Women’s basketball looks to score big

By Nicole Santore

StafF Writer

Returning players and new recruits will set the foundation for years to come for women’s basketball.

Last year two freshmen received MAAC All-Rookie Team awards and several of the older girls grew stronger as the season went on. Now they have four new additions that make the team even deeper.

“We play a very distinct style of play,” said Coach Eldon Price. “We race up and down the floor, take a lot of shots, press, and wear the other team down.”

The goals of the team this season are more based on what each player needs to work on than the number of games they win. “Individual performances are the kind of goals we are going to focus on, not so much on the outcome,” says Price. “But certainly, we want to win every game.”

By the players working on their goals, the team will develop more since they are such a young team. By the end of the season, they will be a big threat. “Teams are fearful of our shooters,” said Price.

The team features a small lineup, but they are strong. For the start of the season, Melanie James will be the center standing only 5’ 10,” but is one of the best rebounders around. Junior Lauren Thomer and sophomore Becky Flower will be bringing the ball up for the ladies and at the post will be returning sophomores Leanne Moret and Katie Hall.

This will give some of the new recruits time to find their place and gain some confidence. By the end of the season combination will be lethal.

The team will use their zone defense to shake up the opponent and will depend on their great shooting skill at the other end. The team is hoping to win more easily games to build their confidence and win more non-conference games. There were eight non-conference games where they lost by four points. Picking up those wins is not far from their reach and will make their record represent more accurately their ability.

The MAAC championships will be held at the Sovereign Bank Arena this year, which will give Rider a home court advantage. They will be familiar with the court and will be able to have many Rider students come out and support them.

“I think we are fun to watch and the support we get keeps us going in our games,” said Price.

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Jared Vichko

The biggest muscle

Question: What is the link or common bond between the following quotations?

“Ever to be the best and to surpass others,” Achilles, in Homer’s, The Odyssey.

“There is one quality which one must possess to win, and that is definiteness of purpose, the knowledge of what one wants, and a burning desire to possess it,” Napoleon Hill.

“It’s not whether you get knocked down, it’s whether you get up,” Vince Lombardi.

By you guessed desire, you get an ‘A’ in Newspaper Interpretation 101. Call it whatever you want: desire, heart, guts, determination. They’re all the same, and they all have fueled greatness.

This past weekend, Philadelphia’s one-legged Superman, Donovan McNabb, showed desire. His performance was in stark contrast to that of an ex-Eagle, Ricky Watters. Watters, in his first ever game as an Eagle, displaying less heart than the Tin-Man, avoided a catch because of an ensuing hit. When asked why he didn’t go for the catch, he replied “Get hit, for what?”

While some players only make this kind of effort once in a blue moon, for some, such as Michael Jordan, these feats come as regular as your morning coffee and newspaper. Perhaps his greatest moment came in Game 5 of the ’97 Finals against Utah. Jordan, who would have been better suited donning a cape and rings, played with a severe case of the flu and a temperature exceeding 103 degrees. Despite his ailments, he scored 38 points, including the game winning three-pointer.

Jordan’s heroics won a championship. Jesse Owens, on the other hand, changed the perspective of a nation. The 1936 Olympics were held in Berlin, at that time the lifeblood of the Nazi war machine. Flying in the face of the Fuehrer, his four gold medals silenced Hitler and his notions of Aryan supremacy.

While Owens and Jordan competed against some of the best athletes on earth, Edmund Hillary battled against earth itself. On May 29, 1953, Hillary became the first person to reach the top of Mount Everest. Putting in the back of his mind that 16 men had already died attempting this, his scaling of the mountain is a testament to desire, heart, and the