Rider suffers worst loss of season and lowest point total in Harnum’s tenure

By Mike Caputo
Staff Writer

As of last week, the men’s basketball team appeared to be within reasonable reach of second place in the Metro Atlantic Athletic Conference (MAAC).

Only a week later, after the performance in the Sovereign Bank Arena, however, posting another victory against a MAAC team and scoring 60 points in a game seems to be an unreasonable goal.

In front of an energetic and loud Alumni Gym on Friday, Feb. 6, against Saint Peter’s, Rider battled back from a 60-49 deficit in the last five minutes of regulation and tied it up at 64-64 after a three pointer from junior guard Robert Taylor with 23 seconds to go. Unfortunately, clutch performances from NCAA scoring leader Keydren Clark and Shane Nichols in overtime gave the Peacocks a 77-69 victory.

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Rider suffered its worst loss since Don Harnum’s arrival. Rider plays away at Marist tonight.

Sophomore Edwin Muniz attempts a foul shot during the 65-40 drubbing at the hands of Fairfield. The loss is the worst since Don Harnum’s arrival. Rider plays away at Marist tonight.

Women drop 12 of 14 games

By Jared Vichko
Sports Editor

Taking a page from its male counterparts, the women’s basketball team lost at the Sovereign Bank Arena Wednesday night 64-49 at the hands of Iona.

The Broncs are now 4-18 and have dropped 12 of its last 14 games. Despite the slump, junior Becky Hower still finds positives from the losses.

“We played really good defense,” said Hower. “We couldn’t find any offense throughout the game so we had to rely on our defense to keep the score close.”

Rider kept the game within reach throughout the first half. After Kara Borel converted a layup the Broncos had a 17-14 lead with a little over five minutes remaining in the first half. Heading into the break, Rider trailed only 26-21.

“Coach [Eldon Price] didn’t really tell us anything specific at halftime,” said Hower. “He was pleased with what we were doing. He said we had a good first half and he wanted us to keep it up in the second. He didn’t make many changes or adjustments.”

As the second half began, the Broncos began to unfold yet again. After a missed layup by Monica Welborn, two missed free throws by Leanne Moore and a turnover by Lauren Thomer, Rider found itself down 12-6.

With gritty defense, Rider managed to claw its way back in the game and never let Iona pull away. With just under eight minutes left, the Broncos were down by only five at 47-42. But the lack of firepower prevented Rider from making up the deficit. Iona went on a 6-0 run to go up 51-42 and seal the victory.

“Defensively we were very weak,” said Hower. “We missed free throws by Leanne Moore and a turnover by Lauren Thomer. Rider found itself down 29-23.”

Sophomore Edwin Muniz attempts a foul shot during the 65-40 drubbing at the hands of Fairfield. The loss is the worst since Don Harnum’s arrival. Rider plays away at Marist tonight.

Photo by Hugh Tsung