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A fun-filled week at Rider featuring Lil Skies and egg hunt

Graphic by Jay Roberson/The Rider News
Photos by Josiah Thomas, Amethyst Martinez and Madison Lewis/The Rider News



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SEE HOPPING
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NJ student teachers to receive \$3,000 stipend from state

By Jay Roberson

STUDENT teaching is a capstone that all education majors anticipate throughout their college career. Once an unpaid requirement, New Jersey is now offering its full-time student teachers a \$3,000 stipend.

Senior secondary education major Vanessa Rivera is currently placed in Camden, New Jersey, and receives \$3,000 from the Camden Teacher Pipeline and the state of New Jersey, amounting to \$6,000 for the semester.

“When I chose the Camden Teacher Pipeline, the state stipend was not a thing. So I was going because I knew I needed the money. I knew it was in two disbursements, so I could save enough money to get me through halfway then get that other money to carry me to the end,” said Rivera.

In November 2023 New Jersey announced that it will provide \$3,000 stipends to students in approved Educator Preparation Programs for the 2024 year as long as they are residents of and teaching in the state.

Tiffany Corcoran, a senior secondary education major, is a Pennsylvania resident and a student teacher there, but is still paying to go to school at Rider during her last semester without a stipend.

“I do think [a stipend] would help for people like me who do want to put all of their time and energy into student teaching that aren’t receiving income for the semester and still have to pay for university,” Corcoran said.

Though not all students qualify for the stipend, Rider still offers other kinds of support to all student teachers, according to partnerships and field placements coordinator Erica Spence-Umstead.

“There’s a number of people who work in support of the student teachers. One would be their academic advisor. I’m another [person]. Student teachers don’t

realize that I am a person they can reach out to if they’re having an issue, but I’m always happy to hear from a student,” said Spence-Umstead.

Student teachers are also given the chance to debrief their work days when meeting with their student teaching advisor along with 12-15 other student teachers once a week.

“It’s basically a session where we can get things off our chest, anything we want to complain about,” Rivera said.

Depending on the placement, student teachers are working anywhere from 5-8 hours in and out of the classroom.

Senior elementary education major Lindsay Sherman said, “I get there around 7:45 [a.m.] every morning and leave at the end of the school day at 3 p.m. During the last hour of the school day my kids are in a special, so me and my teacher take that last hour to prep[are], so I really don’t have to do that much outside of school at all.”

Student teachers have to learn how to manage their work and life outside of school so they are not overwhelmed by the plethora of responsibilities.

“We have to learn to properly manage time during the day as much as we can so we don’t have to take so much home as teachers, cause Lord knows that’s why the burnout rate and the shortage is as bad as it is.”

Since student teachers spend a majority of their time in school and planning outside of school, many don’t have the time or energy to take on a part-time job.

“I personally don’t have the time for a job just because during the week I get home at 5 p.m. So by the time I get home, I need dinner,

to step in the shower and to go to bed,” said Rivera.

Student teachers ease into their internship with observations for the first few weeks, but over time they take over the entire classroom.

“Your final weeks are kind of where it’s expected that you’re supposed to be the full time teacher in the classroom, but it’s all depending on whatever you and your co-op[erating teacher] think is best for the classroom setting you’re in,” Sherman said.

Rivera has taken over instruction in her classroom and has taught daily instruction for the past month.

“Realistically, especially because our whole time is taken up by student teaching, we don’t even have time to have a little part time job. Even then you’re exhausted and your brain is fried by the end of the day because you’re getting teacher stamina. The compensation is a motivating factor,” said Rivera.



Jay Roberson/The Rider News

During the 2024 fiscal year, New Jersey student teachers who are residents receive a \$3,000 stipend.

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INSIDE

THE VOICE OF RIDER BASKETBALL

Learn about the history behind the booming voice of Rider basketball, Dan Collins.



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UNDERDRESSED AT THE SYMPHONY

Faye Webster released her highly anticipated fifth album.



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RIDER SHINES BRIGHT WITH ‘STARRY NIGHT’ SOIREE

Spectrum Pride Alliance held their annual semi-formal this past weekend.



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GSS Colloquium brings queer scholar to campus

By Jake Tiger

STUDENTS, staff, faculty and special guests gathered on March 26 for Rider's 42nd Gender and Sexuality Studies Colloquium, a day-long event centered around recognition and education on a vast range of topics, such as feminism, combat sports and television.

The colloquium, taking place in Lynch Adler Hall, featured keynote speaker Margot Canaday, a professor at Princeton University, as well as award ceremonies and numerous student presentations on gender and sexuality in literature, pop culture and the real world, both presently and historically.

Canaday studies the history of gender and sexuality, with her most recent book focusing on how queer people have been exploited and repressed in the workplace, and how they were able to look out for each other during times like the "Lavender Scare" in the '50s and the AIDS epidemic in the '80s.

She started her keynote speech by talking about a lesbian woman in the '50s who was fired from her government job because of her sexuality and ended up having to take work for much less money than her professional qualifications would have normally allowed.

Canaday encouraged queer students entering the workforce to learn when to be an advocate and when to "hide in plain sight," as certain fields can be less inclusive of people with nonconforming genders and sexualities.

"Try to find the balance between being yourself and being safe," said Canaday to The Rider News. "I do think the issue at this point is much more about trans people than gay people ... Things are



Amethyst Martinez/The Rider News

Margot Canaday gives a keynote speech on queer identities in the workplace.

changing but it is very much still a 'proceed with caution' thing."

Canaday's book "Queer Career: Sexuality and Work in Modern America" is available to read electronically at the Franklin F. Moore Library, according to Professor-Librarian Melissa Hofmann.

Prior to the keynote speech, sophomore marketing major Sarah Reaves received the 2024 Virginia J. Cyrus scholarship for her academic performance and work on behalf of women and girls.

"I feel empowered to keep fighting for social justice and gender equality now that I have this support," said Reaves in an email to The Rider News. "It offers a reminder that not only mine, but all voices count and have the power to truly create change, especially when they are raised in support of people who are underrepresented in society."

After Reaves, Juanita Carroll, an administrative specialist for the Norm Brodsky College of Business, received the 2024 Ziegler-Gee award for her work in fostering gender and sexual equality as an adviser and co-founder of Tapestry, a student media organization focused on covering underrepresented populations and their place in the world.

'Sweet little bonus': stipend supports students

CONT'D FROM PAGE 1

Corcoran said some of her responsibilities in school include keeping up with the Canvas classroom pages, taking roll calls and tracking their grades alongside other grading duties. Outside of the classroom, she's responsible for making lesson plans and keeping the cooperating teacher updated.

New Jersey student teachers received their \$3,000 stipend at the end of March, but Rivera said, "We're already more than halfway through student teaching. This money is supposed to be helping us with our needs, but I needed stuff last month. They wouldn't make us go that long without pay."

Another big cost that student teachers struggle with is gas money. Corcoran said, "There should be a [reduced] tuition for students who are student teaching, since we're not utilizing many resources at the university, or a stipend that could help cover some of the tuition or help cover other costs, like travel during student teaching."

Student teachers can travel up to 30 miles away from Rider for their placement, but the field placement office tries their best to accommodate students' requests.

Spence-Umstead said, "I try to make the closest possible placement where the students want to be knowing that some of them are going to have to drive a little bit, and especially if they're choosing to live at home."

Though there are some mental, financial and physical struggles that student teachers face, a majority of them feel that the experience is essential to being a teacher.

