Club baseball’s five-game rut 
After a great start, Rider falls into a major slump

By Eamon Ducey

The Rider baseball club is in the middle of its inaugural season in the New Penn East Conference. Rider has struggled as of late, losing five in a row, including a 15-4 loss to New York University (NYU) on Wednesday.

The team’s five-game losing streak started on April 13 when the University of Pennsylvania swept Rider in a doubleheader at Rider’s home field, Mercer County Park.

Saturday the team was swept when it visited Lehigh University. In the first game of a doubleheader, Rider lost 19-9. Junior Ari Bluestein had the best day for the Broncos with two hits, two runs scored and two runs batted in. Sophomore Tim Swavely also had a strong game with two hits, two runs scored, one RBI and a stolen base.

Sophomore Sean O’Connell pitched five innings, allowing 13 runs on 13 hits with only three earned runs and three strikeouts.

“We started playing when we were six,” said Devin. “We grew up with tennis. We used to go to the park with our parents and older sister.”

Coach Torres first noticed the twins when he tried to recruit their older sister.

“I had recruited their sister, but she didn’t come here,” said Torres. “At the time, they were only about 10 years old. We’re very, very happy that they are here. They make a good team into a better team.”

The twins had a national ranking when they decided to come to Rider.

“We got recruited by Mr. Torres,” said Devin. “We decided on Rider because it was so close and the program was awesome.”

Growing up, the twins would play in competitions and sometimes challenge each other.

“The only thing we hated was that sometimes we would always end up playing against each other,” said Torres. “When we were younger we would always play against each other,” said Caitlin. “During tournaments, we would always end up playing against each other in the finals.”

However, the twins especially love playing alongside each other.

“We love playing doubles together,” said Devin. “We love that we are in matching clothes. It’s so much fun.”

Rider is currently ranked third in the MAAC and is expecting to beat its first opponent at the MAAC Championships.

“We’re seeded third in the MAAC Tournament, the highest rank we’ve ever had,” said Torres. “Friday they are playing Siena, and I expect they will win.”

The tennis team has its best record this season, with a 13-5 overall record.

“We have the hot players,” said Torres. “Our numbers were never this good.”

Can’t knock hustle

Lacrosse shakes off poor weather

By Mike Caputo

The club lacrosse team may lack wins and experience, but it is not lacking when it comes to learning and improving.

On the weekend of April 1, Rider faced its longest stretch in the MAAC and is expecting to win.

Sophomore Jim Flynn, a first-year player, admits that the final result may have been even closer if the team had more preparation, especially for the new members of the squad.

“We started Friday really disorganized as a team on the field because most people did not know what they were doing,” said Flynn. “Being undermanned hurts because there is constant motion in lacrosse, and fatigue sets in when the team is undermanned.”

Junior Jose Jalandoni agrees with Flynn’s point about fatigue.

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