**Terror on the Field**

**Softball ready for MAAC competition.**

By Mike Caputo
Staff Writer

When it comes to sports, fear is a competitor’s worst enemy. The defending Metro Atlantic Athletic Conference (MAAC) champion Rider softball team feels that it has the potential to instill fear upon its competition.

“We are a scary team,” said sophomore pitcher Heather Beintema.

Beintema is one of the many players on the team that has opposing squads fearing the Broncs. In the infancy stages of the season, Beintema has already earned MAAC Pitcher of the Week honors twice after posting a 7-2 record, seven complete games and a remarkable 0.57 earned run average (ERA). She has been untouchable during her nine appearances, striking out 64 batters in 53 innings.

In the first game of the doubleheader against Columbia on March 24, Beintema struck out a career-high 13 batters. This is all after coming off of a slow start and is still struggling as of late. It dropped two out of three games to Siena losing a recent game. The team got off to a slow start and is still looking for a win.

Sophomore Ryan Marchini attempts to slide into second during a recent game. Beintema has been dominating the competition so far this season, striking out 64 batters in 53 innings.

**Bats Fall Silent**

**Baseball continues its struggle**

By Andrew Straub
Staff Writer

The baseball team had yet another disappointing week, losing a weekend series with Siena two games to one and falling to Rutgers Tuesday afternoon. The losses dropped the Broncs record down to 6-12 for the 2004 season, a season which marks the last for coach Sonny Pizzaro.

The series against Siena was comprised of a double-header on Saturday and one game on Sunday. The Broncs split a conference doubleheader Saturday, with both games going into extra innings.

The first game was won 1-0 in eleven innings behind senior ace pitcher Eric Weiner’s masterful 10-inning scoreless performance in which he struck out eleven batters. The only score came in the 11th inning when junior Jonathan Rehm led off the inning with a single, stole second and scored the winning run on senior Sean Whalen two-out single.

The second game also featured a strong pitching performance by freshman pitcher Mike Dyszel who allowed one run on four hits while striking out four in six innings. But the performance was wasted as the Broncs could only manage four hits throughout the game.

Siena took a 1-0 lead in the third inning on a sacrifice fly. The Broncos eventually tied the score in the fourth inning when senior Scott Rich worked the base path and stole home. But Siena would pull out the victory in the 10th inning, scoring four runs on four hits and a Broncs error.

Sunday’s concluding game showcased another poor Rider offensive showing, as the Broncs lost again. The game was never very close, as Rider chipped away at the deficit only to cut the lead to 5-4 after Whalen’s RBI single in the eighth inning.

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