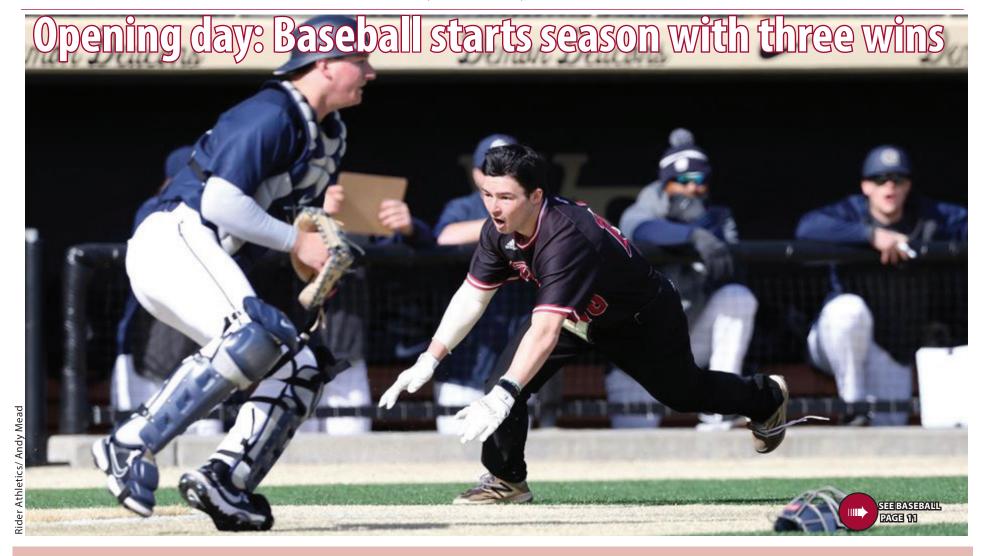


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Student wages stay behind NJ's minimum wage

By Sarah Siock

HE first week of the spring semester, Rider senior Preston Hicks realized his class schedule was less hectic than he was used to and thought the best way to make use of his spare time was to get an on-campus job. Hicks opened Handshake, the website where the university lists campus jobs, but he was quickly disappointed. He was shocked to find several student jobs starting at rates lower than New Jersey's minimum wage of \$13 an hour.

As Hicks was scrolling through the listings, he questioned if it was worth his time to work on campus.

"Thankfully for me it's not that big of a deal because I'm pretty lucky with a decent scholarship from Rider, and I've got another job off-campus. I was just looking for something extra I could do. I realized it was pretty messed up for someone who needs to be able to work on-campus to fund their education," said Hicks, a computer science major.

Hicks decided to sign-up for the student worker pool, a group of student workers who are on standby to provide additional work support to any departments on campus. Handshake lists the estimated salary for this job at \$11.70 per hour.

"I'm lucky that I can afford to take a job just for the convenience, that pays less than it really should be paying. For other students, you'd have to juggle both a job on campus, along with some other job. You would have to be working crazy hours in order to make that work pay off your education and living expenses," said Hicks.

Minimum wage regulations

Hicks is not alone in taking a student job for less than the state's minimum wage. Legally, colleges and universities in New Jersey are exempt from having to pay the full minimum wage to student workers if the compensation paid is at a minimum of 85% of the state minimum wage. Currently, Rider starts level one student workers, those seeking entry-level jobs with no previous work experience, at \$11.70 an hour or 90% of the minimum wage.

Another limitation student workers face is that they cannot work more than 20 hours a week. The student employment handbook states the reasoning behind hours limitations is so students can "prioritize" and "maintain" their academic performance.

"We choose to pay 90% and take advantage of that 10% saving. By having that little bit of savings, we can provide more student employment opportunities," said Kim Barberich, executive director of the Career Development and Success Office at Rider

In 2019, Gov. Phil Murphy signed a law that gradually increases the state's minimum wage to \$15 an hour. Since its enactment, the state minimum wage has increased by \$1 each year on Jan. 1. The starting student wage at Rider also has increased since the law was passed but at 90 cents each year instead of \$1.

In comparison to neighboring New Jersey universities, Rider is not an outlier. According to their websites, The College of New Jersey's (TCNJ) level one student workers make \$12 an hour and Rowan University's level one workers start at \$11.05. Meanwhile, Princeton University differs from the norm and starts its on-campus jobs at \$13 an hour.



Colleges in New Jersey are exempt from having to pay the state's minimum wage to student workers.

CHAMPIONSHIP WEEKEND

Rider men's and women's track teams both got second place in the indoor track championships.

PAGE 11



CLEAN EATING ON CAMPUS

Despite Rider's efforts, vegetarian and vegan students are still having difficulty finding campus meal options. PAGE 8

FRIENDS LIKE ME

WCC's a cappella group Soulfege have been making their mark on Rider's campus.

PAGE 6





SECURITY BRIEFS

BY SARAH SIOCK

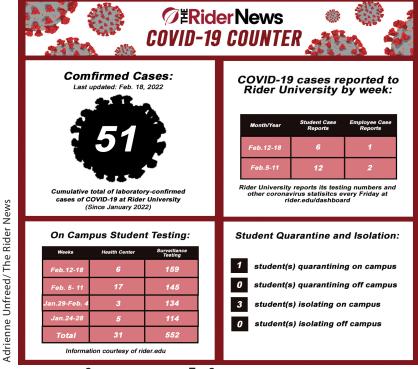
Showers in Daly's

Cover your head. On Feb. 15, at 10:20 a.m., Public Safety responded to a fire alarm sounding in Daly's Dining Hall. Upon their arrival, Public Safety discovered a water leak in the Mercer Room with a high volume of water leaking from the ceiling. It was discovered that a sprinkler pipe had burst, causing flooding in the room. The water was shut off. Facilities Management responded and completed repairs to fix the broken pipe and clean the water.

Rulebreaker

Mask up. On Feb. 15, at noon, Public Safety was notified of a student not following the university's mask policy that requires masks to be worn when indoors. It was reported that the student was observed repeatedly not wearing a facial mask properly, or at all, while in the Student Recreation Center. The matter was referred to the Office of Community Standards.

- Information p<mark>rov</mark>ided by Public Safety Capt. Matthew Babcock



Student workers find convenience in working on campus

CONT'D FROM PAGE 1

Convenience on campus

"There are benefits that you get from working on campus... really being part of the community, feeling like you are contributing to the running of a university, and building those connections that are oftentimes mentorships. There's also a lot of flexibility with hours. We always tell supervisors that the student schedules are the priority," said Barberich.