Sherman said, "I would easily do this with no stipend obviously because I have to, but because I think the experience is so good. I love teaching; it's not about the money for me at all. I just see it as a sweet little bonus I get to have."

Rider liquor-violation rates fall far below that of TCNJ

By Jake Tiger

THE day after a Rider freshman consumed nearly an entire bottle of vodka during a fraternity hazing ritual, his parents, seeing that he had succumbed to the effects of alcohol poisoning, decided to take their 18-year-old son, Gary DeVercely Jr., off life support on March 30, 2007.

Since then, Rider's alcohol policy tightened, its fraternity scene withered and student alcohol violations have plummeted to a fraction of what they once were, according to the university's annual fire and safety reports.

Rider's Clery data shows that on-campus liquor law violations per 1,000 students plummeted from 58.63 in 2010 to 6.63 in 2022, and total liquor law violations dropped by over 200 cases over the 12-year period.

The institution has been without an alcohol-related arrest since 2015, when it had only one.

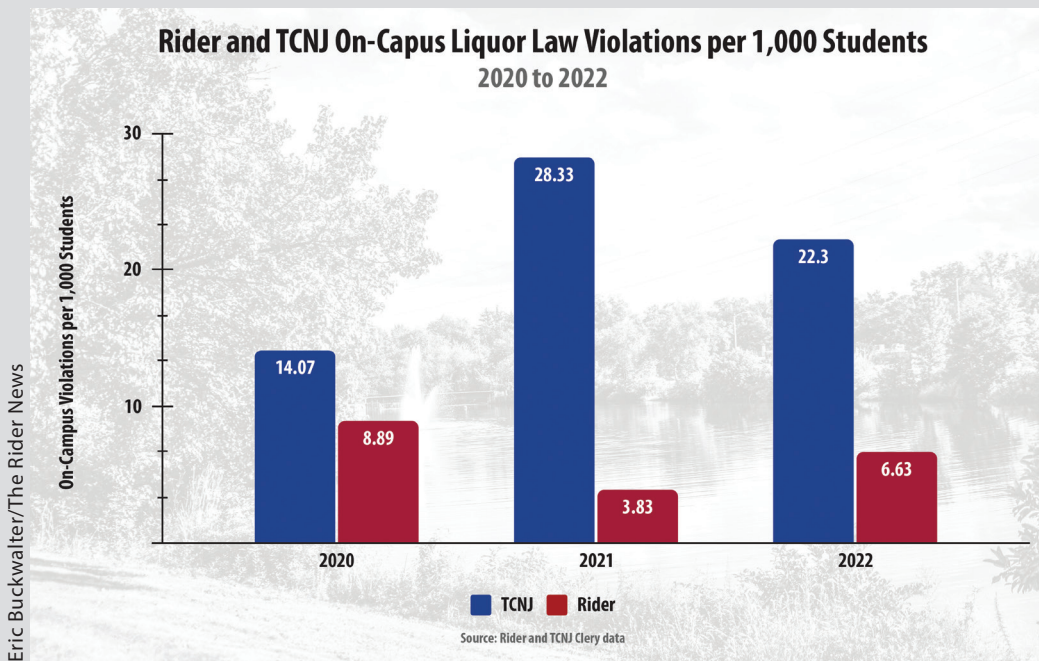
While Rider's undergraduate enrollment has seen a noticeable dip since 2010, falling from 4,588 to 3,168 in 2022, the decreased rate of liquor law violations suggests that alcohol is less common as a whole — a trend largely seen across the country.

"You look at the national data for drinking and alcohol, that's going down," said James G. Waldon, Rider's director of Public Safety. "And some of it is the educational programs I know they did here at Rider."

A study conducted at the University of Michigan and Texas State University found that from 2002 to 2018, alcohol abstinence among college students rose from 20% to 28%.

Still, Rider's numbers are low by both national and local standards, as peer institutions like The College of New Jersey are behind the university when it comes to policing alcohol.

Rider had 6.63 on-campus alcohol violations per 1,000 students in 2022, while TCNJ had 22.3



A graph showing the on-campus liquor-violation rates of TCNJ and Rider from 2020 to 2022. In 2021, TCNJ saw a jump in violations while Rider's rate dipped.

Eric Buckwalter/The Rider News

infractions per 1,000 students. In 2021, TCNJ's rate was more than seven times higher than that of Rider, according to clery data.

TCNJ Police Department declined an interview with The Rider News regarding the college's liquor violations and alcohol policy.

Rider made changes to its alcohol policy and campus culture following the death of DeVercely that may have contributed to the drastic drop in liquor violations.

As part of a settled lawsuit with the DeVercely family, Rider announced changes to its alcohol policy in 2009, deeming all Greek organizations on campus "dry" by banning the use of alcohol and increasing the consequences for liquor and hazing violations.

Rider stopped recognizing DeVercely's fraternity, Phi Kappa Tau, in August 2007 following the freshman's death, and since then, only one other has been dropped for alcohol violations: Zeta Beta Tau in November 2007.

The university also no longer has dedicated houses for its fraternities as it did in 2007. The former home of Phi Kappa Tau was converted to Lake House,

a residence hall, and the five on-campus fraternities that are still recognized all share University House.

Senior sports media major Jay Johnson, who has been a community assistant in Gee Hall since 2022, said that his experience in regulating alcohol on campus has been more geared toward student mental health, rather than the partying and hazing it was once associated with.

If anything, groups of students will drink in a dorm room only so they can leave and party somewhere else, according to Johnson.

"[It's been] more wellness stuff ... people who have been drinking alcohol to cope with stuff," said Johnson. "They do a lot of the pre-gaming there and then they go elsewhere. It's been hard to crack down on partying because they usually go off campus."

According to Keith Kemo, director of Rider's Office of Community Standards, the university does not plan to change this, even if the fraternities are located off campus.

"There are no plans to reinstate any previous fraternities," said Kemo. "All the fraternities we recognize are based on campus."

Phi Kappa Tau has been eligible to apply for reinstatement at Rider since September 2014, but still remains unrecognized. Kemo could not state whether or not the fraternity had tried to make a return to Rider since then.

While Rider only recognizes five fraternities, TCNJ recognizes 14 and has consistently higher rates of liquor law violations among students when compared to Rider.

According to the college's website, since 2016, TCNJ has stopped recognizing three fraternities due to alcohol or hazing violations, including its Phi Kappa Tau chapter — the same fraternity that hazed DeVercely to death.

The history behind Womxn's History Month

By Julia Train

WOMXN'S History Month was filled with events that celebrated gender-nonconforming people, womxn's accomplishments and diverse cultures, with the Center for Diversity and Inclusion officially changing its name on advertisements, posters and social media posts after students asked for more inclusive language.

Although the term "womxn," pronounced the same way as women, has been used during the month by Rider and other universities across the country for a few years, not everyone knows why the "e" was switched with an "x."

The term is used to include transgender, non-binary, gender-fluid and gender-nonconforming people.

This month's events featured mocktail making, open-forum discussions with womxn, community service projects, game nights, learning about the history, mental health and wellness of womxn and more.

Womxn's History Month's start

According to the National Women's History Museum, "the Education Task Force of the Sonoma County (California) Commission on the Status of Women planned and executed a Women's History Week celebration in 1978."

In February 1980, President Jimmy Carter issued the first presidential proclamation declaring the week of March 8, 1980, as National Women's History Week.

The next year, Congress passed a resolution establishing a national celebration.

In 1986, the event was expanded to the entire month of March.

