



## Faculty union ratifies new contract despite concerns



Andrew Xon/The Rider News

AAUP President **David Dewberry** with his son, **Robbie Dewberry**, at the picket during new student move-in.

By **Shaun Chornobroff**

**D**ESPITE vocal concerns in a Sept. 20 meeting in the Yvonne Theater, Rider's faculty union moved one step closer to resolving a long-term contract dispute, voting to ratify a tentative contract agreement with the administration that expires in 2027.

Rider's chapter of the American Association of University Professors (AAUP) ratified the five-year contract that was agreed upon in the previous week, despite some members openly questioning some of the terms of the agreement as well as the direction of the university and its leadership during the Tuesday afternoon meeting.

"While some people weren't extremely happy with

[the deal], they recognized this was the best deal they could get without engaging in a strike," union President David Dewberry said in a phone interview with The Rider News following the meeting.

Even with the ratification, the union's long-standing skepticism of Rider President Gregory Dell'Omo and his administration remains intact. Members of the union not only still question the university's commitment to providing quality faculty and classes, but now their job security as well.

After being protected from layoffs in a pair of one-year contract extensions during the COVID-19 pandemic, the most recent agreement does not have this provision, potentially leaving faculty members vulnerable to losing their jobs.

"That now is gone, so the university can engage in layoffs if they feel it's appropriate. Of course we would fight that," Dewberry said.

All faculty who are let go would have to be notified by Oct. 30. Dewberry said he would "not be surprised" if the administration engaged in layoffs, although if any do happen, the union can take the university to arbitration for a third-party to decide if the university has grounds to lay that person off.

Rider's Associate Vice President for University Marketing and Communications, Kristine Brown, said that no decisions have been made in regards to faculty layoffs due to the school finalizing details surrounding previously eliminated or archived programs.

Fear of layoffs comes as the university is attempting to rapidly cut a debt that was reported to be \$7 million when Dell'Omo first arrived at the university in 2015, but surged to as high as \$20 million as a result of the pandemic.

After a summer of tense negotiations that led to union protests and demonstrations as well as the threat of a faculty strike, all that is left for the contract to become official is for Rider's board of trustees to approve the contract.

"We were always going to wait on the union to ratify a contract before scheduling a meeting with the board of trustees. Now that that happened today, we will be scheduling a meeting with the board of trustees, and it will be within the next week," Rider's Associate Vice President for University Marketing and Communications Kristine Brown told The Rider News after the agreement.

The union has passed two votes of no confidence since Dell'Omo's arrival in 2015 and has openly called for the university president to be removed from his job. Rider's continuing financial difficulties, the elimination of 25 academic programs in June, as well as faculty receiving zero raises in the next two years and only minor raises after that has only magnified the distrust faculty has in Dell'Omo's commitment to providing educators of a high caliber for the student body.

Members of the AAUP will not receive a pay increase for the next two school years, but will receive a 0.25% pay increase in the third-year of the agreement and a 2% raise in the final two years of the agreement, according to an AAUP contract summary that was shared with The Rider News.

"As our community has heard many times, we must take short term steps for the long term success of the university as a whole," said Brown. "Our faculty salaries remain highly competitive, and we have seen no indication that the quality of instruction has been diminished by anything we have collectively bargained with the AAUP."

However, Dewberry emphasized that the agreement's wage increases are well below the escalating cost of living.

"Who's going to want to come and work in a place that we haven't gotten a pay raise with this contract in nine out of 10 years," said Dewberry. "... I think some people are concerned the administration just wants somebody in the classroom and doesn't care if it's the best people we can get."

## Students and staff speak on new deregistration policies

By **Amethyst Martinez**

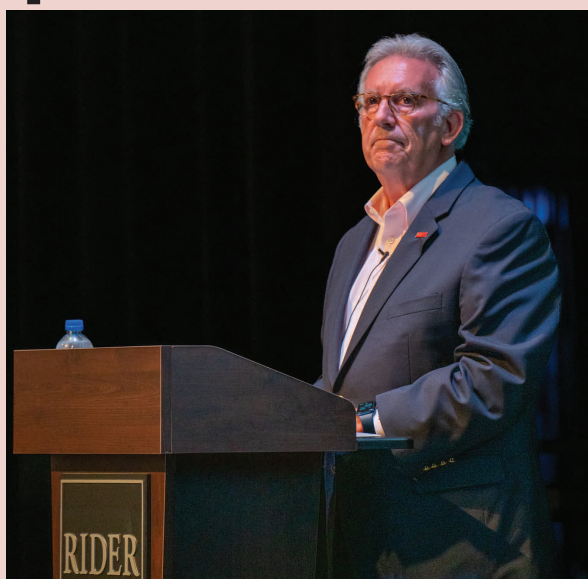
**R**IDER'S new deregistration policy removed over 400 students from their classes at the beginning of the fall semester due to a variety of reasons, the biggest being financial issues, Rider President Gregory Dell'Omo said at the Sept. 1 faculty convocation.

At the same event, the university president said that this move was to set students up for success.

"Their education and personal and professional development are what we are all about," said Dell'Omo. "That requires that we set our students up for success ... not only success in the classroom, but for their ability to afford their education at our university."

The new policy, which was implemented last spring semester, requires specific guidelines to be met by a set deadline before the semester, or students will be deregistered from their classes until they're able to meet the requirements. Causes for deregistration are financial problems, insurance issues, vaccination requirements, waivers and other insufficient documentation.

According to Drew Aromando, the university's vice president of enrollment management, Rider has always reserved the right to cancel enrollment, place a



Andrew Xon/The Rider News

President **Gregory Dell'Omo** speaking at the annual fall convocation.

financial hold on student accounts, prevent registration for future classes and keep receipts of transcripts or diplomas for unpaid balances.

"In the past we would allow students to enroll and

work with them throughout the semester to resolve any outstanding balance. Now, students are deregistered prior to the start of the semester if their outstanding balance is greater than \$500 after subtracting their financial aid and payment plan resources," said Aromando.

Rider's Student Government Association (SGA) senior class vice chair and senior political science major Katy Timari says she met with the administration in the spring semester along with other members of SGA, who were against the new policy.

"A lot of concerns were raised surrounding the mental health of students when the policy was put in place, and those concerns were very much brushed off by administration," said Timari.

The administration adamantly has said that this decision would benefit students and the university as a whole.

"When students carry outstanding balances into the academic period, it impacts their overall success," said Aromando. "We want to set our students up for success, and that pertains not only to the classroom but also their ability to afford their education at Rider."



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Club ice hockey makes its much-anticipated return on Friday.



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New Coke machines bring a variety of tasty drinks for students to enjoy.

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Freshman receives a full tuition scholarship after winning a contest.



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## SECURITY BRIEFS

BY AMETHYST MARTINEZ

### Exit Exits

Lost but not found. On Wednesday, Sept. 14, at 10:04 a.m., Public Safety was conducting building inspections of Lincoln Residence Hall when they observed damage to an exit sign. Public Safety located an exit sign in one of the lounges that was missing part of its faceplate. After a brief search of the area, the faceplate could not be located and it was determined that someone stole the faceplate cover. Facilities Management was contacted to repair the exit sign.

### Going Bananas

Peeling out. On Wednesday, Sept. 14, at 6:43 p.m., Public Safety was dispatched to the Vona Parking lot for the report of someone vandalizing a car. Upon their arrival, Public Safety observed a group of students leaving the area and was able to stop and speak with them. They had placed a banana on the windshield of their friend's car as a prank. Public Safety contacted the owner of the car, and they confirmed that it was a retaliatory prank for something they had done to his friend's car earlier. No damage was reported and neither individual wanted to pursue Code of Conduct charges.

- Information provided by Public Safety Capt. Matthew Babcock

## CORRECTION

In a Sept. 14 article about the U.S. News rankings of Rider, The Rider News incorrectly captioned the photo. The caption should have said that the U.S. News ranks Rider third best regional university in New Jersey among other high ratings. The Rider News regrets this error.

