

## Dell'Omo sees \$104,789 drop in pay, tax forms show

By Jake Tiger

**R**IDER President Gregory Dell'Omo deferred and cut \$104,789 of his salary and benefits in fiscal 2023 while many of the university's other top earners saw slight pay increases amid Rider's ongoing financial crisis, according to the university's most recent federal tax forms.

### Salary insights

Rider tax forms show that in fiscal 2023, which spanned July 1, 2022 to June 30, 2023, Dell'Omo's salary and benefits totaled \$557,147, his lowest sum since fiscal 2016, when he joined the university.

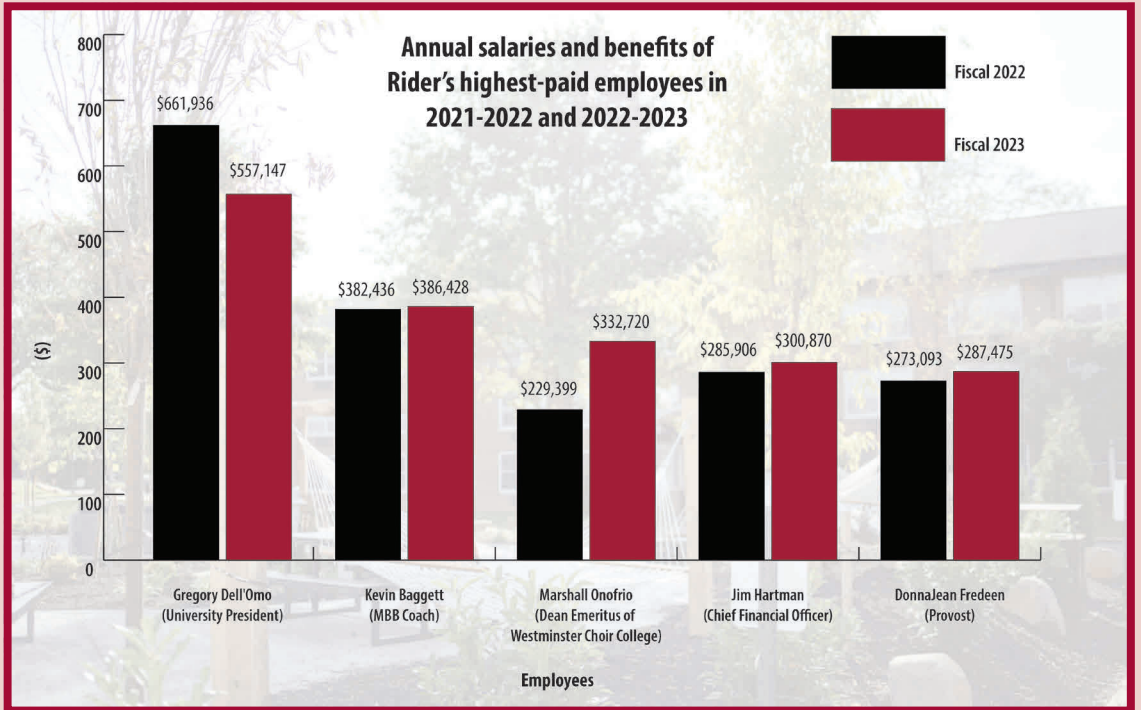
Dell'Omo's pay cut followed a momentary bounce-back during fiscal 2022, when he received \$661,936 in salary and benefits, a \$56,420 boost after his trimmed salary during the COVID pandemic.

According to Rider Chief Financial Officer Jim Hartman, part of Dell'Omo's recent salary drop was deferred compensation and some was an outright pay cut. Hartman did not offer specifics as to how much was cut and how much was deferred.

The CFO added that Dell'Omo's deferred compensation was "baked into his contract" years ago, and the decrease was not a reaction to the university's financial situation at the time, as the forms also show that the university had a \$22 million deficit at the end of fiscal 2023.

The forms reveal that Rider's five highest paid employees in fiscal 2023 were Dell'Omo, men's basketball Head Coach Kevin Baggett at \$386,428, Dean Emeritus of Westminster Choir College Marshall Onofrio at \$332,720, Hartman at \$300,870 and Provost DonnaJean Fredeen at \$287,475. All four received pay increases.

During fiscal years 2023 and 2024, faculty received no pay raises. This year, faculty will



A majority of Rider's highest-paid employees received a pay raise in the fiscal 2023 excluding Rider President Gregory Dell'Omo.

receive 0.25% salary increases.

Hartman said the administrative raises for people like himself and Fredeen were more of a "correction," offsetting prior pay cuts they had taken since the pandemic.

Onofrio, who retired from the university in 2022, is an outlier in the group, as his pay shot up by \$103,321 after making \$229,399 the year prior. Hartman clarified that Onofrio's salary spike came from the voluntary separation incentives and the pay out of his accrued vacation time.

Onofrio did not respond to a Sept. 2 email from The Rider News seeking comment on his pay.

### Deficit worsened

On a broader scale, Rider's tax forms showed a deficit of approximately \$23 million at the end of the fiscal 2023, \$11 million more than the previous year. On July 27, 2023, the start of fiscal 2024, Dell'Omo held a webinar detailing his new plan for the university's future, dubbed "The Path Forward." This webinar, according to the president himself, is "an aggressive, comprehensive approach" with goals to get Rider back to a positive operating balance by fiscal 2026.

The university's 2023 revenue of \$196 million was its lowest since at least 2011.

SEE 'TAX' PAGE 2

## New university model introduced at convocation

By Hannah Newman

**R**IDER'S staff and faculty convocation on Aug. 29 shed light on the university's current budget deficits and decreasing enrollment numbers, prompting Rider President Gregory Dell'Omo to plan for a new university model that must be smaller and more nimble.