Including more under 'womxn'

Now, the term "womxn" is used to respect the dynamic and fluid nature of gender identity and expression and to be inclusive of all people who identify as women, as stated on Rider's Womxn's History Month webpage.

"We just wanted to make sure that we're proactively saying that we're supporting everybody,



Maggie Kleiner/The Rider News

Womxn's History Month now includes gender-nonconforming identities.

so that's why change has been made," said Heeyoung Kim, Rider's chief diversity officer.

Kim said that in the past, students mentioned the CDI being reactive to changes within the LGBTQIA+ community, namely with new terminology. She said that the center is instead working on being proactive, making important changes before students need to bring it up.

Kim said it was important to her to ensure everyone has an equal opportunity and access, her ultimate goal being that no one feels excluded.

Eden Nadella, a freshman political science major, who uses all pronouns, said they think it's an important change for those who are gender-nonconforming, like themselves, because they still face similar problems.

"I don't normally feel very feminine within myself, but I'm still female ... I have a uterus, I have the same general problems physically, even being perceived physically," said Nadella. "So, even for

nonbinary, non gender-conforming people such as myself, it's still similar struggles."

Since making the change to the official "Womxn's History Month" flyers, Kim hasn't heard anything about it, which she takes as a positive sign. She also thought maybe students didn't notice because they've been using the term for a while.

"Sometimes you can interpret not hearing anything as good news because you only hear two kinds of feedback most of the time: when students, or any community member, are very happy [or] very [un]happy," said Kim.

She stressed the importance of keeping the awareness of how far womxn have come since the early 1900s.

"There are [many] more opportunities right now but we remember that we're still marginalized when we look at the big picture," said Kim.

Fenneberg takes job as Duquesne administrator

By Hannah Newman

AFTER her position was eliminated in summer 2023, former Rider Vice President of Student Affairs Leanna Fenneberg was named Duquesne University's next senior vice president of student life, as announced by her new employer on Nov. 27, 2023.

Fenneberg, who served as vice president of student affairs for Rider from August 2017 to July 2023, contributed to several areas of student life including the Center for Diversity and Inclusion, residence life, campus life, fraternity and sorority life, service and civic engagement, community standards and the Counseling Center.

Fenneberg will take over the role on June 3, 2024, following the retirement of Duquesne's current senior vice president of student life, according to a press release by the university located in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.

In the email announcing Fenneberg's departure in June, Provost DonnaJean Fredeen said, "We are extremely grateful to Dr. Fenneberg for her strong leadership and many contributions to Rider over the past several years and her commitment to the student experience outside the classroom."

Fenneberg currently serves as the vice provost for student life at Creighton University, where she started in September 2023.

In addition, she has also served on the Board of Directors for the National Association for Student Personnel Administrators, where she was the national director of 37 professional knowledge communities and served on the executive board for the Jesuit Association of Student Personnel Administrators, according to the press release.



Photo courtesy of Rider University.

After Leanna Fenneberg, Rider's former vice president of student affairs, had her position eliminated in summer 2023 at Rider, she will now be working in a similar role at Duquesne University in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.



DAVID HOGG
Co-Founder of March for Our
Lives and Leaders We Deserve,
New York Times Bestselling Author

ASTEAD HERNDON
New York Times Politics Reporter

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Spectrum shines bright with 'Starry Night' soiree

By Kaitlyn Seawood

SPECTRUM Pride Alliance, Rider's LGBTQIA+ club, lit up the night with its annual soiree on March 22, themed "Starry Night," transforming the Cavalla Room into a celestial wonderland of acceptance and celebration.

As attendees entered through a cloud of string lights, reminiscent of drifting among the stars, they were greeted with a table where guests could decorate and adorn masquerade masks.

Various props were available for photo opportunities, including a sunflower fence ideal for group pictures, a mirror embellished with the iconic swirls of Van Gogh's "Starry Night" and a balloon arch meticulously created by members of Spectrum.

Denise King, a junior film and television major who uses they/she pronouns, shared their experience at this year's event.

"I really loved the theme for this year," said King. "I thought it was very unique and the photo props were a really nice touch."

Reflecting on their journey, King reminisced about attending Spectrum's soiree as a freshman. She highlighted how it served as a pivotal moment, marking the first significant event of the year where they felt genuinely comfortable being themselves.

Fueling the festivities was a spread of delectable delights, including pizza, self-serve sandwiches, an assortment of desserts and a mocktail bar that offered a constellation of refreshing beverages, such as the "mermaid refresher" and "blue shoe."

As the night progressed, the dance floor came alive, drawing attendees of all backgrounds and identities together. Despite a slow start, as other campus events also occurred the same night, the energy of the soiree intensified around 9:30 p.m.

The vibrant atmosphere persisted until the event's conclusion at 11 p.m., leaving participants with lasting memories.

Beyond the glittering decoration, what illuminated the evening was the spirit of inclusivity that permeated every corner of the event. Whether attendees arrived with friends or alone, the soiree provided a welcoming space where everyone felt free to be their authentic selves, forging connections and creating memories that would last far beyond the final dance.

Nick Barbati, assistant vice president of student affairs and Spectrum's adviser, emphasized the critical role of LGBTQIA+ events on campus.

"LGBTQIA+ events are so important for visibility,"

said Barbati. "They serve not only the students who identify as members of the [LGBTQIA+] community, but also for people who come from an area where they haven't been able to interact with many students, friends or family members who identify as part of the LGBTQIA+ community."

Barbati underscored Spectrum's role as an integral segment of the Rider community, emphasizing its capacity to facilitate connections among students.

He highlighted that Spectrum serves as a gateway for students to explore the diversity among their peers, a fundamental aspect in fostering a deep appreciation for the community they belong to.

In the end, Spectrum's soiree proved to be more than just a party: it was a testament to the power of community, acceptance and the boundless experiences that emerge when individuals come together under the same shimmering sky.

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



Photo courtesy of Denise King

A group of friends smile in their best dressed attire at the Spectrum Soiree.



Maggie Kleiner/The Rider News

The entrance way of Spectrum Soiree featured a tunnel to the dance floor that was lit with soft yellow lights.

Spring fun: egg hunts and sing-alongs photo gallery



Josiah Thomas/The Rider News

Rapper Lil Skies made his Spring Concert debut on March 23. Skies was joined by opener Weston Estate.



Josiah Thomas/The Rider News

Weston Estate, an indie music band, opened for Lil Skies.



Amethyst Martinez/The Rider News

A tri-colored sheep smiles for a photo after munching on some grass.



Amethyst Martinez/The Rider News

Boomer, the mascot for Thunder baseball, 107.7 The Bronc's Easter Bunny and AJ the Bronc pose for a photo.

Lil Skies and Weston Estate bring the love to Rider's campus

SEC
2024
SPRING CONCERT

LIL SKIES
WESTON ESTATE

Photo Josiah Thomas/The Rider News, Graphic Eric Buckwalter/The Rider News



This year's Spring Concert featured opener **Weston Estate** and artist **Lil Skies**. This is the second Spring Concert since the COVID-19 pandemic.

By **Madison Lewis**

RAPPER Lil Skies and alternative band Weston Estate brought together two juxtaposing audiences in a welcoming environment, as students danced through the annual spring concert, coordinated by the Student Entertainment Council.

On March 23 at 6 p.m., The Rider News had an exclusive interview with 25-year-old Skies, where he detailed his life, creative process and advice for college students who are looking to pursue a career in the music industry.

