a 6-3 record, playing mostly non-conference games. When they came back they started playing in their conference and have lost eight tough games. In several of these defeats the women were only five baskets away from winning.

“We have plenty of the season left to turn things around,” said junior Lauren Thomer.

They have nine games left before the MAAC tournament and are hoping to win half of them.

“There is not a game that we have left that if we play, we won't have the opportunity to win,” said Head Coach Eldon Price.

Leanne Moore, a sophomore forward, has stepped up and played very well these past few games scoring between 10-20 points each game. This adds another strong shooter on the court along with sophomores Katie Hall and Becky Hower. Thomer is doing a good job getting the ball down the court and to a shooter while senior Melanie James defends the basket.

“There is always someone who is on and scoring and right now we are just trying to perfect what we are doing,” said Hower.

The team needs to find their groove. They are shooting well but aren't getting those key baskets to get a win. Their defense is doing a good job holding its own with its center, James, only being 5’10”.

“Our defense has definitely gotten stronger and better through the season,” said James. “We play hard and always have intensity.”

Price is happy with his defense and the variety of coverage they have. They have proven that they can stop the ball, but they need to get more rebounds off the boards. The last few games, however, they have gotten more defensive rebounds, which takes a little pressure off of the offensive end.

“We concentrate on one game at a time,” said Price. “Also, we look at it as a forty minute game and play in five minute segments where we just focus on beating them or holding them for those five minutes.”

Over winter break, Hower won athletes of the month for December and Hall won MAAC player of the week.

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Jared Vichko
Better than you think

The phrase “beauty is in the eye of the beholder” is all about perception. People can view the same thing differently. What looks good to one person can look horrible to another, and vice versa. To some Rider basketball fans, who look at the men's record and see 9-11, 4-7 in the MAAC, the grass is greener on the other side or the glass is half empty. I see things in another light, however. I think this team is better than their record indicates and could easily have a winning record.

Flashback to Dec. 18: While many students were home Christmas shopping, Rider was playing the role of tiger tamer, defeating Princeton for the first time since 1944. The Broncs defeated a Princeton team that four days later traveled out to Austin, Texas, to play the 12th ranked Longhorns and came away with a three point loss.

The first two home losses of the season, Marist and Harvard, should have gone the other way. The Marist defeat was decided by the officials, not the players. Calling the loss to Harvard, the first triple overtime game in Rider history, a heartbreaker, would be an understatement. The Broncs seemed poised to win the game in the second overtime, but a three pointer at the buzzer sent the game into triple overtime.

The fast-paced up-tempo offense that the Broncs run will always keep them in the game, even if they fall behind by double digits. Shooting three pointers, scrambling on defense, and out hustling the other team will always keep the score close.

The Broncs have been getting solid backcourt play from their two leading scorers, Jerry Johnson and Robert Taylor. With Taylor and Johnson, along with swingman Laurence Young, Rider has three deadly scorers, daring opponents to try a double team.

Freshman Edwin Muniz is making a huge impact since his insertion into the starting lineup. Muniz is proving to be one of the most versatile players on the team. He is big enough to punish smaller defenders who attempt to guard him in the post and fast enough to pull larger defenders out on the perimeter to shoot the trey or to drive around them. Others are noticing his accomplishments outside of Rider, as he was recently named...