"Higher education is at a crossroads and we face difficult decisions that will shape the future of our institution," said Dell'Omo. "We don't have the luxury of time to go through this process."

The new plan involves building budgets based on smaller enrollments, developing high-demand programs efficiently and supplying the resources to maintain a Division I athletics program. This program is based on a regional cost structure under the new NCAA model, which is still being rapidly adjusted, according to the presentation.

"What we need to do is create a new university model based on smaller enrollment rates, talented students, one that is neater in operations and more nimble in its ability to adapt to change," said Dell'Omo.

### Budget deficits

Rider's operating deficit went from \$17.1 million in fiscal 2023 to \$10.2 million in fiscal 2024, a decrease of \$6.9 million, as mentioned during the convocation. The university projects a \$7.5 million deficit in the current fiscal year. The deficit remains a concern as Dell'Omo hopes to stay on track with "The Path Forward" plan and get the university back to a positive revenue stream by fiscal 2026.

To chip away at the remaining \$10.2 million deficit, 31 staff positions were eliminated over the summer, saving Rider just over \$2 million, Dell'Omo said in a webinar on July 30.

The deficit is due in part to declines in enrollment and housing revenue. On-campus occupancy stands at 1,711 as of Aug. 28, but this total is still distant from its pre-pandemic total of nearly 2,000, according to the presentation.

To bolster these numbers, Dell'Omo stated that, starting in fall 2025, Rider freshmen will be required to live on campus for the first two years.

Rider's overall enrollment projections were negatively impacted by the eight-month, nationwide delay of the Free Application for Federal Student Aid,



Josiah Thomas/The Rider News

Rider President Gregory Dell'Omo discusses the university's future plans with faculty and staff.

which was another focus of the staff and faculty convocation. FAFSA filings went down 13.6% nationally and 12% at Rider for fall 2024, according to enrollment data in Dell'Omo's presentation.

The full-time equivalent headcount as of Aug. 28 is 3,648, which is 58 students below the projected fall 2024 total as well as a decline of 83

SEE 'FACULTY' PAGE 3

**INSIDE**

**RED HOT**  
Rider field hockey got out to a 2-0 start.

**PAGE 8**

**PRINT BUDGET CUT**  
Editors explain changes that will affect the future of The Rider News.

**PAGE 6**

**WELCOME WEEK**  
Rider's annual introduction kicks off with "Music Bingo Brunch" and more.

**PAGE 4**



# Longtime biology professor passes

By Jake Tiger

**J**AMES Carlson, 88, a Rider professor emeritus, passed away May 30, according to a July 22 university email that stated Rider had “only recently” learned of his passing.

Carlson, of North Chesterfield, Virginia, taught at Rider for 23 years as a professor of biology and served as department chair for 12 years, per an obituary from the Richmond Times-Dispatch.

Carlson specialized in subjects like evolution, genetics and life science with an interest in Charles Darwin’s work. Carlson took multiple trips to Darwin’s home in England and traveled to various research sites, including the Galapagos Islands, the obituary states.

He was born in Cleveland in 1935 and educated in Ohio before spending most of his teaching career in New Jersey. He moved to Virginia in retirement.

Carlson is survived by his wife, Judith Marsh Carlson; daughter, Kristin Carlson Green, of Henrico, Virginia; son, Jeffrey D. Carlson, of Alexandria, Virginia; and four grandchildren: James Mitchell Green, of Arlington, Virginia; Jeffrey Michael Green, of Henrico; Macy Annabel Carlson and Margaret Anabeth Carlson of Alexandria, the obituary said.

A service for Carlson was held in Richmond, Virginia, on June 22.

Josiah Thomas/The Rider News



President Gregory Dell’Omo took a \$104,789 cut.

**CONT’D FROM PAGE 1**

Fiscal 2023 also marked a \$23 million decrease from from 2022, according to ProPublica’s database of Rider tax forms.

Conversely, Rider’s 2023 expenses were its lowest since 2015, both years matching at \$219 million, according to the database. The number is indicative of Dell’Omo’s stated vision for a smaller operation that emphasizes the university’s most profitable avenues.

Dell’Omo doubled down on his “The Path Forward” plan at Rider’s staff and faculty convocation on Aug. 29, saying that he hopes to create a “smaller, more selective” university model that allows for more financial flexibility in difficult times.

**Other notes**

Rider tax forms showed an increased investment in outsourced marketing services, as the tax forms showed \$2.1 million went to the university’s top two marketing providers, \$385,495 more than the previous year.

# Tax forms show Rider’s spending

The bulk of the marketing budget went to Princeton Partners, an agency not listed on Rider’s fiscal 2022 tax form. The local company has worked with Rutgers, Capital Health, New Jersey state agencies and more.

Kristine Brown, Rider’s vice president of external affairs, said the emphasis on marketing was part of Rider’s strategic plan from that time, which dated back to 2018, has since become the current plan: “The Path Forward. She said one of that plan’s pillars was to “raise Rider’s profile.”

“From the Board of Trustees, to Greg [Dell’Omo] ... we all knew that it was necessary to make an investment in marketing,” Brown said. “We’ve made incremental investments in marketing over the past five years. We make all of the ads in house, which is a whole lot of fun.”

Rider also began paying more for the Ellucian Banner services, a company that oversees much of the university’s technology and software. In fiscal 2023, Rider paid the company just over \$3 million as opposed to about \$1.7 million in fiscal 2022.

Ellucian hosts many of Rider’s internal online services, including the myRider student portal, the Office of Information Technology Help Desk and the payroll service for students, Banner Web Time Entry, following issues with ADP in 2023.

# Rider updates campus over summer break

By Caroline Haviland

**E**ACH year when the familiar campus buzz dies down and students head home for summer break, Rider seizes the opportunity to make renovations and updates.

Michael Reca, vice president of university operations, spearheaded numerous projects the facilities team set out to complete before students flooded back in for the fall semester.

