Wrestling takes 2nd place, will send 4 to nationals

By Mike Caputo
Staff Writer

Disappointment is built upon a team’s history of success. The Rider wrestling team was disappointed with its performance when it hosted the Colonial Athletic Association (CAA) Championships last weekend at Alumni Gym.

The team finished in second place overall as it fell short to the defending champion, rival Hofstra.

Obviously, a second place finish in any conference tournament would be an honor for the majority of the athletic teams at Rider. The difference with the wrestling team is that it maintains the rare position of a mid-major school possessing a big influence on national competition.

The 20th nationally ranked Broncs were indeed the runners-up this weekend at the CAA Championships, but were given the opportunity to send four wrestlers to compete in the NCAA Championships in Saint Louis, Missouri, next weekend.

These wrestlers are 157 champion sophomore Dave Miller and 184 champion senior Nick Catone along with 133 runner-up freshman, Don Fisch and heavyweight wildcard senior Carmelo Marrero.

“I expect to bring home some hardware [at the NCAA’s],” said assistant coach John Hangey. “We have four individuals that are going to go out there and are capable of beating anybody on any given day.”

Miller came from a second seed to sweep through the competition. He had a first place finish in the 157 bracket by winning all four of his bouts. Two of these victories were by fall including his championship pinning of Hofstra’s number one seeded Paul Siemon.

As a result of his outstanding efforts at the CAA Championships, he earned CAA Wrestler of the Week honors.

Catone did not surprise anyone in the stands as he measured up to expectations by winning the 184 championship.

The number one seed in the tournament at 184 began with

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Men collapse again in overtime

By Jared Vichko
Sports Editor

George Santayana said that those that do not remember the past are condemned to repeat it.

History sadly repeated itself last Saturday as the Broncs were eliminated in the playoffs 79-69 by Saint Peter’s for the second consecutive year. It was the third year in a row that Rider was knocked out in overtime and seventh straight year the team failed to reach the MAAC semi-finals.

“This was a tough way to go out,” said Head Coach Don Harnum. “We played extremely well but we missed some opportunities down the stretch that really hurt us.”

To get to the second round, Rider, the fifth seed, was matched up with tenth seed Loyola, one of the worst teams in Division I basketball. With the score tied at 57, the Broncs went on a 10-2 run with under five minutes to play. It increased its lead to 67-59 to seal the victory.

Freshman Terrance Mouton continued to shine, scoring 10 points off the bench. Edwin Muniz and Steve Castleberry each chipped in with nine in the 75-67 first round victory.

“Loyola was a tough game,” said Castleberry. “They’re not as bad as their record indicates. They played a lot of teams tough all season.”

Rider’s foe in the second round was a familiar one. Rider fell to Saint Peter’s in overtime last year and came up short against them twice already this year, with one of those contests going to OT. The Peacocks featured one of the top players in the country, Keydren Clark, who is leading the nation in scoring, averaging just over 27 points per game.

The Broncs kept the score close in the first half and were behind 42-38 at the

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