

Dwindling enrollment, a new home: A changed Westminster

By Shaun Chornobroff

In March of 2020, as students of Rider's Westminster Choir College were abruptly sent home due to a burgeoning COVID-19 pandemic for online schooling, the harsh realization that their Princeton campus would never again be home set in.

The long-dreaded transition Westminster students and faculty had to face from the tiny campus in Princeton to Rider's main Lawrenceville campus was one the prestigious choir college now had to face months earlier than expected.

"We were going through that year thinking that we had until the spring. There were things like traditions, Westminster traditions that we were planning on doing in the spring that we never ended up getting to do," Jordan Mongell, a junior music education major said, sadly reminiscing.

Mongell had to say his farewells to the Princeton campus as a freshman. Despite spending less than a year in Princeton before departing, Mongell is one of the many Westminster

upperclassmen who longs for the campus and college he once knew.

A declining student body

When Rider President Gregory Dell'Omo announced the decision to move Westminster from Princeton to Lawrenceville in 2016, it was met with much scrutiny from the Westminster community.

Westminster's recruiting strategy centers around mainly alumni recommendations, as well as performances at high schools, giving prospective students around the country the opportunity to see the choir firsthand.

With the continuous public backlash and alumni and student lawsuits that have been a dominant talking point within the Westminster community, it has been more difficult than ever before to recruit students to Westminster.

"So when the move occurred,



The Rider News' strive for greatness noticed by state and regional competitions

By Olivia Nicoletti

ANOTHER award-winning year is in the books for The Rider News as the paper won eight awards collectively from the Society of Professional Journalists (SPJ) and the New Jersey Press Foundation (NJPF).

Senior journalism major Dylan Manfre received two Mark of Excellence awards for Region One from SPJ. According to The Rider News advisor Jackie Incollingo, Manfre is the first student journalist on The Rider News staff in recent history to be awarded twice in one year from SPJ.

His story "The rise and return of track star James Green," won in the sports writing category, following his other winning story, "The Diffenderfers: A sibling bond," in the category for feature writing.

"I'm incredibly proud of those two stories — at the time I wrote them, I was doubting myself a little bit. I knew these stories were incredibly delicate but I knew they were going to be good," Manfre said. "When they finally came out, it boosted my confidence a lot and it made me feel really good to see the hard work I put into them."

On top of his SPJ successes, Manfre was awarded second place for sports writing from NJPF for his stories, "Broncs drop two more games as struggles continue; Rider drops MAAC opener after tight contest with Quinnipiac."

When Manfre began his journalism career in 2016, he wrote for his personal sports blog in high school. He has since kept track of every game he ever reported on, his current total is 277 games and events.

Manfre had been interested and involved with sports himself but as he always said, "I stopped trying to be a great athlete because I wanted to write and report on those who will be."

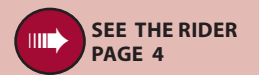
Others within the newsroom acknowledged Manfre's persistence for greatness. Sarah Siock, a senior journalism major and the executive editor of The Rider News, has worked with Manfre for the past two years and applauded his story-telling abilities.

"Dylan is one of the most hardworking people on the staff. When he has something that he's passionate to write about, he puts all of his effort into it," Siock said. "He really went in-depth with the stories that he wrote. He was super careful along the way and got all the facts and information and ultimately he just wrote about things that he was very passionate about."

Another award winner, Tiffany Hartman, who graduated in the fall and was the videographer of The Rider News, took first place from NJPF for the online video category.

Throughout her time at Rider, she had made many videos for the paper but her work on "Disabled students discuss accessibility and experiences on Rider's campus," ultimately won the award.

"It is very rewarding to bring the journalists of The Rider News stories to life, specifically, [Kate McCormick's] story about disability awareness on Rider University's campus. As a filmmaker it is important to me to not only be creative with my films but to also give a powerful message that



Republican leaders hold discussion with students on campus

By Tori Pender

SENATE Republican Leader Steven Oroho and Assembly Republican Leader John DiMaio discussed an array of topics from affordability, new opportunities and voting with the Rider community on March 22 at 6:30 p.m. in Lynch Adler Hall Room 202. The event was hosted by Micah Rasmussen, director of The Rebovich Institute for New Jersey Politics and political science professor.

Oroho has served in the New Jersey Senate since 2008 and is the current state senate minority leader. DiMaio has been an assemblyman since 2009, serving as minority leader since January 2022.

Rider greeted the legislators with a full room of community members. President Gregory Dell'Omo said, "We are always incredibly grateful that New Jersey public officials and leaders of both parties chose to spend time with our students as a part of the Rebovich Institute for New Jersey Politics."

No. 1 priority

DiMaio said the "No. 1 priority is affordability," for the Republican party.

One note that both legislators touched upon was property tax. Oroho said that "72% of what comes into this state, comes back out."

Oroho explained that this money could be going toward programs that aid those from New Jersey. By limiting the cost drivers, like property taxes, residents would have more money in their pockets.



Senate Republican Leader **Steven Oroho** (Left) and Assembly Republican Leader **John DiMaio** (Right) covered an array of topics from affordability to abortion to gun control with the Rider community.

INSIDE **BACK AT HOME**
After long roadtrips, the baseball and softball teams are back at Rider.
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CONSIDERING CANDIDACY
Application openings for Student Government Association raises major considerations for what makes a good leader.
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A DANCER'S DREAM
Marissa Stellato hopes to one day grace the Radio City Music Hall stage as a Rockette.
PAGE 5



SECURITY BRIEFS

BY SARAH SIOCK AND OLIVIA NICOLETTI

Rolling vehicle

Stop that car! On March 15 at 12:37 p.m. Public Safety was dispatched to the front of the Bart Luedeke Center for the report of a motor vehicle accident. Upon arrival, Public Safety spoke with a staff member who reported that they had parked their vehicle and shut the engine off before going inside a building to check on work being done. When they came out, their vehicle had rolled out of the parking spot, striking another vehicle parked nearby. No injuries were reported. The owner of the other vehicle was contacted and advised of the incident.

Mischievous misconduct

Multiple allegations and violations. On March 4, Rider placed the Epsilon Zeta Chapter of Tau Kappa Epsilon on administrative suspension after receiving allegations of misconduct and several policy violations. Under this suspension, Tau Kappa Epsilon must cease and desist all activities until further notice while these allegations are being investigated.

- Information provided by Public Safety Capt. Matthew Babcock and Associate Vice President of Marketing and Communications Kristine Brown

Westminster students thoughts on the Lawrenceville experience

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a lot of the alumni got very angry, there's lawsuits involved, there's a lot of negativity around the choir college, it does cut off some of that referral process," Dell'Omo said in a March 8 interview with The Rider News. "And on top of the pandemic, when you can't be out there performing, that obviously impacts students wanting to go into that field as well."

In the fall of 2021, Westminster welcomed 16 freshmen onto the Lawrenceville campus, according to university data: A 78% reduction from the 72 first-time freshmen the school enrolled in 2016 – before Dell'Omo announced initial plans to sell the nearly century-old institution.