For some students, the convenience of working on campus outweighs the pay cut. Senior elementary education major Josie Abruzzi has had three on-campus jobs throughout her time at Rider. At all of Abruzzi's jobs, she earned less than \$13 an hour

"It's just easier with the hours and classes. I feel like the supervisors are just really understanding of the fact that we are in school. So with that, it's definitely just much more convenient for sure," said Abruzzi.

During Abruzzi's junior year she worked as an embedded tutor for a freshman writing class. Abruzzi said she was responsible for keeping up with readings and the class's homework, holding weekly group sessions and attending the class at least once a week, amounting to eight to 12 hours of work a week. Abruzzi said her compensation did not equate to the effort she put into the job.

"It was kind of a lot. ... I guess I just got used to working more than what I was

being paid for," said Abruzzi.

However, Barberich and Rider's student employment coordinator Liz Pastor said students have the opportunity to discuss issues about their pay at the Career Development and Success Office.

"If a student feels like they're doing work that they're not getting paid for. They have every opportunity to address that with us. And we would definitely make the changes. Students come first in this office," said Barberich.

A push to increase minimum wage

Nationally there has been an increase in corporations raising their starting wages, such as Target, CVS and Amazon all starting at \$15 an hour. Rider does offer raises to student workers, which is a 5 cent increase for every year an employee stays with the same department. However, Eve Sylvester, a sophomore exercise science major and office assistant in Wright Resident Hall, said she wished Rider's pay was more comparable to off-campus jobs.

"You don't have to have a job. I think it's people who are more ambitious that get one, and maybe they should be a little more rewarded for getting a job and being a student. It shows that you're putting in as much work as you can," said Sulvester.

Campus-wide survey to address diversity, equity and inclusion

By Sarah Siock

• address issues related to diversity, equity and inclusion on campus, the Rider community was asked to complete a climate survey whose results will help determine programs necessary to support the retention of underrepresented students.

According to Rider's Chief Diversity Officer Barbara Lawrence, the survey which was emailed to students, faculty, administrators and staff on Feb. 14 — was made possible in part due to a grant from the Office of the Secretary of Higher Education.

"That grant is really designed to create programming and support for the retention of underrepresented students... The campus climate survey falls under that grant. That allows us to find out how people here on this campus... feel they have a sense of belonging. Do they feel that they're included? Do they feel that we are being intentional around diversity, equity and inclusion? And also, experiences on campus," said Lawrence, who began her role as Rider's first chief diversity officer in 2021.

The anonymous survey asks questions surrounding the campus' environment and Rider's commitment to diversity and equity on campus. Additionally, the survey asks how often campus members have experienced discrimination or harassment and if they know how to report these situations.

Surveyees also provide specifics about their identity such as their race, gender and sexuality. Lawrence said analyses of the survey's results will be completed by the spring and then shared with the community.

"We are going to examine and follow up on what type of strategies and approaches or programming that we can actually engage in to address some of the results. ... If we find that certain groups of individuals report that their experiences are different, then now we have an obligation to address that," said Lawrence.

Student Government Association (SGA) Equity and Inclusion Committee Chair, Naa'san Carr said he felt the survey supported Rider's Inclusive Excellence Plan.

"I thought it was a really good move to improve diversity here, to really get the numbers. Because if you don't have the numbers, you really don't know what to change or improve here," said Carr, a sophomore political science major.

Carr also spoke about Rider's decision to hire a chief diversity officer. "It's a great step in the right direction, especially when talking about diversity here on Rider's campus. The hiring staff for more people of color here and diversifying Rider as a whole...we are really improving upon that. Having Barbara Lawrence here to help us lead and really help with the Center for Diversity and Inclusion (CDI) and all the other efforts, it really brings us together," said Carr, who

Lawrence believed the grant from the government may have been created due to the disproportional effects the COVID-19 pandemic has had on people of color.

is also a student worker for the CDI.

"I think that that also was an impetus for the grant, the impact that COVID-19 had on college students. They looked at the data, and they saw that there was a disparate impact on historically underrepresented groups, their success, in college, in life and so on and so forth. It's designed to continue to provide access and equity to groups who normally and historically are still challenged," said Lawrence.

Carr said he is hoping to see more opportunities for students of color to express their experiences on campus. Lawrence echoed Carr's comment by saying that diversity and inclusion efforts are collaborative tasks that require student involvement. Lawrence added that there will be several opportunities for academic affairs to partner with SGA in the future.

"We often look to students to give us the information. Even though that survey is for the entire community, we really pay close attention to what students are saying, because we are here for students primarily, as well as faculty, staff and other support staff. We're all in this together, "said Lawrence.



Chief Diversity Officer **Barbara Lawrence** is the first in this role at Rider.

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Students' experiences with wheelchair-accessibility in sorority houses



Sophomore English major, **Bridget Gum**, was unable to enter her sorority house [Phi Sigma Sigma] due to a lack of wheelchair-accessibility.

By Tori Pender

XCITED screams, jerseys and Greek letters have become normal when thinking of rushing season at Rider. Noelle Hazel, a freshman psychology major and new member of Alpha Xi Delta, experienced the thrills of the rushing process but is now faced with a challenge, wheelchair-accessibility into the sorority house.

"I definitely was nervous going into it. ... But for me, being physically disabled, it was a little bit daunting," said Hazel.

A big part of sorority life on campus is living with your Greek sisters to cultivate and bond over your experiences in on-campus sorority housing.

Hazel explained, "Right now I am not sure if I will be or want to move in the house. I am definitely interested to and open to [it] ... but right now the house is not accessible."

Last spring

Bridget Gum, a sophomore English major, faced similar difficulties last spring. When she first became a member of Phi Sigma Sigma, Gum was also unable to enter the sorority's residence hall, since it was not wheelchair-accessible.

A petition and TikTok post made by some of Gum's fellow sorority sisters brought the situation to light.

In a previous article published by The Rider News on April 7 covering the accommodation situation, a Rider spokesman said, "The University has not received a formal request for housing accommodations from the student," and "For those advocating to make Phi Sigma Sigma wheelchair accessible, please know that Rider has not denied any request to do so."

Gum explained that her situation "blew up" from the public pressure put on Rider from the petition and TikTok.

"I don't remember formally saying anything specific. Of course, there were other conversations where we would be, talking about it and I would say 'Yes, I would like to live there, it's just not accessible.' ... I don't remember it being a formal request but I had a lot of conversations," said Gum.