He said that he gained traction at 18 years old and fostered his creativity by “smoking weed.” Skies said he has been smoking since he was 14 years old and smokes before every show.

He then spoke directly to the Rider students who wanted advice on how to establish a successful music career.

“If school ain’t for you don’t be mad ... you want to drop out and pursue your dream, there is nothing wrong with that,” said Skies. “I don’t want to influence nobody to drop out, but life is too short. We need to go ahead and do what you want to do.”

Skies looked forward to this performance, hoping that Rider would bring an electric energy.

“Some schools, they came to let loose, turn up and have fun; that’s what I like. ... I know I’m going to give a thousand percent,” he said.

Students waited restlessly in the Student Recreation Center for wristbands that granted access to the concert at 7 p.m., while others waited in lines that wrapped around the front of the building for free food.

Fan favorites like the “Empanada Guy,” “Yooo Cuz” and “Mister Softee” were parked in front of the venue,

feeding the famished students before they ventured into the SRC, which housed a large stage, illuminated by neon light fixtures.

Opening act Weston Estate began the show as the audience filtered in, migrating closer and closer to the stage with their fists pumping to the beat of the music.

The band, which consists of five members, performed upbeat, original songs like “Outside” and more somber songs like “Silence,” which the audience responded to with a slow and dramatic wave of their hands.

The performers not only interacted with the audience, but bantered with other members of the band, laughing and motioning to each other throughout the show.

After the set concluded, the crowd retained their elevated energy with dance circles where students break-danced in the center and tagged each other in.

Junior psychology major Oyedapo Akinboye, who participated in the dance circle, commented on how he enjoyed the genre differences between the two artists.

He was pleasantly surprised by the stark contrasts in “vibe,” saying that he would listen to the opener if he were “going on a walk,” but he would listen to Skies to “try and turn up.”

The boisterous dancing and cheering engulfed the room, and that feel-good spirit flourished in a frenzy, the celebration continuing until a raffle was called.

Students received a ticket at admittance, which entered them into a raffle for gift cards, like Applebee’s and Domino’s, and even more lavish prizes at the end.

The dance circle resurrected after the winners were called, and it persisted until Skies graced the stage.

While the students anxiously awaited Skies’ arrival,

DJ Rello, Skies’ personal DJ, hyped the crowd after saying the rapper would join him on stage.

Eventually, Skies entered like a whirlwind, bringing the energy he promised in the interview.

Skies performed some of his most popular songs, including “I Like Girls,” which brought the crowd to life, followed by “Lust.”

The song ended with the lyrics “[there’s] not a lot of love,” which Skies followed by saying, “I love you guys, though” – a sentiment addressed to the increasingly elated Bronc-filled venue.

Between songs, Skies encouraged the audience to up the enthusiasm and not be afraid to move around.

A few more songs played until the concert met its inevitable and bittersweet conclusion, and Skies implored the audience to give “a million percent” for “Red Roses.”

During the song, spectators shrieked in excitement as Skies tore his shirt off and chucked it toward the crowd and into the hands of an appreciative fan.

Skies departed from the stage and the mood in the crowd shifted when another raffle was announced. This time, there was an Apple Watch, Apple HomePod and tickets to the upcoming Drake and J. Cole concert.

As the crowd dispersed, people left with their spirits lightened, holding tightly onto Skies’ sentiment: “If nobody believes in you, I believe in you.”



Watch the interview and concert by scanning the QR code!

Video by Josiah Thomas



Peter G. Borg/Rider University



Peter G. Borg/Rider University

Rider students and community members wait for the countdown to start the egg hunt.

10,000 eggs were dispersed throughout the Campus Green.

Hopping into 107.7 The Bronc's Eggcellent Egg Hunt

By **Tristan E. M. Leach**

SOME people think of Easter egg hunts as child's play, but "107.7 The Bronc's Eggcellent Egg Hunt" is the true representation of survival of the fittest.

The three-minute hunt had students running and diving for the grand prize of an all-inclusive Royal Caribbean Cruise, with only one lucky participant sailing into the sunset. On March 26, 107.7 The Bronc held its annual egg hunt, returning with something for everyone.

Games dotted the lush green lawn of the Campus Mall as AJ the Bronc took turns tossing a giant horseshoe. Students laughed as their friends launched oversized inflatable balls at giant red cups, while others played their way through the mini golf course as music sounded.

In one corner of the lawn, a petting zoo brought to Rider the fluffy faces of sheep, goats, alpacas, and the crowd favorite, a black and white bunny.

Students crowded around their favorite animals and watched as the donkeys, sheep and goats enjoyed a snack of Rider's green grass. A more curious goat even tried to take a bite out of a student's Squishmallow keychain.

These little creatures are part of why Nicole Filipowicz, a sophomore environmental science major, attended the event.

"All my friends were going and there are goats," said Filipowicz with a smile.

For the arts and crafts lovers, 107.7 The Bronc provided spin art, Easter egg dyeing and sand art, a throwback to many students' childhoods. The colorful works added to the spring feeling that danced through the air.

Angelina Messina, a junior cybersecurity major, said, "I'm really excited to participate in some of the events, pet the animals then grab some food and hangout with friends."

As the time for the egg hunt drew closer, the anticipation of the main event grew. Students began to line the perimeter of the lawn, where 10,000 eggs lay in wait, just one in the sea of pastel-colored plastic holding the grand prize. Yellow, blue and pink bags were passed out by student workers of 107.7 The Bronc.

At 12:30 p.m., a 10-second countdown began. When the buzzer went off, it was every student for himself. Within moments students were lining up to collect their prizes. One lucky student would crack open their egg to find the Royal Caribbean Cruise waiting for him.

Dylan Sack, a sophomore health science major, happily clutched the certificate for the all-inclusive package that will take himself and his girlfriend, Angela Rizzo '23, on the high seas.

"I ran towards the middle and when I flipped [the

egg] open and I looked at it, I felt the adrenaline start to go," said Sack.

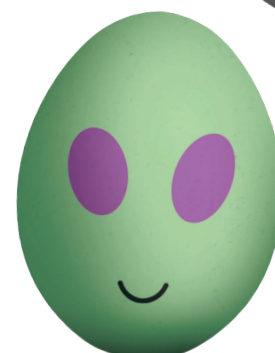
Of course, the hunt would not have been possible without the diligent student workers of 107.7 The Bronc and the station's director, John Mozes. Starting at 5 a.m., Mozes and his team got to work, setting up the DJ booth, prepping the arts and crafts booths and spreading the eggs out on the lawn.

Rosalyn Tiangco, a sophomore arts and entertainment industries management major, is a student worker for 107.7 The Bronc.

"The process has been so long," Tiangco said. "We planned this months in advance, pretty much from the fall semester we started to plan [the egg hunt] and started working on eggs, getting the prizes together and figuring out the fine details of it. [The egg hunt] is genuinely so much fun."

It was this labor of love that had students, staff and community members coming together to have fun and enjoy the Eggcellent Egg Hunt.

Sports Editors Benjamin Shinault and Logan K. VanDine, News Editors Julia Train and Jay Roberson, and Features and Entertainment Editor Hannah Newman are student workers for 107.7 The Bronc. None of them had any part in the writing or editing of this article.



Egg designs by The Rider News staff



Amethyst Martinez/The Rider News

107.7 The Bronc's **Easter Bunny** stands next to activity signs.



Amethyst Martinez/The Rider News

Dylan Sack found the egg with the Royal Caribbean Cruise tickets.

