**Volleyball looking to improve**

**Team trying to get back on track this weekend**

By Brian Brennan  
Staff Writer

The Broncs’ lady’s volleyball team went 1-2 over the weekend at the Rider Invitational. Their one win came against Sacred Heart, as they dropped their other two matches to Fairleigh Dickinson and Princeton. The Broncs’ brought their record to 3-10 this year, which, compared to last year’s 6-5 record at this point in the season, has to be a little disappointing.

Rider won their match against Sacred Heart three games to one (31-29, 24-30, 30-24, 29-26), after being beaten by Princeton three games to none and Fairleigh Dickinson three games to one.

The Lady Broncs came through with an impressive performance from junior outside hitter Amy Householder.

Householder had 10 service aces, 50 digs, and a stellar 33 kills in this tournament. She had 16 kills and 21 digs in the Sacred Heart win alone, and was accompanied by Jaclyn Levi’s 23 digs and 13 kills.

Thus far the duo of Householder and Levi have put up impressive numbers for a Rider team who, although struggling at times, has shown flashes of brilliance.

Rider’s supporting cast includes Laura Berger, Heather Marzan, Lauren Niewender, Kristine Dorrnber, Embrey Minor, and Erica West.

Through the first month of the season, Householder has compiled impressive statistics. She is first on the team in digs with 192, which is over 4.1 a game, and her 121 kills is second only to Levi’s 172.

A graduate of Blackhawk High School in Pennsylvania, Householder set her school record in just her first season.

Her strong but graceful play seems to be contagious as it sparks the team, whether she is blocking a ball back in her opponents face or setting up one of her teammates for a kill.

“Her passing has improved immensely,” said fourth-year head coach Emily Ahlquist who led Rider to their best-ever Metro Atlantic Athletic Conference record in just her first season.

Householder and the Lady Broncs will try to average their 1-2 performance this weekend at the Central Connecticut State Invitational.

They will be going up against Central Connecticut on Friday the 27th and Stony Brook and Yale on Saturday the 28th and then have a rare Wednesday night game here at Rider against Lafayette at 7:00 p.m.

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**Equestrian team is riding high**

By Dana Platekava  
Managing Editor

Rider’s equestrian team is jumping high over fences and racing with determination to be the best in the regional competitions.

This year many people have shown interest in the newly started team, according to Mary Ann Somaine.

“There are a lot of new riders, most who haven’t had experience but want to have fun,” said Somaine.

According to Somaine, last year the team was apprehensive about allowing people to join who weren’t solely interested in shows. However, this year the team has decided it would be in their best interest to open it up for everyone, even if their only desire is to ride and not participate in shows.

“The main thing we want the campus to know is that the team is open to both males and females and there is no experience needed,” said Somaine.

“Sometimes it’s just relaxing to get off campus and ride for awhile.”

According to Somaine, the equestrian team attends about 10 shows per academic year and in the region.

The team is a member of the Intercollegiate Horse Show Association (IHSA), which was created for the purpose of promoting competition for riders of any skill level regardless of financial status.

According to IHSA, students compete individually and as team members at both Regional and National levels.

The team members have realized that support is the biggest part of being a true team, said Somaine.

“We’re saying now that we’re a team. Let’s try to stay together as much as possible,” said Somaine. “We are asking that every member stays at the show until our last rider has finished his or her class.”

According to Somaine, classes at the shows consist of four levels: open level fences, open flat, intermediate level fences and intermediate flat. Riders are also broken into to novice, beginner and intermediate. In the flat classes in which there is no jumping a rider can do walking, trotting or cantering.

Once a rider has accumulated 55 points in a class then they can move onto the next level; however, the open level only needs 28 points, according to Somaine.

Once a rider has accrued 35 points they may move to the Regional Competition.

“A first or second placing at the Regionals will qualify you for the Zone Competitions,” said Somaine. “A first or second placing at the Zones will allow you to compete in the National Competition which is the biggest accomplishment.”

If a rider cannot show due to financial reasons or they are just feeling apprehensive about participating in a show, they won’t have to partake in the shows but will still be asked to take lessons and attended shows to support the rest of the team.

“Lessons are held two times per week and the cost of the lessons are $35,” said Somaine. “The lessons are held at Mason Run Farm in Mount Laurel, New Jersey and are split into various levels of beginner, novice, and novice/intermediate open.”

There still is, however, one fence the team hasn’t quite yet gotten over.

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Rider has neglected to support the team financially, according to Somaine.

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**And More Sports...**

The Men’s Soccer Team recorded an 8-2 double overtime win over Princeton on Wednesday. Senior Sean O’Hare took a pass from freshman Sandro DeCristofaro and scored 3:55 into the second overtime. Rider Senior Brett Aefsky tied the score at 2-2 with 3:26 remaining in the game. Senior Jake Trainor scored the first goal 15 seconds into the second half.

The golf team shot a 311 on Monday, the sixth best round of the day, but finished 14th at the 14th Annual Leo Keenan Invitational. Junior Bob Whartenby shot a 75 to finish with a 151, the best on the Broncos.

The Women’s Soccer Team suffered a frustrating loss to Northeastern 4-3 on Sunday. Despite leading 3-2 with 15 minutes left to play, the Broncos had a ledOWN and allowed two goals. Junior Sarah Artale scored twice and sophomore Marianne Hanna recorded the other goal.

The Field Hockey Team erupted with 6 goals on Sunday in a 6-2 route of Sacred Heart. Sophomores Katie Conlon and Christina Ang both had two goals. Freshmen Courtney Bertos and Angela Fuoco also scored.