In the original timeline given by the university to Gum, the wheelchair ramp and accommodated room were supposed to be done in time for fall 2021.

"Accommodations in any sense of the word, they take forever, to be put in place and not just at Rider, everywhere," said Gum. But progress has been made since last semester.

"I can get into the building, which is a huge plus," explained Gum. The basement is now accessible by wheelchair and a sidewalk cutout was added, making the sidewalk wheelchair accessible as well.

However, even though Gum's dorm room in Phi Sigma Sigma is now complete, she is currently unable to reside in it.

"No one checked in with me, after me approving the blueprint. So, I walk in, I don't walk but you know what I mean. And I am looking at the room and there are just very few small things that need to be adjusted. I had to go back with them with another list, which I don't love doing," said Gum.

According to an email she received, the final adjustments should be ready within a week or two.

Gum said, "I guess we are on track, I had extremely low expectations, just like life has taught me that. ... I am always like by the time you graduate it will be ready, is my on-going joke."

Moving Forward

Hazel was unsure about the steps she had to take to make the Alpha Xi Delta house wheelchair-accessible.

"What really, actually shocked me and was really exciting to me. Already my new sorority sisters were kinda bringing it up to me before even I had to," said Hazel.

Roberta Butler, associate dean of residence life explained the process students needing accommodations have to face.

"Students needing any accommodations for housing, start the interactive process with Student Accessibility and Support Services. They will meet with the student to go through all their need requests and the appropriate documentation that is necessary for the request. Once they have all the information they pull in the appropriate offices to go over the student's request," said Butler.

"The first really big step is getting the ramp to get in, to get into the lounge. That's the biggest goal," said Hazel. "Hopefully by the end of my four years, maybe all of the houses could be accessible."



Noelle Hazel, a freshman psychology major and new member of Alpha Xi Delta is now faced with a challenge, wheelchair-accessibility into the sorority house.

Business broncs take pride in nationally-ranked program

By Sarah Griffin

IDER'S Norm Brodsky College of Business has been recognized twice on a list of 1,600 best online master's degrees programs in the country, according to the

The university's master's degree of business program came in at 126 and Rider's master's of business administration program was ranked at 251.

When asked why the program is ranked so high, DonnaJean Fredeen, provost and vice president of academic affairs, said, "cause it's the best."

"One of the things that Dr. [Eugene] Kutcher said that I think is really very important about the connections to the business world is that we have several advisory councils for these degrees and so we have an information writing advisory council that informs the faculty about what programs and approaches we should be taking," said Fredeen. "I also think that many of our faculty come from industry, and so while they have their degrees, they also have that industry experience."

Kutcher, dean of the Norm Brodsky College of Business, said he is proud of Rider's business programs.

Kutcher said, "We're focused on students, we're focused on how what we're teach in the classroom will directly impact our students, especially in the graduate programs, what they're dealing with in their current jobs, what they're likely to deal with in those same jobs in the future and what are the skills that are going to get them the jobs that they want".

Freshman business major Sherrie Manalo said that Rider's business school is ranked as high as it is because of the "opportunities that they can use after college."

Manalo also believed that the program's habit of teaching students skills that they will "be using for the rest of their life."

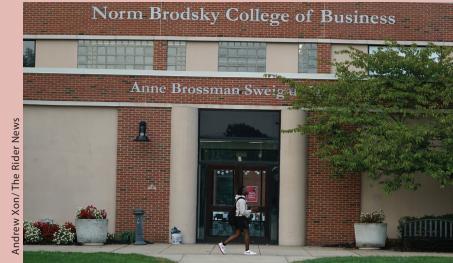
"There's a lot of resources and people that you could talk to," said Manalo.

"I chose to go into business because I always wanted to be a leader, and I wasn't really a follower of people who started things."

Senior business major Daniel Burton regards the business school highly because of "the job opportunities that many students are receiving."

Burton said, "I actually received a letter from Rider stating that a job is pretty much guaranteed for any business major after graduation."

He mentioned that one of the most important things that he has learned at the business school is good communication skills, "especially when it comes to the business aspect, being that there's just so much that goes into it."



The university's master's of business and master's of business administration program are both ranked on the U.S. News' best online master's programs.

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4:30 p.m., Daly Dining Hall

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Rider students and neighboring community performers are encouraged to unite with us for a virtual closing celebration of Black History Month through gospel song, dance and spoken word. Experience enormous joy and excitement as performers from Rider University and surrounding areas end Black History Month on a high note! This event is free and available to the public.

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Soulfege a cappella: finding their place on campus

By Amethyst Martinez

OULFEGE, an a cappella group from Westminster Choir College, is here to make noise after joining Rider's campus due to the Princeton campus closure.

The name comes from solfege syllables, which are pitches of the scale.

Senior theory and composition major and Soulfege member Charlie Ibsen said, "By just putting a 'U' inside of that word, we're able to make a little pun, which is like a legal requirement for an a cappella group."

Consisting of 11 members, the group is always accepting new members for their ever-changing tenor bass group.

"We've never been over 18 [members] in the past. This semester, given school enrollment and circumstances, we're down to 11," said Ibsen.

Craig Peters, junior theory and voice performace major and Soulfege member, said jokingly, "The original group was basically five people, and they've sort of been semi coerced into it by each other."

Soulfege is one of the Westminster Choir College's a cappella groups who have moved to the Lawrenceville campus.

"The move has absolutely tarnished Westminster's reputation and made it impossible to get back to the way that enrollment used to be," said Ibsen. "We have trouble finding tenors and basses because of that, but having a larger student body to pick from means that the theater nerds that wouldn't want to drive over to Princeton to be in an a cappella group can do that."

One way that this group is ingraining themselves into Rider culture is performing at Cranberry's every Friday for the student body.

"It was a point where after last semester we felt we were pretty confident in our sound and ourselves, and we also wanted to push for more, you know, awareness for the group and the other Westminster student choirs out there. And so just thinking of simple things that we could do. We all knew we were free during lunch hour, might as well go somewhere and cause a little chaos, right?" Ibsen joked.

The group also created custom Valentine's Day musical messages for students to send to their significant others, friends and family. Due to COVID-19, this looked a bit different than it would have in previous years. The group pre-recorded videos to send to the valentines in question and also made phone calls and left voicemail messages, which was a stark difference from the previous years of doing these performances in person.

"It was an astounding success," said Ibsen.

The group also has an EP titled, "Friend Like Me," with their trademark animal—the turtle—on the cover.

"We were in a great place when COVID hit, and we didn't really know what to do with our time," said Ibsen.