**Straightening up**

The university used the funds from the parking permit fee instituted in fall 2023 to repave the campus’ south road and Alumni Drive, which are located adjacent to Rider’s commuter lot, and replace sidewalks in various locations across the campus. The fee also ensured any faded parking lot lines, handicap spots and fire lanes were repainted.

For safety reasons, various trees and overgrown bushes hindering walkways were trimmed or removed.

The Cavalla Room received new flooring, paint and sound panels, making it one of the summer’s bigger projects.

The “non-glamorous stuff,” Reca added, includes replacing boiler equipment and installing a new mechanism for the elevator in the Fine Arts building, which frequently broke down. Through a grant with the Presser Foundation, the Fine Arts building also

received a new music classroom with better sound and aesthetics.

Fourteen classrooms in various academic buildings received upgraded technology, including projectors, processors and television screens.

The wrestling team’s practice room, located in the Canastra Health and Sports Center, will be expanded and renovated as the team widens its roster, Reca said.

**SGA’s impact**

Student Government Association Student Body President Christina Natoli worked alongside Reca and facilities to voice any concerns from the student population and help make some of these projects come to fruition.

“Their team is always very willing to listen to our feedback and help us establish a game plan of how to address any concerns,” said Natoli.

The vice president of university affairs and the SGA’s facilities committee members meet with Reca and his team frequently to present ideas reflecting the voices of the campus community.

“It’s a collaborative effort where they come to us and we talk about what’s feasible,” said Reca. “We blend what we’re looking for with our master plan and we’ll partner with them on certain aspects, such as the recent renovations to the Cavalla Room and the new seating in the [residential quad].”



Kaitlyn D’Alessio/The Rider News

Student parking permit fee funds improvements on Rider’s roads.



Destiny Pagan/The Rider News

Renovations to the Cavalla Room include new wooden flooring, paint and sound panels.



# College of Education welcomes new dean

By Jay Roberson

**J**EANNINE Dingus-Eason was announced as Rider's new dean of the College of Education and Human Services in a universitywide email on July 22, replacing former Dean Jason Barr, who left his role in October 2023.

Dingus-Eason strives to support all kinds of students, though this was not always her career goal.

## A call to the classroom

As a first-generation college student, Dingus-Eason chose to study English at Rochester University, uncertain of what career she wanted to pursue.

Dingus-Eason said, "Despite how many times I tried to fight it, I ended up here. But I think education is a calling, and it's a calling that comes from a very cultural sense."

Dingus-Eason began her career as a high school English teacher in New York, but she spent her summers in rural Georgia amongst her family members, who were educators.

"All of the cousins that were my age and younger, we gravitated to those cousins that were teachers, and there were generations of teachers in that part of the family," said Dingus-Eason. "Years later, that stuck with me and that actually became the basis of my dissertation research on intergenerational Black teachers."

Along with her time spent as a high school teacher, Dingus-Eason worked for the McNair Scholars Program, taught doctoral program research courses in diversity and equity and served as the dean of the Feinstein School of Education and Human Development at Rhode Island College.

Provost and Vice President for Academic and Student affairs, DonnaJean Fredeen, explained why Dingus-Eason stood out to her as a candidate for dean.

Fredeen said, "She had to come in and completely revamp that program [Feinstein School of Education and Human Development] and address the issues that the state of Rhode Island had found, correct them and then resubmit to get the programs accredited, which

she did very successfully."

Dingus-Eason also wrote a book, titled "A Thousand Worries: Black Women Mothering Autistic Sons," based on her own experiences and studies on 14 Black mothers supporting their autistic sons.

## Goals as dean

Fredeen looks forward to having a "fresh perspective" on campus to ensure the College of Education and Human Services is the best program for future educators.

"[Rider's] programs are excellent, and we're very well known for them. So how do we continue? If you stand still, what ends up happening is you move behind because everyone else is still moving forward," said Fredeen.

While Dingus-Eason serves as dean she hopes to ensure the education program is accessible to all types of students.

"[Many] adults have an interest in education, but they just haven't had a smooth pathway into education programs or certification programs. I have a genuine interest in ensuring that our students have a good experience with us," said Dingus-Eason.

Dingus-Eason also has plans to improve the quality of curricula and expand the faculty within the College of Education and Human Services. She aims to have more events within the college and to support and develop partnerships with local schools.

"Unlike some education programs in other colleges, we have accreditation organizations that we have to be responsive to. It's a good bit of work, but it is well



Jay Roberson/The Rider News

Jeannine Dingus-Eason will be the new dean of the College of Education and Human Services.

worth it, because you tell your story of who you are as a school of education, you tell your story of who your students are and how great your faculty is," Dingus-Eason said.

Dingus-Eason looks forward to developing personal relationships with not only faculty, but students and staff members throughout her time as dean.

"There's an authenticity here at Rider, with the people I've met and interacted with. There's a genuine level of care for students and a genuine investment in the students. This has really shown throughout my entire interview process and my month and a half here," said Dingus-Eason.

# Faculty union questions admin's plan

## CONT'D FROM PAGE 1

The ongoing complications with the FAFSA have caused a decline in low-income, high-minority and first-generation students, Dell'Omo said.

Rider applicants were down Latino -9%, Black -8%, Asian -19% and white -13% according to the presentation slides.

Dell'Omo expressed concern that the university might miss out on high-achieving students due to financial barriers, which motivated the university to create the Rider Tuition Guarantee, a new opportunity beginning in fall 2025 that can give students free tuition if they meet a certain set of criteria: they must have at least a 3.5 GPA, maintain a household income of \$50,000 or less and must qualify for the Federal Pell Grant and the New Jersey Tuition Aid Grant.

"We did a smaller pilot of this for our transfer students, and we want to explore how we can do this for not just transfer students but freshman," said Dell'Omo.