Joel Phillips, a professor who has spent more than 30 years at Westminster, bluntly said, "You know what it's going to be next year if we're lucky? Something along those lines."

In 2016, Westminster's total undergraduate enrollment stood at 318 students. Five years later, the undergraduate enrollment was 102 students entering the 2021-2022 school year, with the total enrollment number lowering by more than 100 students since the beginning of the 2019-2020 school year.

Mongell said, "I have a running list of people who left because of the move ... right now, that list is bigger than the amount of kids that are still here."

While the total Westminster student body has decreased 55% since Dell'Omo revealed his plans to move the school to Lawrenceville, the university president maintains the decision was a result of years of research and cited long-term declining enrollment as part of the decision.

In 2007, Westminster had a total enrollment of 546 students with 416 being undergraduate students. By 2012, the total number dipped to 435 students with only 318 undergraduates. From 2004 to 2007 Westminster enrolled more than 100 undergraduate students each year. University data for undergraduate students only dates back to 2004. From 2008 to 2016, the Princeton campus only welcomed more than 100 undergraduate students twice.

"It had begun to decline already," Dell'Omo said when asked about Westminster's dropping enrollment. "... Even in 2007, we had 500 some students, that was equal to the number of majors we had in accounting, psychology and business administration. Three departments, undergraduate departments, not even counting graduate programs, and so you wouldn't have a full campus for accounting, psychology and business administration majors."

New home or no home?

Sarah Swahlon is an exception among the Westminster community. The senior music education major may hold her grudges about the transition between the campuses six miles away from each other, but as a whole, she loves the

Lawrenceville experience.

"I'm a very positive person, so I've kind of assimilated and I've joined Greek life; I've done a lot on Rider's campus. And I'll be honest, I love it," Swahlon said.

Swahlon is a member of the Alpha Xi Delta sorority, which has given her something many Westminster students now may lack without a campus of their own: a culture to take pride in.

"As far as being in Westminster, I don't feel like there's a Westminster culture anymore to be honest. I think we're lacking space to be honest because for example, with me being in Greek Life, that's where I've really found my culture and where I've really found this space to support a community at Rider," Swahlon said.

Swahlon may be an outlier among the Westminster community; while she found her home, many feel they have been demeaned of a purpose as a result of the transition.

Mongell is one of the many students who have felt the effects of the move.

"I just know my friends, it's something that's on our minds 24/7. When we're in choir and we're singing in the chapel, every single note that we sing, I'm thinking about the move. I'm thinking about how this space is a terrible place to sing in. Every time I go to practice, I'm like 'this is a terrible practice.' It's involving itself in everything I go and do and it's honestly really taking a toll. For me, it's taking a toll on my mental health and I already dealt with mental health stuff over the pandemic. So, this added layer of feeling like I'm not doing what I signed up to do for four years, it's honestly taking a toll on me personally," Mongell said passionately.

Rider's Vice President of Enrollment Management Drew Aromando sympathized with the plight of the Westminster students and understands that Lawrenceville may not evoke the comforting feeling the Princeton campus once did.

"I think it's just simply because those places to hang out, those traditions, just like in your home, you had your favorite go-to place. It will take time for those to sort of establish here, but it doesn't mean we're any less of a community that wants to support you," Aromando said.

Westminster was a safe haven for music, and the sounds of students singing often bellowed throughout the Princeton campus. As a professor, Phillips misses hearing his students spontaneously break into song or harmonize every time a student had a birthday.

"They don't do that now that they're on the [Lawrenceville] campus. They don't break out in four-part harmony," Phillips said. "They don't do that because now it's odd. ... They feel awkward the same way they felt awkward being in a high school where they were the music nerd."

Discussion led to gas prices, abortion and capital punishment

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Maintaining Numbers

Rasmussen described the geopolitical map of New Jersey as having a "blue belt," as the heavily populated areas in the state are currently democratic.

Since the governor's election last November, seven new Republican legislators were elected, with new opportunities on the horizon from the redistricting maps.

DiMaio explained it is all about "maintaining those seats" and strategically gaining Republican support from there, focusing on Southern Jersey.

Don't be scared of mail

One Rider community member spoke about their concerns regarding election fraud and election integrity.

DiMaio expressed concerns about the same-day registration process.

"Here's the thing ... Now 30 days beforehand you register to prove that you are a resident for more than 30 days when you register. The reality is, you show up at the polls and poll workers come from different states of ability. And you are gonna have all of this rushed, to prove they've been at least 30 days in the district they register in, that day," said DiMaio.

DiMaio explained that "it's okay to vote by mail."

Some other topics that were touched upon were gas prices, abortion and capital punishment.

Outspoken members of the Rider community heavily debated with the legislators on being pro-life while also being in favor of capital punishment.

Oroho explained, "This is why this is such a hotbed issue every election."


The state senate minority leader said, "We need to be engaged with what is actually happening in our government. ... Government can do one of two things, protect freedom or limit it."

To conclude, Rasmussen said, "My mind is in a very similar place which is that you heard a lot tonight that maybe you agreed with or maybe you disagreed with. But one thing we can not say at this point in our politics is that the parties don't stand for anything."



Andrew Xon/ The Rider News


Senate Republican Leader **Steven Oroho** discussing sensitive topics during the event held on March 22.



THE Rider News COVID-19 COUNTER

Confirmed Cases:

Last updated: March 11, 2022



59

Cumulative total of laboratory-confirmed cases of COVID-19 at Rider University (Since January 2022)

COVID-19 cases reported to Rider University by week:

Month/Year	Student Case Reports	Employee Case Reports
March 5- 11	0	0
Feb.26-March	3	1

Rider University reports its testing numbers and other coronavirus statistics every Friday at rider.edu/dashboard

On Campus Student Testing:

Weeks	Health Center	Surveillance Testing
March 5-11	12	90
Feb.26-March 4	8	124
Feb. 19- 25	7	151
Feb. 12-18	6	159
Total	58	917

Information courtesy of rider.edu

Student Quarantine and Isolation:

Students in quarantine have been identified as close contacts of someone who has tested positive for COVID-19, are completing their travel advisory required quarantine or have symptoms consistent with COVID-19 and are awaiting test results. Students in isolation have tested positive for COVID-19.

This week there are:

- 0 student(s) quarantining on campus
- 0 student(s) quarantining off campus
- 0 student(s) isolating on campus
- 0 student(s) isolating off campus

Adrienne Unfreed/ The Rider News

Adrienne Unfreed/ The Rider News



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THE Rider News

The Rider News' award winning photography and design

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can have a major effect in a positive way," Hartman said. "This film was so important to me because I truly believe these students deserve more awareness within our campus, but also within their daily lives in general. I hope this video not only affects our campus but people everywhere, and I hope it offers a positive change."

