Offense shines, but defense fails during road trip

By Mike Caputo

If pitching and defense truly lead to a positive outcome, then those were the two components that Rider lacked in its 2-6 spring break road trip last week.

The Broncs were faced with a difficult task from the start as they traveled to Jacksonville, Florida. In the first game of the week they were pummeled by the Iowa Hawkeyes 16-2. Sophomore pitcher Mike Dyszel had a solid outing by pitching into the seventh inning and giving up only four runs on five hits and struck out five Blackbirds, while freshman pitcher Bill Hemberger closed the door on Long Island Blackbirds 6-4. Sophomore pitcher Mike Dyszel had a solid outing by pitching into the seventh inning and giving up only four runs on five hits and struck out five Blackbirds, while freshman pitcher Bill Hemberger closed the door on Iowa.

In the next round, Fisch would face the Big Ten Conference champion at 141 pounds, Josh Chrurella of Michigan University. This was another one of the more competitive matches in the tournament. It was tied 8-8 after three periods and Chrurella earned the two points in the second period of sudden death overtime when he secured a tilt for a two-point near fall. Chrurella went on to take eighth in the tournament.

Don wrestled and almost beat a Big Ten champion. He got to sudden death with him and gave the kid everything he had,” said Taylor.

Fisch went on to face Iowa freshman Alex Tiiriss in the consolation bracket. Fisch would take Tiiriss down in a 6-2 victory. Cory Cooperman of Lehigh was waiting for Fisch in the next round. Fisch wrestled his last match of season when Cooperman beat Fisch.

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