An open letter to my ableist doctor

LAST summer, I went to the gynecologist for the first time; even though I knew there was nothing wrong, I was still pretty nervous, which I'm sure all people who have had that experience can relate to.

The appointment itself went fine, but something happened as I was getting up to leave that I feel I should talk about. As I was putting my shoes on, the gynecologist, who did not have a particularly charming bedside manner to begin with, said something to me that I will never forget: "You know, you walk pretty good for someone with cerebral palsy."

In all honesty, after she uttered those words, I had one of those moments where you aren't sure what just happened — I just stood there like an idiot who should have told her doctor to buzz off, but didn't.

So, in honor of March being National Cerebral Palsy Awareness Month, here is what I should have said, in the form of an open letter:

Dearest Doctor Doofus,

You may not remember me, but I certainly remember my appointment with you, not because you were kind, or even a particularly good doctor, but because last August, you committed one of the biggest microaggressions I have ever faced as a disabled person. I am not going to remind you of what it was, because as a doctor (and a decent adult), you should know what you did wrong. If you don't, it's not my job to spell it out for you — do some self-reflection.

Instead, I'll tell you why what you said was wrong.

First, why did you feel the need to comment on my ability to walk at all? Do you do that for all your patients, or just the ones like me?

Did you ask me that because I didn't match your perception of what a disabled person was?

If that's the case, I have another question: did you have your mind blown by me (which is astonishing because I am not unordinary in how my cerebral palsy appears), or did you think that I really couldn't be disabled?

If the latter is the truth, which I expect was the case because of how you asked the question, you need to do something: find a new profession. I have always had cerebral palsy and I am sure my parents, the doctors that delivered me, my former physical therapists, the teachers at my preschool for kids with special needs and just about everyone who has ever known me know that I am disabled.

Did you really think that if I was faking it that I was able to fool all those people for 21 years? You have more faith in my acting abilities than I do in your ability to be a competent doctor.

Secondly, I paid my co-pay before the appointment, so I owe you nothing — not even an explanation for the things about me that you find so impossible to believe.

Please check yourself the next time you want to ask or accuse anyone about their identity, or better yet, please grow up.

Coldest regards,

Sarah

Sarah F. Griffin
junior journalism major



Courtesy of Sarah F. Griffin

Junior journalism major **Sarah F. Griffin** playing soccer as a little girl.

THE Rider News

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ALBUM REVIEW

Faye Webster looks inward on latest album

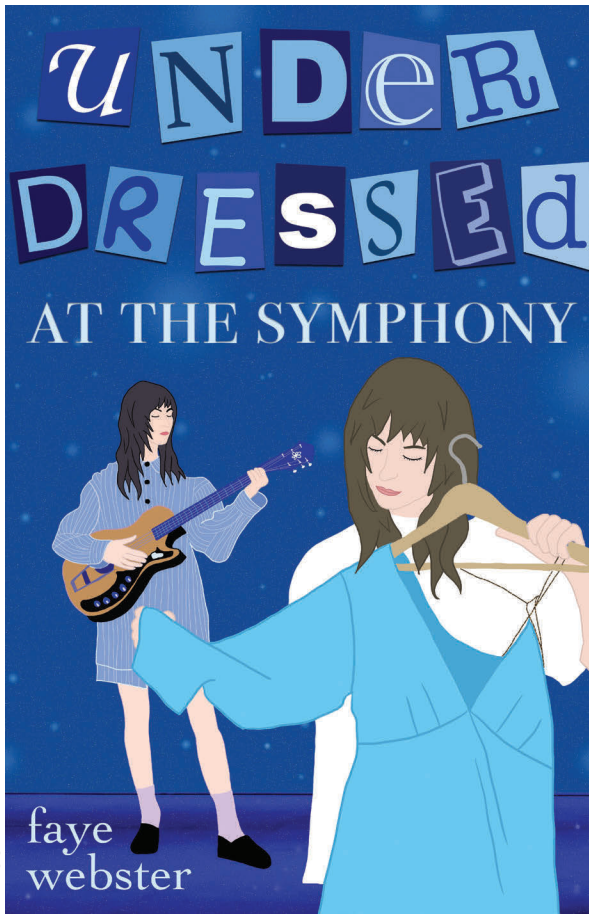
ATLANTA-BORN singer-songwriter Faye Webster has returned with her fifth studio album, released on March 1. "Underdressed at the Symphony" is an album that reminds me so much of what makes listeners love Webster. Her fusion of folk and country with hints of soul music, all while writing about being in between phases of life and navigating new emotions, truly makes this album stand out.

Webster wrote and recorded this album after a breakup, and we can hear her wrestling with the feelings surrounding that in the first track, titled, "Thinking About You," and on "But Not Kiss," the second song on the album. The whole 6 minutes and 36 seconds of the first track very clearly revolve around a specific person. Webster sings, "I'm thinking about/Thinking about you/I'm thinkin' about/Thinkin' about you/And you said you were sure it'll work out this time/I'm holding you to it, I knew you were right." This soft but repetitive start sets the tone for the album as the instrumental undulates while Webster sorts out her emotions.

The second track gets a bit more detailed as Webster describes what it is like to navigate the fact that someone is no longer a part of your life. She sings, "I want to sleep in your arms, but not kiss/I long for your touch, but don't miss/Don't want to regret any of this." She continues to discuss these hard feelings in the third track, titled, "Wanna Quit All the Time."

The halfway point of this album takes a turn for the better, with songs "Lego Ring," featuring Lil Yachty and "Feeling Good Today." These tracks are much more upbeat and signify the fact that Webster did not feel unhappy all the time, and more so that her mood was fluctuating as she crafted this album. Her collaboration with "Lego Ring" was met with slight confusion on the internet, as Lil Yachty was an unexpected artist for Webster to collaborate with. However, the duo created a very interesting song that once again sits at a crossroads in terms of genre, like much of Webster's music.

The sound made sense for the two, as Lil Yachty has branched out in terms of his style as well, with most of his recent album branching into psychedelic rock, despite the bulk of his career being a hip-hop and rap artist. Beneath the song's



Maggie Kleiner/The Rider News

Faye Webster's new work includes folk, country and soul.

fun nature, there appears to be an added layer of meaning, suggesting that Webster is still holding out for her love life, as she sings, "Me and you the dream team/Always together like string beans/Your left hand up in every pic/'Cause your Lego ring is sick," in the last verse of the song. "Feeling Good Today" describes Webster's day-to-day routine, a topic many of us would call mundane. Lines like, "I'm feeling good today/I ate before noon/I think that's pretty good for me," suggest that the singer-songwriter is finding the beauty in her life by taking it day by day without someone else there. My favorite song on the album is the sixth track, "Lifetime." Webster truly slows down and takes her time in this song, opening with, "Can't imagine me/Before you/In a lifetime/In a lifetime." This song is repetitive, just like "Thinking About You," but it serves a purpose, almost becoming a mantra for the singer as she lets go of what once was.

The last two tracks of the album, "Underdressed at the Symphony" and "Ttttime" serve as a great conclusion to what the album encompasses: healing is not linear. Webster sings, "Are you doin' all the same things?/I doubt it," as she talks about what she does with her time to get her mind off of the breakup while wondering about that very person. However, in the last track she is once again describing what she does with her life now that she is single, as she sings, "I get lost in a song/Take a walk, call my mom/Don't go out anymore/In half an hour, I'll be bored/I got t-t-t-t-t-t-time/T-t-t-t-t-t-time-me." She repeats the word "time" 16 times in the song, demonstrating that she is thinking about what to do with it, such as going to the symphony underdressed.