Each member of the group went to the studio individually and recorded their voices, where it was then professionally mastered into a six-song EP with covers of popular songs such as "Watermelon Sugar" by Harry Styles. The EP was released on popular music streaming services such as Spotify and Apple Music in 2021.

Overall, Soulfege wants to make its presence known at Rider.

Peters said, "It's easy for people who have not heard about Soulfege, and potentially people who would be interested in it to have not heard of it. I mean, it's a place for people who enjoy music, so why not try to find them?"

Ibsen said, "We want to have our own special thing that Soulfege does, even if it's a little stupid."

The group is planning new events to mesh more into the community and are always looking for new members on campus to join.

"I want to mesh as loudly as possible," said Ibsen.



Soulfege's album "Friends Like Me" released in 2021 on music streaming platforms.



Soulfege used Zoom to connect with each other in 2020 fall due to COVID-19.



The tenor and bass a capella group want to make their voices heard on Rider's campus.

Arts Entertainment Rider News editor going to Israel for Maccabi games coverage



Senior journalism major **Dylan Manfre** working in The Rider News newsroom located in Longstreet House. **By Tristan Leach**

RINNING beneath a mop of blond curly hair is Dylan Manfre, one of the most approachable people at Rider. The senior journalism major is everything that the journalism program prepares a student to be: inquisitive, kind and willing to take on any task. Now Manfre will take his skills and put them to

Before becoming a journalist, Manfre ran track and cross country. After he developed tendonitis in his ankles, Manfre gave up the sport.

use at one of the biggest opportunities of his life.

"I went through a giant identity crisis when I quit track, and it's the reason why I picked up sports reporting. It allowed me to stay close to the action, it allowed me to stay close to some of my friends. That was a hard time in my life. That was my identity," said Manfre

He got his start at Rider after receiving an email for an open house. Manfre nearly deleted the email but stopped himself because he hadn't toured a college in a while. Manfre said, "If I didn't quit [track] I wouldn't have found Rider. I quit on a Tuesday and I saw an email for an open house for Rider that Saturday. That Saturday I was supposed to run in a meet. I almost deleted that email. If I didn't quit I wouldn't have batted an eye to the email."

Now, four years later, Manfre has been selected as one of 14 students to cover the Maccabi Games. More commonly known as The Jewish Olympics, the event began in 1932 and has since grown. The games are the third largest multi-sporting event in the world, just after the Olympics and the FIFA World Cup respectively.

Manfre and his fellow reporters were hand-picked by members of the organization Maccabi USA. This non-profit organization aims to enrich the lives of Jewish people through athletics, cultural programs and educational programs.

Neal Slotkin, media coordinator for the organization said, "[The organization] was student-driven, educational and personally rewarding because the students we are selecting are not just hired. It's important that they go through the three weeks of training and the Israel Connect program, they get to get in touch with the culture and the heritage."

Getting in touch with the cultural roots of Judaism also played a role in Manfre's decision to apply for this opportunity. Manfre was supposed to go on Birthright in January of 2022, a trip that allows young Jewish adults to travel to Israel to experience their culture and heritage, but the trip was canceled due to COVID-19.

Slotkin emphasized the importance of the 14 students and their interaction with Team USA.

"They will be getting all the apparel, they are living in the hotel rooms, eating with the athletes, on the buses with the athletes. They are a part of the delegation," said Slotkin.

Being a part of the delegation allows for writers like Manfre to connect with the athletes and get to know them on a personal level. Manfre has written several human interest stories for The Rider News including one about senior James Green, a Rider track and field athlete who survived a stabbing. He also wrote and directed a documentary about sophomore Rylee Diffenderfer, a member of the field hockey team who has a blog about her brother who is differently-abled. For Manfre, these are the stories that deserve and need to be told.

When asked what his favorite pieces he had worked

on were, Manfre said, "It's my feature on James and my documentary on Rylee. Those two stories I consider mic drop stories. I always love finding those stories that otherwise wouldn't get told. I like finding the stories that nobody else is gonna get. That's what I want to do in Israel."

Manfre's success has brought a spotlight on Rider. Chuck Bausman, an adjunct professor in journalism said, "I was looking at this list [of students going] and it was all what's considered big-time journalism schools. Arizona State, Northwestern, a couple Syracuse kids and I thought 'gee, here's little old Rider up there with a representative.' It's a golden opportunity for us, getting your name out there among journalism circles, students and potential students. Oh, it's a golden opportunity for the school."

Aaron Moore, an associate professor of sports media, also praised Manfre for his accomplishment. He said, "Dylan is a great example of if you work in the classroom, if you work outside of the classroom, you put yourself in a good position to find these opportunities."

Until he leaves for Israel this summer, Manfre continues to work at The Rider News. By writing and editing for the sports section, Manfre is constantly preparing himself for this huge opportunity.

Manfre said, "I would not be here without the journalism program at Rider. That's very important for me to note. Without anybody at The Rider News."

Dylan Manfre is a sports editor for The Rider News. He had no part in the writing and or editing of this article.





Clean eating: dining difficulties on campus

ANY students today are turning to vegetarian and vegan diets due to a heightened focus on sustainability and personal health. The restrictions and substitutions involved with these diets may be easier to achieve in an off-campus setting, seeing as plant-based options have become more available in recent years.

However, the Rider dining facilities still have a lot of work to do to satisfy vegetarian and vegan students, and this will be contingent on students making the effort to communicate their needs and wishes.

The reason for diet shifts

There are many reasons to cut out meat or go plant-based altogether. Sophomore psychology major Jenna Rosa explained that she was raised vegetarian and switched to veganism with her mom around three years ago. Rosa said that while she chose veganism in part as a choice against animal cruelty, it's also just a "healthier lifestyle" and "very good for the body."

Senior English major Michaela Hamaid, who is vegetarian, had similar reasons for cutting meat out of her diet around eighth grade, starting with a passion for animal rights, now evolving into the overall positive environmental and health impacts that accompany the diet.

Some students, like sophomore biochemistry major Emma Zinser, who was influenced by an environmental ethics class she took at Rider, have only recently decided to switch to a vegetarian diet.

Eating green on campus

Sticking to a vegetarian and vegan diet on campus, however, has proven difficult for many students. Hamaid, for example, opted out of Rider's dining services because of prior negative experiences with the vegetarian options at the university.

Hamaid said, "My freshman year, when I went home for the first time I had lost so much weight because there wasn't enough options for me to eat at Daly's [Dining Hall] and Cran[berry]'s...the stuff that was there was not nutritious enough.

