

Rider prioritizes pay to avert student strike

By Amethyst Martinez

AFTER over 900 Rider-employed student workers faced payroll difficulties this semester, the university has averted a student-strike amongst Academic Success Center tutors by prioritizing potential strike participants paychecks over other students across campus.

The planned strike, which was coordinated by senior student tutors Emma Zinser and Tiffany Corcoran, was anticipated to take place on Monday, Nov. 6, if their preceding paycheck was missed Friday, Nov. 3.

In an interview with The Rider News on Nov. 2, Zinser, a health sciences major, and Corcoran, a secondary education major, estimated that 15 to 20 student-tutors planned to participate in the strike, and the pair was actively trying to get more involved.

When Zinser, Corcoran and others who planned to participate received Friday paychecks, they called off the strike. But other tutors are still owed pay, according to the ASC's director, Shane Conto.

"There's hundreds of student workers here at Rider University, and trying to make sure that all of that pay situation is resolved in a timely manner, you have to be able to prioritize," said Conto.

Students across campus, including those employed by the ASC, have faced missing and late paychecks, payroll system malfunctions, disbursements issues and more this semester. As of Oct. 31, more than 170

students reported unpaid hours, according to survey information circulated to supervisors.

Corcoran said that participating tutors would go on strike if they didn't receive their back-pay from prior missed checks and their most recent check for Nov. 3; however, only those who threatened to strike were paid in full by the university. Others still continue to face pay difficulties in the center.

"We were told that ... certain Academic Success Center students should expect to see a paycheck [on Nov. 3]," said Corcoran.

Conto said that students who were a part of the planned strike were prioritized to be paid, and that there are still instances of tutors in the center who are missing paychecks.

Conto, who estimated that 13 students were a part of the proposed walkout, said, "The main priority for myself working on Thursday was to get the student workers who were involved in this potential strike to make sure that they got paid ... to help avoid them going on strike."

Conto also confirmed the 13 students, a discrepancy from the number the Zinser and Corcoran reported, were paid in full. He estimated around 140 student-workers were employed at the center.

Although the student-tutors planning to strike were paid, about 37 ASC student-workers reported missing pay, according to information circulated to supervisors.

Many students have been trying to receive back-pay

from prior pay periods at the university.

James Hartman, chief financial officer, said the goal is to pay as many students as possible back by Nov. 10.



Jay Roberson/The Rider News

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'Pray for Palestine' event held on campus

By Julia Train

THE Muslim Student Association held a "Pray for Palestine De-Stresser" on Nov. 2, the first on-campus event for Muslim students since the Oct. 7 Hamas attack on Israel.

During the event, students painted, played games, ate pizza and discussed the latest conflicts between Israel and Palestine.

After attendees finished funneling in, a conversation opened up about the current war in the Middle East, which has resurfaced multiple times since the mid-1900s.

The MSA president stood at the front of the conference room in the Center for Diversity and Inclusion and asked everyone how they're feeling about the current events.

Several students spoke up and talked about how teachers are discussing the war, their own reactions and the different viewpoints that are being taken.

One mentioned how the news presented in the U.S. is slanted toward the side President Joe Biden takes, which is pro-Israel.

"I feel like [it] has to do more with politics, and for instance, Biden's obviously on Israel's side. So I feel like at least for the news in the U.S., it's [going to] obviously be more polarized for his opinion," said Helena Rashid, a sophomore political science major and MSA president.

Another mentioned that a professor brought up his views, which are the same as Biden's.

The subject of the email sent on Oct. 11 from Rider President Gregory Dell'Omo was then mentioned.

In the email, he stated, "The reprehensible attack on Israel and the escalating war with Hamas reminds



Julia Train/The Rider News

Students de-stress from the current Israel-Hamas conflict with pizza and painting.

us that hate and violence remain disgustingly prevalent in our wider world. At Rider University, we condemn this deplorable act of terrorism and the devastating human tragedy that we are witnessing take place in Israel and the Gaza region."

The attendees unanimously agreed that they were "disappointed" with Dell'Omo's statement because they "felt like he was trying to make everybody happy or not cause tension between students."

Attendees conversed about the ongoing conflict and the fact that people often call it the latest Israel-Hamas war while they are ignorant about what's actually going on.

Maria Castillo, a member of MSA, said that she's displeased with the mislabeling of the issue as the "Israel-Hamas conflict." She mentioned that there is little discussion about the mistreatment of Palestinian Muslims and Christians.

"Using the name Hamas...it takes away from the root cause, which is genocide. Saying Hamas lowers people's empathy for it," said senior political science major Maria Castillo. "This is not really Hamas versus Israel, because if we're going to call it that, I might as well call it Hamas versus Israeli Defense Force. ... And people like involving Hamas as a way to lack empathy for the Palestinians."

Hamas is a Palestinian militant group that was designated as a foreign terrorist organization by the U.S. Department of State in October 1997. On Oct. 7, Hamas attacked Israel, killing 1,400 people, according to NPR.

Following the attack, Israel increased its attacks and military presence in Gaza drastically, resulting in mass casualties and injuries.

As of Nov. 6, the Palestinian death toll surpassed 10,000, over 1,400 Israeli citizens have been killed and there are 242 hostages taken from Israel, according to AP News.

Castillo, who holds multiple leadership positions on campus including executive vice president for SGA, president of the Political Science Club and a member of the CDI tripartite committee, expressed that she thinks it's difficult for people to state their opinion for fear of being wrong.

"The government and IDF are really the ones to blame. They're the ones that are not ceasing fire, cutting vital sources of life to Palestinians by cutting off water, electricity and food," said Castillo. "So it's definitely a government issue. It's nothing with religion. It's nothing that Jewish people themselves and citizens do. It's really the government of Israel."

INSIDE

BRONCS HIT THE MAT

Rider wrestling opened its new season at the Princeton Open.



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THE LOSS OF A FRIEND

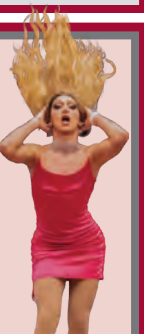
Beloved actor Matthew Perry suddenly passed on Oct. 28th.



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DRAG-FILLED FUN

Spectrum's first-ever Drag Queen Bingo brings down the house.



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SECURITY BRIEFS

BY AMETHYST MARTINEZ

Hit and miss

Close call. On Oct. 30 at approximately 2 p.m., Public Safety was on patrol when they observed a vehicle drive into the Fine Arts Parking Lot through the gate arm that limits access to the lot. Public Safety inspected the gate arm and found no damage. The driver of the vehicle was identified and the matter was referred to the Office of Community Standards.

Solicitors stopped

Repeat requests. On Nov. 6 at approximately 2:15 p.m., Public Safety was dispatched to the Academic Quad for the report of two individuals soliciting money from students. Public Safety responded and found two males who were previously seen soliciting money on Oct. 26. Public Safety contacted the Lawrence Township Police, who responded and identified the males. Public Safety issued letters of persona non grata banning the two individuals from university property.

Off-road driving

Tracks on grass. On Nov. 6 at approximately 9:45 a.m., Public Safety was on patrol around Ben Cohen Field when they observed damage to university property. Public Safety found damage done to the grass by a vehicle driving through it. A review of the security cameras in the area revealed a dark-colored pickup truck driving through the grass and spinning its tires. Facilities Management was contacted and advised of the damage. Public Safety is investigating.

-Information provided by Public Safety Capt. Matthew Babcock

Piscataway Nation Singers and Dancers visits Rider

By Jay Roberson

Lunchtime at Daly Dining Hall was filled with the sounds of traditional Native American music and colorful choreography by the Piscataway Nation Singers and Dancers showcased on Nov. 1 for the beginning of Native American Heritage Month.

