**Broncs’ Bits**

**Upcoming Home Games**

Men’s Basketball
11/21, Brown 7:30

Women’s Basketball
11/25, Monmouth 7:00

Men’s Swimming
11/22, Delaware 1:00

Women’s Swimming
11/22, Delaware 1:00

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**‘ROAD’ from PAGE 12**

History has proven to never count out an underdog, especially in men’s and women’s college basketball. For example, in 1999 the University of Illinois’ men’s basketball team held the last place seed in the Big Ten conference tournament. It managed to win three games in three days before finally falling to top seeded Michigan State in the championship game.

“Ninth is kind of a nice place to be because no one has any expectations,” said Price. “I think it is actually going to help us rather than hinder us.”

An aggressive offensive attack that has been expected from recent Rider teams will remain as sharpshooting juniors Hower and Katie Hall complemented with the inside presence of Junior Co-captain Leanne Moore will lead the attack.

The offensive duo of Hower and Hall was recently named to the second team All-MAAC squad. Moore, although undersized for her position (6’0”) in comparison to other MAAC schools, managed to be fifteenth in the nation in blocks and fourth in the conference in rebounds during the 2002-2003 season.

The need for a competent defensive unit for the Broncs has been a concern for fans, coaches and players over the last few seasons. Price takes pride in the athleticism of this year’s team, especially because of the talented freshmen class coming in. As a result, there will be much more of an emphasis on defense this season.

“It takes time to work as a [defensive] team and to work as one unit,” he explained. “In the first two scrimmages our timing (on defense) has been a little late, but that is the type of stuff that comes with time and you can see it coming every day.”

Moore is confident in the Broncs’ use of teamwork to develop its defensive needs.

“We always work hard and stick together,” she said. Hower said that she is aware that Rider needs to rise above the competition.

“We have to create turnovers and do the little things correctly to be successful,” she said.

According to Price, the improvement in defense will not take away from an aggressive offense.

“As we become more consistent on defense, we will put enough points on the board because we have the top shooters in the league,” Price said. “We are going to run, but with a little more control and not as high octane [as last season].”

Rider begins its season tonight, Friday, Nov. 21, in the Seton Hall preseason tournament against the host Pirates and will play either Dartmouth or UNC Charlotte later in the weekend.

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**‘ZOO’ FROM PAGE 12**

more experienced and they know what they’re doing.”

Harnum said that they have good leadership on the team.

“I appointed Jerry Johnson, Robert Taylor and Laurence Young captains because they are leaders,” he said. “We’re also very strong in the back court.”

The goal for the year, according to Harnum, is the same as it is every year: to win the league and get to the NCAA tournament.

“That’s the unspoken goal of every season,” he said. “We also want to get better with every single practice. Over time, our strong work ethic will pay off. Last year we got stronger every day and we’re looking to do that this year.”

“The season will open tonight, Friday, Nov. 21, at home versus Brown at 7:30.

“We had a tough game with them last year so it’s going to be a good game,” said Harnum.

As a coach, you’re never sure how your team will play in the first game,” he added. “If we keep the focus and level of competitiveness we’ve had in scrimmages and practices, our chances are very good.”

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**‘NOISE’ from PAGE 11**

Imagine how frustrating it must be for athletes when they know that they are playing in front of virtually no one. All of their accomplishments and feats fall on blind eyes and deaf ears. The most successful team on campus, the field hockey team, had almost no fans until they went to the championship game.

And if the fans did come to basketball games, think of the possibilities. Because our gym only holds 1,600, it has the potential to be full every game. We could make this place murder for other teams. With the short distance from the sideline to the bleachers, our student body could live up to the names on our t-shirts and wear a jock or not. Just like Duke’s Cameron Indoor Stadium, we’re looking to do that this year.”

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**Player of the Week**

Junior basketball guard Jerry Johnson was named to the first-team All-MAAC men’s preseason team. Johnson was a first-team All-MAAC selection last year, finishing fourth in the MAAC in scoring and was third in the MAAC in three-point field goals.