This album is important because it is truly introspective. It appears that Webster is less concerned with pointing fingers when it comes to the end of her relationship, and is more so taking the time to break down her feelings while trying to go about life as usual.

Asha Burtin
senior music production major

CROSSWORD

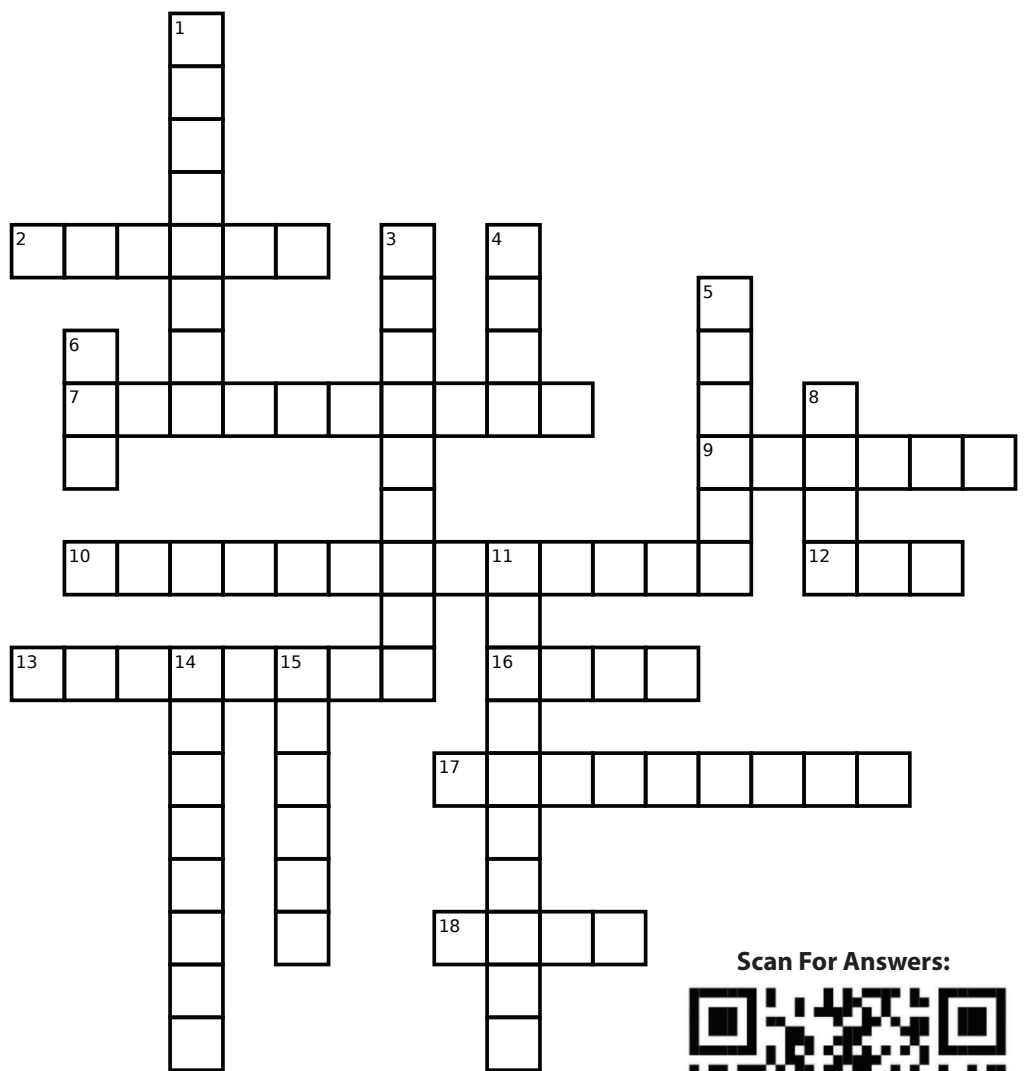
By The Rider News

ACROSS

- 2. New Jersey governor that recently visited Rider
- 7. Building where The Rider News works
- 9. Official equipment sponsor of Rider Athletics
- 10. Town that Rider is located in
- 12. Den where students can relax
- 13. Outdoor seating tied between two trees
- 16. Most streamed Lil Skies song
- 17. Day of the week that The Rider News is published
- 18. Athletic conference that most Rider sports teams compete in

DOWN:

- 1. Last name of Rider player drafted by the Sacramento Kings
- 3. Coffee shop located in the Student Recreation Center
- 4. Large body of water in the middle of Rider's campus
- 5. Weston ____, the name of the opener for the 2024 Spring Concert
- 6. Spot on campus that holds Cranberry's and the commuter lounge
- 8. Rider's student social media app
- 11. Outdoor courts near Switlik and Poyda
- 14. Last name of the women's basketball head coach
- 15. Rider's online classwork platform



Scan For Answers:



TRACK AND FIELD

Rider begins spring season with home win

By Logan K. VanDine

LOOKING to build off its strong winter season, Rider track and field opened the spring against NJIT and Sacred Heart in its home Rider 5-Way meet.

The Broncos could not have asked for a better day, with the men and women taking first place and each scoring over 300 points on March 22 at the Michael P. Brady Track.

“We had a really good day today to kick off the outdoor season,” said Head Coach Bob Hamer. “I was really pleased with the effort and determination that I saw from many out there today. It got a bit challenging when the weather really cooled off, but the athletes kept giving a great effort.”

‘Explosive off the ground’

For the men who scored 341 points, the day started strong. In the 4x100-meter relay, they were able to take first place with a time of 41.13 seconds, as well as a first-place finish in the 110-meter dash, which had graduate student Marques Merriweather finish first with a time of 14.77 seconds.

Rider was able to take home first place in the triple jump with senior Devynn Lee finishing with an impressive 14.28 meters.

“I focused on executing what I worked on in practice and translating towards today’s meet,” said Lee. “My approach was to focus today as well as being in a good body position when I jump so I can be explosive off the ground and have a good clearance over each bar.”

Other field event finishes saw junior Jayden DuBard winning two events with a first-place finish of 16.34 meters in the shot put and placing first at 50.30 meters in the hammer throw.

Senior Abraham Ohiokhai-Benson in the discus throw was another highlight for Rider, as he finished first with a distance of 51.38 meters.

“DuBard had a big day winning two events. He had a very strong indoor season and he is starting on the right track for the outdoor season,” said Hamer.



Josiah Thomas/The Rider News

Junior **Mariah Stephens** takes home first place in three categories for the Broncos in the Rider 5-Way.

‘Keep that ball rolling’

The women had a big first day of the spring season, placing first with a total of 324 to outscore their second-place opponent by over 210 points.

The Broncos were able to take home first-place finishes in the 4x100 meter relay with a time of 47.58 seconds and in the 400 meters with graduate student Teagan Schein-Becker winning that category with a time of 56.94 seconds.

Junior Mariah Stephens was the story for Rider as she built off a great winter season, winning the triple jump with a score of 11.28 meters, the 100-meter hurdle with a time of 14.35 meters and the 4x100 meters with her teammates juniors Raisa Thunig, Hailey Palmer and sophomore Valencia Gosser.

“After coming off of a successful indoor season, today I just wanted to keep that ball rolling and pick

up right where I left off,” Stephens said.

The women also clinched first place in the discus throw, the hammer throw and the javelin. Senior Angelina Tapia won first in the discus throw at 38.28 meters, graduate student Natya Glasco won the hammer throw at 47.47 meters and senior Grace Ramsey took first place in javelin with a distance of 40.76 meters.