Mark Tayac, the leader of the group, spoke about the ways in which their community values music and dance because of its history.

Tayac said, "It hasn't been an easy journey for our people. There [were] periods of time [in] our history that what we are sharing here with you today, we were not allowed to use our drum or sing these songs or to do these dances."

The group began with a grand entry dance, then moved into performances named after animals, including the crow dance, rabbit dance, snake dance and eagle dance.

Thomas Smith, a freshman music production major, participated in the group snake dance, where participants held hands and moved around as the reptile does.

Smith said, "The snake dance was really fun because we were all interconnected and we were all moving, so I really enjoyed that."

Another dance that community members were invited to join was the war dance, which was used to end arguments between tribe members by aiming to tap the shoulder of the opponent to symbolize peace and understanding.

Tayac said, "Many of our people in the old days, and many of us still today, believe that only God, the creator of life, had the right to take the spirit from another human being."

Tayac also explained another method of playing a game in order to resolve any disagreements.

"Our wars were normally fought on

the ballfield ... If there was a dispute between two of our villages we selected our best warriors. They would go on to the ballfield and they would play this game, stick-ball, for days upon days upon days," said Tayac.

Freshman psychology major Lex Wright felt that the event allowed for Rider students to learn more about the culture by connecting themselves to it through dance.

Wright said, "I liked that they brought people up to participate. I thought it was interesting that everyone was able to get more immersed by doing that."

The Piscataway Nation Singers and Dancers hoped to provide people with an accurate idea of what Native American tribes are really like in spite of misinformation spread through mass media.

Tayac said, "What we found over the years is that in today's society, many things that people have learned about us they have learned from the media, such as sport teams that use our people as mascots. Or they've learned about our people from cartoon characters, such as Pocahontas."

Smith noted he thought it was important to learn about Native American heritage directly from tribes rather than through pop culture, which may not accurately portray the tribes.

He said, "Instead of the media showing us and portraying what the culture is like, it's good to have people who are actually involved and actually in the community."

Native Americans were not always able to practice all parts of their culture due to years of oppression and genocide; the Piscataway Nation Singers and Dancers show pride in these longtime traditions through the showcasing of their art.

Tayac said, "We are descendents from Tecumseh,

Pontiac, Chief Joseph, Crazy Horse, Geronimo and all of the great chiefs and people that have gone on before us. We have survived the genocide that was perpetuated on our people."

Watch the Piscataway Nation Singers and Dancers showcase in Daly Dining Hall!

Video by Jay Roberson



The Piscataway Nation Singers and Dancers showcase their singing and dancing pieces.



8,000 American flags planted to honor lives of veterans

By Caroline Haviland

THE Rider University Veterans Association paid tribute to veterans on Nov. 4 at the Campus Mall by planting 8,000 flags, collectively shaped as the Rider “R,” at this year’s Veterans Day Plant-a-Flag event.

The tradition dates back to 2012 when two veterans, former Rider students Tyler Hobbs and Jonathan Bowker, initiated an annual ceremony to commemorate all the soldiers killed since October 2001, when the United States began military operations in Afghanistan.

Each American flag placed on the Campus Mall represented a life lost.

“Volunteers who partook in the tribute lined the flags up in rows resembling Arlington National Cemetery [one of two cemeteries in the United States National Cemetery System that are maintained by the United States Army],” said Thomas Reddington, former director of the Dr. Eugene Marsh Center for Veterans and Military Affairs.

He served in the Marine Corps for 24 years as a west coast and east coast Marine. After his career in the armed forces, he came to Rider in 2012 as a political science major under the Post-9/11 GI Bill (Chapter 33), which covers tuition or job training.

He was a part of the first group of veterans in 2012 who volunteered to help orchestrate the extensive event.

“We wanted to line the flags perfectly straight to look like a cemetery, to have an impact on people on how many lives are lost ... Go out there and look at them. Try to see if you can count them,” said Reddington.

He became director of the Center for Veterans and Military Affairs in 2017 and looked for ways to simplify the event, which took almost a week to complete at the time.

“Originally people had to come at different times which made things complicated. ... I got the idea to place the flags in the outline of the Rider R to cause less chaos,” Reddington said. “Anybody can go out

there and things don’t have to be in any particular order.”

The event morphed from solely a memorial for Afghanistan veterans to a tribute for all veterans, with a display of photos for Lt. Omar Vasquez and Lt. Daniel Hennessy, former members of the Rider community who died in the line of duty, on the sidewalk in front of the Student Recreation Center.

“We did keep the memorial part and invited the Gold Star Families [individuals who lost family members in war]. I told them for as long as I am there, you won’t be forgotten. But I’m not there anymore,” Reddington said.

The memorial for Rider alums who died in combat no longer takes place each year.

Matt Samson, the current director of the Dr. Eugene Marsh Center for Veterans and Military Affairs, worked with the student body to execute this year’s Plant-a-Flag event.

“We had about 13 members from the women’s basketball team and about 10 members from one of the fraternities ... Our student employees, Terrence Bolton and Max Marchiano, helped recruit people to come in and organize the event... We couldn’t have done it without them. We really appreciate them both,” said Samson.

The center holds a 9/11 ceremony each year and will present a permanent display in tribute to Lt. Hennessy and Lt. Vasquez in the Dr. Eugene Marsh Center for Veterans and Military Affairs Lounge during the 2024-25 school year.

Reddington thanked Samson for the work he has been doing at the office since his departure from the university in 2022.

“God bless [Matt],” Reddington said. “He continues to commemorate soldiers with this program that was started so many years ago.

“The whole purpose of this event is to penetrate the consciousness of the student body and make you think of the people out there making sacrifices for you.”

A Veterans Day ceremony will be held on Nov. 9 at 11:30 a.m. on the Moore Library steps.



Caroline Haviland/ The Rider News

Johnathan Bowker and Tyler Hobbs featured in an old issue of The Rider News.

Admin rolls out new student payroll system

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In an email to all students on Oct. 26, Hartman apologized to those who are missing wages and provided a survey for those who were still awaiting checks.

The email stated, “[The survey] will allow us to easily track all unpaid requests, and get as many paid as possible by Friday November 10th.”

In an interview with The Rider News following the email, Hartman said that problems were “pretty much across the board” for students at the university, which currently employs close to 1,000 students.

Conto confirmed that certain students in the ASC are still trying to receive their back-pay and that “there have been some isolated situations where some of our student workers didn’t get paid.”

Conto also said that James Conlon, assistant vice president for academic success and student financial services, had multiple plans in place to make sure those who planned to go on strike were paid by Nov. 3, including giving them cash instead of a paycheck the day of.

Currently, the university is trying to get all students off of ADP, and move them to Banner Web Time Entry. In various interviews with The Rider News throughout the semester, Hartman has cited different dates of when students would move to the new platform.

However, an email went out to students on Nov. 7 stating that, beginning with the Nov. 6 pay period, the university would be rolling out Banner WTE to all student-workers.

Conto empathized with students and said that he doesn’t blame the employees for being frustrated with payroll struggles.

“We really can’t afford to be losing our student-workers, especially at this juncture in the semester,” said Conto. “The hope is...they’re compensated for the work that they do.”



Caroline Haviland/ The Rider News

Arranged in the shape of Rider’s “R” on the Campus Mall, 8,000 American flags honor those who lost their lives fighting.

 **The Rider News** x *Double Good*

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- ▶ 50% of proceeds go to The Rider News Staff
- ▶ Arrives during last week of classes & finals

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TRISTAN E. M. LEACH PRESENTS

November Horoscopes

What do the stars have in store for you this month?