## AAUP responds

Dell'Omo explained that the administration will revisit the academic viability of certain programs at Rider again, possibly leading to cuts in an effort to condense university projects.

Using Dell'Omo's program reevaluations to formulate a new, smaller Rider, Quinn Cunningham, president of Rider's chapter of the American Association of University Professors, voiced a shared concern within the union that faculty is not as involved as they would like to be in the decision-making process.

"One of the faculty members in the audience asked a question that we probably all immediately thought of which is, 'why are there no faculty members on this taskforce,'" said Cunningham. "I think most faculty feel like we should be involved from the beginning when talking about changes that are going to directly impact us and what we bring to our students."

Cunningham noted that Rider is not alone

in some of its issues, as many other institutions face new challenges in the post-pandemic higher education landscape.

"I think a lot of schools like ours are struggling. It's just the environment that high education is in politically," said Cunningham. "There's a lot of anti-higher-education rhetoric going on so I would think that doesn't help either."

However, Cunningham expressed frustration with Rider's operations in particular, as she feels the university's mishandling of resources dates past 2020.

Cunningham said, "From the faculty point of view, the fact that Rider is in the state that we are in goes back before the pandemic. We believe there was [prior] mismanagement and the pandemic just accelerated how much it hurt."

Dell'Omo did not detail any future plans for the sale of the former Westminster Choir College campus in Princeton. However, he noted that long-standing litigation over the proposed property sale is moving in the right direction.



Tune in to our new show on  
107.7 The Bronc and Spotify for  
a 'Roundup' of the week's news!



# Broncs kick off the year with Welcome Week

By Madison Lewis and Grace Bertrand

**W**ELCOME Week is a hallmark of back-to-school activities at Rider. The week-long festivities prepare students for the upcoming semester and create a quintessential opportunity to create lasting connections.

## 'Music Bingo Brunch' Sept. 1

Students periodically funneled into the main seating area of Daly Dining Hall with breakfast in hand as they sat down at tables adorned with bingo boards and crayons.

In the back of the room, there was a DJ booth playing current hits and throwback favorites.

Students were encouraged to dance to songs radiating from the speakers as they filled out bingo boards labeled with song titles.

The MC of the night, James, challenged participants to fill out the board in different patterns. James then reviewed each lucky student's bingo before handing over their prizes.



Madison Lewis/The Rider News

Students dance and sway to the beat at "Music Bingo Brunch."

Coupons for local businesses like Sky Zone, Fedelo's and Route 1 Diner were awarded throughout the night, along with party hats and leis for the students who partied the hardest.

Students were singing in mics and dancing, some even forgetting about the game. "Cotton Eye Joe" by Rednex and "Boy's a Liar Pt. 2" by Ice Spice and PinkPantheress got contestants out of their seats as bingo continued into the afternoon.

Senior psychology major Sarah Dickstein has been to every "Music Bingo Brunch" since her freshman year.

"Music Bingo Brunch" definitely brings a lot of people together," said Dickstein. "[It's] fun to be at, experience and also watch."

## 'LGBTQIA+ Dessert Welcome Reception' Sept. 1

The Spectrum Pride Alliance is a staple of Rider's campus. The organization has a mission to cultivate an inclusive environment at the university.

While sporting a plate of baked goods and a bowl of ice cream, incoming LGBTQIA+ students and allies had the opportunity to communicate with other members of Rider's community through team building activities.

Along with LGBTQIA+ student leaders, event goers had the opportunity to speak with gender and sexuality studies Professor Melissa A. Hofmann, who doubles as a LGBTQIA+ librarian for Rider.

"I would love to foster more connections with [students]," she said. "I really want to spread passion, information and learning throughout the community."

## 'Cranberry Craze' Sept. 1

Test your strength with the "HIGH STRIKER" mallet game or do the beanbag toss to earn tickets.

The class of 2028 celebrated an evening of music and festivities, featuring games that awarded raffle tickets to use.

Students could get organized baskets that different clubs and organizations put up for auction, including

ones from the counseling center, Rider Dining and 107.7 The Bronc.

Attendee and freshman film and television major Nalani Arboleda said, "I like that there [is] a whole bunch of different games. ... It makes [Rider] feel more homey ... kind of like a little family gathering."

## 'RecFest' Sept. 7

Tackle recreational sports and activity-based clubs Rider has to offer with "RecFest" — a fair to showcase all the sports clubs for new and returning Broncs.

The event took place on the campus mall Monday night as students gathered across the lawn to participate in different games such as volleyball, frisbee and cornhole.

Clubs like Rider Equestrian, Rider Men's Volleyball Club and Rider Club Softball were just a few of the many tables lined up on the lawn waiting to greet potential newcomers.

Sophomore graphic design major Angelina Fierro, who's attended "RecFest" two years in a row, explained with excitement that this year had one of the biggest turnouts the event has ever seen.

"My favorite part of the event is seeing everyone again, meeting new people and finding out about a new club each year, like archery," Fierro said.



Josiah Thomas/The Rider News

Students at "Cranberry Craze" participate in carnival games.

# Rider BHP students take on Tokyo

By Grace Bertrand

**T**HE opportunity to translate lessons taught at Rider to classrooms around the world was made possible for a handful of Rider students that traveled over 6,000 miles to Japan this past May with the Baccalaureate Honors Program.

Last spring, Rider students enrolled in the BHP course, A Cross-Cultural Comparison of Play, were invited on a trip to Tokyo to observe children and note cultural and environmental connections and differences.

Psychology professor Cara Demant and child-play therapist Yi-Ju Cheng led the trip of 15 students to East Asia, where they explored various child-centered locations, including Sanrio Puroland, Tokyo Disneyland and multiple themed children's museums.

Demant said she felt the trip was necessary in order for students to fully understand the role culture plays in how children interact and behave.

