Two members of the Rockford Peaches will be in attendance for the Women's Basketball game at the Alumni Gym on Sunday, Feb. 27 for National Girls and Women in Sports Day.

Rosie O'Donnell and Madonna, stars of the 1991 film A League of Their Own, about the All-American Girls Professional Baseball League (AAGPBL), however, will not be in attendance. The two players that will be on hand are Joan Berger Knebel and Virginia "Jean" Ventura Manina.

"Every year there is a national event called Women in Sports Day," said Nancy Lee Roberts, Senior Women's Administrator Associate Director. "This day is to acknowledge and recognize [women] in this national day."

Many events will be planned for the day. At 10 a.m., as part of tradition, all of the women athletes will attend a continental breakfast at President Mordechai Rozanski's house.

At 11:30 a.m., in the Alumni Gym, the two women will talk about their experiences while playing for the team.

A basketball clinic for Girl Scouts will be held in Rozanski's house. At 2 p.m., a large crowd is expected to be in attendance for the last basketball game against Marist.

There's no place like Rider

By Nicole Southern

Was the Kroner lot full when you tried to park there the last few weekends? Have you had a hard time finding a table in your favorite section of Daly's on Saturdays? Were you surprised by the inability to move around freely due to the unexpectedly large amount of people at an on-campus event?

Was it, in your imagination, a higher percentage of Rider residents are staying on campus during the weekends thanks to what seems like more Bronc buffets, televised basketball games and a multitude of other student programming ideas.

Jamiyl Mosley, an Area Director for Residence Life, has noticed the change in attendance on parts of the campus and at events, including the Bronc Buffets and the Rider vs. St. Peter's men's basketball game on ESPN.

"Daly's, I've noticed, has been a little more packed this semester on the weekends," he said. "Also, from what I've seen, it looks like the events have been really well attended. For most individual events, there are a lot of people in attendance.

According to Tony Campbell, Associate Vice President of Student Affairs, he has also noticed an increase in students on campus over the weekends.

"I think students by nature want to stay on campus and they're finding there's a lot of high quality programs," said Campbell. "A lot of them are staying on campus to participate."

Programming is key to keeping students on campus, according to Mosley. The University needs to have more events to draw in students who are borderline on whether or not they are returning home each weekend.

"I think it comes down to providing programming that people want to participate in," said Mosley. "The people who want to go home, or need to go home, will. It's the people in the middle who ask 'should I go home or should I stay?' that we need to provide bigger programming events for."

One reason for the increase may be that more students and organizations are stepping up and helping with planning programs, said Campbell.

"There's just a lot of really good things going on and students are much more involved in doing all this," said Campbell. "Students are much more involved in planning strong programs and participating in strong programs."

According to Campbell, many off-campus groups have been working together to produce more large-scale events, such as the Mardi Gras Bronc Buffet.

"A lot of groups are working on programming together, which involves more people," said Campbell. "There's a lot of good support between not only SEC, but the Greeks and the RHA [as well]."

Many groups and organizations have also been promoting Rider athletics games in order to increase the amount of students and fans in attendance, according to Campbell.

"Different groups are sponsoring basketball games. There is a lot of co-sponsorship going on to have more buy in for the events," said Campbell. "They also sponsored the hockey game to get people to the hockey game."

According to Campbell, students in general seem to have more interest in being involved with the school in ways that will help spread Rider pride to other students.

"I see that a lot of the students here are wanting to be orientation leaders, RAs and getting involved in clubs and organizations like the Emerging Leaders Program and the Center for the Development of Leadership Skills," he said. "They've all been really positive additions to help people connect to the University."

Aside from programming, according to Mosley, the weather has also played a role in the elevated number of people who have stayed on campus over the last few weekends.

"I think that the worse the weather gets people are less likely to venture very far away," said Mosley. "Maybe they want to stay closer here and maybe do some day trip stuff instead of going home.

Going home on the weekends can also be a matter of indirect peer pressure, said Mosley.

"Once a bunch leave then other people are like, 'well, if everyone else is going I might as well go too,' versus, 'the parking lot is full, people are here, maybe I'll stay too and see what is going on here,'" he said.

According to freshman Lexy Samuel, her comfort in her dorm room and the use of Rider facilities is what keeps her here every weekend.

"The reason I stay on the weekends is because it is a lot easier for me to focus here and I take advantage of the gym," she said.

"The reason I stay on the weekends is it is a community. It's a different type of environment when you're not looking out into an empty parking lot," said Mosley. "It feels like people live here and it's a community. It's a different type of energy."

Students "do the twist" at the University Ball this past Saturday, Feb. 19. Over the past few weekends the events taking place on the Lawrenceville campus have had an elevated number of people in attendance.

Once a bunch leave then other people are like, 'well, if everyone else is going I might as well go too,' versus, the parking lot is full, people are here, maybe I'll stay too and see what is keeping people interested in staying this weekend," he said.

According to freshman Lexy Samuel, her comfort in her dorm room and the use of Rider facilities is what keeps her here every weekend.

"The reason I stay on the weekends is because it is a lot easier for me to focus here and I take advantage of the gym," she said.

All in all, the increase in people on campus on the weekend makes the campus more homely and welcoming place and will benefit students both individually and as a whole.

"I think it just feels more like a college campus when you're not looking out into an empty parking lot," said Mosley. "It feels like people live here and it's a community. It's a different type of energy."