Aquarius (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)

You may find yourself thinking clearly when it comes to your future, Aquarius; however, you may refuse help when it comes to making this future a reality. Remember that being independent does not mean you have to do everything on your own.



Pisces (Feb. 19-March 20)

As this new month begins, you may find yourself ready to communicate. If you have a partner, you may find you two are in harmony in a way that brings you both together. Take your time this month, Pisces, when it comes to creativity, as you may feel a block. Go back to what you know and love, perhaps.



Aries (March 21-April 19)

This month may start out rocky for you, Aries. You may feel stuck in your relationship. Don't let yourself get stuck in the past; instead take this time to heal. Use this time wisely and love yourself.



Taurus (April 20-May 20)

Taurus, at the beginning of this month you might feel a bit all over the place. You may find you lack the energy to continue or start projects. Hold yourself accountable while also being kind to yourself. This month you will learn how to achieve what you want and leave behind what is not realistic.



Gemini (May 21-June 21)

Gemini, the moon is in your house many times this month, a powerful start to the new month. You may feel drawn to make new friends and have more social interactions this November. The full moon will be in your house this month, too; your energy may be high and you may feel more in control.



Cancer (June 22-July 22)

In November, the feelings of Halloween may still linger with you, Cancer. It is okay to take off the mask and admit that you're not feeling like yourself. Take this time to learn something new; this may bring you back to the person you know you are.



Leo (July 23-Aug. 22)

At the start of this month, you may feel some big emotions, Leo. Take a deep breath and think before taking actions that may be destructive to your own growth. Avoid texting your exes and let yourself enjoy the rebirth that will come at the end of the month.



Virgo (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)

Virgo, this month may be a little hard for you socially. You may feel flaky or that you're not at your best energetically. Make sure to take your time and do what is best for you, even if that means staying home and having alone time.



Libra (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)

Last month you worked so hard to heal, Libra, and it is paying off. This month you may find that your career aspirations have come to a standstill. Don't let this deter you, Libra. Take time to work out a new path to your goal and make it happen.



Scorpio (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)

In November you may find yourself extremely grounded, Scorpio. This may present some challenges, however, when it comes to understanding new concepts and ideas. Don't refuse the chance to grow. Be realistic about what you do and don't know.



Sagittarius (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)

As November begins, you may feel a stall in your desire to form deeper relationships. Things may feel out of place and you might have a hard time letting go of what you want versus what you need. It is OK to feel lost, Sagittarius. Admit to yourself that you're not sure where to go from here.



Capricorn (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)

Capricorn, this month may be hard on your romantic relationship. You and your partner may feel a little stuck, but that doesn't mean that it is over. Take this month to slow down, communicate and be kind to yourself and the one you love.



Spectrum hosts first-ever Drag Queen Bingo

By Maggie Kleiner

LOCAL drag made a show-stopping comeback this weekend at Spectrum's Drag Queen Bingo event. The prizes were grand, the tables were packed and the audience was ecstatic.

Rider's LGBTQIA+ club, Spectrum, organized the event, returning drag queens Jolina Jasmine, a well-known professional, and Lexie Legato, a fresh-faced senior Rider musical theater major. Both queens performed at Rider's Drag Race in September, which was Legato's first-ever drag performance.

Drag's uniting nature

As government entities across the country work to ban drag performances, Spectrum works to flaunt them. Executive board members organized the event to break down stereotypes about drag and bring the Rider community together.

Spectrum Communications Director and senior dance performance major Marissa Stellato explained why the event was important to her.

"It's affirming in the way that it brings a lot of people on campus together that they might not normally be around," Stellato said.

Ultimately, Spectrum's drag bingo was more than just an opportunity to win a "Frog and Toad" tote bag or the new Britney Spears book; it was a chance for Rider students to witness drag as a self-expressive art form.

Both drag queens emphasized the significance of hosting these events to foster a safe and inclusive environment.

Jasmine said, "It's important to have events like this on college campuses because it creates a safe space for all the students on campus who come from all different walks of life."

As a student herself, Legato, known as Lincoln Funderburk outside of drag, acknowledged how drag performances at Rider can bring communities together.

"Lots of people have never seen people like us or performance venues like this ... Exposure is step one of integrating and acceptance," Legato said.

Beads, blush, and bingo

In between rounds of bingo, the queens executed

four stunning performances. Jasmine opened with Adele's "Rumour Has It," followed by Legato's mashup of "Bubblegum Bitch" by MARINA and Katy Perry's "I Kissed a Girl."

After a few more rounds of bingo, Jasmine lip-synced to an AI Ariana Grande cover of Drake's "Passionfruit," and Legato sang her own rendition of "What is a Man?" from the musical "Pal Joey." Within their playful commentary and stunning performances, Jasmine and Legato gave students a taste of what drag really is.

Jasmine said, "To me, drag means an expression of yourself, an expression of your art, and just putting positivity out there into the world, which is something that I think the world at this moment needs a lot more of."

Legato's partner, Jayson Willever, said, "For me it is about courage. ... Drag brings out confidence and it just brings out the ability to be who you are."

Many audience members had never attended drag bingo before and were thrilled to finally gain the experience.

Sophomore accounting major Leila Johnson has learned more about the art of drag since arriving at Rider.

"I really never knew drag before I came to Rider. I knew of it but never actually watched the shows before," Johnson said.

Sophomore psychology major Itunu Adebayo said that the event helped to "destigmatize a lot of the weird ideas that kind of float around about what a drag queen is."

Adebayo emphasized that there should be more drag opportunities on campus.

"If drag is something that [students] are interested in, it's something that's safe for them to practice and at least show interest in at Rider," said Adebayo.

Queer art forms at Rider

Spectrum also aimed to recognize the LGBTQIA+ community on campus. By hosting the drag performance, students were introduced to an underrepresented art form in mainstream media.

Freshman political science major Nick Smith

said, "I think it's really important to have events like this at Rider to really highlight queer art forms."

Freshman communications major Trevor Janusas agreed, adding that "everyone just thinks it's the bigger drag queens, but local drag is deeply important to the entire drag community."

Sarah Dickstein, secretary of Spectrum and junior psychology major, said, "It's affirming because it brings a lot of the culture to campus ... I feel like we don't get enough of that."

Drag Bingo awarded lucky winners with prizes ranging from a Starbucks gift card to a Taylor Swift "Eras" pillow. To conclude the night, Jasmine and Legato performed a spontaneous lip-sync duet to "Side to Side" by Ariana Grande and Nicki Minaj. Spectrum executive board members left the audience in anticipation by announcing their "Spectrum Soiree," an event to come this March.

Tristan E. M. Leach is a section editor for The Rider News and president of Spectrum. Leach had no part in the writing or editing of this story.



Photo courtesy of Maggie Kleiner

Students pose with their prizes and the returning drag queens.

Indian Students Association hosts Navratri celebration

By Jay Roberson

THE celebration of good over evil was shown through colorful attire, traditional Indian dishes and a night of music and dancing at Garba and Dandiya Night presented by the Indian Students Association on Nov. 3 in the Mercer Room.

Navratri, which spans over nine days, is a celebration of the goddess Durga and the defeat of the demon Mahishaura.

Ronit Jobanputra, a sophomore environmental studies major and the secretary of ISA, said, "It means the defeat of good over evil. It's how we portray ourselves in front of god, not in a hypocritical way. We feel that the good is still there, and we're just

trying to get over the evil within us as well. Like ego, or greed or anger."

The night began with participants taking turns burning incense in worship around an altar for the goddess Durga, which stood alone in the middle of the room.