Features and Entertainment Editors Tristan Leach, a sophomore journalism major, and Amethyst Martinez, a sophomore journalism major, along with design manager Adrienne Unfreed, a sophomore graphic design major, received first place for layout and design from NJPF.

Unfreed and Martinez collectively worked 10 hours on the 9/11 tribute and eventually when Leach joined The Rider News, all three of them contributed eight hours to the Halloween edition of the paper.

Unfreed said, "I was so surprised but incredibly honored that my fellow peers and myself were presented with such an award. It's really nice to see the hard work and time we put into these pages be recognized by the judges."

Both Leach and Martinez are new editors on the staff this year and they take pride in the strides they have made within the short time being a part of The Rider News.

Leach said, "I love the events, I love going to shows, I love getting to interview different teachers and getting to meet new people; it allows me to get back to my roots of musical theater," Leach said. "I know that we get awards every year, but as a brand new editor on the staff, this is an amazing accomplishment."

Martinez added, "With features and entertainment, definitely, I feel like I can be more creative because we have the middle spread. It's very easy for us to do huge layouts and fun ones. Especially for the 9/11 issue or the Halloween issue, I feel like we really took advantage of what we could do. I'm really happy that I decided to work for a newspaper a year ago because I wasn't expecting this amount of recognition and learning from any kind of opportunity outside of normal classes."

This is Siock's second consecutive award from NJPF, winning second place for news writing based on her story "Student wages stay behind NJ's minimum wage; Tax form reveals salaries of top Rider administrators."

"The awards are a reflection of the hard work that the entire staff puts in each week. Everyone on the staff works diligently every single week to put out a paper that we're proud of. So I'm really honored that we're able to receive these awards to

be able to showcase that hard effort that we put in every single week," Siock said. "I think that we won awards across a very diverse range of categories between graphic design, videos and then news stories. We're not just simply sticking to one track, so it shows just how diverse we are in the content that we're putting out."

Kaitlyn D'Alessio, a junior marketing major, took third place from NJPF for photography. This is her first award received at the paper.

"I honestly was so excited when I got the email that I had won an award. It feels so good to have been recognized for my photography," D'Alessio said. "I feel like it's just another step to fitting in more and getting recognized at Rider."

The Rider News as a whole received third place for general excellence from NJPF.

Managing Editor and junior sports media major Shaun Chornobroff has witnessed the work each member of The Rider News puts in weekly.

"The awards won this year are a representation of the hard work and care put into the newspaper," Chornobroff said. "Each and every week we strive to put out a great product to the Rider community and I hope this shows that."



Olivia Nicoletti/The Rider News

The Rider News team, outside the newsroom located in the basement of Longstreet House, are proud of their accomplishments this year.

Rider receives nonspecific bomb threat over spring break

By Sarah Siock

AFTER receiving notice of a nonspecific bomb threat on March 16 during spring break, Rider is cooperating with the Lawrence Township and Haddonfield Police Departments in an investigation of the incident, according to Associate Vice President for University Marketing and Communications Kristine Brown.

Public Safety's university-wide communication from March 16 said no location or time of detonation was given, and that law enforcement did not believe the threat to be credible. Lawrence Township Police Lt. Chris Longo confirmed that the threat involved a juvenile from overseas, but he said the investigation determined "there was no credibility to it."

Public Safety notified the Rider community about the threat in compliance with the "Timely Warning" provision of the federal Jeanne Clery Disclosure of Campus Security Policy and Campus Crime Statistics Act of 1998.

According to CleryCenter.org, colleges and universities must use timely warnings and emergency notifications to inform the campus community of potential threats against which they can take preventive measures.

"There was no immediate threat to campus. Under the provisions of the Clery

Act, Rider issued a Timely Warning, and out of abundance of caution, we did add extra patrols," Director of Public Safety James Waldon said to The Rider News.

According to Brown, an external law enforcement agency contacted Rider's Public Safety Department on March 16 to inform the university of the nonspecific threat.

"We take these threats very seriously and remind everyone that campus safety is a shared responsibility. If you see something, say something," said Brown.

Incidents of bomb threats are not common at Rider. However, in 2007 Rider received a bomb threat on Sept. 10 via email that warned of an explosion planned for the following day. That year more than 60 universities received similar threats near the same date.

Public Safety's email provided tips of what action to take if an individual encounters a suspicious item, which included remaining calm, not touching the item and contacting Public Safety or the police immediately.

To report suspicious activity or people, call Public Safety at 609-896-5029.

Rider receives grant to improve experience for underrepresented students



Courtesy of Rider University

Julie Drawbridge (far left) and student members of the Bronc STEM Teaching Partner program focus on improving the classroom experience of underrepresented students.

By Tori Pender

RIDER'S new program, the Bronc STEM Teaching Partner (BSTP) program, works with chemistry, biology, psychology, physics, math and computer science courses to improve the classroom experience of underrepresented students.

The BSTP program was spearheaded by Julie Drawbridge, a professor in the department of biology, behavioral neurosciences and health sciences.

According to Drawbridge, the program is modeled after a similar program at Bryn Mawr College in Pennsylvania that focuses on historically marginalized groups in the STEM field.

The BSTP program pairs volunteered faculty members with student partners to create an inclusive classroom environment. The fall 2021 semester and spring 2022 semester both had eight faculty-student pairings.

The program was a recipient of a \$19,976 grant from Bristol Myers Squibb. Drawbridge explained that the grant money is used to pay the student mentors.

Drawbridge said that the program is actively recruiting students, and they do not have to be science majors since they will not be enrolled in the courses they monitor.

Drawbridge currently has a student partner in her BIO 116 course. "A lot of life science majors have to take this course, so it's a pretty big course, and it's the sort of course I want to target for this particular program," said Drawbridge.

The ultimate goal of this program, according to Drawbridge, is to make it available to every section, every major and for all faculty members.

Ashley Perez, a sophomore chemistry major, has been a part of BSTP since the 2021 fall semester.

Perez explained, "It was something new for me to have, a psychology class, because I'm a chem major. But it was also exciting to be able to learn and help students feel more welcomed. I had a great teacher/partner and getting to know them was a great opportunity in building relationships with faculty."

Perez covered PSY 338 Learning and the Experimental Analysis of Behavior with professor Robert Isenhower, an experience she found very intriguing.

"I know it might be scary to give feedback to a teacher, but if you have ever felt uncomfortable, unheard [or] underrepresented in a class, something you can do is participate in this program so that someone else doesn't go through the same experience. It's a great way to help future generations," said Perez.

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Monday, March 28 • 6 to 7:30 p.m.

Cavalla Room in the Bart Luedeke Center

Register in advance at alumni.rider.edu/womxn-in-athletics

Join Rider Athletics, the Rider Women's Basketball team, Rider Recreation Programs, and the Center for Diversity and Inclusion for a reception honoring our womxn student-athletes, in the areas of leadership, community service, and academic excellence. A distinguished alumna student-athlete will provide remarks about her time at the university and lessons she learned that have helped her excel in life and her career. You won't want to miss the opportunity to mix 'n' mingle with these impactful womxn role models! All are welcome to "dress to impress!"