# Legendary Rider wrestling head coach dies at 73

By Shaun Chornobroff

**W**HEN looking at Rider University wrestling, many see a program that is a dangerous, mid-major powerhouse with the potential to climb into the national rankings and compete with almost any team in the country.

That reputation was earned in large part thanks to Gary Taylor, a legendary figure who turned Rider's wrestling program from one that was in its infancy to one that was feared during his 39-year tenure as head coach of the program.

Taylor, who was third all-time in Division I with 442 dual-meet victories at the time of his retirement, died on Sept. 14 at the age of 73.

"We are deeply saddened by the passing of Coach Gary Taylor," said current wrestling Head Coach John Hangey, who not only competed but coached under and succeeded Taylor, in an obituary released by the university. "He was a legend at Rider, a giant in the wrestling world, a special person who molded young men and, most importantly, a great father and husband. Gary touched many lives and will be sorely missed."

Taylor took over the program in the 1978-79 season, and it was not long before he was making Rider's presence known to the nation.

In 1980, the school produced its first All-American. Four years later, Rider won its first conference title.



Head Coach **John Hangey** (left), **Gary Taylor** (center) and Associate Head Coach **Nic Bedelyon** (right) coaching together on the side line of a wrestling match.

That title was the first of 14 titles Taylor won during his storied tenure at the school.

"Our thoughts and prayers go out to Gary's family," Rider Athletic Director Don Harnum said in the school obituary. "Gary was a personal friend to me and so many others at Rider and in the wrestling community who, like me, are shocked and saddened by his sudden passing. Gary was and always will be a Rider coaching legend and remembered as a great man."

In 1997 Taylor led Rider to being ranked No. 7 in the nation by Amateur Wrestling News for the final five weeks of the season and developed nine wrestlers into national qualifiers, a number that was second best in the nation.

All in all, Taylor developed 15 different All-Americans, was a conference coach of the year nine times and saw his wrestlers earn 110 individual conference titles. In 2018 after his vaunted career came to a close, he was given the Lifetime Service Award from the New Jersey Chapter of the National Wrestling Coaches Association.

In his final home dual-match against a ranked Maryland team, Taylor bid farewell to Rider in a way only fit for the program he brought to prominence.

In what The Rider News described as a "near-herculean effort" Taylor's team closed a 12-point deficit against the Terrapins to defeat its Big Ten foe 23-20.

After the victory, Taylor was quoted in an athletic department recap of the match saying, "This is a very special day. This is a special team. And it's all the teams leading up to here that built the history and the quality of this program."

Taylor is survived by his wife, Nancy, and daughter, Danica. Contributions in his memory can be made to The Rider Wrestling Club.

# Dean of CAS, adjusts to new challenges after merger

By Olivia Nicoletti

**W**HEN Kelly Bidle first obtained a job from Rider in 2001, she has moved up the ladder, eventually gaining the position of Dean of the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences in 2019.

During the recent merger that combined the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences (CLAS) and The Westminster College of the Arts (WCA), Bidle moved up once again becoming the overall dean of the newly created College of Arts and Sciences (CAS).

Not only for Bidle, but for the entire university, this change resulted in the staff facing a lot of new challenges.

Prior to the merger, CLAS was already the largest college on campus. Therefore, the combination of both WCA and CLAS, created a lot more responsibility for Bidle.

"We spent the entire part of our summer, really kind of, building a team and working on that restructure," said Bidle. "I think we built a really good and efficient structure. It's just now a matter of getting people to understand who's who in the college and what we do."

Working alongside Bidle are Associate Deans Jason Vodicka and Brooke Hunter, as well as Assistant Deans Eileen Gurwitz and Emily Carlin.

Hunter, who became the associate dean of the College of Liberal Arts & Sciences in 2019, transitioned in 2022 to the role of associate dean of the School of Science, Technology and Mathematics and the School of Humanities and

Social Sciences. Vodicka serves as the associate dean for the other two remaining schools in the CAS, Westminster Choir College and the School of Communication, Media and Performing Arts.

Bidle, along with the accompanying staff, are nothing but "energized by this merger."

"What I enjoy most about my role as associate dean is advocating for the arts and sciences and helping students make the most of their Rider experience and earn their college degrees," said Hunter.

"Arts and sciences really have a very natural fit ... So we're talking about disciplines like the social sciences, performing arts, the physical and life sciences, all of these things have a lot of common threads," Bidle said. "It's my job to help our students see what those common threads are ... because really what my goal is, is to make all of our graduates from the College of Arts and Sciences, broad and open minded thinkers, and I think the best way you do that is taking a very, very broad array of courses that the college now offers."

Bidle, who was new to the WCA community, felt that she had nothing but positive responses from the faculty and students regarding the merger and her new position.

"I'm committed to helping them grow and thrive, and, I think, part of that commitment was me appointing Jason Vodicka as my Associate Dean. He is very, very steeped in Westminster, and I rely heavily on him to help with some of the decisions and policies we were making regarding that."

For Hunter, her role as associate dean did not endure as much change; she will "continue to work closely with students, faculty and staff to address academic issues and support the success of all students."

Through and through, the staff have a positive outlook to the changes being made to campus. Bidle still has the motivation to take on new challenges because of the staff and students who surround her daily.

According to Bidle, "I've always loved working with students. I think education is power, and I love being part of helping a student achieve that education."



**Kelly Bidle** recently took on the challenge to become the dean of the newly created College of Arts and Sciences (CAS).

# Rider students chosen for Hispanic fellows program



Kaitlyn McCormick/The Rider News

Left to right: **Karla Lopez-Rosa**, **Juan Molina** and **Nanci Menchu** spent eight weeks this summer participating in internships through the New Jersey Governor's Hispanic Fellows Program

By **Kaitlyn McCormick**

**T**HREE Rider students spent their summer participating in the New Jersey Governor's Hispanic Fellows Program and learning from hands-on internship and leadership experiences at placements such as the American Red Cross and Bristol Myers Squibb.

## The urge to apply

Senior political science major Karla Lopez-Rosa, who was placed remotely with the American Red Cross in the New Brunswick area this summer, said that she first heard of the fellowship program from political science professor Micah Rasmussen during her fellowship with the Rebovich Institute for New Jersey Politics, of which Rasmussen is the director.

"I have the mindset, where [if] there's an opportunity, I jump on it, because every opportunity is an experience," Lopez-Rosa said.

Lopez-Rosa worked under the community outreach and partnerships department at her placement and focused primarily on Hispanic Latino engagement in the New Brunswick area, she said.

Her application process consisted first of an essay portion and resume section and then an interview with the Center for Hispanic Research and Policy's director at the time. Notice of acceptance followed roughly a week later.

Senior management and leadership major Nanci Menchu was encouraged to apply for the program

after speaking with Ivonne Díaz-Claisse, the CEO of Hispanics Inspiring Students' Performance and Achievement (HISPA) at a Latinos in College program through Rider.

Menchu was placed at Bristol Myers Squibb along with senior finance major Juan Molina, who had also heard of the program through Latinos in College.

Menchu and Molina both worked under the umbrella of worldwide patient safety under an oncologist in the epidemiology department, Molina said.

Menchu was also on the global market supply operations team and worked communicating with various other contacts across the world, including in Switzerland and Belgium.

## Big picture takeaways

Throughout their time in their allotted placements, the students spoke of the practical, professional and personal skills that they gained over the summer.

Molina spoke specifically on the importance of networking, especially in a new environment such as his internship placement.

"Your connections and your network base just gets so large, at a certain point you look back and realize ... I can really call on each and every one of these individuals," Molina said. "At the end of the day, it's not just networking; it's networking with a purpose."

Menchu said that the experience provided

her with an opportunity to combat the "imposter syndrome" she experiences as a first generation student.

"I feel like I learned how to be an advocate for myself," Menchu explained. "I too deserve a seat at the table."

Menchu is the president of Rider's Gail Bierenbaum Women's Leadership Council, and noted also that this self-advocacy and confidence will be carried into her experiences on campus, especially in predominantly white spaces.