After a period of worship, each participant was on their feet moving in a circle and dancing when Indian music began to play.

Junior psychology major and president of ISA Sapandeep Sohpal doesn't celebrate the holiday in her culture as a Punjabi Indian, so she learned a lot more about Navratri as she planned out the Garba and Dandiya Night.

Sohpal said, "I've been to these [Navratri celebrations] before, but not as many. So for me, it's more like I want to learn how to dance and how they go in the circle. I was learning myself. Yes, I'm the president, but that doesn't mean I know everything. I'm still learning, and there's so much to learn about."

A brief break from dancing was taken as attendees indulged in butter naan, paneer tikka masala, rice, khaman, bread pakora and jalebi to refuel them for the rest of the night.

Junior psychology major and vice president of ISA Soumya Khandavalli showed appreciation for the togetherness in her culture.

"With this many people it's beautiful to see. I've done this with my family in India and everybody just comes together. Let's come together and be with ourselves, which I love."

Navratri is celebrated throughout the world in a number of ways including festivals, periods of fasting and worship.

"Learning about the history and seeing that even though it started thousands of years ago, it's still so grand and beautiful," Khandavalli said. "Having this in my blood and being like, 'I'm a pure Indian.' I love it and celebrating the holidays."

Since ISA was founded at Rider only two years ago, Sohpal hopes that this club can bring a sense of home to Indian students as they are a small part of the Rider population.

Sohpal said, "Most of the students here are international students, so they came all the way from India. They value family when they come here and need emotional support. This just feels like all one family coming together just to enjoy a couple of hours for one night."

The first Garba and Dandiya night at Rider was successful as community members from different cultures enjoyed and participated in events.

Jobanputra said, "Just to see so many diverse people from different cultures and races. It's amazing to see all of us get together and take part in this event."

Moving forward, ISA looks to host more cultural events that are open to the Rider community to educate students and celebrate their colorful traditions.

"Last year when we had these events, there were not many Indians ... Now there are more Indians and we're able to have these events as well as bringing more people. As an ISA e-board member, I just want us to spread our events through college and make everyone realize that our culture is very diverse," said Jobanputra.



Jay Roberson/The Rider News

Students enjoy the food provided at the Garba and Dandiya Night.



Photo courtesy of Charles Mule

Charles Mule stands with his brothers in their Theta Chi letters at East Brunswick Managers Complex for a wiffle ball charity

Cranberry Court winner on his college experience

By Hannah Newman

THE 2023 Cranberry Court winners, senior marketing major Charles Mule and senior music production major Yusef Collins-Bryant, have made a name for themselves at Rider and continue to show their passion for cranberry and white as their days as Broncs are nearing an end.

The Rider News will be showcasing both winners; first will be Mule.

Mule began his college experience virtually as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Seeking ways to get involved, Mule decided to look into Greek life and received multiple invitations to join, including from Theta Chi.

“Three of the brothers were very persistent in getting me to join,” said Mule.

After joining Theta Chi, Mule learned that his uncle had been a brother in the '80s.

“One night I was at one of my new member meetings, and I was downstairs and my uncle was over. He asked me what I was doing, and when I told him what I was doing, he had a whole story about Theta Chi, which I got to go back and share with them,” said Mule.

Mule’s work ethic was valued early into his membership, which is what led to his election as president as a sophomore.

“I was the youngest member in the chapter, but they

believed in me, and that’s all I needed,” said Mule.

Mule discussed that the hardest challenge he faced as a young president was holding those that were older than him accountable and leading by example. The chapter felt his determination for Theta Chi’s success was pivotal and elected him for a second term as president in his junior year.

Mule was one of the first presidents to be elected for a second term since Theta Chi’s was reinstated in the 2017-18 school year.

“That was probably one of my best decisions because my second term as president had to be my favorite by far,” said Mule. “The biggest thing I’ve learned as president is business and friendships. It’s one of the hardest things to do but when you learn how it’s super rewarding.”

His second term as president was not only a success for himself personally, but for the campus, as he was named fraternity man of the year for the spring of 2023.

Nickolas Witkowski, a junior communications major and fraternity brother of Mule, said, “Charles has worked so hard, not only for the brothers of Theta Chi but the entire Rider community, with the utmost enthusiasm. If I had to say one physical accomplishment, it would be fraternity man of the year. Just seeing his beaming smile made me know how much that meant to him.”

This award tied together all that Mule has accomplished within his organization and how it made him into the person he is today.

“I hope to leave the chapter with a brand new foundation of norms and expectations,” said Mule. “Personally I hope to leave with a high working motor that is compatible in the work world.”

In the summer going into his senior year, Mule became an orientation leader. He then turned into a role model for the freshman class and the things they can accomplish when they challenge themselves.

“My favorite part about being an orientation leader is making friends I would’ve never thought I would have along with having the freshmen come to me for advice still because they remembered me,” said Mule. “It just shows that I left some impact on their lives.”

After his nomination for Cranberry Court, Mule was determined to give the competition every ounce of himself. The nomination tied every part of his college life together, making his crown the finishing touch to it all.

“The one thing I’ll remember the most is all the long nights of being super involved that led to some of the best memories of my life,” said Mule. “Having some of the best people in my corner supporting me and pushing me to be the best version of myself.”



Photo courtesy of Charles Mule

Charles Mule with his fellow 2023 orientation leaders.



Photo courtesy of Charles Mule

Charles Mule is the sweetheart for Alpha Xi Delta sorority and smiles outside of their house with his sisters.

The one where we lost a friend

On Oct. 28, the world received heartbreaking news that the beloved actor Matthew Perry passed away at only 54 years old. His cause of death was not disclosed after being found unconscious in his hot tub by his assistant.

Perry was best known for playing Chandler Bing in the show "Friends," which is a comfort for many, including myself. Chandler was my favorite character because of his sarcastic sense of humor and kind heart. Although Perry will always be remembered for playing Chandler Bing, he had quite the career.

Perry was born on Aug. 19, 1969, in Williamstown, Massachusetts. His parents divorced when he was an infant, and he lived in Ottawa, Canada, with his mother Suzanne Langford, former press secretary for the prime minister. He was a talented tennis player, and was nationally ranked at 13 years old, but moved to Los Angeles to live with his father, actor John Bennet Perry, when he was 15.

He discovered his love for acting and landed his first role in 1987 in the sitcom "Second Chance," which was about a man who died and had the opportunity to go back and mentor a younger version of himself. Perry played the younger version of the main character; however, the show was later changed to be just about the adventures of the teenager and was renamed to "Boys Will Be Boys."

Unfortunately, after the change, the show wasn't very popular and didn't last long. In 1988, Perry got his first movie role as a supporting actor in "A Night in the Life of Jimmy Reardon," starring River Phoenix, but the film never got much attention. After many failed attempts at becoming an actor, Perry finally landed "Friends," which premiered in 1994. "Friends" had 62 Emmy award nominations, and Perry was nominated for Outstanding Lead Actor in a Comedy Series in 2002. After a decade, the show ended in 2004, but Perry was in a few movies while the show was running.

He starred in "Fools Rush In" in 1997, "Almost Heroes" in 1998 and "Three to Tango" in 1999. These movies never got much attraction, but in 2000 he was in "The Whole Nine Yards" with Bruce Willis, which earned \$57 million, and led to a 2004 sequel called, "The Whole Ten Yards." Perry then starred in the 2006 movie, "The Ron Clark Story," which is about a teacher from the south moving to New York City to teach disadvantaged students. The movie earned him Emmy and Golden Globe nominations. In 2007 and 2008, he was in two independent films: "Numb" and "Birds of America."