**Speaker: Meghan Holohan '99, '01,
Global Head of Enterprise Data Sales**

Meghan Holohan oversees the Global Enterprise Data Sales team at Bloomberg LP. In this capacity, she leads a group of 220 sales professionals across the world, who help clients to better connect their enterprises through high-quality data.

Over the course of 20 years with the firm, Meghan has held numerous client-facing roles, serving customers across several major financial firms, including Bank of America, Goldman Sachs and Fidelity. In 2003, she was named the Americas Sales Rookie of the Year, and in 2007, the Most Valuable Player. Shortly after 2007, Meghan was promoted to her first team leadership position.

Meghan holds a Bachelor and a Master of Arts from Rider University, where she received a full athletic scholarship to play Division I women's basketball. She is also a graduate of McKinsey's inaugural Future Business Leaders training program.

Outside of her professional life, Meghan is deeply passionate about the advancement of girls and womxn across all levels of society. She is a member of the Women's Bond Club, sits on Rider's Women's Leadership Council and is a volunteer basketball coach for Mo' Motion. She resides on Manhattan's Upper West Side with her husband Michael and their two children, Luke (8) and Reese (6).

Sponsored by Rider Athletics, the Rider Women's Basketball, Rider Recreation Programs, and the Center for Diversity and Inclusion



The Rider Cheer Team perform at the MAAC tournament.

Rider cheer brings energy to the court

By Olivia Nicoletti

ALTHOUGH Rider students love to share their spirits for their university, nobody can top the pride and dedication Rider's cheer team has during the basketball season.

Collectively, the team puts in a minimum of nine hours of practice every week; these cheerleaders give a lot of their time to learn how to effectively bring energy to every game.

After a year without cheerleaders performing during games, the university was happy to bring back the team for the 2021-2022 winter season.

The 17 females and one male who make up the team were excited to get back into the groove of things after missing out on a full season due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Angelina Gallagher, a sophomore elementary education major, joined the team in September of 2021 but said she wished to have been recruited in the fall of 2020 when she was a freshman.

She expressed her sadness toward the year she had missed when she could have been creating bonds with the girls on the team. The basketball season continued on but the cheerleaders were left behind, which Gallagher described as a "horrible feeling."

Jayne Schneider, a junior elementary education major, got sent home during the coronavirus outbreak amidst her first season on the team in 2020.

Similar to others, she felt that Rider had pushed aside the cheerleaders due to every other sport getting the advantage to practice during the pandemic the following year.

It did not just affect their performance but the team as a whole was stripped of the chance to bond with each other. When the cheer team returned it had to make up for lost time, unlike any other sport.

"It was hard to get back into the commitment of it," Schneider said. "I wasn't around my team as much, so it was kind of hard because we had all new members. It was hard to make connections again and remember what the season used to be like."

Ayanna Wells-Crudup, a sophomore secondary education major, tried out with Gallagher in the fall of 2021, where she earned her spot on the team.

The cheer team is an outlet for

Wells-Crudup; however, before she came to campus, she only knew one girl on the team virtually.

She met everyone during the first practice and said that those friendships are something that she missed out on freshman year.

Wells-Crudup said, "I'm glad that I got to join this year, it kind of made up for lost time."

The three team members expressed their gratitude for the seniors who act as the glue that holds this team together.

Consisting of two captains and two co-captains, Gallagher said the seniors led the team "in the right direction and made sure [the new members] got taught everything."

Victoria Costleigh, a senior psychology major, has been a part of the cheer team since her freshman year. She has taken on the senior duties of leading an example for the underclassman.

"We are kind of like assistant coaches in a sense. If any of the girls have questions for us and don't want to ask the coach, we can be there [for them to] talk to," Costleigh said. "I feel like a lot of the younger girls look up to us and ask for help if they had a situation or didn't know how to do a cheer or dance."

Members of the team bond the most during their travels to the MAAC tournament at the end of their season.

Costleigh said her favorite memories are from the tournament because the cheer team is usually only allowed to perform at home games.

During the game on Nov. 9 at the MAAC tournament, the men's basketball team scored the winning shot against No. 1 team Iona within the last second. The cheerleaders shared the excitement and pride with the team.

Gallagher said, "We were all standing at the edge of the court waiting to run on and it was so exciting. A couple people were crying and we were all hugging each other. There's nothing like it, I can't even describe it; it was amazing."

She continued, "all the hard work, sweat and tears are worth it for moments like these."



The cheer team was ecstatic to perform in Atlantic City, their only travel opportunity of the season.

Dancer hopes to grace Radio City Music Hall stage

By Amethyst Martinez

MARISSA Stellato's biggest fear is not being enough for the world. But that is far from the case.

Stellato grew up in Nyack, New York, on the outskirts of Manhattan. Born to a music teacher mother and city planner father, she had two older brothers making her the youngest and only girl. She had a relatively simple childhood with everything she needed always available.

When she was young, she went to Radio City Music Hall in New York City, home to the Rockettes, where she and her family saw the group perform. A stranger approached her afterward and asked if she wanted to be a Rockette one day.

"I said very enthusiastically, 'yes,'" said Stellato.

This was the beginning of her biggest passion in life: dancing. Starting at 4-years-old, Stellato has been enrolled in dance classes.

She always knew she wanted to dance. She'd prance around the house as a child, dancing until her feet hurt. It was a case of the artist finding their medium. Her grandmother was also a dancer, which encouraged her mother to sign her up for dance classes as soon as she could.

Stellato has never questioned her path in dance, except once in middle school when her parents made her choose between dance and basketball. "Who knows if I chose basketball," Stellato said with a chuckle.

Going into high school, she had a never-ending feeling that she was different from most girls her age. At 16 years old, she came out as bisexual, but she now identifies as lesbian.

During one of her dance practices after school, a girl was sitting on the sidelines visiting another friend in the dance program. She grasped Stellato's attention. "I kept making eyes, and she kept making eyes at me," Stellato said. Over the next few weeks, the girl appeared at all of her practices. Stellato was enamored without even knowing the girl's name.

They both were interested in each other, and she ended up being Stellato's first love. This relationship instilled Stellato's now greatest fear: never being enough.

She hid the relationship from her parents, so they would rarely see each other. Stellato and her girlfriend were caught kissing by her father one day, leading to her being outed to her entire family.

"It was like, I came out, and then the next day my mom was like, 'you're not allowed to see her,'" Stellato



Amethyst Martinez/The Rider News

Sophomore dance major **Marissa Stellato** has always wanted to be a dancer and perform professionally in her home state of New York.

said looking back at the relationship. "They honestly thought it was a phase."

She pretended that she broke up with her girlfriend.

They kept their relationship a secret for nearly two months. Stellato jokingly said, "Well technically, we're on a break. We never officially broke up."

While Stellato was in high school, she decided to pursue a career in dance.