"Japan has very much restricted, organized and structured play," Demant said. "They do a lot of academic-based play."

Demant recalled that one of the most informative parts of the trip was when they visited an after-care program that allowed kids to have free choice over how they wanted to play after school. However, the options were limited to activities such as origami, homework, board games or tablet use.

Senior psychology major Krisantha Spencer



Photo courtesy of Cara Demant

Rider students visit an after-school program in Japan called Chance For All.

remembered the trip fondly, explaining how beneficial it was to make a connection with the children in Japan by participating in their different types of play alongside them.

"One thing I really liked was, even though there's a language barrier between us and the people there, there was a universal language through playing," Spencer said.

The students were able to observe and interact with the children during activities and while watching them utilize cultural toys.

Senior psychology major Lex Wright found witnessing the change in culture for themselves to be

one of the best parts of the trip.

"It was really interesting to see how things transferred culturally, but also how much kids from America differed with the kids there," Wright said. "Seeing the cultural differences and how respectful kids are to adults there was very eye-opening."

The course previously offered a study-abroad trip to Sweden in 2022 before choosing to change the destination to Japan, as the professors wanted to switch locations to allow for different opportunities in all kinds of cultures.

As a part of the study-abroad course, students were required to complete a handful of assignments based on their observations to reflect on paper the real-life lessons they learned.

"I can put slides on a projector, I can write on a chalkboard and I can even show videos, but there's nothing like the students being there hands-on and actually experiencing it in front of them," Demant said.

Rider continues to offer a wide selection of study-abroad trips. This school year, there will be opportunities to go to a variety of places, including Thailand and Iceland.

Section editor Madison Lewis attended the trip to Japan. Lewis had no part in the writing or editing of this story.



# SEPTEMBER HOROSCOPES

## VIRGO

**(Aug. 23 - Sept. 22)**

This is your month, Virgo! The spotlight is on you as the sun illuminates your sign. Use this energy to focus on personal growth and achieving your goals. You might discover new ways to budget wisely and boost your finances. Prioritize your health, especially as the month comes to a close.



## LIBRA

**(Sept. 23 - Oct. 22)**

September is a time of introspection for you, Libra. You might find yourself reflecting on past experiences and considering new directions in life. Relationships require delicate handling — strive for balance and fairness. As the month ends, you'll feel a renewed sense of clarity and purpose.



## SCORPIO

**(Oct. 23 - Nov. 21)**

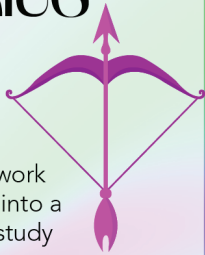
This month, Scorpio, you'll be drawn to community and teamwork. Collaborations at work or in your personal life will yield positive results. It's also a good time to focus on long-term goals and aspirations. Take care of your mental health by practicing mindfulness and meditation.



## SAGITTARIUS

**(Nov. 22 - Dec. 21)**

September brings career advancements, Sagittarius. You may be recognized for your hard work or given a chance to step into a leadership role. Travel or study opportunities might also present themselves so grab them if you can. Keep an eye on your finances and avoid risky investments.



## CAPRICORN

**(Dec. 22 - Jan. 19)**

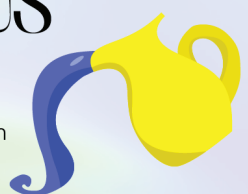
This month encourages you to broaden your horizons, Capricorn. Whether through travel, education or spiritual exploration, be sure to seek out experiences that expand your perspective. Relationships may be tested, but honest communication will help you navigate any challenges.



## AQUARIUS

**(Jan. 20 - Feb. 18)**

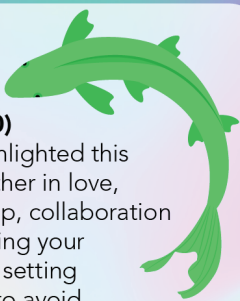
September is a transformative month for you, Aquarius. Deep emotional or financial issues may come to the surface, prompting you to make significant changes. Embrace this period of growth, and don't be afraid to let go of what no longer serves you. Support from close friends will be invaluable.



## PISCES

**(Feb. 19 - March 20)**

Partnerships are highlighted this month, Pisces. Whether in love, business or friendship, collaboration will be key to achieving your goals. Be mindful of setting healthy boundaries to avoid feeling overwhelmed. A creative project could bring unexpected joy and fulfillment as the month concludes.



## ARIES

**(March 21 - April 19)**

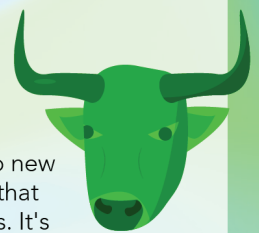
September brings a focus on your relationships, Aries. Whether romantic, familial or professional, you will find that open communication is key. An unexpected opportunity may present itself — welcome it, even if it pushes you beyond your comfort zone. As the month unfolds, be sure to carve out time for self-care.



## TAURUS

**(April 20 - May 20)**

Taurus, expect your routine to be pleasantly disrupted. Changes at work may open doors to new responsibilities or roles that align with your strengths. It's an ideal time to prioritize your physical and mental well-being. Take a moment to step back and reassess your priorities.



## GEMINI

**(May 21 - June 20)**

Creativity and fun are at the forefront of September for you, Gemini. Whether it's through hobbies, artistic pursuits or spending time with loved ones, let your playful side shine. Financial matters may require your attention — be sure to plan and avoid impulsive spending.



## CANCER

**(June 21 - July 22)**

Home and family take center stage this month, Cancer. You may feel a strong urge to nurture your personal space or reconnect with loved ones. A potential move or home renovation could be on the horizon. Be mindful of your emotions and avoid holding onto grudges.