"... This year I got [a dorm with] a kitchen, so I was just like, you know what, I can make things that are more nutritious than Daly's has to offer me."

Rosa, who pays for a meal plan, has found herself struggling to find filling options on campus.

Rosa said that while "some days the vegan food is great, and it's plentiful," the end of the week and into the weekend become harder to find full meal options.

"There's like veggie things, but there's no protein. ... There is the selfserve tofu and the self-serve chickpeas [in the salad bar], but there is crosscontamination with egg and cheese. ... I will get really sick if I have that,"

Maintaining these specific diets have caused many students to employee a high level of flexibility to the options that are available to them, but it has proven difficult at times.

The need for more diverse meal options

It's only natural that the amount of vegetarian and fully vegan options available will be far more limited than those for students with no dietary restrictions. But there is still room for major improvements. Many students commit to a vegan diet by choice, but that doesn't make their dietary needs any less serious.

Rosa maintained that the biggest issue is the lack of consistent vegan

"If I don't get any protein, I feel so lethargic. So having that protein is crucial for my health,"said Rosa

Hamaid also mentioned the scarcity of vegetarian and vegan options. "Even when Daly's does have stuff, they run out of it really quick. So, if you're not there when they have it, that's it, you're eating pasta for the day," she said.

Campus dining options, like Daly's, have made a lot of progress in providing plant-based options, but students have evidently still found themselves struggling to have their needs consistently met. This issue is crucial for students living on campus who are required to purchase meal plans ranging from \$2,795 to \$2,875 per semester.

Zinser said, "I pay for unlimited [meal] swipes, but I always have to end up spending Bronc Bucks or additional money to get the food that I need to eat."

Expanding dining services

While the consensus from many students has proven that maintaining a vegetarian or vegan lifestyle on campus can be challenging, the dining services team and campus dieticians have been working vigorously to expand meal

Jena Cantwell, Gourmet Dining's director of community relations and a vegetarian herself stressed that while Rider's dining services have been making strides in providing a rotating menu of vegan and vegetarian options including entree proteins, desserts, snacks and items accessible in the Teaching Kitchen at Daly's, the dining team is always looking for ways to better serve

Cantwell said, "We continue to solicit feedback from students through so many different outlets. Through social media, we do open food forums, we do social media posts, we do tablings on campus."

Rider's campus dietician Amy Schaub said, "We're here to serve the students. ... We're really willing to get them anything that they would like within reason."

Vegetarianism and veganism are more than just trending or fad diets they're lifestyles. Rider's dining services understand that students deserve to have their needs met with the seriousness of any other dietary restriction, but this will continue to require a combined effort of communication between students and the staff dedicated to creating viable and fulfilling meal options for all students.

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

Kailyn M. Cormick





Longstreet House, 2083 Lawrenceville Road, Lawrenceville, NJ 08648

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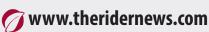
Dr. Jackie Incollingo

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SOPHOMORE SIGHTINGS

The importance of color theory and the expansion of class options

OU'RE a communications major at Rider. It's time to pick an art class for next semester. Your options? Not many that involve hands-on experience. Enter COM 202 Color Theory, a class dedicated to helping students understand the foundation of color and how it's used professionally by

According to Rider's DegreeWorks, COM 202, "Introduces the fundamentals of Color Theory by studying the scientific principles of the color wheel, the logic of color structure, as well as the emotive principles of color, color harmony, qualities and combinations. This course will help students sharpen and train to recognize, describe, define, replicate and identify color in everyday experience, especially in visual communication design."

Jessi Oliano, who has been teaching graphic design courses at Rider for 10 years, discovered along the way that not all students have the art knowledge that

"One thing I noticed in the past for a lot of my students is that there was a little bit of a lack of acknowledgment to color theory and using the principles of color theory effectively and purposefully in their designs," Oliano said.

Oliano realized this situation had to change after she viewed the work of a transfer student who had taken a course in color theory at her previous

"Her portfolio sung out loud, it was just beautiful in a different way than I had seen in students that didn't have color theory," Oliano said.

And so, COM 202 Color Theory was born at Rider.

The spring semester of 2022 is the first time Color Theory is being offered as a class. Oliano wrote up the class and presented it soon after she recognized how advanced her transfer student's portfolio was.

Like Oliano, Jenna Krauss, a sophomore graphic design major, agreed that there was something missing in the curriculum.

"There's not a ton of art classes here that focus on traditional mediums," Krauss said. "I think the program was definitely lacking a color theory class. Color is a huge part of design, and it really should be its own class."

Color Theory is one of the few art classes at Rider that is hands-on, but it is unfortunately only offered for those students in communication, journalism, media and game and interactive media design majors or minors.

Oliano admitted that although this class can only be taken by students with limited majors or minors, she would recommend this class to anyone interested Why shouldn't all students be able to take a course like this? If a marketing

major has a passion for art and wishes to take a class at their university, why shouldn't they be able to?

Every student at any university should be free to take whatever class they wish, regardless of their major. If students are paying for their education at a university, they shouldn't have to take that money elsewhere to learn about what they desire.

And why are there so few classes at Rider that allow students to work hands-on with art? Those interested in art do not wish to simply listen to a lecture about art when they could be painting or creating something.

Color Theory provides Rider communication students another opportunity for a hands-on art class. However, this should be the first step of many. More classes like this should be available to all students at Rider, not just to those who are in a particular major.

> Cissie Brotzman, sophomore journalism major



Communications students are calling for more hands-on art classes within the department.

A LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Highlighting the need for fair student employee wages

As of the writing of this letter, Rider University employs student workers at a rate below New Jersey's minimum wage. I discovered this recently while searching Handshake for student jobs. Currently, New Jersey's minimum wage is \$13 per hour, and yet, by exploiting a loophole in U.S. labor laws, the university can list wages such as \$11.80 per hour for website assistants, \$10.80 for athletics event assistants or \$10.80 for bronc safety service team members. According to New Jersey's Wage and Hour Law, "Full-time students may be employed by the college or university at which they are enrolled at not less than 85% of the effective applicable minimum wage rate." As a result, Rider is legally able to short-change its student workers, paying them much less than equivalent entry-level part-time jobs in the surrounding area.