She never looked back.

"Dance was the only thing that made me happy," said Stellato. She now attends Rider as a sophomore studying dance performance.

Lindsay Sherman, a sophomore elementary education major, is Stellato's dorm roommate.

Sherman said, "I really hope to see [Stellato] on Broadway one day, or maybe like a Rockette.... I know

[Stellato] really wants to pursue dance, and I really believe in them and think they could go really far."

Through an organization at Rider called "We Are Queens," which helps dance students meet people with similar interests, Stellato was able to connect with her now mentor, Laura Jakowenko, a Rockette.

Becoming a Rockette was always her career goal, and that hasn't changed. She braided a lesbian flag-colored keychain as she talked about her hopes and dreams of one day taking The Radio City Music Hall stage. The stage is where Stellato belongs, in New York City in front of an audience who knows her name.

Stellato was enough for the world; she just didn't know it yet.



Photo courtesy of Marissa Stellato

Sophomore dance major **Marissa Stellato** hopes to one day become a Rockette.

Considering candidacy: the ideal SGA representative

THE second half of the spring semester means preparations for the next academic year, including elections for Rider's Student Government Association (SGA). Its representatives are meant to amplify the voice of the student body, and as students consider either a bid for candidacy or who they may vote in favor of, they should also evaluate not only what qualities make an SGA member but what goals and focuses go into a successful leadership term.

Applications close on March 29, followed by a campaign period and executive board debate during Student Senate before voting is available on BroncNation from April 1-5 and winners are announced April 7. Student body president is just one of the many positions available.

SGA at Rider

One of the most recent initiatives started by Rider's SGA is the push for diversity education. During the fall 2021 semester, the SGA explored the idea to recommend a diversity and inclusion course requirement for students, regardless of their major. In addition to a heightened focus on diversity, the SGA for this academic year has also made mental health a major talking point.

While Rider's past SGA boards have worked to introduce different ideas and initiatives for the improvement of the university atmosphere and student body experience, current controversies within the Rider community regarding budget cuts, faculty frustrations and even public demonstrations don't seem to be ceasing anytime soon. This current climate provides an even greater opportunity for SGA members in the next academic year to be leading voices for the student body in light of these tensions, as well as build on some of the actions that current and past boards have taken.

It is imperative that student voters and potential executive candidates keep in mind what they want to see out of their SGA leadership and what changes they may desire.

Outside SGA success

SGA chapters across the country have enacted changes on their campuses for the sake of the greater student body, providing examples of the power an SGA board can hold.

In 2016, the City University of New York (CUNY)'s SGA won a case to keep the campus's library open for 24 hours during finals week. According to a release from CUNY's Lehman College website, this fight took place over almost three years, cycling through various SGA representatives and relying on survey statistics and resilience until their end goal was met. While some may also credit the arrival of a new president and provost, the effort put in by these students to keep the cause alive is admirable and a perfect example of what an SGA could accomplish in an ideal world.

Qualities of the ideal SGA representative

Now more than ever, Rider needs representatives who will continue to bridge the gaps between student and administrative communications. An ideal SGA candidate is someone who will be prepared to stand with students, for the good of students, and hold Rider's administration accountable, however daunting that task may be.

Serving in an SGA position can be more than just a bump on a resume or a means to score some extra engaged learning points, and Rider students have a unique opportunity going into the upcoming year to either run for or elect candidates who will provide strong stances and enact changes for the student body.

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

Kaitlyn McCormick



Adrienne Unfreed/The Rider News

THE Rider News

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SOPHOMORE SIGHTINGS

Supporting LGBTQ youth: why people should keep saying gay

WHEN I was in high school, I had a history teacher named Ms. Combs. Known affectionately as “Mama Combsie” by her students, Mama was the person to go to. She was a safe space, and she was committed to teaching all history. She taught us true history, disregarding the out-of-date textbook.

In her quest to teach all history, Mama also taught us LGBTQ history. As a lesbian, this was one of my greatest educational experiences. Here was a teacher who thought of us as important: our history mattered. She taught me that my sexuality was valid, important and beautiful. She encouraged me to talk about myself and my community.

Three years later, I am sitting on my bed in my dorm. My TikTok is filled with videos about Florida’s Parental Rights in Education act, dubbed the “Don’t Say Gay” bill by critics: a bill that prohibits the discussion of sexual orientation or gender identity in kindergarten through third grade classrooms in the state. Video after video expresses the genuine fear and disgust that students, staff and parents have as this bill advances further into law. I am sitting on my bed wondering how we got here.

My LGBTQ peers and I sit together and all we can talk about is this bill – a bill that erases us, erases our elders and now works to quiet the next generation.

Growing up in the United States education system meant getting a very idealistic view of our history. We were taught that the Native Americans welcomed the Pilgrims when in reality they were subjected to mass brutality by the settlers. We were taught that slavery ended hundreds of years ago, but its legacy lingers on to this day. And now we may add LGBTQ history to the list.

You may be reading this and thinking history isn’t talked about in this bill. It is though. When we allow for the erasure of entire groups, their history goes with them. By keeping children from talking about who they are and how they want to express themselves, we invalidate the human truth.

I’ve heard every argument in the book. “You’re shoving sexuality down my child’s throat,” or “You’re influencing my child.” Children are impressionable and will repeat what they hear. If we repeat hate for a community of people, the children who hear it will repeat it. Children listen, and if they hear hate, they will say hate.

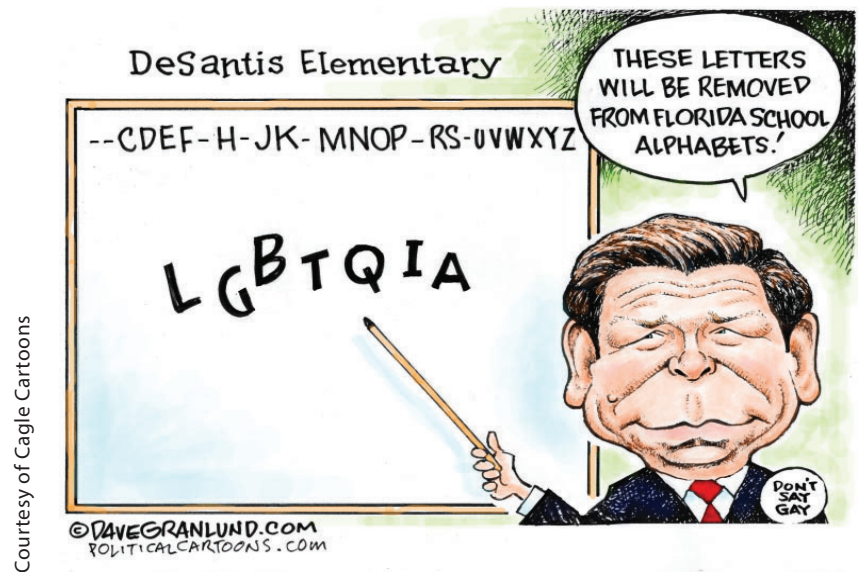
The kids who are a part of Generation Alpha, the youngest generation, are growing up and discovering themselves. Their schools should be supporting them, providing resources that support their sexuality and gender identity. Banning speech about identity and orientation won’t stop kids from being themselves. It only leaves them in the dark longer about an entire community that they may be a part of.