## LEO

**(July 23 - Aug. 22)**

September energizes your social life, Leo. Networking, making new friends or even taking a short trip will bring joy and inspiration. However, keep an eye on your communication — be clear to avoid misunderstandings. Financial growth is within reach, so remain receptive to new opportunities.



Presented by Kaitlyn Seawood



# Budget cuts create change for Rider News

**U**NIVERSITY administrators informed The Rider News on Aug. 1 that our print publication budget was completely cut for the current fiscal year in the midst of institution-wide, ongoing cost reductions.

The Rider News is deeply disappointed by the decision, as the print edition of the paper has been a constant on campus for nearly a century; however, we also understand that Rider's current financial situation and recurring deficits need to be fixed with difficult choices.

The news was untimely, and it forced us to make some drastic changes of our own with the fall semester only a month away. Thus, our operations this year will be a bit different, but we are excited about our new approach, which will better serve a modern audience and maximize our student-workers' time and effort during this shift.

The Rider News will still provide coverage of the university nearly every week of the academic calendar, with approximately half of the issues being print editions and half being completely digital. The Rider News' advertising revenue savings from previous years will cover this year's print editions while we fine-tune our transition to a completely digital publication.

Since we can no longer be as consistent in our delivery method as we would like, our content schedule for the fall and spring semesters is published with this editorial for the convenience of our audience. The schedule includes publication dates and whether the issue will be in print and online or digital only. We continue to welcome campus advertisers to our print, online and social media platforms.

The student staff of The Rider News took great pride in delivering news to the community via a regular print edition for 94 years. It is a shame that our newsstands, where students, faculty and staff alike would normally grab our latest issue, will be empty at times. Over the years, The Rider News has consistently won state, regional and even national journalism awards. The newspaper has served as a critical venue of profound and dedicated engaged learning for journalism, sports media and graphic design majors. It has welcomed writers, photographers and editors from disciplines across the university.

As an additional compromise, the traditional, 12-page paper has been cut down to eight pages to accommodate our financial limitations. While we are grateful to be printing at all this year, losing a third of our pages is saddening. It eats into the creativity of our staff as well as the ways they can present content. It also diminishes the amount of hands-on experience they get with layout and design. This experience is even more critical for student-workers, as the skill and work samples can be an advantage when applying for jobs and internships.

A digital edition will remain available every week of publication as The Rider News continues to modernize itself.

This year, The Rider News promises to strengthen its online presence with a greater emphasis on visual storytelling, podcasting and social media. We have taken steps to make The Rider News' content more visually appealing and engaging online to better suit the way media is consumed today. Additionally, we plan on investing in tools and technologies to improve our work across digital and social media platforms.

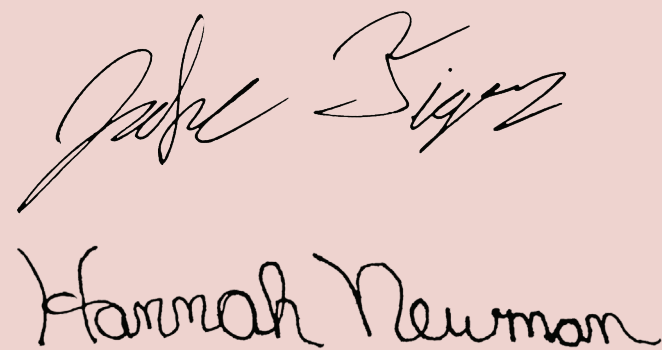
The Rider News has also partnered with 107.7 The Bronc to produce various podcasts and radio shows that will complement our weekly coverage.

As creators, holding a physical copy of our work was something we always looked forward to on Wednesdays. Whether it be a thought-provoking story or a vibrant graphic, the print publication of The Rider News was a vital source of motivation and pride for students who got a jolt of passion from seeing their name and work in the newspaper.

It is hard to imagine that students in the very near future may never have this feeling, but The Rider News remains determined in our reliable and comprehensive coverage of all aspects of the university, no matter the medium.

This change was sudden and upsetting for all of us, but we are prepared to make the most of the situation. Despite fewer print editions this year, we plan to still deliver the rich content the Rider community has counted on since the first issue in 1930.

