By Joe Haubrich

The Rider men’s basketball team improved to 2-1 on Tuesday night when it defeated the Hawks of Monmouth 78-61. The hard work over the summer, the hours of practice and the lessons learned in the first two games of the season culminated in the Broncs’ most impressive game of the season. Rider’s fast-paced ball movement, hounding defense and a barrage of three-point field goals that were rained upon Monmouth, wowed the 1,595 fans in attendance.

Rider hit a total of 13 three-point field goals, the most scored in a single game since Rider joined the Metro Atlantic Athletic Conference (MAAC) in 1994. It shot 54.5 percent from behind the three-point line and 49.2 percent for the game.

The Broncs have now won all seven of its Alumni Gym openers under head coach Don Harnum, who compiled his 110th victory with Rider.

“Our overall skill level this year is better than it was last year because [players] have improved. They have been better shooters and better passers, they’re stronger, and we obviously added guys that are pretty skilled,” said Harnum.

“We didn’t want to just throw the ball around the perimeter and launch threes. I think the threes we took were the right kind of [shots], which is why we had such a good shooting percentage.”

The Hawks could not effectively put a hand in the face of sophomore guard, Terrance Mouton, who shot six for eight from beyond the arc. Mouton scored 21 points, a career high. Most of his points came in the second half when Rider out-scored Monmouth 43-27.

“We worked on penetrating the gaps of the zone and it paid off in the game,” said Mouton. “We moved the ball a lot better.”

Ball movement and good passing led to Rider’s success.

“We preach ball movement and player movement,” said Harnum. “We want players to be unselfish and I think we were terrific tonight.”

Harnum gives a lot of cred- it to his 6’7” junior forward.

“Everyone is ready to contribute on this team,” said senior captain sprinter Giovanni Muniz. “Each group is focused and ready to step it up this year.”

Since the track season is longer than other sports, injuries become a factor. According to the sophomore jumper Allyson Angelo, the amount of talent on both squads makes injuries less of an issue.

“It comes down to who’s healthy,” she said. “But we have the depth that we can put in someone else easily.”

The women enter the indoor season coming off of the program’s first ever Metro Atlantic Athletic Conference (MAAC) Championship in the 2004 outdoor season. They were also named the 2003-2004 Rider Team of the Year.

This does not mean much to the Broncs, as it opened the season at the Lafayette Invitational after finishing in second place during last year’s Indoor MAAC Championships.

“We are a better outdoor team,” said Angelo. “We have to prove ourselves during the indoor season and try to beat Manhattan.”

Manhattan is the team to beat. The Jaspers consistently sit atop the MAAC, as the school has won eight consecutive indoor championships on both the men’s and women’s sides. Even the players are aware of it.

“All three members of the track and field team using every last bit of energy in a sprint during a practice on Tuesday afternoon.