According to Talent.com's average salary calculator, the median hourly pay for part-time workers in Lawrence Township is \$15 per hour, meaning that a student employed by Rider may end up making 72% as much as they could working a similar job outside of campus. While some may argue that solving the problem is as simple as choosing to work outside campus, the reality is that the convenience of being able to work on campus may improve student outcomes. According to the AAUP, students who work long hours are less likely to graduate on time and also deal with lower grades as a result of increased stress and less time to focus on

Because Rider does not pay a fair wage, students must choose between higher

pay and more time to work on their education. I encourage all students to contact both local New Jersey politicians and Rider administrators to push for a true minimum wage for students. As it is, New Jersey law has left students behind, and Rider University has been perfectly happy to take advantage.



Preston Hicks, senior computer science major

Read it online!

Greenwashing: the kind of washing no one needs





TRACK & FIELD

Men and women place second overall in MAAC Championship



Junior pole vault Allie Riches became the MAAC Champion in pole vaulting on Feb. 20.

By Logan VanDine and Dylan Manfre

he Rider track team headed to the Armory in New York City to capture the MAAC Championship but fell short by one placement, finishing second overall in the men's and women's divisions.

Day 1:

Rider competed in the 5,000-meter run as well as the men's distance medley relay, which finished second overall in 10 minutes, 6 seconds, 47 milliseconds, trailing only Iona College.

"The men's DMR raced really well against a very strong field. Noah [Taylor,] Freddie [Haynesworth], and Gobi [Thurairajah] put Ben [Woodward] in a good position to have success on the final leg. Ben ran a great leg to move us up to second," Head Coach Bob Hamer said.

In the women's DMR, Rider placed second behind Iona with a time of 11:51.46.

Despite placing in second, Hamer was still impressed with how the women competed.

"The women raced outstanding tonight in the relay. Mackenzie [Greenfield] got things rolling and Dyani [Bigelow] and Lydia [Wallace] just kept it rolling. Teagan [Schein-Becker] did a really nice job on the final leg to secure second," Hamer said.

Other preliminary events took place on day one, including the 60, 400, 800, 200 and 500-meter dashes, with a select group of finishers advancing to day two's finals.

The Broncs won the individual championship in the men and women's long jump with sophomore Zach Manorowitz soaring 7.46-meters along with freshman Mariah Stephens placing first with a distance of 5.63-meters.

"It was really exciting to get the individual champion in both the men's and women's long jump. Mariah [Stephens] is having an outstanding freshman season and she stepped up again to get the win. Zach [Manorowitz] has struggled a bit this season, but in training the last few weeks, he was starting to turn the corner," he said.

Day 2

On day two of the MAAC Track Championship, Rider was looking to go home as victors as both of the men and women tied for second.

In the men's 4x400 relay, the quartet of senior James Green, sophomore Artie Burgess, junior Derian Stianche and senior Jerome Boyer, placed first in 3:16.84. Hamer spoke about his team's success in the 4x400 meter relay.

"The men's 4x400 closed out the meet with a big performance. We take a lot of pride in this relay and the guys really brought it tonight. James really got things rolling, and Jerome closed it out to secure the victory for the team," said Hamer.

Green spoke about his overall performance and how he was able to take his emotions into the 4x400 after his event.

"I wasn't too happy with myself in my individual event, but I took that emotion and channeled it for the 4x4 which we closed out becoming champions. I love everything that comes with this sport, every up and down," Green said.

There were plenty of solid performances on the women's side that helped the men's and women's teams finish in second place. One of them included freshman Mariah Stephens taking first in the women's triple jump.

"Mariah continued her big weekend with a win in the triple jump and some strong races in the hurdles and dash. She was a really big performer for us today," Hamer said.

Finally, in pole vaulting, junior Allie Riches won that event for her team with a score of 3.50-meters.

"It was really nice to see Riches get the win in the pole vault. She has been battling some injuries for this season and they always take a toll. However, she has persevered to get back to the top of the conference," Hamer said.

Rider will send some groups to the Fastrack Last Chance Invitational on Feb. 25 at Ocean Breeze Athletic Complex as it continues its postseason push.

CLUB ICE HOCKEY

Broncs fall to Liberty in MACH Conference Finals

By Trey Wright

T was an intense and heartbreaking weekend of playoff hockey for the Rider club ice hockey team with the Broncs defeating Maryland on Feb. 18 and in-state rival Rowan on Feb. 19 before falling short to the Liberty in the Mid-Atlantic Collegiate Hockey Association (MACH) finals on Feb. 20.

Barnburner

Rider began the tournament with a comeback win against Maryland, 7-5 to open up MACH playoffs.

The Terps began scoring halfway in the first period, firing a shot past senior goaltender Eric Lineman on the power play.

The Broncs got on the board with 28 seconds left in the frame, tying the game at 1-1.

The game went back and forth in the second period, with plenty goals from both teams. By the end of the period, the Broncs were down 5-4.

"Tonight was about managing momentum, and we failed that in the first 40 minutes," said Head Coach Sean Levin. "We could've been better for Eric [Lineman], and it's all about the guys on the ice."

Senior goaltender Adam Godfrey took over for Lineman entering the third and ended up stopping all six shots he faced.

On the other end of the ice, senior winger Chris Walako tied the game at five, and Sucher finally gave the Broncs the lead back with a wrist shot up high with 12:20 left in the game.

Cerceo netted his second goal of the game 50 seconds later, and Maryland could not answer, securing a win over the Terps.

"It was a back and forth game, and we were hoping to keep the pressure on them," said Sucher. "We stepped on the gas and didn't let off."

Pushing past the profs

Rider versus Rowan. This intense rivalry gave two great games in the regular season, but overlapping into the playoffs set up one arguably the Broncs' best matchup yet.

Just like it had in the two previous matchups, Rider came out on top of a physical tilt with the Profs, escaping with a 4-3 win over its in-state foe in the semifinals.

Freshman center Joey Cole got the scoring going just past the midway point in the first period, but the Profs responded on their own power play shortly thereafter.

Rider struck again. This time junior defenseman Eddie Coyne sniping one past Rowan's netminder, giving the Broncs the lead back at the end of the first period.

"Everytime we play [Rowan], it's a hard game, hard battle," said Coyne.

Walako extended the lead to two with just under nine minutes left in the second frame make it 3-1 game.

Rowan responded to make it 3-2 and tied the game with less than five minutes remaining in the period, despite Godfrey being slashed in the head, incensing the Bronc bench.

"They said it was a good goal, so it was a good goal," Godfrey said after the game. "Not much else to say about that, but we still came out on top."

Sucher broke the tie with four minutes left in the second to make it 4-3, and just like the game prior, ended up netting the game winning goal.

"It was really important for us to manage our momentum," said Levin, "It was a 60 minute effort, and I'm proud of my guys."