## People that 'look like me'

Each of the students involved in the fellows program touched on the importance of having programs specifically designed for supporting Hispanic students.

Lopez-Rosa said, "It was nice to see that other people that look like me were in the program and it's a program for us."

Menchu said, "I got to talk to people who are successful in the industries and the companies that looked like me. They also went through the same struggles of being first gen[eration]."

Molina shared a very similar sentiment; "You're there with like-minded individuals who want to see a young Latino succeed, and they're there every step of the way. ... They want to help individuals who, at the end of the day, are able to make it to college and have a similar background as them."

# SGA speaks on implications of new deregistration policy

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After talks with the administration, Timari said that it had seemed that they had already made up their mind about the deregistration policy.

"It feels like they kind of went to SGA to talk about it, rather than make any change on what the students wanted or needed," said Timari.

At the convocation, Dell'Omo referred to "adverse impacts" due to carrying an outstanding balance, including "additional stress, poor athletic performance, inability to complete the semester, and potential dismissal, which really results in students walking away with nothing to show for their time at Rider." He also described the old deregistration policy as "an unsustainable way of operating" that required the university to make changes.

For this semester, bills were sent out to students on July 12 with a due date of Aug. 12. Aromando said, "Emails and text messages were sent to students on a weekly basis reminding them to reach out to One Stop Services if they need help developing a financial plan and resolving their outstanding balance. Phone calls

were also made to students who had made no financial plans at all and the Dean's offices notified faculty advisors of the deregistration policy."

On Aug. 16, a final warning email was sent out to students who qualified for the deregistration policy, and on Aug. 22, they were deregistered from their classes that were set to start on Sept. 7.

Timari said, "[It] didn't really make sense to me, cutting students off from all the resources Rider has when they're struggling. But that's what I was told."

SGA President Andrew Bernstein said that SGA plans to bring the issue up to Dell'Omo and his cabinet in the near future. "It's definitely something that's still going to be at the top of our minds," said Bernstein. "I want to be able to gather a more comprehensive list of information about it to be able to answer people's questions a little bit better."

Aromando directed students towards One Stop Services at onestop@rider.edu for deregistration questions and issues.



Andrew Xon/The Rider News

SGA President **Andrew Bernstein** plans to keep deregistration issues in mind in the future.

# Coca-Cola becomes university's exclusive provider

By Sarah Griffin

**R**IDER has entered a 10-year partnership with Liberty Coca-Cola, according to a June 13 press release from the university.

Liberty Coca-Cola will now be the official drink provider for Rider, meaning that the only soft drinks and other bottled beverages provided by the university will be products from the company, since the deal took effect on July 1.

Instead of Pepsi and Gatorade, products by PepsiCo Inc., students will only have the option to purchase Coke and Powerade, products from Liberty Coca-Cola, at official university restaurants and vending machines.

Student athletes will also be given Powerade during school-sponsored athletic events, instead of Gatorade.

Rider's Vice President for Facilities and University Operations, Mike Reca, was part of the team responsible for the partnership. "We had Pepsi here for 27 years, so we had to make a transition, which is never fun when you have a partner that long," Reca said. "Pepsi was great, but Coke's deal was better."

Reca said that the better financial deal along with other aspects is what led Rider to ultimately switch providers.

According to Reca, in April, facilities and university operations formed a committee of fifteen people composed of faculty, staff and students that listened to presentations from PepsiCo Inc. and Liberty Coca-Cola on why each company would be better for the university.

Reca said that after the presentations, the committee voted unanimously to make the switch from PepsiCo Inc. to Liberty Coca-Cola.

Part of the deal included replacing all of the manual soda dispensers with the electronic dispensers Liberty Coca-Cola makes.

Some Rider students have found that, although the machines have the capacity to offer a wide variety



Andrew Xon/The Rider News

Students across campus now use Coke Freestyle machines and other Liberty Coca-Cola products in wake of the new partnership.

of soft drinks, some drinks have been consistently out of service since the machines were introduced on campus.

Reca said that the interview was the first he had ever heard of the drinks being out, adding, "when these issues arise, it is my hope that the folk who are enjoying themselves in Cran's go to the managers or tell somebody on the staff that something's been out."

"It should be changed immediately," Reca admitted about the drinks missing from the Coke Freestyle machines.

According to Kylie McMahon, a fifth-year student studying in the Athletic Leadership Program and a student-athlete on the swim team, "Rider made a good move."

She had minimal critiques, such as the powerade bottles being "harder to squeeze and get the drink out versus the Gatorade ones." McMahon then followed up, "I think change is good, so if this is the direction they want to head in, then I'm all for it. I do like the machines they have in Cranberry's."

Senior health sciences major Giavanna Lupi said, "My preference is Coke products. I am more familiar with Gatorade than Powerade, but I can drink either or."

According to Reca, The University's partnership with Coca-Cola has the same opportunity to be renewed in ten years as the PepsiCo Inc. partnership did.

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# Air fried doughnut shop contest entry wins student free tuition

Photo Courtesy of Caitlin Hopkinson



Freshman **Caitlin Hopkinson** poses with her version of the sweet breakfast pastry.

By **Hannah Newman**

**F**RESHMAN accounting major Caitlin Hopkinson was granted full-tuition to Rider courtesy of Norm Brodsky '64 through the 2022 Norm Brodsky Business Concept Competition with her entry of an air-fried doughnut shop called "Air Fried & Frosted."

"My incentive by creating Air Fried and Frosted was for people to no longer have to worry about the health effects that not only food has but specifically doughnuts have on their health. This creates a healthy alternative with the same taste minus the health concerns. These doughnuts also cater to gluten and dairy free customers," said Hopkinson.

To enter the contest, students ranging from sophomores to seniors in high school must write a 400 word analysis on a business concept as well as the purpose for the product, the advertising methods that will be used and the sources of revenue. The business must be an original but also reasonable idea.

This contest began in 2015 when the idea was pitched at an entrepreneurial studies advisory board meeting. It was brought up when discussing different types of programs that could expand the experiences of students choosing to attend Rider. The competition was only offered to high schools in the same area as Rider, then it was opened to all students in New Jersey. The prizes consisted of \$1,000 for the first place winner, \$500 for second and \$250 for third. After measuring the results for two years, the amount of participants in competition were increasing and in order for there to be persistent growth, the stakes had to be raised.

Brodsky got involved in the competition in 2018

after the committee began reaching out to alumni that might be interested in supporting the contest. Brodsky was asked if he would be willing to grant the first place winning a scholarship of \$10,000 a year. Brodsky's passion for student success and the university led him to proposing a full tuition scholarship to the first place winner.

"The object was to get more young men and women to come to this school, that was the objective of me giving it," said Brodsky.

After Brodsky's involvement, the competition gained immense publicity and the entries increased from 60 to 200 from 2017 to 2018. Not only did the prizes reach their full potential, but so did the opportunity to apply.

Ron Cook, Dean of graduate studies for the Norm Brodsky College of Business, said, "We started out with New Jersey students then we broadened the appeal. We mostly attract students from New Jersey and the surrounding area. We've had entries as far as Mexico, California and Canada."

The entries are categorized among groups of anonymous judges. These groups narrow down the participants that will move further and then go through another panel of judges that will determine the winners. Brodsky refused to take part in the judging process.

Brodsky stressed that business ideas come from everywhere, and that an entrepreneur is not just a career, it is a mindset that everyone can have to be successful. "It's a way of thought and a way of doing things," said Brodsky.

The previous winner of this contest, sophomore biochemistry major Maggie Achanzar, used her science oriented background to develop a business strategy that earned her a free college experience to pursue her desired career.

Achanzar said, "My invention was Sili-Head, your styling buddy. Sili-Head simply stops styling snafus. Sili-Head is a silicone-covered wig head with soft silicone spikes on the top. The silicone allows the wig head to be reusable and is biodegradable. The soft silicone spikes stop wigs from falling off the wig head. Sili-Head comes in three sizes, all average sizes of an actual human head."

The result of this contest came as a shock to Achanzar but was the catalyst of a new beginning to achieve her goals in the field of science.