As of March 8, the act has been passed by Florida’s state senate. I am afraid; sure, it is one bill today, but it may be 10 tomorrow. In Texas, government officials have started investigating parents of transgender children. Officials in Texas believe that by parents allowing their kids to have gender-affirming surgery and care, they are abusing their children.

We are a community who have worked through every hardship. When people try to silence us, we make even more noise. There will always be LGBTQ people. Since the beginning of time, we have existed. We, as a nation that is built on the idea of freedom, must work together to protect our transgender kids, our gay kids, our nonbinary kids, our asexual kids – the list goes on and on.

As I write this I think about Mama Combsie, about how her talking about the community made me feel safe, comfortable and cared for. My hope for this generation is that they get to be themselves, that they are enabled to express their sexuality and gender identity. I hope one day it will be okay to say gay again.

*Tristan Leach,
sophomore journalism major and
The Rider News features and entertainment co-editor*



A LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Emeritus professor continues criticism of Dell'Omo's impact on Rider

No university can survive when current faculty cannot recommend it to others as a workplace, when they leave in disgust or retire prematurely.

But this is where we are at this moment at Rider and have been for too long.

Know that at this moment your faculty is fighting to save the university and the people and programs that prepare students for life and careers. Before President Gregory Dell’Omo, Rider had prepared students for life and careers across all its schools and colleges.

The faculty is central to a university’s mission. Its morale, retention and replenishment is a required and central focus for a university’s Board of Trustees and president. At Rider, on the basis of these standards, the president and board have failed.

Over a seven-year period, Rider’s president has been unsuccessful in achieving financial stability and security for the university. He admitted in a note announcing the employment of Credo a year ago that he and his team had been unsuccessful in achieving vital enrollment and student retention targets.

Seven years is time enough. The president continually blames external factors for this, such as the pandemic and the decline in the number of college-aged young adults. However, data gathered and reported by Rider’s chapter of the American Association of University Professors shows that in the five years of his tenure prior to the pandemic, similar area colleges and universities were posting net revenue gains while Rider was posting losses.

Rider has also lost millions and spent millions because of the president’s decisions and actions in relation to Westminster Choir College – fueled by his quest for quick cash, and the losses here go way beyond the dollars and are absolutely tragic.

In organizations, continually blaming others and not owning your mistakes makes you unfit for management and an organizational risk.

Remarkable to me, as a former professor of management, is the continued support for the president by Rider’s board. In class, we drew on research to discuss how leaders and organizations found it difficult to admit to errors and mistakes, and the related phenomena of throwing good money after bad. Rider board members work for organizations where, I assure you, the president’s reputation and the record would have led to his replacement long ago.

Perhaps the president’s retention has to do with the millions the university would have to pay to terminate his current contract, set to expire in 2024. In October 2020, without the president showing significant accomplishment and

burdened with the first vote of no-confidence, the board granted the president a contract extension, adding two additional years to the two years remaining. That was a surprise and exceedingly premature to many and to me, and many believed that the contract extension was prompted more by pique – “I’ll show you.” – than reason; pique at the forces that led to the withdrawal of the Chinese company, Kaiwen, as Westminster’s prospective buyer. Today, that company continues to operate at a loss.

*Gerald D. Klein
Emeritus Professor of organizational behavior and management*



Courtesy of Gerald D. Klein

Emeritus professor Gerald D. Klein

BASEBALL

Broncs struggle with consistency over spring break

By Carolo Pascale

DESPITE the rest of Rider students being on spring break, the baseball team had no time off as they played seven games over break. The Broncs played three different teams over the nine-day span, starting with two games on March 11 against East Tennessee, then two games on March 15 and 16 against then No. 17 ranked Virginia before finishing with a three-game series against VMI on March 18-20.

Battling over the break

The start of baseball's spring break began against East Tennessee on March 11 with a doubleheader in which the Broncs lost both games, losing 2-1 and 12-0 respectively.

The first game saw a great performance from graduate student pitcher Joe Papeo. He pitched 7.1 innings, recorded six strikeouts and only allowed two hits.

On March 15 and 16, the Broncs took on then No. 17 ranked Virginia in a difficult two-game, midweek series. Virginia handled the Broncs easily, defeating them in both games with final scores of 14-4 and 12-3.

To face off against a top 20 team gave the Broncs a look at how some of the top teams in the country play. They got a taste of it last year when they went to the NCAA Tournament, but this seemed to be a reminder for them of how those teams play and compete.

"We got a good idea for this last year in the regional against LA Tech and Alabama, so this year we just wanted to go out and compete," said redshirt senior infielder Jake Barbieri. "They are a great team, so being able to go out and play two against that type of competition is only going to make us better."

The Broncs were able to compete in the series despite the scores. Rider registered 13 hits over the two games and carried the hitting into its next series against VMI.

The hitting was excellent in the series versus VMI like it has been most of the year. Barbieri led the team throughout the three-game series with seven hits over the three days of games.

Among all three games, the Broncs used 10 different pitchers, with graduate student pitcher Cal Stalzer recording two saves.

The Broncs swept VMI, winning all three games and securing the team's first series sweep of the year.

'A lot of ups and downs'

Barbieri is in the midst of the best hitting season of his collegiate career so far, hitting a .313 average this

season, which is good for 14th in the Metro Atlantic Athletic Conference (MAAC).

"At this point in my career I've learned baseball is a game with a lot of ups and downs," said Barbieri. "I put in a lot of time this winter in preparation for the spring and I try to just go out and have fun once the game starts knowing I've put in the work."

The hitting as a whole has been impressive so far this year, with the Broncs hitting .247 average as a team. They sit in fourth compared to the other teams in the conference. Barbieri credits the work the team has put in as well as how Assistant Coach Lee Lipinski has worked with hitters this year.

"I think that it just shows how much work everyone put in over the break and during the pre-season," said Barbieri. "The team has a lot of older guys, so as everyone has matured and learned about the type of hitter they are, it starts to show results on the field. Coach Lipinski has also done a great job working with all the hitters during practices as well."

Something that hasn't been as solid is pitching, which has been fairly inconsistent throughout the season. There have been flashes of greatness like Papeo's strong performance versus East Tennessee. But even he showed some inconsistency when he allowed nine runs on nine hits in just two innings in the opening game in the VMI series.

"We have not been consistent. It is an area of concern," said Head Coach Barry Davis. "We are hoping to get Dylan Heine back on the mound soon to add some needed depth. Again, it is a process. The big games are waiting."

