For the Broncs, the four-team Rider Invitational on Saturday, April 9, was a weekend full of individual and team successes.

Both the men’s and women’s teams tied for first place over their competition, which consisted of Fordham, Marist and Wagner. In addition, three Broncs shattered previous Rider records. These three athletes were all sophomores: Doug Beck in the discus (49.62m), Jazmine Fenlator in the javelin (13.20m) and Randy Nixon, who placed first in the 4 x 100 relay team made up of freshman David Payne, sophomore Edward Reid, junior Jamaal Harris and sophomore David Payne. This experienced relay squad, made up of three returnees (Reid, Harris and Payne) qualified for the IC4A’s with a time of 41.55.

In sprints and hurdles, Payne won the 100-meter and 200-meter dashes and sophomore Dave Lado won the 400-meter hurdles. The Rider men also had victories in the distance events as freshman Jeff Staud placed first in 1500-meter and freshman Paul Matsuzak in the 5,000-meter. First place finishes in field events included junior Adam Kucinski in the pole vault and freshman Andrew Dagenais in the javelin.

Hodge has been impressed with the improvement of the field and distance events this season.

“It’s the first time in a long time that Manhattan throwers haven’t been leading in certain field events, especially the javelin,” said Hodge. “The men’s team has a better chance to be a conference championship team.”

These two men encompass top teams from Maine to Virginia, with the majority comprising Division I teams.

Although records and qualifying times are important individually and for the program, Hodge preaches a realistic attitude to his athletes.

“My philosophy is to learn how to compete well as a competitor, and the times and distances will follow,” said Hodge.

In the Rider Invitational, the men opened up with a huge victory in the 4 x 100 relay and the 100-meter. Randy Nixon, senior Anthony Reid, junior Jamaal Harris and sophomore David Payne. This experienced relay squad, made up of three returnees (Reid, Harris and Payne) qualified for the IC4A’s with a time of 41.55.

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