*Jake Tiger and Hannah Newman  
senior journalism majors*



## THE Rider News

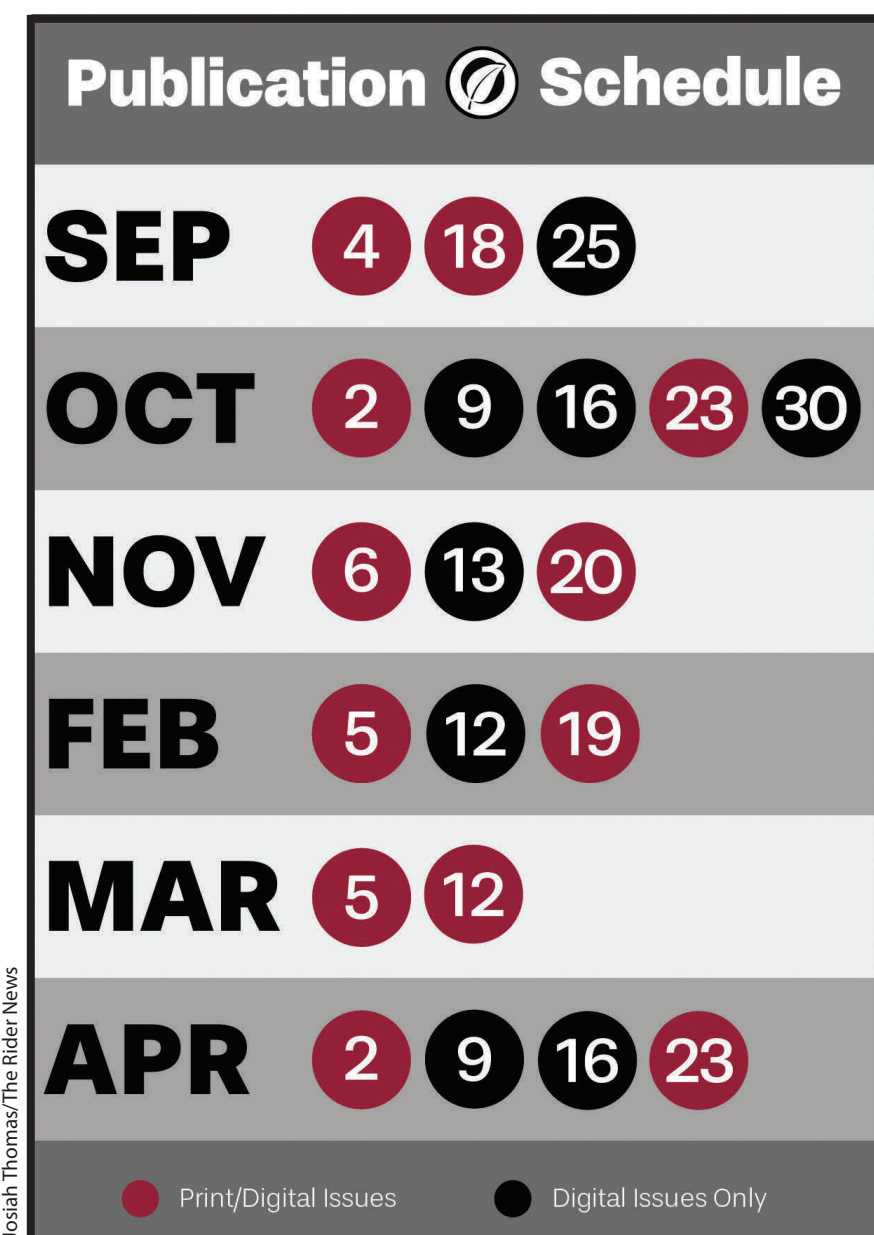
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The Rider News serves as a public forum for student expression and welcomes letters to the editor from all members of the university community. Letters must include the writer's telephone number and email address for verification. Letters that constitute personal attacks on individuals or groups are unacceptable. We reserve the right to edit letters to the editor for length, clarity, accuracy, grammar and libel. Letters must be appropriate in terms of taste and civility. Brevity is encouraged. All decisions are at the sole discretion of the editorial board, which may reject any letter. Send to The Rider News via email at ridernews@rider.edu. Letters must be received by midnight on the Monday preceding publication. Any tips or suggestions can be sent to ridernews@rider.edu.

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Josiah Thomas/The Rider News

The Rider News' print and digital publication schedule.



## VOLLEYBALL

# Rider takes one of three at Temple Invitational

By Benjamin Shinault

**R**IDER volleyball started out its 2024 campaign on Aug. 30 by traveling to Philadelphia to play the Temple Owls, Radford Highlanders and Fairleigh Dickinson Knights in the Temple Invitational. At the end of the weekend, the Broncos took one of the three games, earning themselves a record of 1-2.

## Playing the host

Rider began its season against the host of the tournament, the Temple Owls, and were able to take a singular set in their 3-1 loss. During the first set, Rider was able to stay close with Temple. While the Broncos were able to win the third set, it was all Owls by the end of the matchup.

Sophomore outside hitter Paige Giehtbrock led the Broncos with 10 kills. Junior outside hitters Brynn Johnson and Kiannisha Santiago had eight and seven kills, respectively. Santiago also recorded four blocks in the loss against Temple.

With the Broncos down 11-9 in the first set, Rider was able to string five points in a row, creating some much-needed momentum. Following the 5-0 run, points went back and forth until the end of the first set, which Temple won.

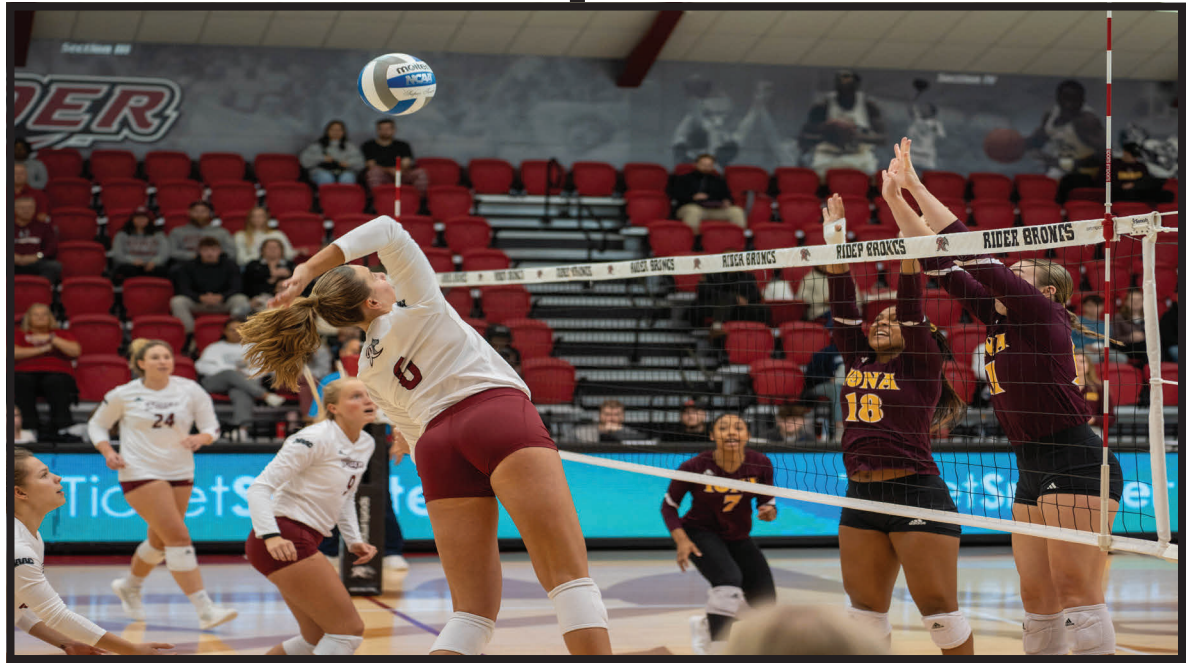
"I think if we win that first set, the momentum shift could have altered some outcomes," Head Coach Jeff Rotondo said to Rider Athletics.