"When I won the Norm Brodsky Business Concept Competition, I was surprised, but I was excited. Winning the competition opened up a world of possibilities for me," said Achanzar. "The work I put into my concept and into the competition paid off. I realized that I was joining a wonderful community here at Rider."

Brodsky's continuous contributions to students' college education is supported by his passion for learning.

"Life is a series of lessons, school is forever. I am still learning all of the time. A person that stops learning at any age is a fool. I learned that the hard way. I am still learning about things I want to do, what I don't want to do and things of that nature," said Brodsky. "When I came to Rider, it was the second year that this college was on campus. It was the only school that accepted me and look what happened, it's amazing."



Photo Courtesy of Caitlin Hopkinson

**Caitlin Hopkinson** poses with **Norm and Elaine Brodsky** after accepting her first place plaque.

Photo Courtesy of Caitlin Hopkinson



**Caitlin Hopkinson** shows off a variety of doughnuts with delicious frostings and toppings.



Photo courtesy of Jeremy Hester

Jeremy Hester graduated from Rider last school year.



Photo courtesy of Jeremy Hester

Rider News alumnus Jeremy Hester sits at his desk at The Washington Post located in Washington D.C.

## Rider News alumnus secures job at The Washington Post

By Tristan Leach

**W**ITH an infectious smile and a twinkle in his eye, it is hard not to feel joy when someone sees Jeremy Hester. The recent Rider graduate's life was changed overnight thanks to a helpful professor, hard work and plenty of skill. All of this culminated into a job opportunity that many journalists dream of, a job at one of the world's most renowned newspapers.

Before Hester attended Rider, he was at Albright College in Pennsylvania. He was majoring in English, but found that he was not enjoying the experience of college the way his peers were. At the end of his freshman year, Hester transferred to Rider where many career opportunities would find him.

"I needed more credits, I was just an English major and I had basically finished all my requirements [...] and I saw journalism and I thought that'd be cool and I chose a journalism minor," said Hester.

Hester would meet journalism professor Jackie Incollingo in her Intro to News Writing class. Incollingo offered Hester a chance to be a copyeditor for The Rider News and he jumped at the opportunity.

"She asked at the end of spring semester 2021 if I wanted to join The Rider News for fall of 2021," said Hester, "So I applied, there was a little test, and [former executive editor] Sarah (Siock) said, 'We'd love to have you,' and then I was in The Rider News."

From there, Hester started his job at the copy desk. Every Monday and Tuesday night Hester and his fellow

copy editors got to work on fine tuning and fact checking the stories that would run in the paper that Wednesday.

Quickly it became very apparent that Hester was meant for the job. He quickly adapted to the late nights of the section editors, staying longer than expected of him to support his colleagues and friends. Hester was always there to give a fellow editor a word of encouragement or a friendly hug when it was needed.

It soon became clear to others on campus that Hester had a talent for copy editing and writing. Last year, Hester took a copy editing class taught by Charles Bausman, an adjunct professor of journalism. Hester excelled in the class and Bausman quickly discovered his skills.

"I give a college level grammar, spelling, punctuation test week two of the semester to try to get a sense of how much the students know and don't know. Jeremy got the highest score that anyone has ever had on this test. In seven years of teaching this class no one has ever come close to 15 points of Jeremy's score," said Bausman.

Skills like this gave Hester an edge when looking for internships this past summer. Hester was accepted to the Dow Jones News Fund, which initially got him to The Washington Post.

"That program (the Dow Jones News Fund), you apply and then they give you training for a little bit and then they send you to a paper. So I got sent to The Post," said Hester.

Hester received training from other staff members, and began his paid summer internship in Washington

D.C. Hester and three other interns worked all summer, working with colleagues with vast experience in the field. At the end of the summer, he and the three other interns were all offered a job.

Hester now has the job title of multiplatform editor for The Washington Post. In a world where copy editing is being cut by newspapers to save money, papers like the Washington Post are thriving. This new money saving tactic is causing once serious newspapers, such as The New York Times, to have minor and major errors run everyday. Both Hester and Bausman brought up this idea and how both find the move to be a mistake.

"It seems counterintuitive in this industry, in newspapers, because now it is suffering or not doing so well as it did. You'd think that you would want to put out the best product you could, not a product that could be potentially marked with errors," said Bausman.

Hester and Bausman brought up the Twitter account @nytypos, or Typos of the New York Times, run by a lawyer that likes to correct the paper.

For now, Hester is enjoying his new job and perfecting his craft. The 22-year-old is taking every day one step at a time and proving to everyone just how valuable a little bit of risk can be.

"[Journalism] is a really great field. You get to learn about everything, said Hester, [...] there are people all over the world doing really interesting stuff. You get to really learn and enough different stuff."

## Hillel welcomes students back with an ice cream social

By Julia Train

**O**N Sept. 15, Rider University's chapter of Hillel held a "Welcome Back Ice Cream Social" on the Bart Luedeke Center's lower level patio. The event was for students within the Jewish community on campus. Students could stop by and meet other people that are part of the same religion.

Eliana Evers, a senior elementary education major, and Sydney Gold, a senior organizational psychology major, sat at a table next to the door with three other members and a plastic tub filled with 50 pre-packaged ice cream pops.

They also had a tri-fold poster on the table that contained pictures from past events, which they also had on their table at Broncapalooza.

Evers and Gold are co-presidents and take care of all e-board roles until they get more members.

Although the organization is meant for Jewish students, non-Jewish students can also join. According to the co-presidents, there are 20-25 members, and a quarter of them are non-Jewish.

"We don't really stress religion as much as you would expect because we'd rather just provide a safe space for any student whether they're Jewish or not," said Gold.

The two started planning the social at the end of August, booking the space, catering, cleanup and more. They also started advertising the event during the first week of school at Broncapalooza.

The co-presidents strategically picked the placement of their event so that they can draw more attention to

their organization. Students coming and going from Cranberry's stopped at the table to check out what was happening.

"Between Bronc Nation and the interest we got at Broncapalooza, it was very encouraging because it's great to see how we do have a Jewish community here on campus," said Evers.

Students that intentionally came for the organization took an ice cream pop and sat down at the fire pit, waiting to hear what the members had to say about their organization. However, those that didn't know there was an event continued on their way after taking an ice cream pop.

"There are still a lot of people that kind of float through our events, just seeing what we're all about and that's really all we ask for," said Gold, "[We] just want [to be able] to say 'Hi, we're a presence here on campus and we'd love for you to be here.'"



Photo courtesy of Julia Train

At the event a variety of ice cream bars were served to students and staff.



Photo courtesy of Julia Train

Hillel, the Jewish club on campus, welcomes students of all religions.

# Students wow audience at R Factor auditions

By **Adrianna Jaccoma**

**T**HE 13th annual "R Factor" auditions took place Friday night in the Yvonne Theater. Students eagerly filled the seats of the theater, ready to cheer on their friends and favorite performers. Crowds formed in the lobby of the Fine Arts building, anxiously awaiting for the theater to open. Soon enough, the theater filled with students who were all excited to welcome back the campus tradition.

The judges panel for the night included former Rider student and DJ Ezra Hill, previous "X-Factor" finalist Dani Knights, theater performer and Associate Dean of Campus Life Nick Barbati and creative director for Jennifer Lopez and Beyoncé, Heather Thompson.

"R Factor now just feels like home to me... I consider this a holiday, this to me is like Christmas. I just love it so much," Knight said.

First out of the gate was returning R Factor contestant, senior English and psychology major Christine Ruggieri, singing "Somebody To Love" by Queen, earning the first seat in the competition.

Later we heard from sophomore communications major Michaela Smith, who sang "Yours" by Conan Gray.

"I'm just really excited to sing and perform with all these incredibly awesome people," Smith said. "I just really love performing and I've been doing it ever since

I was in high school."

Smith earned herself a seat in the competition after blowing the judges away with her rendition of the Conan Gray song. "I don't know that song, but you made it your song," Thompson said.