Slugfest comes up short

Rider entered the MACH finals with their toughest task of the season: defeat a juggernaut Liberty Flames team who was undefeated in conference play in the regular season.

Aside from a massive hit by Cole in the first minute of the game, it was a slow start for the Broncs, as Liberty commanded the first 10 minutes, including putting a goal past Godfrey to take the lead.

"We talked about this game being a heavy-weight boxing match," said Levin. "We easily could've folded, but we did not."

The second saw a more even battle between the two teams, but a costly penalty by the Broncs allowed the Flames to extend the lead to two.

The third period produced some of the best hockey Rider had played all season long, going toe-to-toe with Liberty.

Evan fired an electrifying wrist shot past Liberty's goaltender with 1:43 left in the third to give the Brones hope.

Time ran out on the Broncs championship hopes, as Liberty put the game away with an empty net goal, defeating the Broncs 3-1.

"We were able to find our footing towards the end of the game," said Levin. "Season's not over, we're not done yet, but still very proud of them."

Three Rider members earned tournament awards after the game, with Sucher, Coyne and Godfrey being named to the tournament team and Godfrey being named Tournament MVP for his performances.

The Broncs will go on to the ACHA Regional Tournament in Columbus, Ohio, facing Ohio State in the first round on Feb. 25, at 1 p.m.



MEN'S BASKETBALL

'We played scared'; Broncs collapse to 10-16



The Broncs dropped two more games over the weekend agianst Monmouth and Manhattan placing them at ninth in the conference.

By Jake Tiger

The Rider men's basketball team was bested in two major tests over the weekend, having victories in hand before letting them slip away at the very end. The Broncs lost a close contest against Monmouth on Feb. 18, then took another painful loss to Manhattan in overtime on Feb. 20.

Continuous crunch time failures

On Feb. 18, Rider was on the losing end of a photo finish with the Monmouth Hawks, just barely falling

Despite a sloppy, uncoordinated showing from the Broncs, a win was easily within reach. But like many other games this season, they cracked under the pressure.

"We played scared. We played tentative. We played passive," said Head Coach Kevin Baggett. "I'm not happy, man. We just continue to give games away down the stretch, not playing nearly as good as I

Fans on either side likely left with a similar feeling, as both teams stumbled over themselves for much of the game. Rider shot just 40% from the field, with Monmouth following close behind at 34%.

With both teams struggling to score, the deciding factor was Rider's noticeable lack of rebounding. Monmouth was all over the offensive glass and finished with a 17-9 advantage.

"They dominated us on the glass. That was the biggest thing," said Baggett. "That's the story of the game right there. That's toughness. We lack that."

In an ugly game, junior forward Mervin James was one of few bright spots for the Broncs. After not scoring in the first half, he came alive in the second half, providing a stabilizing 17-point effort.

"Mervin is a bucket. We really need him," said senior guard Dwight Murray Jr.

Murray was also solid, finishing with 11 points, seven rebounds and six assists in 40 minutes.

Even with their lackluster play, the Broncs found themselves only down two on the last possession of the game with one more shot at victory.

As the clock approached zero, Murray pump faked at the top of the arc before launching up a three that sailed short. Murray's fake was able to draw some contact, but whistles remained silent.

"I felt like I got fouled on the last shot when I pump faked and [the defender] went in towards me," said Murray. "I could tell that the refs let everybody

play, especially Monmouth. They just let them do whatever out there."

The Broncs will have a shot at redemption when the Hawks come to Alumni Gym on Mar. 5.

'I won't forget that play'

After a tough loss on Feb. 18, the Broncs looked to bounce back two days later when they traveled to Manhattan University to take on the Jaspers. However, they took an even tougher loss, losing 84-78

In the game's final two minutes, the Broncs went on an impressive 8-0 run to tie the game and send it to overtime, but they fell apart during the extra period.

"I don't know. We got intimidated, and we backed down," said Baggett. "We're learning how to win still. We're trying to put guys in place to win, but we're not closing the game out with wins."

Down by a point, the Broncs had a chance to finish the job in regulation, as James was sent to the free throw line with nine seconds remaining. Though, he would go 1-2 at the line, sentencing the team to

"Gotta make the free throws. Those are things that are hurting us down the stretch that winning teams do," said Baggett.

Rider let the game get away from them in overtime and the Jaspers came out on top, but not before sprinkling a little extra salt in Rider's wounds. Despite having a decisive lead, a Manhattan player took the ball down the court and emphatically slammed it into the hoop as time expired.

"And that last play ... they wanted to go down and try and dunk it, I won't forget that play. The coach called for that," said Baggett.

After the losses, Rider now sits at ninth in the Metro Atlantic Athletic Conference (MAAC) with a 10-16 (6-10) record.

"We'll get back to practice on Tuesday and coach 'em up. We know we can play with anybody, so that's not the question. Can we beat anybody?" asked Baggett.

Just four games remain before the MAAC Tournament and the Broncs will look to quickly get the ball rolling on Feb. 25 against Niagara.

The game will be at 7 p.m. at Alumni Gym and will be streamed on ESPN+.

BASEBALL

Baseball charges out of the gate with 3-0 start



Junior outfielder **Brenden O'Donnell** hit a three-run home run in the game vs Lafayette on Feb. 19.

By Luke Lombardi

■ VERY team defending a championship wants to repeat, and the Rider Broncs baseball team set out on that mission on Feb. 18 and 19, starting the 2022 campaign 3-0.

Coming into the season, Head Coach Barry Davis knew it would be a tough task to win the Metro Atlantic Athletic Conference (MAAC) again.

He said, "I think our goal is pretty clear. Get back in the tournament and play well during the regular season, you know, get into the tournament and get the highest seed we possibly can, preferably the one or two, which is going to be difficult because there's a really strong league this year."

Rider wasn't supposed to win the MAAC to begin with last year. After a walk-off single in the semi-final matchup, Rider beat the overwhelming favorite for the MAAC Champioship in the Fairfield Stags to secure their spot in the NCAA Tournament.

Making the regionals was a huge deal for the turning players.

Junior infielder John Volpe said, "As a player, it definitely helped me because we got to see some of the top competition like [Louisiana] Tech and Alabama and just watching them warm-up and play in-game, it was cool to know that we could compete with them, first of all, and second of all, we are just as good as them."

The team started their season with a bang, defeating Georgetown 6-4 on Feb. 18. The Broncs had taken an early 4-1 lead before allowing Georgetown to tie it in the seventh inning. Rider left it until the last possible moment, as down to its potential last out, junior outfielder Scott Shaw hit a two-run home run to secure the first win of the season.