In 2009, he was in the movie "17 Again," which co-starred Zac Efron. After that, Perry continued to guest star in different TV series and attempted to be in a few other sitcoms.

In 2002, Perry opened up about his struggles with addiction as he told the New York Times, "I was a guy who wanted to become famous, there was steam coming out of my ears, I wanted to be famous so badly. You want the attention, you want the bucks, and you want the best seat in the restaurant. I didn't think what the repercussions would be."

Perry released his memoir in 2022 titled, "Friends, Lovers, and the Big Terrible Thing," and in his book he admitted that he spent more than \$7 million and went to rehab 15 times in an attempt to get sober. Throughout his life, he advocated to help those with addiction and turned his old home in Malibu, California, into a sober men's living facility, entitled the Perry House.

He explained in an interview in 2022 with Tom Power, host for "Q" on CBC Radio, that he doesn't want to be remembered as the actor from "Friends," but instead as someone who helped people.

"The best thing about me, bar none, is if somebody comes up to me and says, 'I can't stop drinking, can you help me?' I can say yes and follow up and do it," Perry said. "I want that to be the first thing that's mentioned, and I'm going to live the rest of my life proving that. I would like to be remembered as somebody who lived well, loved well, was a seeker and his paramount thing is that he wants to help people. That's what I want."

I really enjoyed watching Perry, and although it is still difficult to believe that he has passed, he will be remembered and missed by many. I'm not sure if I will ever be able to watch "Friends" the same knowing he is no longer alive, but his comical jokes and his determination to help others will live on. He is still my comfort character and I hope everyone will remember him as the kind and hilarious person he was because I know I will.

*Felicia Roehm
junior journalism major*



Photo Courtesy of Wikimedia Commons

Matthew Perry is known for "Friends" and the Perry House, a sober living facility he founded.

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ALBUM REVIEW

'1989 (Taylor's Version)' falls short of original

On Oct. 27, Taylor Swift unveiled her newest album, a “Taylor’s Version” re-recording of 2014’s “1989.”

The rights to the master recordings for Taylor Swift’s first six albums were sold without her consent in 2019, leaving her without control over her own music. In response, she began to re-record the affected albums in an effort to gain full control. “1989” is the latest Swift record to get this treatment.

In theory, these albums are re-recorded with the intention of bringing power to the person and fighting against the system that puts these restrictions on musicians. However, these issues affect smaller artists much more than huge stars. Taylor Swift is a billionaire, one of the most successful musicians of all time, and she notably profits from listeners regardless of which version is purchased.

Considering that Swift still makes money from the original albums, is there truly a reason to stream these re-recordings? Well, only if the “Taylor’s Version” improves on the original in some way.

These recordings do not accomplish such a task.

While Swift usually goes through great lengths to assemble a high-budget and high-quality album for “Taylor’s Version,” “1989” falls flat on its face in terms of production. The mixing and mastering are both of poor quality and not at all what should be expected of such a profitable album.

For some songs, the re-recording is a very faithful adaptation of the original; differences are barely noticeable. Hits like “Style” are sorely missing the attention to detail that the original provides, as the once-crisp chorus is transformed into a muffled Swift singing over a vaguely melodic blob. “New Romantics” was once a superbly paced, energetic pop song. In “Taylor’s Version,” the song feels rushed in an unpleasant way.

“All You Had To Do Was Stay,” once an impressively and evenly spread production, now sounds like layers of a song stacked on top of each other. Backing vocals that shout the word “stay” were once balanced with the instrumental. Now, the vocals are barely comprehensible, as the enunciation has been overshadowed in a poorly mixed re-creation that places too little emphasis on making the vocals sound clear.

Even in songs where the instrumental sounds great, like “Bad Blood,” the vocals take a blatant hit in quality. Multiple songs on “1989 (Taylor’s Version)” have muffled vocals in some form, as if Swift cheapened out on her recording equipment. This problem is prevalent across much of the album. Swift is one of the richest artists in the world and “1989” is one of the most successful albums of the 2010s, yet the production quality of this album does not reflect the high budget it deserved.

Some songs on this album, like “I Know Places” and “Clean,” are recreated wonderfully. The background vocals on “Clean” are actually clearer than they were previously, making it the one song that improved the original, although the production is otherwise muddy. As someone who loves the original “1989” with all my heart, this release is not for me.

Through the past few years, Swift has become even more famous than she already was.

The Eras Tour was a huge success that ushered in the Taylor Swift monolith,

and “1989 (Taylor’s Version)” is the first true release since her newfound boom period. This album is not intended for pre-existing “Swifties” who already love her music. This album and arguably many of her re-recordings target new fans.

I have spent countless hours with “1989.” It is one of my favorite albums of all time and I know the album much more intimately than the average fan. I cannot say that these re-recordings are better than the originals, nor will I ever prefer listening to them.

However, a new fan who has never heard “1989” before or only knows a few songs may never notice the difference. Seeing how successful these re-recordings are, it is clear that Swift is essentially re-selling her most successful albums to new batches of fans and reaping the benefits as if there were new albums entirely.

If the re-recordings do not intend to appeal to die-hard fans, then what does? Well, the album includes five new “vault” songs. “Slut!” is rather boring and sounds more like a “Midnights” castoff than something from “1989.” “Suburban Legends,” “Is It Over Now?” and “Now That We Don’t Talk” all have a similar problem, leaving the listener wondering if these songs are really from 2014 at all. For someone looking for more of the “1989” sound, there is a lot left to be desired. There is just one truly strong track, titled “Say Don’t Go.” The Diane Warren collaboration is vibrant in a way that the other “vault” tracks are not.

Overall, “1989 (Taylor’s Version)” depicts a cynical re-creation of an already beloved album. Swift maximizes profits by owning the masters that she can market towards a fresh generation of fans while minimizing the money or effort spent on matching the original in quality. While 2014’s “1989” is an incredible pop album, “Taylor’s Version” falls quite short of expectations. Production is weak and muddy, the vocals sound hollow and cheap, and the new songs sound much newer than they should. I am disappointed in the new Taylor Swift release, and can only hope that future re-recordings succeed where “1989” has failed.

*Elijah Nevlin
junior marketing major*



Eric Buckwalter/The Rider News

Taylor Swift's latest rendition of '1989' did not meet expectations.

BOOK REVIEW

Britney Spears: 'Stronger' than ever

AFTER a lifetime of being misunderstood and a 13-year conservatorship that controlled her actions, finances and reproductive capabilities, Britney Spears is finally free to tell her story.

The 275-page memoir, titled “The Woman in Me,” was released on Oct. 24 and recounts her career as a teen idol, exploitation by tabloids, time under the conservatorship and final fight for its termination in 2021.

Her love for singing and performing date back to her childhood in Kentwood, Louisiana. Music provided Spears with solace during her father’s alcoholism and her mother’s struggles to provide for the family. Spears gained notoriety swiftly, going from mall performances to touring as a 16-year-old pop artist with boy band NSYNC and having a widely publicized relationship with Justin Timberlake.

As she got older she became aware of how the public perceived her. In her memoir, Spears said, “It seemed like everyone was noticing my breasts and wondering if I had plastic surgery.” She remembered how the pressure increased as she rose to fame on MTV and how the general public’s disapproval finally caused her to start taking Prozac, an antidepressant medication.

Despite acknowledging that Timberlake had cheated on her several times, Spears characterized her relationship with him as magnetic and say their breakup left her devastated. Spears was pressured into getting an abortion in her home bathroom without medical aid when she became pregnant during the relationship. She note that at that moment, she thought she would die. Spears wrote, “It took hours, and I don’t remember how it ended, but I do, twenty years later, remember the pain of it, and the fear.”