Things started getting interesting when junior arts and entertainment industries management major Ida DeMarco sang "Bound to You" by Christina Aguilera.

"I've always loved performing and this is just my way of getting my voice out and heard," DeMarco said, "I do have a song on Spotify right now that just dropped, so hopefully I can get my voice heard and get people to love music as much as I do."

Later in the competition we heard from junior supply chain management major KC O'Brien, who blew everyone away with "You Raise Me Up" by Josh Groban. The audience loved him and even got their phone flashlights out, swaying along to the song.

The crowd got into every performance and were passionate about who they wanted to get a seat. "I'm gonna let the crowd know that I left my wallet in my car, so when you guys jump me on the way to my car, you're not getting anything," Hill joked later in the competition.

Ruggieri, O'Brien, DeMarco and junior musical theater major Skylar Noyes held their seats until freshman acting major Nicholas Grzywacz came in and changed that. His rendition of "My Way" by Frank

Sinatra earned him a seat in the competition.

Next we heard from sophomore music production major Jennie Mae Sprouse, who gave a performance of "Traitor" by Olivia Rodrigo. After the performance, Barbati had a big decision to make. He decided to make a team with Sprouse and DeMarco, something that hasn't been done in a while during the "R Factor" competition.

Hill later followed in this decision by making another team of Grzywacz and sophomore musical theater major Breanna Lemerise.

The final performance of the night was from sophomore film major Will Dusinberre, who had the crowd in the palm of his hands from the second he stepped on stage. Dusinberre performed "Goodbye Carolina" by Marcus King, receiving a standing ovation- a great way to end the night.

The finalists for the night were Sprouse, DeMarco, senior music education major Azhannet Blackwell, Lemerise, Grywacz and Ruggieri and wildcards, Smith, O'Brien and Dusinberre.

The finale will take place on Sept. 23 at 7:30 p.m. in the Yvonne Theater. Stay tuned for who will take home the title of "the R Factor" Champion 2022!



Students and judges pose for a photo after the competition.



Sophomore film major, **Will Dusinberre**, secured a spot in the competition when he sang "Goodbye Carolina" by Marcus King.



Audience members excitedly waited for the night's festivities to start.

# Which is better: Coke or Pepsi?

**O**VER the summer, Rider partnered with Liberty Coca-Cola Beverages and has given students a variety of drinks in Cranberrys, but this raises the question of which is better: Coke or Pepsi?

Although they are similar, the majority of Rider students that were interviewed prefer Coke. The machines are aesthetically pleasing, and students can have other drinks they enjoy including Sprite, Minute Maid, Powerade and many more. Also, the Coca-Cola logo is more appealing and identifiable as it is seen on many shirt designs.

Their commercials are also more memorable compared to Pepsi, specifically the commercials during the Super Bowl. In 2017, Pepsi produced a commercial for the Super Bowl, and it raised a lot of controversy. The commercial showed people protesting police brutality and Kendall Jenner, who was modeling near a building, joined the protest. When the protest reached the police, Jenner handed a Pepsi to a cop, and then everyone was happy. People expressed their feelings through social media and shared that the commercial was perceived as racist, ignorant and inconsiderate.

Jenner later apologized for the commercial, and Pepsi pulled the advertisement. However, Pepsi is the sponsor of the Superbowl halftime show. The halftime show gets a lot of attention, and people wait to hear the announcement of who will be performing each year. The show has starred many celebrities including Beyoncé, Shakira, Jennifer Lopez, Lady Gaga and so many more.

But the Coke mascot is the adorable polar bear and has been in many advertisements, especially during the winter season, since 1922. The polar bear is cute and cuddly, but the Pepsi mascot is quite the opposite. Most don't even know that Pepsi has a mascot, but they do, and it is called the Pepsiman. Pepsiman is frightening and less popular than the Coca-Cola polar bears.

At a restaurant, if you ask for a Coke, the waiter might say, "is Pepsi, Ok?" However, it is not often the question is reversed and someone asks for a Pepsi and is asked if a Coke is alright instead.

This new partnership with Liberty Coca-Cola Beverages will also give students the opportunity to have an internship with them in Philadelphia or South Brunswick, New Jersey. No matter the student or the student's major, any experience is great for a future career and resume. Coca-Cola has brought tastier drinks to Rider's campus and new horizons for students.

*This editorial expresses the unanimous opinion of The Rider News Editorial Board. This week's editorial was written by Opinion Editor Felicia Roehm.*

Felicia Roehm



Courtesy of Wikimedia Commons



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pepsi



Adrienne Unfreed/The Rider News

Students share their opinion on which brand of drinks they like better: Coke or Pepsi?

## THE Rider News

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## FRESHMAN FINDINGS

**Students prepare for a tumultuous year after the threat of a strike**

**I**T'S move-in day, and students with their hands full of items wait by their cars expectantly as they move in for their first semester at Rider University. They are shocked to see professors, faculty and even fellow students standing in great numbers on the Campus Green, picketing with signs that promote a change in contract.

Students and parents could only watch as the faculty protested in the sweltering sun for hours on end. In turn, students and parents alike questioned the reputation of Rider, as these pickets may have painted the school in a negative light.

Concerned friends and family became involved when they caught wind of the strike and the increasing probability of it occurring. For me, as I readied for my freshman year, messages of, "Are you sure you want to stay," and "You can stay with us if anything happens," flooded my social media.

This protest conveyed its intended message: it alerted the students and parents of a contract dispute; a dispute of which added classes to the professors schedule, with no promise of an increased salary. As the day progressed, I felt overwhelming uncertainty. I wonder if I will receive an education from Rider, or if my classes will be canceled indefinitely.

Though Rider was my top choice, even I was uneasy about the future of the school. Further, I questioned where the thousands I am spending on my education is going towards if the educators aren't receiving raises. As tuition increased, the salary of the teachers remained the same.

I talked to multiple protestors, attempting to form a cohesive idea of what was truly happening. I received differing reports. These accounts especially strayed away from the email the students received from the school. This mass email informed the students that there was absolutely no possibility of a strike occurring. The email read, "please be assured that members of the AAUP are not on strike, and will still be teaching and coaching students during this contract extension." Ultimately, the message made parents and students question where the communication was between the staff and the higher-ups. Further, it made me distrust the content that was sent out by the university.

As the festivities of the students' first week commenced, there was dread in the back of my mind, and the minds of other students that questioned if there would even be classes the following week. With the threat of an impending strike, the students would not be informed of the outcome of the contract negotiations until that following Monday.

On Sunday Sept. 11, students around Rider's campus were relieved to hear that their classes will resume as normal after a university email, without the fear of a strike occurring. However, they remember the picketing that may or may not have altered their perception of Rider, the faculty, and the higher-ups.

*Madison Lewis  
freshman journalism major*



Madison Lewis/The Rider News

## JUNIOR JOURNALS

**Toxic diet culture in the 2000s has effected young adults self-esteem**

**G**ROWING up in the 2000s was one of the best things to happen to me. Disney Channel was at the height of its success. I witnessed some very questionable fashion trends. I got to hangout with my friends and experience a childhood before cell phones. There was so much good, but lurking behind it all was the worst part of the 2000's: diet culture.

From a very young age, I was aware of weight loss and its supposed positive effects. On the flip side, I was also aware of weight gain and its supposed negative effects. While I played on the front lawn of my friend's yard, our parents were inside talking about the newest food they were trying or the newest workout video. I heard them discussing what some doctor online had said or what another friend's mom had been doing to lose weight. No one knew at the time just how much that would go on to affect me or my generation.

Flash forward to 2015, I am a 13-year-old with cystic acne and my body is still developing. Boys are starting to comment on that. I also became very aware of my weight. All of my very young life, my family had made comments about how skinny I was or how big my butt was. I learned very early that no matter what I did, my body would be a point of conversation.

So, in order to keep the body that everyone said 'nice things' about, I resorted to under-eating and taking the hardest dance class my school had to offer. By junior year of high school, I finally got tired of constantly checking my weight. I decided to stop my quest of trying to stay a size four and instead worked on building muscle.

