Men’s soccer shows heart

By David Hurka
Staff Writer

The men’s soccer team finished up their season this week with two hard fought games against tough opponents, St. Peter’s University and Manhattan College.

Against St. Peter’s, the Broncs had a 1-0 lead off a brilliant header by freshman Brian Laurinaitis in the first half, but then let St. Peter’s back in early in the second half. Off a Rider turnover, St. Peter’s brought the ball down the side and put it past goalie Brian Gill.

Both teams had several chances after that goal, but neither was able to convert until the overtime period. Only 44 seconds in, St. Peter’s put another shot past Gill for the game winner. Rider out-shot St. Peter’s 18-13, and Gill had six saves.

On Senior Day, it was a freshman who made the difference for the Broncs against Manhattan. Joe Rados scored the game-tying goal off of a Manhattan turnover and scored with very little time left in regulation. Both teams’ defenses held strong through two long overtimes, and the game finished a 1-1 tie.

Senior goalie Augustin Perez started for the Broncs and had three saves, while Gill entered later and had another five.

The team’s final record was 5-11-2, but there were several close games that could have gone either way for the Broncs. They had many one-goal games slip through their grasp, but could not make the most of their opportunities in those games.

The most impressive win of the season would have to be the double overtime thriller against Princeton, which was broadcast on CN8. With only a second to spare, sophomore Sandro DeCroisafaro scored his first ever goal for Rider to beat Princeton for only the third time in 18 meetings between the two schools.

DeCroisafaro also gets the nod as the most impressive newcomer on the team this season. A sophomore this year, he finished second on the team in goals with four. He also had two assists. He played in 17 of the 18 games this year, starting in 15 of them. With leading goal scorer Sean O’Hare graduating, the Broncs will look to get more from the bench and will look to get more goals with more starting time next year.

Rados, from Middletown, Pa., will look to continue on from his late season surge and help the Broncs win even more games next season.

The Rider News

Guts

From Page 12

a tremendous honor. Still, the team doesn’t see the loss as a downside to their season.

“Many people didn’t give us a chance going into the game,” said sophomore Christina Ang. “More teams will respect us now by the way we played.”

“Our season was definitely a journey,” said sophomore Katie Conlon. “All season we stepped it up when we needed to. During the playoffs we really showed what we were made of.”

“We know what we have to do to end stop a team from doing the same,” said sophomore Marissa Merrill.

“I owe everything to my team. They played awesome in front of me the entire year and made my job very easy,” said Cushinotto.

The team returns with all of its starters, goalkeeper Jennifer Cushinotto and forward Merrill.

“This season has been an awesome memory,” said Cushinotto. “The girls made last year the best season I ever had.”

In the past three years, Cush, as her teammates call her, has guarded the cage tighter than Fort Knox. Despite her individual achievements, she acknowledges that she wouldn’t be anything without her team.

“We have to strive to reach higher now, the level we must play at,” said Johnson of the tournament.

The team's final record was 5-11-2.

The NEC Tournament MVP.

“Tommie” O’Hare, there are freshman from this class that worked hard and got along.

"It was fun to be there with the team," said Johnson of the tournament.

The team’s final record was 5-11-2.

The NEC Tournament MVP.

“Tommie” O’Hare, there are freshman from this class that worked hard and got along.

"It was fun to be there with the team," said Johnson of the tournament.

The team’s final record was 5-11-2.