Women's soccer suffer first MAAC defeat in rain

By Mike Caputo
Staff Writer

Intensity, heart and desire are just a few words that came to the mind of sophomore midfielder Aileen Ascolese when asked about the characteristics of her team. The team motto, “get after it,” fully reveals the true shift of complexion that the Rider Broncos’ women's soccer program has underwent.

“We have much more respect this year than any other year, but most importantly we have taken ourselves and the program more seriously,” Ascolese said.

After securing victories against three MAAC conference opponents earlier in the week, the 6-4-1 (3-1 MAAC) Broncos definitely did not get a kick out of their 3-2 defeat in the heavy rain last Sunday, Oct. 12, at Fairfield.

Rider was unable to attain a lead throughout the entire game. After being down 3-1 in the first half, the team managed to tighten the score to 3-2 when star forward Tami Coyle sunk her team's leading ninth goal of the season in the beginning of the second half, but the team was unable to produce any more offense. Sophomore Jennifer Marcella tied the game up at 1-1 in the first half by scoring her third goal of the season on a direct kick.

“Our second-half was better than the first half, we stepped up the intensity,” Marcella said.

The confidence level of the Broncos was at its highest peak before the loss and when asked if it would negatively affect the team's poise, senior leader Sarah Artale said no.

“Every player on this team knows what we did wrong individually and as a group we could have won,” she said.

“The loss really won’t be that bad, especially since Fairfield is highly respected in the league,” Marcella added. “It will help us learn that we can't go into a game expecting to win easily.”

Artale continued the Broncos' abundance of MAAC award winners. She earned MAAC offensive player of the week honors for the week of Sept. 29 after impressive performances against UMBC, Marist and Siena. The MAAC winning streak against Marist, Siena, and Iona marked the best conference start in Rider women's soccer history. Much of this success can be pointed to the team's new style. The method of play that the Broncos have displayed is described as “an aggressive possessive style of playing,” according to junior Deidre Nowak.

“We don’t want to play ‘long ball,’” she said. “We want to gather a bunch of passes together to create action [offense].”

Rider's goal of winning the MAAC championship depends upon making the postseason tournament. In all likelihood, the Broncos could clinch a spot in the conference tournament if the team wins at least three out of the last five MAAC games.

“We want to win all of our remaining games,” said Artale.

The cranberry, black, and white squad opens up a homestand with two conference games, which start

Dynamic duo Levi and Householder
reach 1,000 dig milestone

By Andrew Straub
Staff Writer

Every year on Nov. 11, Americans take time out of their day to honor soldiers that have fought bravely for their country. This day is known as Veteran's Day. Here at Rider, two veteran volleyball "soldiers" are being honored for their tremendous accomplishments on the court.

Jaclyn Levi, a junior, and senior Amy Householder have been playing together at Rider for three seasons. Standing opposite each other as outside hitters, the girls have amassed remarkable statistics that rank with some of Rider volleyball's all-time greats.

Levi emerged in her freshman year as the go-to hitter on the squad. She continued to progress rapidly her sophomore year, leading the squad in kills and attacks. This year Levi has become a part of Rider volleyball history. Just halfway through the season, she became the first Bronc to reach the milestone of 1,000 kills and 1,000 digs as a junior.

“It is truly a great honor,” said Levi. “I could have never done it without my teammates. They are the reason I love what I do here.”

“Jaclyn is an all-around great player. She's a great hitter and she's greatly defensively,” said teammate Lauren Niewender. “We are all behind her 100 percent. Who knows? Maybe she can get to 3,000.”

Householder or “House,” as she is known by her teammates, is the team's four-year leader. She played in every game last year, leading the team in digs and service aces. On, Friday, Oct. 3, Householder reached the milestone of 1,000 digs.

“One thousand digs is a great accomplishment. I'm happy I was able to do it before I left,” said Householder.

Niewender said that Householder has been a leader all four years.

“She shines out on the court and sets an example for everyone else,” she said.

Perhaps even more extraordinary than the girls' individual accomplishments is the chemistry between the two players. Leading the Broncos to a 10-10 record, Levi and Householder could have won. The loss really won't be that bad, especially since Fairfield is highly respected in the league, Marcella added. “It will help us learn that we can't go into a game expecting to win easily.”

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