When I made the discovery that I was playing into society's beauty standards, I was mad. I was mad at myself for listening to companies and magazines whose models were starving. I was mad at society for imposing these standards. But most of all I was mad at my parents. Their constant talk of weight loss and needing to look a certain way was dangerously ingrained in my head.

I know that there is such a thing as healthy weight loss, all of us want to lead full healthy lives. It wasn't so much that I was mad that my parents talked about this idea of weight loss, it was that it was always presented as negative. My dad knew he needed to lose weight, however he wasn't kind to himself about it and that affected me.

When we see our parents talk bad about themselves and their bodies we begin to think the same things about ourselves. After all, our parents are our first constant companions and we are of our parents. I wanted my parents to love themselves as much as I loved and still love them. It wasn't my parents fault that they talked negatively about their bodies, it was how the diet culture of the 00s was talking to them, and I, in turn, picked up on it.

Now in college, I still struggle with loving my body. Whenever I look in the mirror, I think about the scared 13-year-old who didn't want to eat and I am thankful that I stopped the negativity with myself.

The next generation deserves to live without societal judgment. Bodies are meant to grow and change. Our bodies are meant to keep us alive, not please the eye of a random stranger on the street. Starting now, we should teach that there is such a thing as healthy weight gain and that working out does not need to be about changing yourself but about taking care of yourself.

So I am saying goodbye to the toxicity that is diet culture and hello to loving myself, even if it takes me another five years.

*Tristan Leach  
junior journalism major  
and The Rider News Features Editor*



Courtesy of Wikimedia Commons



Photo courtesy of Rider Ice Hockey

Graduate student forward **TJ Evan** and senior forward **DJ Sucher** look to play a huge part in the upcoming club ice hockey season.

## CLUB ICE HOCKEY

# Club ice hockey preview: a new atmosphere with expectations

By **Jake Serrano**

**A**FTER falling short in regionals to Ohio State last season, Rider club ice hockey looks to pick up where they left off.

Head coach Sean Levin said, “I think we have a lot to prove to ourselves, to the Mid Atlantic and the American Collegiate Hockey Association (ACHA) as a whole. Rider’s ‘MO’ has always been good but never great, it’s always been they can get to that last hurdle but never over it. We’ve been close for very long.”

With key leadership returning to the Broncos, senior defenseman Eddie Coyne is excited to get back in the rink.

“We have a lot to prove to ourselves,” said Coyne. “We have the team built for nationals, it’s just about showing up every night.”

### A prove it year

With expectations high, everyone feels they have something to prove this year after coming up short last season.

For junior forward Dominick Cerceo, it’s about making improvements to his game to make the team better. The junior is focused on taking his leadership role and defense to the next level.

In last year’s regular season, Cerceo led the Broncos in goals with 21 across 26 games.

Senior forward DJ Sucher talked about the team aspect and how everyone is focused on staying consistent the entire game through three periods. “I have a very sour taste from our regional loss to Ohio State last year, and I think a lot of guys do, and this year we don’t want to accept anything other than winning,” Sucher said.

Sucher totaled 22 points in 26 contests last season, including the game-winner against Rowan that sent the Broncos to the MAAC playoff finals.

### Learning curves

With the last two weeks dedicated to training camp, the Broncos geared up for their Sept. 16 scrimmage against the Mercer Chiefs, but were defeated 5-2.

Sucher talked about staying comfortable while keeping it simple. “We are hoping to build positives for next week,” Sucher said.

Late in the 2nd period freshman forward Alex Blaszak scored, as well as junior forward CJ Perkins, to help put Rider on the board.

In the third period, the scrimmage got away from the Broncos, who were outscored 2-0. During the timeout, Perkins tried to set the team to focus in the final minutes of the scrimmage. Yet, multiple penalties disrupted Rider’s strategy to close the gap.

“We have to play better, and we have to play disciplined ... we’re going to learn from this,” Levin said.

Even with the loss, Levin liked what he saw. “I love our goaltending,” he said, mentioning freshman goaltender Shawn Mika and junior goaltender Justin Wellman and their play during the game.

The Broncos had to shake off the rust, but their mission remains the same this season: win.

“It starts with the seniors and with myself as a grad student,” said graduate student forward TJ Evan after the scrimmage.

Evan was an assistant captain for last year’s team and led Rider in points with 33 in 26 games.

### Levin sets a standard

Levin spoke about the high standard that he has for the team this upcoming season. “Expectations for us this year are extremely high. We are holding ourselves accountable to get to the MACH (Mid Atlantic Collegiate Hockey) championship and win it. We expect to make it back to regionals and win that first game and beyond. Anything short of those two goals, the season is a failure ... a national berth is our ultimate goal.”

With that being said, Levin sees the promise of this team and why they should reach their goals. Levin is impressed with all the freshmen thus far and is excited to see them out on the ice.

“Offensively we have seen some great things from Alex Blaszak. Alex is a player coming to Rider after playing some Junior hockey, so he’s mature, and he approaches the game a little differently from the other players,” Levin said.

Levin stressed the importance of mental preparation for this upcoming season and not overlooking games on the schedule. Most players said to keep it simple, and that’s what Levin preaches.

“It’s a mindset when we play teams on paper that we should beat; we don’t take them lightly,” said Levin. He discussed how the team needs to approach every game like it is a playoff or regional game. “We have to play a complete game; we have to play structured, and we have to play selfless hockey.”

With a lot to prove this year, the Broncos hope to have high intensity and focus leading into each game. But play aside, the team wants the community to come out and support the squad this season.

“We have a bunch of event games this year. Last year we had pink in the rink and military night. This year we’re expanding; we have Greek night, Rider faculty and staff night, Rider hockey alumni night and we’re also having a Mercer Chiefs night ... I just think the atmosphere is going to be different than the past,” Coyne said.

Levin mentioned the Broncos will also be giving back to the community with many events for faculty and students this year. “Not for nothing, but we play better when we have a big crowd,” Levin said.

The Broncos now begin preparing for their first two games of the season. Rider will be at home against Montclair State on Sept. 23 and away against Villanova Sept. 24.

*Carolo Pascale, sports editor of The Rider News, works closely with the hockey team and had no part in the editing or writing of this story.*

COLUMN

# Freshman midfielder makes statement in home opener

By **Shaun Chornobroff**

**B**ATTLING the heat in his first game at Rider’s Ben Cohen Field, midfielder Mo Bocher entered Rider’s match against the New Jersey Institute of Technology (NJIT) for injured graduate student defender Jeremy Peterson, a hair under 10 minutes into the game.

Within a minute of entering his third college soccer game, he helped facilitate Rider’s opening goal.

Then, with 15 minutes left in the first half, the 5-foot-9 midfielder showcased a flair and confidence beyond his years.

Bocher received the ball six-yards from the opposing goal, then executed a clever backheel shot that not only got past the defense, but the NJIT goalkeeper, who could do nothing but pick the ball from Bocher’s first Rider goal out of the net.

“It felt really good. I’m glad I got my first goal with my teammates supporting me,” the freshman said with a smile after the match.

Despite Bocher netting Rider’s second goal of the game, the Broncos left their home opener with a 2-2 draw against NJIT.

Thanks to Bocher’s moment of genius, Rider exited the first half with a 2-1 lead. However, the Highlanders equalized in the 64th minute.

Bocher was once again subbed on in the 72nd minute with the Broncos hoping to net a game-winner.

In the 84th minute, the Ohio native received the ball just outside the box and played a perfectly weighted pass to sophomore defender Tom Skrocki, who was surging into the box and promptly fouled, giving Rider a penalty kick and a golden chance to secure the win.

Unfortunately for Bocher and his team, NJIT goalkeeper Samuel Reigsys made the save on a penalty kick from Babacar Diene.

Nonetheless, Bocher, who did not appear in Rider’s first three games, had made a statement.

“He was a guy who, for a lack of a better term, was out of the picture, then he did what we tell guys all the time. We say ‘catch our attention in training,’” Head Coach Charlie Inverso said of Bocher, who played a season high of 63 minutes on Sunday. “There’s no magic formula to it. He’s playing well, and when we’ve put him into the game, he’s responded.”