Following the breakup, she was the center of the paparazzi’s attention after several interviews. They depicted Spears as a wild party girl, following her around at all times. She stated in her memoir that she “never had a drinking problem” and had no interest in hard drugs; however, she identified Adderall as her “drug of choice,” explaining that it made her feel euphoric. Spears wrote that she found it alluring that it helped her feel less depressed, even if only for a few hours.

In early 2008, Jamie Spears, her father, was appointed conservator of her finances and personal life by the state of California, an arrangement that lasted 13 years. She wrote that her every action was monitored, and she was forced to continue producing music and touring despite only being allocated \$2,000 per week. Spears even mentions that her father raked in more than \$6 million from her estate during the conservatorship and had even said, “I’m Britney Spears now.”

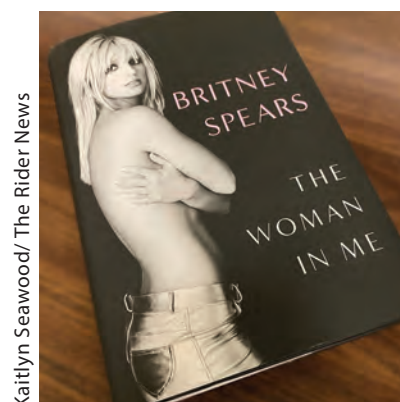
Any resistance from her was disapproved of, downplayed or disregarded.

Despite her repeated attempts to challenge the conservatorship in private, she believed that disagreements with her father toward the end of 2018 marked the beginning of the arrangement’s termination. At that time, she was forced to undergo additional mental health evaluations and spent over three months in rehab.

When a nurse in rehab showed her videos of supporters a part the #FreeBritney movement, Spears realized that conservatorship issues needed to be addressed. She wrote, “That was the most amazing thing I’d ever seen in my life ... I don’t think people knew how much the #FreeBritney movement meant to me, especially in the beginning.”

Eventually, the arrangement came to an end, and her father was removed as her conservator. Despite her prolonged distance from a large portion of her family, she wrote about the consequences of the conservatorship in an authentic manner: “Migraines are just one part of the physical and emotional damage I have now that I’m out of the conservatorship. I don’t think my family understands the real damage they did.”

To conclude her memoir, she spoke about what freedom means to her now. “Freedom means that I get to be beautifully imperfect as everyone else. And freedom means the ability, and the right, to search for joy, in my own way, on my own terms.” The pop star reassured her readers that she is now on the path to healing and feels free. She finally got what she wanted and doesn’t take a minute for granted. We love you, Britney, and we are celebrating your freedom.



Kaitlyn Seawood/The Rider News

*Kaitlyn Seawood
junior journalism major*

Britney Spears faced many hardships behind the scenes of her stardom.

VOLLEYBALL

Rider tops Canisius and Niagara, extends win streak

By Glendale Eversley and Terrell Munford

WITH the end of the regular season approaching, Rider volleyball is playing well at the right time as the Broncos won both of their road games against Canisius and Niagara to extend their win streak to three.

Rider moved to 9-7 in conference play, good enough for sixth in the standings.

'There are phases that clicked'

On the road against Canisius for the first of two road games on Nov. 4, the Broncos started off well with a 3-2 win.

The Golden Griffins quickly got out to a 10-5 advantage and held their lead for the remainder of the set, never allowing the Broncos to pull within three points of Canisius.

The Broncos responded in set two after trailing 8-4 with five straight points to regain the lead.

After a Canisius side out that notched the set at nine, freshman outside hitter Paige Giebtrock came with three straight kills, putting Rider up 12-9.

The Broncos extended their run to 12-2, giving them a 16-10 edge in the set. Up 17-16, Rider pulled away with a 7-1 run.

The Broncos' dominance came to a halt with Rider leading 4-2 in set three, Canisius took the lead with a soaring 6-0 run. After Rider cut the lead 11-9, Canisius rallied with a 6-1 run and the Broncos never recovered.

Rider, who maintained an early lead in the fourth set, went up 12-6 despite not scoring more than three-straight points during the run. The Golden Griffins clawed back to pull within 19-18, but the Broncos came up clutch, scoring three straight points and outscoring Canisius. With a 6-2 run, a fifth set was forced.

The Broncos dominance returned early in the deciding set, leading the way 7-1 with two kills by sophomore middle hitter Carley McAleavey and two blocks from freshman middle hitter Molly Rohde. Canisius fought back to cut the lead 8-6, but neither team could win a point on serve for the remainder of the match.

After the game, Head Coach Jeff Rotondo



Freshman outside hitter **Paige Giebtrock** preparing to serve.

commented on the team's resilience during the match and the team's passing phase.

"There are phases that clicked better, we were really sloppy in our passing phase. The entire match throughout, we got aced 21 times which is kind of abnormal," Rotondo said.

"The good thing for us was seeing how their energy kind of didn't dip when we lost that first set. They stayed determined that they weren't going to walk out there with a loss."

McAleavey shines at Niagara

On Nov. 5, Rider closed out its double header with a three-set victory over Niagara on Nov. 5. The Broncos improved to 10-15 on the season and 9-7 in Metro Atlantic Athletic Conference play, moving into a tie for fifth in the standings with two matches left to play to clinch a playoff spot.

The start of set one had Niagara jump out to a 6-2 lead early, but a pair of 3-0 runs by the Broncos tied the set 11-11.

With Rider leading 13-12, Niagara went on a 4-0 run to once again take the lead. Down 17-14, the Broncos took the lead back with a 6-1 run, including an ace by senior libero Molly Strah, Rider eventually

closed out the set.

In the second set, it was a back-and-forth affair, as it featured nine ties throughout.

The final tie of the set was at 21-21 before Rider scored back-to-back points to go ahead 23-21 in the set, then consecutive side outs following Niagara points.

"We waited them out until Niagara made an error to give the second set to us," said Rotondo.

Rider had all the control throughout the third set, acquiring three aces with the Broncos building out a 5-0 lead.

While leading 13-6, the Broncos scored four straight points off the serve of McAleavey in the set.

The Broncos allowed Niagara just two points on their own serve and closed out the set 25-13 to win the match.

"Our key always every match is to try and win the serve pass battle and stay aggressive and match them in blocks" said Rotondo after the win.

Rider's next matchup is against the Quinnipiac Bobcats on Nov. 11 to start its two-game weekend ahead of the MAAC Tournament.

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"Our key is always every match is to try and win the serve pass battle and stay aggressive and match them in blocks" said Rotondo after the win. "We got a really tough matchup this weekend as we hope to wrap it up and get into the playoffs."

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WRESTLING

Broncs have two second-place finishers at Princeton Open

By Logan VanDine

In its first match of the season at the Princeton Open on Nov. 5, Rider wrestling had an impressive showing with two of its wrestlers finishing top two in their weight classes.

Overall, the Broncos saw six of their own on the podium in the event with juniors Colton Washleski and 30th-ranked David Szuba, graduate students Michael Wilson, Jake Silverstein and 27th-ranked Richie Koehler, along with senior Azeem Bell, who competed in Jadwin Gym.

Head Coach John Hangey said, "Our guys wrestled hard today. We did not win all the matches we hoped to but it wasn't for lack of effort. There is always room for improvement which is why we always start the season with a tournament. I know our guys will get into the room this week to make the necessary adjustments moving forward."

However, the bigger story of the tournament was Washleski and Koehler both finishing second in the Princeton Open for their respective weight classes.

