Ace in Florida catapults golf over Cornell
Rider also places fourth of 18 in the Lonnie Barton Tournament

By Joe Haubrich

Rider’s golf team has had success in their first outdoor tests of the spring season and is already feeling that a practical run at the Metro Atlantic Athletic Conference Championship (MAAC) is underway.

After impressive finishes at the Lonnie Barton Memorial tournament in South Carolina and in a tight finish that was decided by a hole-in-one against Cornell in Orlando, Fla., members of the team believe that this could be the start of a triumphant season.

Rider’s achievements thus far are not surprising, but all the more remarkable considering it has been unfortunately stuck practicing either indoors or at driving ranges because of poor weather conditions. One Bronc is certain that good things will transpire this spring.

“I absolutely believe that this is a special year,” said junior Jonathan Kent. “Without a doubt in my mind, this team has the ability to win the MAAC and other tournaments.”

Softball is shut out, but not shut down

By Mike Caputo

The softball team ventured down to Florida over spring break just as most college students desire to do during that week, but there was just one stipulation: it had to take care of business.

Rider (2-9) traveled to Northern Colorado, Columbia, Bucknell and Wisconsin-Green Bay.

Rider’s offense sputtered in the first four games of the series, resulting in shutout losses of 5-0 to Tennessee-Martin, 5-0 to Bradley, 1-0 to Columbia and 11-0 to Northern Colorado.

The lack of offense voided the solid pitching efforts in the first three games by junior Heather Beintema and freshman Jessica Holland.

Junior outfielder Desire Harbaugh did not have much concern when asked about the team’s recent hitting lapse.

“1 think that the bars will come around eventually and we will pull together,” she said.

Later on in the night, after the debacle against Northern Colorado, Rider squeaked by Butler with a 3-2 victory. Junior catcher Jill Carrabus hit a home run in the second inning, Rider’s first run of the week.

Junior designated hitter Jaime Farley knocked out Butler with a two-run homer in the fourth inning to put the Broncos in the lead for good.

The Broncos concluded their stay in Florida last Friday with a double dose of losses at the hands of Wisconsin-Green Bay and Bucknell.

In the 3-2 loss to Wisconsin-Green Bay, Beintema allowed only two earned runs and two hits, but a costly error set the stage for a two-run fifth inning that poisioned Rider’s chances.

In the nightcap, Rider could not hold on to the 3-0 lead that it put up in the third inning, as Bucknell answered with its own four-run inning as the Broncos ended up dropping a 6-3 decision.

It should be noted that most of the teams that Rider played in Florida had more preparation going into the week because of the bad weather conditions in the Northeast.

“Some teams had a few more games under their belts and that’s what we have to deal with,” said Harbaugh.

Although Rider did not do well in Florida on paper, the team is confident about the upcoming schedule.

“The non-league games are going to help us, the more practice the better,” said senior first baseman Erin McGlynn.

“I think we are going to pull together and we play harder especially when the games count.”

The Broncos have a rematch with Columbia in New York today during a doubleheader starting at 2:30 p.m. This doubleheader begins another stretch of non-league games before the first MAAC game against Marist on April 9.

Rider enters the MAAC season coming off a second place finish in the 2004 MAAC Tournament.

“We still have a [few] more games before Marist,” said Harbaugh.

“Hopefully before the [MAAC] games, we can improve on what we did in Florida.”

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