The draw drops Rider, who started its season with a gauntlet of a non-conference schedule, to 1-4-1 on the season with only a road match against Princeton on Sept. 23 before starting Metro Atlantic Athletic Conference (MAAC) play on its home turf against Manhattan on Sept. 28.

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## VOLLEYBALL

# Broncs beat by Princeton; bounce back in MAAC play

By Jake Tiger and Andrew Smolar

**F**OLLOWING a nine-game road trip that made stops in Utah, Pennsylvania and Maryland, Rider women's volleyball emerged with a 2-7 record, but a wealth of valuable experience. In their return to New Jersey, the Broncs added one more loss at the hands of Princeton on Sept. 14, but began Metro Atlantic Athletic Conference (MAAC) play on a strong note with a win against Saint Peter's on Sept. 17.

## 'Growing up to do'

The Battle of 206 was reinstated on Sept. 14, as Rider took on the Princeton Tigers for the first time in just over 15 years. However, the celebrated match did not offer quite as much in the way of competition, with the Tigers outclassing the Broncs 3-1.

"A little bit of a rollercoaster," said Head Coach Jeffrey Rotondo. "We started to slow some things down in the second as far as their offense goes, but we just couldn't carry any of that momentum into the third and fourth set."

The first two sets were incredibly competitive, with the two teams often trading points and the defenses leaving little room for rallying. The Broncs were able to squeak out a win in the second set, claiming a hard-fought 25-23 victory that was truly a team effort.

One common theme through all four sets was the undeniable power of senior opposite Morgan Romano. Princeton consistently struggled to corral her attacks, with them often bouncing off defenders and deep into the stands. Romano finished the match with 15 kills to lead all players.

"I feel like the team fought back really well in the second set and we held our own, but I think this team really exposed some of our weaknesses," said senior libero Pamela Loh.

While Rider leaned on Romano, Princeton's key to victory was frustratingly elite ball placement. Many of the Tiger's points went untouched by Rider, landing right in the dead zone of the defense.

"I think our blocking defense in practice yesterday was very pedestrian, very average," said Rotondo. "We just weren't really dialed in yesterday and that came back to haunt us tonight."

Loh repeatedly found herself diving for Princeton's attacks, only for the ball to land right at the tip of her outstretched arm. Loh had 17 digs in the match.

"We have a lot of growing up to do... maturity on the court," said Rotondo. "To Princeton's credit, they found pretty much every hole in our block."



Kaitlyn D'Alessio/The Rider News

Rider was defeated by the Tigers on Sept. 14., bringing the its all-time record against Princeton to 2-12.

With their final non-conference contest out of the way and some evident issues to patch up, the Broncs looked to make some last minute adjustments before the exhilarating and stressful gauntlet that is MAAC play.

"It's gonna be interesting," said Rotondo. "I think we have a lot of work to do to put ourselves in position to be in that final match."

## 'We need to be tougher'

Volleyball opened the conference portion of their schedule with a victory over Saint Peter's. It was also the first home game of the year for the Broncs.

Despite losing the first set, Rider was able to rally and win the next three, taking the game three sets to one.

The first set was a series of ups and downs. Despite allowing Saint Peter's to score six consecutive points, Rider found themselves in position to win with a 23-22 lead. However, three straight points by the Peacocks gave the first set to Saint Peter's.

That would be the only setback of the afternoon for Rider. The second set was a much different story. The Broncs won the set 25-13 and ended the set with five-unanswered points.

Going into the third set, things continued to move smoothly. The Broncs opened up a sizable lead on the strength of a 9-0 run that gave Rider a 12-5 lead. Despite letting the Peacocks rally to tie the game at 22, the Broncs were able to hold on and win the third set 25-23.

Despite winning the set, Head Coach Jeff Rotondo wants to see a little more poise out of his team in those situations.

"We need to be tougher and more determined in those situations," Rotondo said. "It comes down to execution and panic, with the latter one being our default mode right now which needs to change."

The fourth set started off poorly for Rider. Saint Peter's scored the first four points of the set and held the lead for most of the set. However, Rider would not allow the game to go to a decisive fifth set. The Broncs closed the fourth set and clinched the victory with nine points in a row, winning the set 25-16.

Rider ended the game with an edge in a number of key team statistics. The Broncs had 57 kills compared to 36 for Saint Peter's. Rider also held a sizable edge in hitting percentage with .286 compared to .130 for the Peacocks. Lastly, the Broncs held a sizable edge in assists with 54 of their own compared to 34 for Saint Peter's.

Despite the advantage in some key statistics, Rotondo would like to see more discipline and resilience out of his team. "Overall our offense is sluggish and our block and defensive schemes are average to below average," Rotondo said. "If we want to be anywhere near the top 3-4 teams in this conference in late November, then we need to be tougher, more disciplined, and resilient."

Rider will continue MAAC play next Saturday in a road matchup with the Iona Gaels.

## FIELD HOCKEY

# Broncs lose heartbreaker against Lock Haven



Peter G. Borg/Rider Athletics

Sophomore midfielder **Abby Hartwell** knocked in Rider's first goal at Lock Haven, her second of the season.

By Logan VanDine

**L**OOKING to bounce back after a shutout loss to La Salle, the Rider field hockey team headed to Lock Haven to take on the Eagles. After striking first with the lead, the Eagles had other ideas as they took down the Broncs and scored the winning goal in the waning seconds of the game taking it 3-2 on Sept. 18.

The Broncs, who could not get on the scoreboard in their last game, needed to strike first on the road and did just that.

The Broncs opened the scoring just three minutes into the game thanks to sophomore midfielder Abby Hartwell, notching her second goal of the season giving Rider an early 1-0 lead.

After Lock Haven tied the game heading into halftime, the Eagles struck first taking a 2-1 lead early in the third quarter as the score remained that way until the end of the quarter.

With a second straight loss glaring for the Broncs, they finally came through when freshman midfielder Indy Zoontjens scored her first career goal and tied the game at two with under 10 minutes to play.

"I was happy I finally scored a goal, especially because it was the equalizer at that point. I was always so close to scoring a goal, and now I finally scored one," said Zoontjens on scoring her first career goal.

Overtime seemed imminent with the teams locked in a 2-2 tie, but the Eagles had other plans. As the final seconds ticked away, Lock Haven scored the winning goal to take the game 3-2.

"That was a tough way to lose the game as we worked so hard and deserved a better outcome. Everyone played with energy and played good team ball for the majority of the game, especially in the

fourth quarter," Head Coach Lori Hussong said. "If we can learn to play more to our strengths and do a better job recognizing when to pass and when to hold onto the ball during the more critical times of the game, we will have a better outcome."

Zoontjens also gave her input on how she thought her team played against an undefeated team like Lock Haven.

"I think we did a really great job today. We created a lot of opportunities to score and we had good energy. A few mistakes made us lose," she said.

On Sept. 20, Zoontjens was awarded NEC Rookie of the Week for her performance at Lock Haven.

The Broncs now sit at 3-3 on the year and despite back-to-back losses, Hussong is not pressing the panic button yet.

"We are young and we know it's going to take time to gain the experience needed to contend for a conference playoff berth and we are more than confident that we will learn from our mistakes and make the changes necessary to succeed," Hussong said.