Stalzer has been one of the best points of consistency this season, being the team's leader in saves so far with three. "The biggest thing is my mentality when I am called upon to pitch," said Stalzer. "I have a lot of faith in the guys behind me to make plays when batters put the ball in play. I try to go at hitters as best as I can when we have the lead and limit free bases."

Finally returning home

Just like the rest of the season, every single game during spring break was on the road. That much travel can be difficult for players and for teams to try and get into a rhythm, and the Broncs are no different.

"It has been difficult for us, especially on this longer road trip. Being on the road can take a toll mentally and physically, but we've shown a ton of resolve," said Stalzer.

The Broncs were traveling all over the place over break, going from Tennessee to Virginia. Playing on



Andrew Xon/The Rider News

Redshirt senior infielder Jake Barbieri holds a .313 batting average placing him at 14th in the MAAC.

the road has been difficult for the team, but Barbieri said that it's good for the team to travel despite it being challenging.

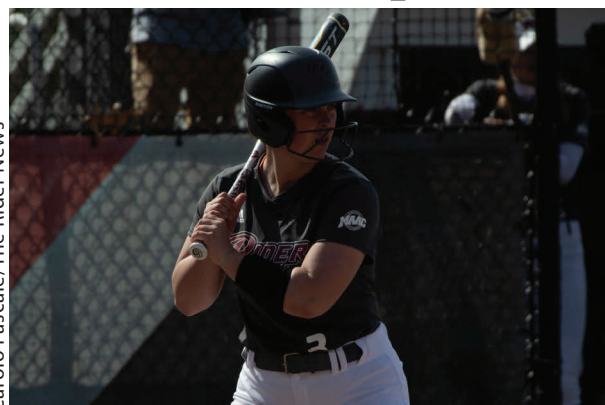
"For myself and a lot of the older guys on the team, we have done this before, so we know what to expect and how to handle the long bus trips and nights in hotels," said Barbieri. "For the younger guys, it's good for them to get used to traveling like this at the beginning of the year and will hopefully help the whole team throughout the season. Playing in new places and at new fields every week at the beginning of the year will make it easier to do so during conference play."

The Broncs finally returned home on March 22 and took on in-state foe Rutgers. The Broncs fell to the Scarlet Knights 5-2. The Broncs played a good game despite losing, with eight players registering at least a hit.

The Broncs will now play their first series of MAAC play games when they go back on the road to take on Iona. The first game of the series is on March 25, with the first pitch scheduled for 3 p.m.

SOFTBALL

Softball pushes above .500 in home opener



Carolo Pascale/The Rider News

Senior infielder Grace Stansfield hit 3-for-6 in Rider's first home series of the season.

By Dylan Manfre

RIDER softball improved to 11-9 after playing the first two games of its homestand at Herb and Joan Young field in the rear outskirts of campus. The start of the season has been no small feat for the Broncs, as they have played all their first 18 games on the road participating in the Spiro Classic, Hampton/Norfolk State Tournament, Purple-Gold Invitational and Penn State Invitational.

The nine road wins have been impressive, with the Broncs boasting an average victory margin of around seven runs per game. Perhaps the most dominant the

bats have been was when Rider clobbered Morehead State 23-9 in five innings. It included a 13-run third frame as the Broncs scored the second-most runs in Head Coach Davon Ortega's five-year tenure.

She never expected her team to produce that many runs in a game when they came out of the preseason.

Seven of the 10 players to step to the plate had a multi-hit game. Sophomore outfielder Laneya Wright led the Broncs with four hits.

"I think that's been a product of what we had been doing," sophomore infielder Jess Niegocki said. "Our bats are insanely hot ... instead of most of the team [hitting the ball] it was the entire team."

A different energy

Niegocki maintains there is a charisma to the Broncs when they step up to the plate. It is what has led them to a three-way tie for the best batting average in the nation with Oklahoma and Arizona as of March 22.

She ranks 19th in the nation sporting a .463 average with 31 hits in 67 plate appearances.

"Our approach to the plate has been completely different," the sophomore said. "We get out on teams and we're a run-ruling team. We get out on top early and fast and it's hard to come back from that if you're any other team."

Niegocki has registered a hit in all but two games this year and has 10 multi-hit ball games too.

"We were rebuilding the program. We went into this [season] with a mindset of there's no excuses," Ortega said. "We changed our approach in the weight room. We changed that mindset, that's all it was."

Rider's pitching has also been successful and led by sophomore hurler Anna-Marie Groskirtz who was named Pitcher of the Week. Groskirtz posted a 0.95 ERA striking out eight batters in 14.2 innings last week.

A class of her own

Ortega's teams had miserable starts in her first three seasons at Rider. Starting the first 10 games, 2-8 in 2018 and 0-10 in 2019 and 2020.

The class of 2022 is Ortega's first group of seniors that is truly her own after taking over the program in 2018. Although the five seniors have been through the despair of the early Ortega years, their strong 2022 campaign has been expected for a long time.

"They've grown, they've been coachable and they've developed," Ortega said of her senior class. "They're the ones who are consistently getting the job done because they have the experience behind them. Maybe they're the best-kept secret because we finally have a lot of players to fill in around them."

Rider has 12 more games in the homestand now that the Wagner series has concluded. Conference play begins on April 2 with a doubleheader against Fairfield.

MAAC TOURNAMENT

2022 tournament is what 2020 should have been

By Dylan Manfre

AFTER a 17-year absence, the Metro Atlantic Athletic Conference (MAAC) was set for a triumphant return to Atlantic City in 2020. Fanfare and excitement filled historic Jim Whelan Boardwalk Hall, only for it to be canceled by a once-in-a-century global pandemic.

There was a unique, unforgettable eeriness from March 11 to 13 that I will never forget. People always ask, “Where were you when the pandemic started?” I covered the second-to-last basketball tournament in the United States before COVID-19 shut down sports.

I remember my dear friend and former student-reporter from Quinnipiac Bobcats Sports Network, Will Fowler, talking to me before Commissioner Rich Ensor’s press conference announcing the cancellation of the tournament and ensuing spring season, saying, “This is history. This is what journalists live for.”

March 12, 2022, marked exactly two years from the cancellation of the tournament. The conference hosted two championship games with Saint Peter’s and Monmouth on the men’s side and a thrilling women’s final that pitted Fairfield against Manhattan.

The 2022 MAAC basketball tournament was what 2020 should have been. It had the glory that 2020 did not get the chance to live out. No one worried about postponements or the results of COVID-19 tests — which were not required for fans to enter the building. Fans were interested in the action, and maybe their appearance since masks were not required.

Buses full of students poured into Boardwalk Hall to watch the games. The pep bands positioned their instruments and played their schools’ fight songs. Cheerleaders from the schools danced and twirled at center court. This was all absent from the last two tournaments.

The upsets demonstrated what the month of March means to die-hard college basketball fans. There’s no better example than No. 9 Rider men’s basketball defeating reigning champion No. 1 Iona on



Dylan Manfre/The Rider News

The 2022 MAAC Men’s and Women’s Tournament went on without a hitch, after a year of COVID-19 restrictions.

a last-second shot from senior guard Dwight Murray Jr.