"Richie is a very poised veteran for us being in his sixth year. It's important that he hits the ground running... because he was sick in the beginning of the year, but this was a much better start for him," Hangey said.

"For Colton, it was a good performance for him because he was a little bit sporadic from last year and he was really dialed in and focused and he wrestled really well."

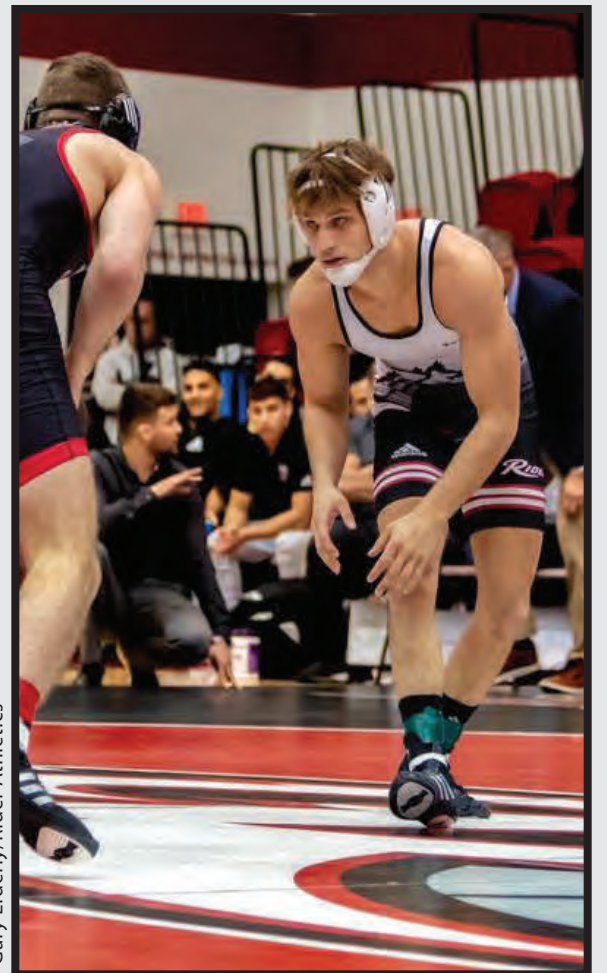
Washleski, who weighed in at 149 pounds, had notable wins in his first three matches of the day

with a 19-4 win over Princeton's Zander Silva along with back-to-back major winning decisions over Will Morrow of Bloomsburg by a score of 11-2 and a win against Connor Eck of Lock Haven, 11-0.

"Overall, I'm proud of my performance. I think I wrestled very well and definitely improved from last year. I would like to have done better in the finals, but it was a tight turnaround and the day definitely took a toll on my body," Washleski said.

For Koehler, who was listed at 133 pounds, the 27th-ranked wrestler won his first three bouts of the tournament taking down Daniel Uhorchuck by a score of 8-6 and Connor Collins by a score of 9-7 both from Army. The other win came against Max Hermes of Rutgers by a score of 6-2 before reaching a first-place match with Ryan Crookham of Lehigh to fall to him in a major decision, 14-4.

Koehler said, "Overall, it was an alright first outing. Being down to weight for the first time this year, competing in a tournament setting and getting used to the process again was nice to have. Proud of my effort, but not the result I wanted. Lots to work on and fix as the year goes on." The Broncos next matchup will be against Indiana University, a formidable Big Ten opponent, on Nov. 10 at 7 p.m. Hangey said, "It's important that you got to finish takedowns, you got to stop letting kids in our legs so much... If we can keep people from getting into our legs, I think it will increase our chances of having success against a team like Indiana."



Gary Enderly/Rider Athletics

Junior **Colton Washleski** circles a foe from Rutgers.

MEN'S BASKETBALL

Broncs trample Immaculata 113-67

By Benjamin Shinault

THE calendar has flipped to November and it's time for Rider basketball. The men's team tipped off its season against the Division III Immaculata Mighty Macs on Nov. 6 and made quite the statement in an emphatic 113-67 win.

The Broncs rolled with the same starting five as their exhibition match on Oct. 28 against Georgian Court, which was senior forward Tariq Ingraham, senior guard Allen Powell, senior forward Mervin James, senior guard Corey McKeithan and graduate student guard T.J. Weeks.

The first half started with the Broncs in an early six-point hole as they allowed two wide-open threes to the Macs, which caused a ripple of shouts stemming from the Rider coaching staff.

"We talked about not over-helping, we were over-helping way too much ... [Immaculata] was just trying to drive to find the open man, and we gave them opportunities in the first half that they didn't have as much in the second half," Head Coach Kevin Baggett said.

With Rider down six, James got the scoring started for the Broncs with a simple layup. James finished the season opener with four rebounds and four assists with a team-leading 18 points as he made 7-of-10 shots from the field.

"I just want to thank my teammates for putting me in the right position to score," James said.

James was one of the six Broncs to reach double digits in scoring during the game, as Powell finished with 12 points and knocked down two 3-pointers.

When the score was 22-19 in Rider's favor, McKeithan and Powell hit back-to-back 3-pointers which sent a jolt of energy through both the fans at

Alumni Gym and the Broncs.

"I feel like we were just having fun out there seeing shots go in, it made the team happy," Powell said. "We were just going off the momentum in the gym. The crowd helped us."

When the first half came to an end, Rider built itself a 61-38 lead. The team as a whole shot 58.1% from the field and scored most of its points within the paint.

A huge contributor to the lead in the first half was Weeks, who finished with 10 points in the first half along with six rebounds and two assists.

Weeks started off slow as he only knocked down 4-of-11 shots from the field in the first half, but Baggett got into his ear and told him to keep shooting.

"It was frustrating. Baggett brought me over and said, 'Keep shooting,' and that's where I relaxed," Weeks said. "Even if you're missing, the next one is going to fall. You've got to keep that mentality."

The second half was more of the same for the Broncs as they started out with a 13-point run. Despite this, Baggett still wanted to see some improvement from the younger Broncs and his defense as a whole.

"To hell with the offense, we gave up way too many points in the first half. That's got to be our focus," Baggett said sternly.

Rider's reserves primarily played in the second half, which allowed the coaching staff and fans to see what the team had behind its starting five. The Broncs' bench was responsible for 52 of Rider's total points. Sophomore guard Tyriek Weeks scored nine points and grabbed nine rebounds, with junior forward JT Langston Jr. grabbing three

rebounds and scoring 10 points on 83% shooting from the field.

This win marks the first season-opening win for Rider since it took down Coppin State in 2019.

The Broncs will have their work cut out for them, as the next team on their schedule is nationally ranked Marquette. The Broncs will face the Golden Eagles on Nov. 10 at 8:30 p.m., and the game will be broadcasted on FS1.



Jayden Walker/The Rider News

Sophomore guard **Tyriek Weeks** (left) and junior forward **JT Langston Jr.** (right) shake hands after a timeout.

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

Rider falls 71-49 to Hawks in season opener

By Logan VanDine

Coming off a 10-win season, Rider women's basketball was looking to make a statement as they headed to Philadelphia to take on Saint Joseph's.

That statement win will have to wait, however, as the Broncs dropped their regular season opener to the Hawks 71-49 on Nov. 7.

Head Coach Lynn Milligan, who's entering her 17th season at the helm, had her starting five feature senior guard Makayla Firebaugh, freshman center Kaylan Deveney, graduate student guard Jessika Schiffer and junior guards Mariona Cos-Morales and Sanaa Redmond.

At the start of the game, the Broncs showed a lot of fight against a team that went 20-11 last season, only being down by five at the end of the first quarter.