“It was nice to see the women throwers get wins in the discus, javelin and hammer throw. Grace, Angie, and Natya are all big performers in the program and we need them to step up each week for our success,” said Hamer.

Up next for the Broncos is the Raleigh Relays, which will take place from March 28 to 30 in Raleigh, North Carolina.

LACROSSE

Broncs crushed by Siena in MAAC opener

By Rich Saile

AFTER concluding its non-conference schedule, Rider traveled to Loudonville, New York, to take on Siena in the team’s first-ever game of Metro Atlantic Athletic Conference play.

Looking to make a statement in their first conference game ever, the Broncos played their MAAC opener on March 23.

In wet and rainy conditions, Rider was walloped at the hands of the Saints, falling 22-4 to start MAAC play with a loss.

“Overall, we didn’t play our game and they capitalized on the things we made mistakes with,” said Head Coach Evan Mager. “We have to be able to control what we can control and we have to be able to play through all different conditions.”

From the beginning, Siena controlled the game on offense and scored the first goal 55 seconds into the matchup. The Saints scored two more goals in a two-minute span to put them up 3-0 early.

The Broncos scored their first goal with 9:45 left in the first quarter off an extra-player opportunity due to an illegal equipment penalty on Siena. The first goal was scored by junior attacker Toni Gismondi, her 10th goal of the season, that was assisted by freshman midfielder Elena Bontatibus.

Gismondi talked about what has worked for her so well on offense so far this season.

“It sounds cliché, but my teammates are definitely the reason I am so successful,” Gismondi said about her strong offensive season. “Most of my goals this season, including my one from the Siena game, were assisted. The credit goes to our offense

being selfless and wanting everyone to succeed.”

The Saints quickly won the draw control and scored another goal in the next 48 seconds. They managed to go up 7-1 after just one quarter of play.

The Broncos started off the second quarter with a goal from Bontatibus, her 10th goal of the season off a free-position shot. But the Saints were able to score the last five goals of the quarter to go into the locker room up 13-3 at the half.

Coming out of the locker room, the Saints got a quick goal 38 seconds out of the half. Rider was able to get its fourth goal of the game off a turnover that led to a ground-ball pickup from junior defender Cali Schwerdtfeger, which set the Broncos offense up for a goal by sophomore midfielder Katie Walsh on an assist by graduate student attacker Emily Wesoky.

For the rest of the game, the Saints scored the last seven goals as the Broncos lost 22-4 in their first-ever MAAC outing.

Mager said, “We have to focus on winning the draw and we have to focus on stopping the ball. For the most part we’ve been if not 50/50 but even a little bit stronger than most teams.”

Siena finished with more shots than Rider, including 25-6 in shots on goal. The Saints also won the ground balls 18-12.

Gismondi was asked about what she thought went most wrong in particular in Rider’s first conference game.

“We let the uncontrollables get to us, the weather and the drive was not ideal, but going forward we definitely learned our lesson. This was the first big loss we have faced, so we will be using it as a learning



Maggie Kleiner/The Rider News

Junior attacker **Toni Gismondi** looking to set up a play for the Broncos.

experience,” Gismondi said on her team’s lackluster effort against the Saints. “Going forward into our next game and those to come, our mindset is what will determine the outcome in a game, the things we can control.”

The Broncos return home to Ben Cohen Field, where they will hope for better outcome against fellow MAAC opponent as they will take on the Manhattan Jaspers on March 27 at 4 p.m. The game will be broadcast on ESPN+.

BASEBALL

Broncs sweep Bobcats in MAAC opener

By Benjamin Shinault

AFTER riding a five-game losing streak, Rider baseball finally put it to bed with a weekend-series sweep of the Quinnipiac Bobcats on March 24.

The series happened to be the opener of Metro Atlantic Athletic Conference play, pausing Rider's rough out-of-conference schedule.

The Broncs also finally made their way back home to Sonny Pittaro Field to take on the Villanova Wildcats in which they won 9-7.

Doubleheader, double win

Per usual, Connecticut weather conditions in the month of March were sunny yet chilly. This weekend, however, Rider's bats were red hot as it scored 33 runs over the three games against the Bobcats. The first game of the doubleheader on March 22 saw sophomore pitcher Clayton Poliey take the mound, coming off MAAC Pitcher of the Week recognition after his electric performance against Duke on March 12.

Poliey wasn't as dominant, but still did well, as he finished with five innings pitched, only allowing three hits and striking out two Bobcats. The offense, on the other hand, was the star of the game, as it got rolling in the top half of the third inning when freshman infielder Joe Tirolly put one over the left field fence to give the Broncs an early two-run lead. Junior catcher Matt Shepard, a transfer from Rowan College of South Jersey, had a good day at the plate as well with three total base hits and three runs batted in.

With elite pitching and constant hard contact from the Broncs, they never trailed in game one of the doubleheader against Quinnipiac.

Josiah Thomas/The Rider News
Graduate student infielder Luke Lesch takes a practice swing.

That wasn't the case in the second game of the doubleheader.

The Bobcats were able to put three runs on the board after nailing sophomore pitcher PJ Craig for three earned runs in the first, with two of those three runs coming from a two-run shot to left field.

Luckily for the Broncs' pitching staff, Rider's offense came to play as they ripped away from the Bobcats the very next inning and put five runs on the board to go up 6-4 entering the third inning. Much of this was due to a grand slam from freshman infielder Matt Leahy.

"I just walked up to the plate with the bases loaded and I honestly was just trying to get the ball in play. ... He [Bobcats pitcher] just threw me a fastball and I was all over it," Leahy said.

Fast forward a few innings to the top of the ninth with the game knotted up at eight, senior catcher Brian Skettini stepped up to the plate and connected on a ball that would give the Broncs the lead and ultimate win and sweep of the doubleheader.

"Overall, it's the best we've been all year offensively," Head Coach Barry Davis said after the Quinnipiac victory. "Some big hits all day."

Finishing off the Bobcats

Rider kept rolling the very next day when it took on the Bobcats with an 11-1 win in the final game of the series.

Junior pitcher Brian Young had a good day on the bump as he pitched five innings, allowed five hits and managed to send seven Bobcats packing. With Young's dominant outing on the mound, he was awarded MAAC Pitcher of the Week on March 26.

With the Quinnipiac sweep, Rider was able to take an early advantage in MAAC standings with an undefeated record against its conference rivals.

Undefeated at home

Rider returned home and was set to face off against the Villanova Wildcats. Rider took its home field advantage seriously as they won 9-7.

Both Skettini and Leahy both had three hits a piece in the victory.

The Broncs stuffed the stat sheet in the middle innings with three runs each. Villanova made it interesting late, but the bullpen held firm.

Rider will welcome Saint Peter's at Sonny Pittaro Field for their next matchup, which will be broadcast on ESPN+.

SOFTBALL

Rider goes 1-4, loses to Peacocks and Tigers

By Kadie Diguseppe

RIDER softball was back in town against Saint Peter's on March 22, where it split its first home doubleheader of the season before traveling to Princeton, New Jersey, on March 26, falling in both games of another doubleheader.

Comeback win and hard-fought loss

The Broncs looked nervous at bat during the first three innings of play against Saint Peter's, as Rider's offense mainly consisted of flyouts and strikeouts.

The Broncs let the Peacocks go up 2-0 as early as the end of the first inning after two back-to-back doubles to sophomore left fielder Fallyn Stoeckel and junior right fielder Asiah Bell.