Later that day, the Broncs faced VCU. This game started the opposite of Rider's first game, with the Rams jumping out to a 5-0 lead in the third inning, making the prospects of a victory for the Broncs very bleak. However, they didn't let that stop them as they scored runs in four of the remaining six innings to go up 7-5 heading into the final frame.

The end of the game wasn't easy for Rider. A lead-off triple followed by a single made the game 7-6 with no outs yet to have been recorded. From there, graduate student pitcher Cal Stalzer struck out two batters and forced the game-winning groundout to sweep the games on opening day.

Even though the Broncs picked up two wins, the team knew there is still much to improve upon if they want to repeat as MAAC champions this year.

"Anytime you win, you're excited, you're happy that you're able to win games. We have plenty to work on, and I felt we played much better in the second game than we did the first game," Davis said. "We walked too many guys, we walked seven guys and hit two guys the first game. Overall, first time out [and] you win two games and could've easily lost two games. But, it's the first day and you make a lot of small mistakes, and we'll work on those and try to correct some of them."

On Feb. 19, Rider looked to continue the momentum from the previous day. They started a game against Lafayette doing just that with junior outfielder Brendan O'Donnell hitting a three-run homer in the second. Lafayette responded back by scoring two runs of its own that same inning.

Shaw came to the rescue yet again hitting his second home run of the weekend to put the Broncs on top 4-2. Two more runs were added in the ninth by both teams with Rider securing the 6-4 win and going undefeated the first week of the season.

The Broncs look to continue winning on Feb. 25 as they begin a three-game series against Miami University of Ohio.

Sports

'I THINK THEY WRESTLED HARD'

Wrestling dropped two more matches as its regular season comes to a close.

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WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

NOTEBOOK: Rider takes one step forward, two steps back





Left: Rider Head Coach Lynn Milligan said she didn't have her team ready for a game on Feb. 21 in a press conference. Right; senior guard Lenaejha Evans drives to the basket against Marist.

By Dylan Manfre

Ironically, the team with the worst home record in the Metro Atlantic Athletic Conference (MAAC) had a stretch of three home games in five days that could alter the trajectory of its season.

That was the situation Rider women's basketball was in when it hosted Monmouth on Feb. 17, Marist on Feb. 20 and Canisius on Feb. 21. Veteran Head Coach Lynn Milligan led the Broncs for 15 seasons and never posted fewer than three home wins; that mark was set last year.

Rider survived dipping below three after ending the week with two home wins. Three games in five days? Try five games in 11 days. The Broncs had some momentum after wins over Monmouth and Canisius before reverting to old habits against Marist.

Rejuvenated and refreshed

"It's huge, it's been a while," Milligan said with a smirk, after the team's first home win since Dec. 1. "It's been a minute. It's nice to win here."

That comment came on the heels of a 51-41 win against the Monmouth Hawks to avoid another season

Rider's frontcourt shined unlike other times this season when the chemistry was in question — and there were plenty of times that was called into question. Sophomore Raphaela Toussaint loaded the box score with 12 rebounds. Juniors Anna Ekerstedt and Victoria Toomey had respectable games as well with Toomey getting six points and four boards and Ekerstedt having the opposite; four points and six

The duo combined to shoot 5 of 9 from the field too.

The defensive efforts of the three front-court players to keep Monmouth's Belle Kranbuhl out of the paint was a crucial factor in the game. Kranbuhl is one of Monmouth's main scorers and erasing her

CLUB ICE HOCKEY PHOTO

presence kept the Hawks from scoring double-digits in two quarters, which is something seldom for Rider.

"I think she's one of the best post players in the league," Milligan said. "I thought Anna did a good job on her with her length and speed and I thought Vic did a good job bodying up with her. And I think Vic made her work on offense a little bit."

Senior guard Amanda Mobley felt more comfortable playing Monmouth the second time around too. She spent most of the season in a boot and made her return against the Hawks on Jan. 27 and now is in the swing of things.

"They looked to go [inside] more to try [and] take advantage of what they could or go into who they thought did work on us ... the first time," Mobley said. "I think we were ready for that and shut them

Building momentum

Defeating Canisius had Rider winning two in a row for the first time since mid-January. But Canisius is a MAAC-bottom feeder. A win against the 4-22, 2-12, Griffins was expected. The Broncs would have to royally mess this up to lose.

The 71-57 victory on senior day secured Rider's first sweep of an opponent this year. Two home wins help the Broncs get closer to Milligan's goal of peaking in mid-February.

Senior forward Teresa Wolak and Lenaejha Evans were honored pregame with their families. Wolak's Rider career has been riddled with leg injuries limiting her to 30 games before Feb. 19.

She warmed up with the team participating in passing drills and taking small hook shots as she tended to the leg brace on her left leg. During the game, she sat on the bench in full uniform with her clipboard. She was not cleared to play because of her injury but Milligan made sure she had a good

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"Her and I talked about it and it's senior day. I wanted her to hear her name and I wanted her to put her jersey on because she deserves that," Milligan said.

After the game, Milligan also said they were "close" to playing the full 40 minutes citing defensive troubles in the second and third quarters. While it is an encouraging sign for Milligan to say the Broncs nearly played a complete game to her liking, Rider still has to close out some games.

Old habits

The Broncs are hoping they never play like they did against Marist as they lost 70-62 to close out the threegame homestand.

Rider did not hit on "KYP," the team's initialism for "know your personnel," leading Milligan to say for the third time this season, "I didn't have my team ready. You can print it, you can tweet it, you can do whatever you want to do with it but I did not have my team ready and we did not play a good basketball

The Broncs allowed Marist, who had one road win before Feb. 21, to dominate the second, third and fourth quarters. Marist guard Kendall Krick finished with a career-high 20 points on 7 of 10 shooting from

"She was sneaking around and found open spots for herself," junior guard Jessika Schiffer said.

Rider committed eight turnovers in the third quarter and struggled into the fourth as well. The lack of production from players such as Toomey and Ekerstedt was apparent late in the game. Both were scoreless in a combined 30 minutes of action.

"We got them touches early. I thought Marist did a good job of collapsing their defense on them," Milligan said. "I thought we needed to be a little bit stronger with the ball and make quicker decisions. We just didn't do that."

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL PHOTO **GALLERY**

Check out women's basketball photos from its game against Marist on Feb. 21.

FIND THE GALLERY AT THERIDERNEWS.COM