The second quarter saw the Broncs outmatched against Saint Joseph's, as the Hawks dominated the quarter to take a 31-18 halftime lead.

The Hawks continued their assault on the new-look Broncs in the second half, outscoring them 40-31 en route to a dominant win over Rider, 71-49.

"It's learning from the mistakes that we made tonight and pulling our teaching points on and making sure that we hit the gym tomorrow and we continue to work and get better and grow," Milligan said. "Offensively I thought we did some good things. We just didn't make enough shots and defensively the fundamentals of our foundations really let us down at times."

Despite the lopsided loss, the Broncs saw some of their own have strong performances on the court, with Redmond having 11 points on the night and Schiffer leading the team in scoring with 15 on five 3-pointers.

"They both scored in different ways, I think Jess in the second half really found her shot. I thought her teammates did a good job getting her the ball and flow and get her feet set and shoot that three," said Milligan. "And [Sanaa Redmond] floor game



Tristan E.M. Leach/The Rider News

Graduate student guard **Jessika Schiffer** jogs down the court. She had a team-high 15 points in the Broncs loss to Saint Joseph's.

for her first game being the point guard was terrific, I thought her hesitation moves and her reads off the screens were very, very good."

Schiffer gave her input on her team's performance and despite leading the team in scoring, she still wanted her team to get a different result on the night.

"Going into it we knew that we were the underdogs so we kind of just wanted to go and then show everyone what we can do on the floor. We've seen where we have to grow, we just have to translate the good stuff that we do in practice," Schiffer said. "It was nice that I got to score, but we still have to grow as a team, get wins and it doesn't matter who scores."

Other notable scorers for the Broncs were Firebaugh and Cos-Morales each adding six points.

Deveney continued to show how much of a force she can be on the court, scoring seven points in her first regular season collegiate game.

In the Broncs exhibition game against TCNJ on Nov. 1, Deveney led the Broncs in scoring with 17 points on 6-of-7 shooting from the field.

The Broncs will have a few days off before their home opener, taking on Merrimack in Alumni Gym at 5 p.m. on Nov. 12.

"The first thing we've got to do is shore up our defense, and with that comes fundamentals in the half court, transition defense in the full court and finishing plays," Milligan said.

Sports

ONLINE

'I'M VERY PROUD'

Read about Rider women's soccer's 1-0 exit in the MAAC Tournament at the hands of Quinnipiac.

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MEN'S SOCCER

Broncs cruise past Marist in MAAC quarterfinal



The Broncs celebrate after taking down the Marist Red Foxes to advance in the MAAC Tournament.

Peter G. Borg/Rider Athletics

By Aidan Brager

RIDER men's soccer crushed Saint Peter's on Senior Night to close out their regular season campaign, the Broncs going on to win their quarterfinal game against the Marist Red Foxes.

Senior Night

Rider men's soccer showed out on Senior Night, winning 4-1 against the Saint Peter's Peacocks on Nov. 1 in a dominant fashion thanks to a hat trick from senior forward Babacar Diene.

For the first 20 minutes of the match, both teams battled it out for chances but were unable to connect; however, midfielder Saad Chaouki soon changed that.

Chaouki received a well-placed pass from Diene and swiftly dribbled through the defense before putting a low shot past the Peacocks' goalkeeper to give the Broncs the lead.

The score stayed at 1-0 for the rest of the half, but the stat sheet told a different story.

In the first half, Rider ripped off 10 shots, forcing the Peacocks' keeper to make three saves. The Broncs' first-half defense was just as good as their offense, allowing just two shots, neither on goal.

Head Coach Chad Duernberger said, "When you've got such a strong backline it gives you a confidence to be able to go and attack ... they're getting better by the game which is something that I love to see ... It's a fun group to work with."

The second half kicked off similarly to the first, with the Broncs using their great passing to get significant chances on goal while playing tough defense.

Duernberger said, "We talked at halftime and changed a few things, really just [saying] 'We can't keep this at 1-0 with the dominant performance we were having.'"

In the 54th minute, the man of the match, Babacar Diene, had his name called again. He dribbled past the Peacocks' defense and took a powerful shot on goal which flew past the keeper to give the Broncs a 2-0 lead.

Diene's night didn't end there, though, as just five minutes later he was there to clean up a mess in front of goal, knocking the loose ball into the net to increase the Broncs' lead to three and his goal tally to two.

Less than 10 minutes later Diene did it again, securing his third goal of the night by knocking a through ball from graduate student forward Zaki Alibou just past the keeper to complete his hat trick and give Rider a 4-0 lead.

Duernberger sang his praises for Diene: "Love that guy. He gives everything for me. Everything I ask of him he does ... I'm just so happy for him, he trains so hard every single day ... I'm proud of him."

Diene was the Broncs' leading scorer coming into the game and with the hat trick, finished off the regular season with 10 goals in 16 games.

"It means a lot [to] me, because I am a senior and this is my last year. I am so happy," said Diene. "We have an important game coming up, so we have to go again."

Unfortunately for the Broncs' defense, they couldn't maintain the clean sheet, gifting a penalty shot and subsequent goal to Saint Peter's in the 85th minute.

This victory gave Rider a four-game win streak heading into their Metro Atlantic Athletic Conference Tournament match.

"[I] don't want to make it bigger than it is and make us tense and nervous on Sunday," said Duernberger. "[The message] stays pretty similar. It's been that way all season as far as what we want to do and how we want to play."

Quarterfinal cruising

Rider men's soccer will advance to the MAAC Tournament semifinals after a dominant 3-1 win at home against Marist on Nov. 5.

It was a sunny afternoon at Ben Cohen Field as the Broncs prepared to take on the Marist Red Foxes in a highly anticipated showdown. Coming into the game, Rider had won four straight and looked to carry that momentum into the tournament.

When asked what the impressive win streak meant to the team heading into the playoffs, Duernberger said, "No matter if we win, lose or tie, the next day we're back in the lab working on our game, no matter the last result."

The game kicked off with Rider getting many early chances on goal due to its ability to keep possession.

It wouldn't be long until Diene made his mark on the game.

Just 15 minutes into the match, Diene had space on the left side of the field. He took a touch inside and rocketed a shot toward the goal. Diene placed his shot perfectly, fitting the ball into the upper-right corner and making the shot impossible to save. The goal gave Rider a 1-0 lead.

Rider used its quick passes to wear down the Marist defense to create chances. This was on display on the Broncs' second goal which came just before the 40-minute mark.

Sophomore midfielder Momo Diop passed into the box to Chaouki, who gave it right back to Diop, slotting the ball into the bottom-right corner and extending the Broncs' lead to 2-0.

The half ended with Rider up 2-0 in addition to dominating the shot category, having 10 compared to Marist's three.

In the second half Marist changed its gameplan, playing more aggressively and doubling its first-half shot total.

Still, Rider's passing was too much for the Red Foxes to handle, which was proven by the Broncs' third goal, which came in the 62nd minute.

Alibou sent a pass to sophomore midfielder Luke Kirilenko in the middle of the field just outside of the box. Kirilenko took a low shot which dribbled past the keeper to extend Rider's lead to 3-0.

"I felt like we lost a little bit at the beginning of the second half, but the goal really helped," said Duernberger.

Marist attempted a comeback, beginning with the Red Foxes converting on a penalty kick to make the score 3-1.

Unfortunately for Marist, the goal was not enough and Rider held on for the win, advancing to the MAAC Tournament semifinals.

"I'm really happy for this group," said Duernberger. "Overall just pleased with how we finished the game ... I'm just really happy for the guys."

The Broncs will look to continue their championship run, preparing for a semifinal match at Siena on Nov. 9 at 1 p.m.