Public address announcers relayed information about the teams while fans relaxed and enjoyed themselves. They watched from the cushioned seats of the area instead of their screens at home.

Multiple food options were available, unlike last year when a sole Chickie’s and Pete’s was briefly opened and a six-foot social distancing rule in lines was enforced.

Not only did Boardwalk Hall feature multiple concession options this year, the league also hosted its MAAC-n-Cheese contest, a contest sponsored by Gourmet Dining that put various mac-and-cheese recipes against each other for fans to taste and vote on. The event was supposed to debut in 2020 but was canceled because of COVID-19. It was something new and unique that exemplified why this tournament was special.

It felt like a return to normalcy from a journalism perspective as well. I cannot say enough how happy it made me to see everything done in a normal setting. From in-person press conferences to the contingent of Quinnipiac students carrying cameras and doing stand-up reports in an uncanny amount of navy suits, the lack of pandemic discourse and increase in basketball conversation with Marist student-reporters Jonathan Kinane and Christan De Block was refreshing.

A one-year extension between the MAAC and Boardwalk Hall means the tournament will be back in Atlantic City for the 2022-2023 season. Hopefully, that tournament can be the formal make-up for 2020.

Society is not fully out of the COVID-19 woods yet, but descending case numbers, deaths and hospitalizations indicate we are moving in the right direction. Either way, the five-day tournament was encouraging to see what 2020 could have been.

WRESTLING

Top wrestler opens up about his journey to Rider



Sam Janicki/Rider Athletics

Redshirt sophomore **Quinn Kinner** was one of two Rider wrestlers that were crowned as MAAC Champions.

By Logan VanDine

REDSHIRT sophomore Quinn Kinner has made a big name for himself since arriving at Rider after transferring from Ohio State. As the No. 25 ranked wrestler in the nation at 141 pounds, Kinner opened up to The Rider News about how he first got into wrestling and his journey into becoming a Bronco.

“It’s like a family sport to me. My dad and his whole family always wrestled, so my family has always done it. Ever since I can remember, me, my brothers were on the wrestling mat, my dad was taking us to tournaments and it was always something we did,” the 141-pound wrestler said.

Kinner played other sports, like baseball and football, but always felt that wrestling was the right sport for him.

“It was always mostly wrestling. I always kind of knew that was the sport that I was going to stick with,” he said.

Kinner attended Kingsway High School in Woolwich Township and compiled a very impressive record of 167-8.

“I was a two-time state champion and won some other tournaments like Beast of The East and Escape The Rock, and I ended up being No. 1 in my senior year in the country,” said Kinner of his decorated high school career.

Kinner started his collegiate wrestling career as an Ohio State Buckeye, spending two years in their wrestling program with a record of 38-10.

“I was a freshman, and I remember Coach [Tim] Ryan, Coach [JJ] Jagers, Nathan Tomasello came in and did a camp at one of my clubs and Myles Martin went there. He was a South Jersey guy I grew up with and knew really well, so I had a lot of connections over there. And obviously there was that Big Ten school dream so it was a dream come true,” said Kinner.

Kinner then opened up on why he decided to leave Ohio State and how hard the decision was to leave his teammates that he considered family.

“The whole experience there was fun; it was amazing, I took a lot out of it, but it kind of fell apart. And it wasn’t my coach’s fault, it wasn’t my teammates’ fault. I love those guys; I look at all of them like family,” he said.

Kinner then added, “I just kinda fell into the big school environment and I was having fun and doing stupid things and I fell away from something that was important to me. I’m very God-oriented, and the transfer was really hard because it was leaving my best friends and people who I’ve grown and loved so much and I was in a place that I was so comfortable in.”

After leaving Ohio State, Kinner did not know what he wanted to do with himself. He didn’t imagine getting back into wrestling until Rider Wrestling Head Coach

John Hangey convinced him to come to a much smaller college environment.

“I just remember Hangey and [Nic] Bedelyon calling me one day saying like ‘Hey man, one year from now you’re going to be an NCAA champion and a MAAC champion,’ and during that time I was doing nothing. I dropped out of Ohio State, I was chilling on my couch doing nothing with myself, going nowhere ... Rider was the exact environment that was needed for me,” Kinner said.

Hangey, who’s been coaching wrestling for the Broncs for six seasons, raved about the person Kinner is.

“He’s got an infectious personality that you want to be around, he’s always happy, he’s always engaging, he tells hilarious stories and if you get him wound up he just keeps going and he’s fun to be around and he has a great personality,” the former All American said.

Hangey also spoke about how much he has grown as a wrestler at Rider as he is set to head to the NCAA tournament.

“If you ask me and Quinn that if we expected him to be at the NCAA Tournament, the answer is absolutely 100% without question,” Hangey said. “That’s not the part I’m impressed with; the part I’m impressed with is that he’s a sponge when it comes to wrestling. He wants to learn as much as he can, he wants to grow, he wants to help his teammates and you can see him invested into his success and the team’s success and that’s the growth you’re looking for.”

This past weekend, along with redshirt junior Richie Koehler, Kinner made history for the Broncs. It was the first time since joining the MAAC conference in 2019 that Rider has two MAAC champions.

“It’s crazy, it’s awesome,” Kinner said. “Obviously the expectations and the goal is to be an NCAA Champion, so at the end of the day I have 24 spots to move up and I want to end up being the No. 1 guy in the country.”

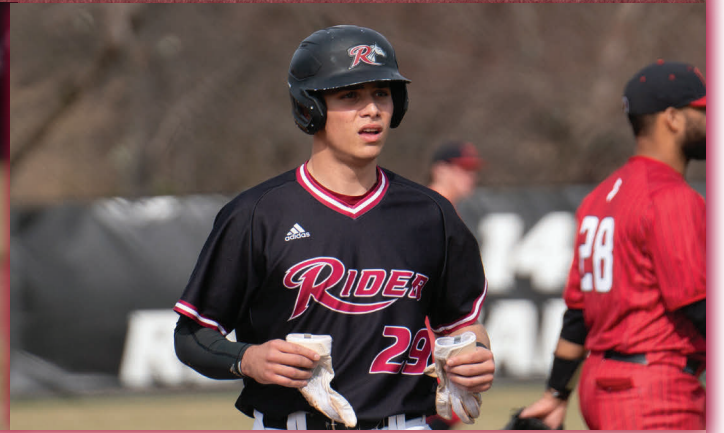
Sports

INSIDE

MAAC TOURNAMENT REFLECTION

Sports Editor Dylan Manfre reflects on how the 2022 MAAC Tournament was the experience that 2020 should have been

FIND THE STORY ON PAGE 11



Baseball and softball photo gallery:

Both teams hosted home openers on March 22

Photos taken by Carolo Pascale (row one and three) and Andrew Xon (row two and four)/The Rider News