The Broncs were down 0-3 going into the fourth inning after a single up the middle in the third.

Once they advanced to third base off senior infielder Jessie Niegocki's single and Stoeckel's sacrifice fly to center field, sophomore designated player Jadeyn Merrill put Rider on the board.

Down 1-3, Rider came to the plate in the fifth inning swinging at the plate but could not buy a run.

After only allowing one hit during the last inning, the Broncs knew they had to give everything to come back and win.

The last inning started off with senior outfielder Laneya Wright roping a double to left center. She stayed aggressive on the bases and advanced to third on a wild pitch. Junior catcher Kristyn Gardner drew a walk, which brought up sophomore outfielder Maddie Luedtke.

Luedtke's line drive triple to left center scored both runners, tying the game for Rider at three a piece.

"During my at-bat in the bottom of the seventh inning with runners on and a new pitcher in the circle, I knew I needed to be aggressive in the count and make something happen to get those runs in," Luedtke said.

With no outs on the board for the Broncs, Merrill's single to right field brought in the winning run.

In the 4-3 win, senior starting pitcher Anna-Marie

Groskritz and her junior relief pitcher Kathryn Schmierer combined for four strikeouts.

Groskritz explained that going forward she wants to work on some things to prepare for upcoming games. "I want to really focus on sticking my pitches better and making less mistakes," she said.

The Peacocks put up three runs in the third inning, but Luedtke answered with a three-run home run to left field that scored Niegocki and Merrill as well.

After going three up, three down in the top of the fourth, Rider's offense kept rolling. It added three more runs in the fourth inning after a single to first base by freshman infielder Olivia Smith scored freshman outfielder Tristyn Wren.

Following that, Merrill doubled and scored freshman infielder Kiersten Buchanan along with Smith to put the Broncs in front of the Peacocks 6-3.

Niegocki's single drove in the last run for the Broncs during the sixth inning, but Rider ultimately did not find a gap.

The Broncs' defense slowly started to collapse as the game came to a close, letting Saint Peter's outscore them 6-1 in the last three innings and allowing seven hits. Rider ended the game with a 9-7 deficit.

Head Coach Davon Ortega said, "Our offense really started to put things together against St. Peter's. We've been stranding a lot of runners on base all season, so our focus was on putting the ball in the gaps to finally start scoring those runs."

Back-to-back losses

After their first home doubleheader, the Broncs were on the road again for another against Princeton on March 26.

Before their pair of games against the Tigers, Ortega said, "One of our main focuses against Princeton is to improve in the areas that we may have

lacked in against Saint Peter's and to work on our physical adjustments."

Following a slow first inning and going down 2-0, Rider got its first run of the game in the second inning after sophomore Julia Harsche's double to right center brought in Buchanan.

However, the Broncs still couldn't find a way to stop the Princeton offense, allowing two more runs to score and ending the inning down 4-1.

The Broncs let up one more run in the fifth inning and another in the sixth, but after three groundouts in the last inning, the Broncs were defeated 6-3.

Junior pitcher Kathryn Schmierer had three strikeouts during the loss.

The Tigers came out hot to start the second game, jumping to an early 5-0 lead over the Broncs after two doubles and a single.

After a fielding error, the Broncs let up another run in the second inning and again in the fourth inning, giving the Tigers a large lead as they eventually won 7-0.

Stoeckel relieved Groskritz and put up three strikeouts during another tough loss for the Broncs.

They will face Canisius at home on March 29 and 30, then to Delaware State on April 2.

Maggie Kleiner/The Rider News
Senior pitcher Jessie Niegocki winds up a pitch.

Sports

ONLINE

MAAC TOURNAMENT PHOTO GALLERY

Be sure to check out photos from the MAAC Tournament in Atlantic City, New Jersey.

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FEATURE

Announcer's legacy echoes through Alumni Gym



Photo courtesy of Dan Collins

Dan Collins holds the microphone as he announces the names of Rider athletes, something he has done for 26 years.

By Logan K. VanDine

WHEN you're at a Rider basketball game, spectators will hear catchy phrases over the loudspeakers, like "Shooting...two" or "Shooting one and one"

The voice belongs to Dan Collins, who just finished his 26th year calling basketball games at Alumni Gym and announced for 16 Metro Atlantic Athletic Conference Tournament games.

At 51 years of age, the Broncs' broadcaster did not let a career in accounting stop him from doing what he loves.

'I just enjoy the game'

"Basketball has been with me forever. I played in high school, I played at Rider and I just enjoy the game," Collins said. "College basketball has changed so drastically from when I played, but still, there is nothing quite like it around this time of year."

Despite not playing much at the high school level, Collins, who attended Pine Bush High School in Pine Bush, New York, received offers to play at the college level from several institutions based solely on his physical traits. "I was 6'7" when I was a sophomore in high school," said Collins. "It wasn't something on my mind to play past high school, but some schools started reaching out, with Rider being one of them, and they started recruiting me early."

'I knew this was going to be a good fit'

Collins ended up majoring in accounting as well as playing basketball for the class of 1995.

"[Rider] is on the smaller side, which is what I was looking for," said Collins. "The accounting and business program at the time was very highly regarded and still is...I remember meeting the coaches and the different guys on the team and I knew this was going to be a good fit."

Collins spoke very fondly of his playing days when he was coached by Kevin Bannon, who is now in the Rider Athletics Hall of Fame, as well as Don Harnum, who is the current athletic director at Rider.

Collins graduated to pursue a career in accounting, but how did he get into broadcasting basketball games, a side hustle he has maintained for nearly 30 years?

'I didn't think anything of it'

One night, an all-star game for high school players was hastily thrown together, and an announcer was needed for the last-minute matchup.

"I said I could do it," Collins said. "I was joking around and having some fun with it ... then people were telling me that I did a really good job with it."

Not thinking anything of it, Collins recalled the day when he was called back by Rider to start announcing basketball games on a long-term basis.

"Somebody must have gotten in the ear of Mike Wargo, who was the associate athletic director at the time, and mentioned what I did at the all-star game," he said. "They had me come in and do an intrasquad scrimmage one day, and then they said, 'Yeah, you can do it if you want, the job is yours.'"

According to Collins, he didn't expect to be calling games for as long as he has been.

"I've been announcing for 26 years and I've spent

more than half my life in Alumni Gym," he said.

On top of working Rider basketball games, Collins's voice can also be heard at the MAAC Tournament, which now takes place at Jim Whelan Boardwalk Hall in Atlantic City, New Jersey.

Harnum could not speak more highly of Collins for being a great announcer as well as still contributing to Rider years after he graduated.

"Dan has a great voice for announcing and he definitely has a schtick that has a way of getting the hometown crowd fired up and behind the team," said Harnum. "He adds a lot of excitement and enthusiasm to the game. As an alum who was on successful teams, it is great to keep someone like Dan so close to the program."

Collins brings that signature excitement by changing and altering his voice for broadcasting, a skill that developed easily for him.

"In terms of my voice, I just drop a few decibels, and in terms of how I started to use a deeper voice, it just came naturally to me. ... When I say 'shooting two' or 'shooting one and one,' it just all came when I was a player when a referee would say it," said Collins. "I just find what works as the season goes on."

Collins also talked about what he thinks his future holds as an announcer and if he sees himself expanding his role.

"I don't know what the future holds," he said. "PA announcing does not pay a lot to make a career out of it, but where I'm at right now in my life, I'm happy with what I'm doing."



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