So much happened during this past week for Rider basketball fans that it is difficult to keep up with it all.

The Broncs are the regular season co-champions of the Metro Atlantic Athletic Conference (MAAC). Senior guard Jerry Johnson scored his 2,000th career point and was named MAAC Player of the Week. Johnson was also named to the All-MAAC first team, while freshman forward Jason Thompson was named to the MAAC All-Rookie squad. Head Coach Don Harnum has been named MAAC Coach of the Year for the second time in his tenure at Rider as well. It was good times for Rider basketball and all of its fans.

“I am incredibly proud of all my guys,” said Harnum.

In order for all of this incredible information to sink in, a look at what led to all of this success must be explored. The Broncs finished the season 17-10, but more importantly, 15-5 in the MAAC. They won four of their last five games of the regular season. This finish allowed Rider to share the regular season championship with Niagara. By virtue of a tie-breaking formula, Rider gets the No. 2 seed in the MAAC Championship tournament, while Niagara solely possesses the highly coveted No.1 seed and a double-bye.

“Winning the championship means a lot,” said senior guard Robert Taylor. “We proved to a lot of people that we are a really good team.”

Rider will still get to hang a banner in Alumni Gymnasium and the team cannot be any more excited. Harnum knows what a fantastic feat his team has accomplished and doesn’t need a double-bye to recognize that his team is tops in the MAAC.

“The problem with college basketball right now is that no one respects the regular season champion,” said Harnum. “I get a little perturbed that winning the regular season is not good enough for anybody else.”

The importance of the No. 1 seeded team’s double-bye has most people feeling that Niagara already has an advantage. These critics of Rider are still around because the preseason polls predicted that the Broncos would finish in fifth place this season. Harnum is more optimistic about his team’s chances at the MAAC Tournament, which will be hosted in Buffalo.

“Most people feel that Niagara is the team to beat,” said Harnum. “We’ve proven that we’re a team that can run with anyone.”

Marist turned up the dial on defense, it just wore us out,” she said.

Senior point guard Jerry Johnson hits a three-pointer early in the first half. Johnson hit the 2,000 point mark in Rider’s epic 113-106 victory over the No.1 seeded Niagara. Rider won a share of the MAAC Regular Season Championship with the win.

By Joe Haubrich

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By Joe Haubrich

High hopes for Lady Broncs in Buffalo
After hanging with No. 1 Marist on Sunday, Rider upsets No. 6 Loyola

By Mike Caputo

There are not many teams in the sports world that can take anything positive out of losing their last game of the regular season, unless it is based on the gutsy performance of the women’s basketball team this past Sunday.

In a crowded Alumni Gym on Sunday, Rider hosted the defending Metro Atlantic Athletic Conference (MAAC) Champion and first place Marist Red Foxes during what was both Senior Day and National Women and Girls in Sports Day.

Rider followed this up with an exhilarating playoff victory over Loyola last night.

On Sunday, the Broncs kept pace with the Red Foxes and at one point grabbed a six point lead with less than seven minutes remaining in the contest. Unfortunately for Rider, it ran out of steam as Marist (21-6, 15-3 MAAC) immediately went on at 15-0 run to shut down any hope for the Broncos. Head Coach Tori Harrison says that Marist’s proficient offense was the reason for Rider’s low stamina in the closing minutes.

“We had to play so hard on defense, it just wore us out,” she said.

Senior forward Leanne Moore says that Rider did not answer to the challenge when Marist turned up the dial on the court.

“When they turned up their intensity, we didn’t match it in the end,” she said.

Moore led Rider with 15 points and five rebounds in her final game in Alumni Gym. She was one of five seniors who were honored before tip-off. The others were guard Becky Hower, forward Katie Hall, guard Tami Coyle and guard Kimberly Petro. Petro did not play because of her chronic back injury.

Harrison is more than pleased about the effort that the seniors put in during her senior season. Harnum is more optimistic about his team’s chances at the MAAC Tournament, which will be hosted in Buffalo.

“Just accomplished something that took us five months to accomplish and now we’ve got to go do it in three days,” said Harnum.

“Everybody says that those three days are more important than the last five months. That’s the way it is, and I understand that, so now we’re going to get ready.

By Mike Caputo

Mania in March
March, the month where baseball is in the horizons, the wind is blowing hard and there is a sense of madness in the air. No, you don’t have to jump on the bandwagon to feel the madness, although I do recommend you hop on the bus to Buffalo tomorrow to cheer on Rider, as it begins with step one of its three-day trek toward glory.

Whether or not you understand the art that goes into filling out a bracket,