QUEEN OF THE K'S

By Jared Vichko
Sports Editor

Junior Tami Coyle was named MAAC Offensive Player of the Year for soccer this season. As a member of the basketball team she led the squad in three-point percentage. Coyle is one of five females playing two Division I sports at Rider. The other four are: sophomore Jennifer Marcella, freshman Ashley Boulden, junior Maddy Boulden and freshman Danielle Holmes. The last male athlete to perform this feat was seven years ago, when Matt Miles was a member of the soccer and tennis teams.

FAB FEMALES

Five women take on two sports

By Mike Caputo
Staff Writer

It is a daunting task for student-athletes to balance schoolwork and their respective sport. Imagine how hard it must be to play two sports. Currently five women undertake the challenge of taking part in two sports here at Rider. These exceptional student-athletes are “Tami Coyle, Jennifer Marcella, freshman Ashley Boulden, junior Maddy Boulden and freshman Danielle Holmes.”

“She's a great leader and she has great character,” said catcher Jill Carrabus. “She's a great teammate and an awe-inspiring shortstop. Jill Carrabus. “She's a great leader and she has great character,” said catcher Jill Carrabus. “She's a great teammate and an awe-inspiring shortstop.”

For as good as Beintema has been, her story isn’t a typical one of domination since she picked up a glove. She began pitching at the age of eight, and, unbeknownst to her, was taught the wrong mechanics. It was only at the age of 15, when she had a pitching coach who noticed a problem with her hips, that she was able to change to the right technique and form.

Even with the coach, it took her two years before she earned her varsity letter. In sports terms, it’s almost unheard of that players who don’t make the team as a freshman or sophomore go on to pursue their athletic careers in college.

“I didn’t get on varsity until my junior year,” said Beintema. “I tried out my freshman and sophomore years, but I just played JV. I just wanted to have some fun. I never thought I would be this successful or that it would lead me here.”

Here is where she is needed the most. In her first pitching appearance, which came in relief action her freshman year, Beintema admits she was nervous.

“I came in as a closer,” said Beintema. “I was a timid little freshman pitcher. Luckily, I was thrust out of the closer role and given the opportunity to start. It was a learning experience for me.”

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Beintema spews fire on mound

Sophomore Heather Beintema has been a force on the mound all season for the Broncs. She set a new Rider record for strikeouts in a game with 15 and has not allowed a run in her last 38 innings. Rider has won 12 of its last 14 games.