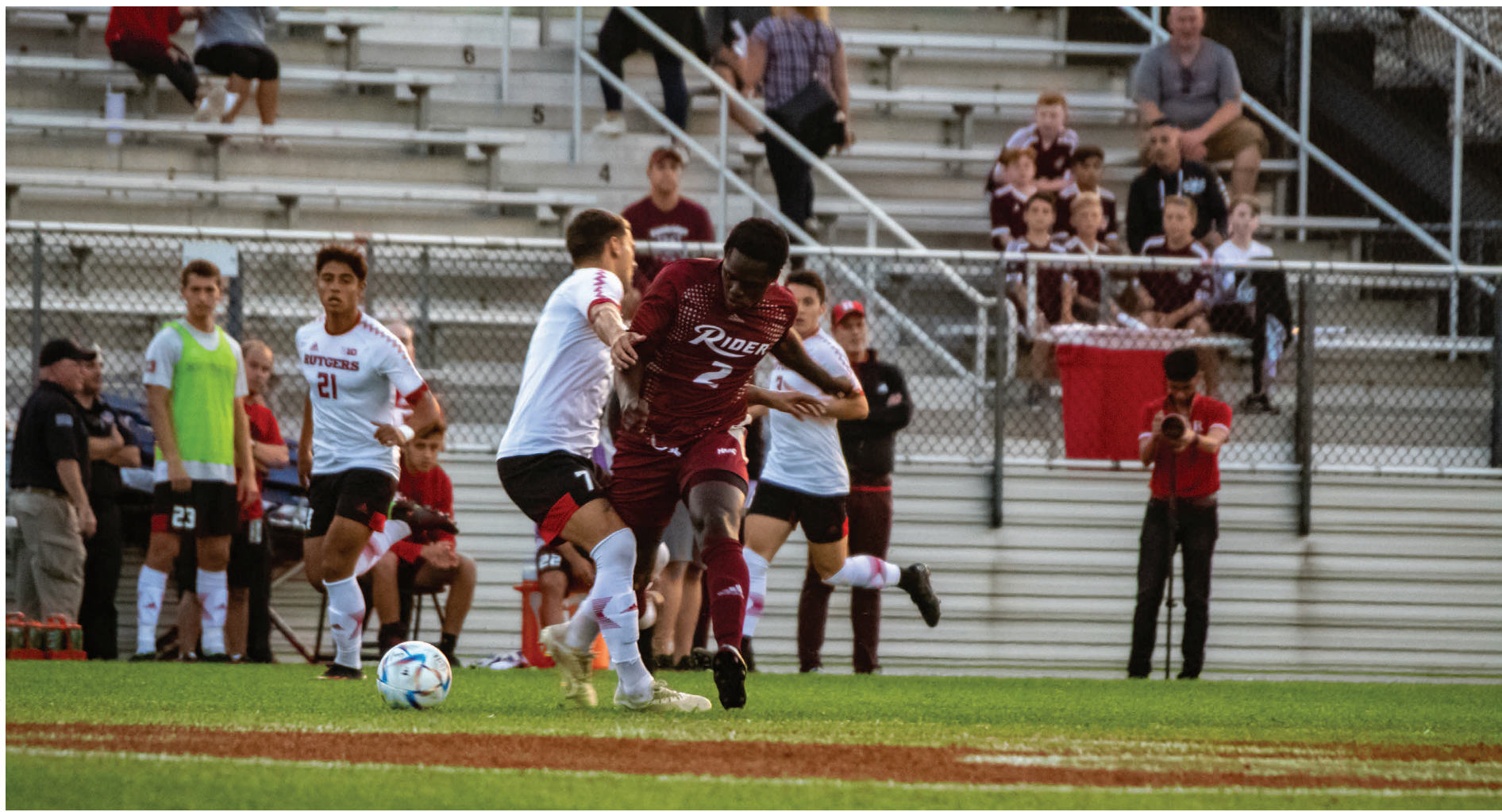
The Broncs will have to turn things around quickly as their next matchup will be at Drexel on Sept. 23 and then two days later against Georgetown in Washington D.C. on Sept. 25.

# Sports

ONLINE

**'WE NEVER STOPPED LOOKING TO TRY TO WIN THE GAME'**  
*Women's soccer started its MAAC play games with a tough 2-1 loss to Canisius.*

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Carolo Pascale/The Rider News

Junior forward **Babacar Diene** has been a valuable component of the Broncos' rotation this season, playing 353 minutes this far.

MEN'S SOCCER

## Rider 'figured out a way to win,' snapping four-game skid

By **Jake Tiger and Matthew LoPuzzo**

**A**FTER enduring a grueling four-game losing streak, Rider men's soccer was finally rewarded with its first win of the season against Central Connecticut State on Sept. 14, before adding a tie to its record on Sept. 18 in its home opener with New Jersey Institute of Technology (NJIT), bringing the team's record to 1-4-1.

### 'Knowing how to win'

The Broncos added a long-awaited and satisfying tally to the win column, with their 2-0 conquering of the Central Connecticut State Blue Devils.

Putting an end to their four-game sputter, the Broncos got the chance to learn what it takes to win and build some positive momentum ahead of Metro Atlantic Athletic Conference (MAAC) play.

"There's a difference between hating to lose and knowing how to win," said Head Coach Charles Inverso. "Wednesday we figured out a way to win and that is a skill."

Rider got out in front early, scoring on its first shot of the match in the eighth minute. Junior midfielder Adel Al-Masude punched in the goal, marking his second score of the young season.

Sophomore midfielder Dylan Kotch put the Broncos up 2-0 in the 87th minute with his first ever shot and goal as a Bronc, prompting a congratulatory uproar from his teammates.

Rider's performance against Central Connecticut State was a marked improvement, as prior to the match, the Broncos had only scored two goals on the season. Inverso credited the success to a strategic decision by the coaching staff.

"We have been playing more high press this year and trying to utilize our depth," said Inverso. "It was a good recommendation from the assistant coaches."

While the Broncos bookended their winning effort with offensive exclamations, what they did in between those scores was the real story, as a devastating Rider defense limited the Blue Devils to just two shots.

"We got a lot of pressure on the ball and kept players from turning which leads to good defense," said Inverso. "When we don't foul and don't give the ball away on our end, we don't give up goals."

The game also saw some new faces step up for the Broncos, as a void had to be filled when senior back Guillaume Sarrabayrouse went down in the second half. Fortunately for Rider, its new additions held their own.

"[Sarrabayrouse] has been outstanding," said Inverso. "For us to finish with a win without Guillaume was a great accomplishment. Dylan Kotch and Mo Bocher are two guys who were not in the regular rotation for the first four games and both came in and played well."

The all-around dominant showing was a sigh of relief for the troubled Rider men's soccer team, as it can finally put the possibility of a winless season to rest.

### Holding firm at home

The Broncos returned to Ben Cohen Field after starting the season with a brutal five-game road stretch, in which they went 1-4. Coming off a win at Central Connecticut State, the Broncos kept the momentum moving on Saturday with a 2-2 tie against NJIT.

Coming out of the gate hot, the Broncos got the benefit of the doubt from a redirected own goal by the

Highlanders 10 minutes into the game.

Before anyone could blink, the Highlanders got right back on the board to knot things up at 1-1 less than a minute later.

After graduate student midfielder Jeremy Peterson went down with an injury, freshman midfielder Mo Bocher took the field and added a much-needed spark to the Broncos offense. Bocher launched an impressive backheel shot into the goal, putting Rider up 2-1.

"[Bocher] was out of the picture, and what we tell the guys all the time is to catch our attention in training, and he's been catching our attention," said Inverso. "There's no magic formula to it and he's playing well and when we put him in the game he responds to it."

Bocher said, "I think I just wanna get more minutes in and just keep going and scoring."

The whistle blew to begin the 2nd half and there was a static phase with both teams playing solid defense with an incredible save from senior goalkeeper Guillaume Veinante who had five saves on the day.

Despite playing solid defense for most of the match, the Broncos had a miscommunication on a crossing pass that would eventually become NJIT's equalizer, knotting the teams at 2-2.

The Broncos drew a penalty kick to have a chance to break the ice, but junior forward Babacar Diene couldn't sink it bottom left. Highlander goalkeeper Samuel Reisgys made a tremendous save to preserve the tie.

With conference play on the horizon, Inverso will go back to where he was once an assistant coach on Sept. 23, when the Broncos take the trip to Princeton for their final non-conference match of the season.

FIRST FOUR GAMES						LAST TWO GAMES				
	G	G/A	SH	SH/A			G	G/A	SH	SH/A
<b>TOTALS</b>	2	11	24	48		<b>TOTALS</b>	4	2	15	14

Carolo Pascale/The Rider News