TUNE UP TIME FOR TRACK
Broncos prepare for the Championships

By Mike Caputo
Sports Editor

While cars may only need to be tuned up every 1000 miles or so, the men’s and women’s track and field teams’ engines are always finely tuned. Only two meets this weekend stand between the Broncos and the crucial Metro Atlantic Athletic Association (MAAC) Outdoor Track and Field Championships next weekend.

“Our main goal [this weekend] is to stay focused and get prepared for next weekend, which is really the most important meet [MAAC Championships] of the year for our team,” said freshman thrower Doug Beck.

As the MAAC Championships approach, the Rider men and women aspire to overtake seven-time defending Outdoor Champion Manhattan Jaspers. The Broncos have finished second in each of the last six conference championships since it has been a member of the MAAC. Manhattan has also won eight straight MAAC Indoor Championships.

Other teams that Rider will face are Iona, Marist and Saint Peter’s. The Iona men finished one point behind Rider in the MAAC Indoor Championships held in February and have their eyes set on moving past the Broncos. For the women, Marist appears to be the only other threat beyond Manhattan, as the Red Foxes finished in a distant third behind the Broncos in the Indoor Championships.

“I see our team giving [Manhattan] some more competition this year than in years past,” said Beck.

“We can only perform our best and hope that the chips fall where they should.”

The chips will definitely fall in the right place if Rider competes the way it has during the outdoor season. The Broncos have not finished any lower than third place in any of the meets during this part of the season.

On Saturday, the men and women both finished in third place at the Monmouth Quad meet. For the men, junior Adam Kucinski won the pole vault, while senior Brandon Hicks won the 110m hurdles. First place finishers on the women’s side were freshman Jazmine Fenlator (short put), sophomore Jennifer Williams (high jump), freshman Danielle Holmes (triple jump) and junior Pam White (800 meters).

Earlier in the outdoor season, the Rider men and women placed second in both Lafayette Invitational and the Delaware Invitational. Fenlator broke two Rider records in the Lafayette Invitational when she won the women’s discuss with a total of 44.84 meters and finished second in the hammer throw with a total of 45.36 meters.

Rider continues its participation in the nationally recognized Penn Relays today in Philadelphia hosted by the University of Pennsylvania. The Broncos began action at Penn yesterday, but results were unavailable at press time.

“The standards for individual events are very high [at the Penn Relays],” said Beck.

Tomorrow, the Broncos drive down Interstate 95 to participate in the Lions Invitational hosted at The College of New Jersey (TCNJ). Rider has placed behind the TCNJ Lions in both the Lafayette and Monmouth meets. This will be the final meet before the MAAC Championships.

“I think as a whole, our team has been at or above where we want to be,” said Beck.

“We’re scoring more points than we have in past years at various meets, which shows the hard work and dedication [of the team].”

‘We can only perform our best and hope the chips fall where they should.’

- Doug Beck

2003-2004 Final Records and Finishes

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Fall</th>
<th>Winter</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Field Hockey (14-5); NEC Regular Season Champs, NEC Finals Runner-up</td>
<td>Men’s Swimming and Diving (10-3); MAAC Champions</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Women’s Soccer (11-7-2); MAAC Tourney semifinalist</td>
<td>Women’s Swimming and Diving (6-5); MAAC Finals Runner-up</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Men’s Soccer (2-15-3);</td>
<td>Wrestling (15-3); CAA Finals Runner-Up</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Men’s Tourney semifinalist</td>
<td>Men’s and Women’s Indoor Track and Field (NR); MAAC Finals Runner-Up</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Women’s Tennis (4-6); Men’s Cross Country (NR); Fourth Place in MAAC, 23rd in NCAA | Spring & Summer Employment: Lifeguards, swim instructors, coaches, land & water aerobics instructors and camp counselors for rest of spring and summer at Princeton YMCA. Great salaries/flexible hours 7 days a week. Call 609-497-9622. |
| Women’s Tennis (4-6); Men’s Cross Country (NR); Fourth Place in MAAC, 23rd in NCAA | Men’s Basketball (7-14); MAAC Quarterfinalist |
| Women’s Cross Country (NR); Eighth Place in MAAC | Women’s Basketball (5-23); MAAC First Round Loss |
| Volleyball (10-18); Last Place in MAAC | Men’s and Women’s Indoor Track and Field (NR); |

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