The Broncos were able to take the third set, narrowly securing it 25-22. The Broncos had 14 total kills. Out of the last 11 serves of the game, Rider took home nine points and secured at least one set.

## Blanked Broncos

Rider woke up early on day two of the Temple Invitational for their 9:30 a.m. match on Aug. 31. The game against Radford had an outcome that indicated that the Broncos' morning coffee might not have been strong enough, as they were locked out 3-0.

Out of the three sets, Rider was only able to score 48 points, while Radford scored the full 75, making this the Broncos' worst point differential in the opening



Kaitlyn D'Alessio/The Rider News

Sophomore middle hitter **Molly Rohde** attacks the net.

tournament.

"[The] first match today was just not representative of who we are as a team or program. Energy, intent and execution were just nonexistent," Rotondo said.

The Broncos had a few moments both in the first and third sets in which they gained some momentum. In the first, with the Broncos down 13-7, they were able to storm back and come within two. After that, however, the Highlanders adjusted and coasted to a first-set victory.

Later on in the third, with Rider trailing 12-9, the team scored five straight points together, taking the lead. But Radford returned the favor and scored seven straight.

"Really can't put our finger on why, but we had a healthy discussion about our standards and how we can't accept that moving forward," Rotondo said.

## Standards adjusted

The Broncos took Rotondo's words to heart for the next match. At 4:30 p.m., the team took down FDU,

leading to Rider's first win of the new season 3-2.

Similar to their electric performances in the matchup against the Owls, both Santiago and Giehtbrock shined once again, with Santiago having 16 kills and Giehtbrock having 23.

It was not the easiest win for the Broncos, as the match went to five sets, each flip-flopping between the two teams. But in the last set with the score at 18-18, Rider was able to close it out with two straight points.

"We had a nice reset for the second match today, and we showed much better levels of energy and focus," Rotondo said.

With one win under its belt, Rider looks ahead to its next opponents at the Northern Colorado Tournament. Rider kicks it off against the Northern Colorado Bears on Sept. 6 at 1 p.m. The match will be broadcast on ESPN+.

## FIELD HOCKEY

# Broncs outscore foes 12-1 in 2-0 start

By Kadie DiGiuseppe

**R**IDER field hockey cruised past its opponents in the Broncos' first two games of the season, dominating Colgate 5-1 on Aug. 30 and Mercyhurst 7-0, where junior defender and captain Megan Normile finished with a hat trick on Sept. 1.

## New Broncos shine on the road

In their first game of the season, the Broncos and the Colgate Raiders started off competitive, but the Rider offense switched gears by the end of the first quarter.

The first goal of the game was scored by new graduate student forward Katie Wuerstle, and the following goal was scored by two freshmen forwards: Olivia Machiavelli and Amanda Walker.

This year's freshman class is quite diverse, as Walker is a Stockton, New Jersey, native and Machiavelli is from Madrid.

Thiele spoke highly of how the team's upperclassmen were incredibly supportive during her transition from playing in Germany to Division I field hockey at Rider.

"They're cheering me on so much and they make me feel like I'm not afraid because I know that they got me. Yeah, I feel really comfortable," freshman forward Thiele said.

"The transition from high school to college is obviously a tough one, but I think in the Rider community, it's very easy to find your people and everyone encourages you so it was a good transition," said freshman forward Anna Finn.

Rider's fourth goal of the game was scored in the last quarter by Normile, followed by the Raiders scoring their first and only goal of the game.

However, one goal was not enough for Machiavelli's Division I debut. With 30 seconds left to go, she scored the final goal of the game and brought the final score to 5-1.

Freshman goalkeeper Jade Regnart from Cape Town, South Africa, started in her first Division I game and made two saves for the Broncos.

## Returning to Rider

After many months, practices and exhibitions, the Broncos finally returned to Ben Cohen Field for their first home game against Mercyhurst.

Rider came ready to fight, starting off strong with a goal in the first five minutes by Normile. Shortly after, senior forward and captain Lyric Scott scored the second goal of the game, giving the Broncos a 2-0 lead.

Thiele and Finn each scored their first goal as a Bronc in the second half of the game, following sophomore midfielder Ang Borisow in the first half.

In the third quarter, the Raiders came out more competitive but could not match up with the Broncos' defense led by Normile.

Not only did Normile lock down on defense, she contributed two more goals, including a one-off penalty stroke in the fourth quarter, giving her Rider career high three goals in a game and solidifying the shutout home opener.

"Defensively, we trusted each other and we played our game. We didn't try to do stuff that isn't us on the corners we executed. Corners are really

important just getting the ball in the goal," said Normile.

"We had a really early conference game so getting that win early is really good. We just got to keep going and we're not satisfied with just these two wins," Normile said.

Like Normile, Head Coach Alicia Govannicci had a good feeling about this season.

"The leaders are stepping up and the new players are coming along very quickly. They are growing and we're growing together every game. We're even learning from our wins which I think is really important," said Govannicci.

Rider looks to continue its success after going 2-0 to start the season by sweeping its home stand, beginning Sept. 6 against Bellarmine and Sept. 8 against Lehigh.



Kaitlyn D'Alessio/The Rider News

The Broncos huddle up near the top of the circle.



# Sports

ONLINE

## LEAP INTO FALL SPORTS

Volleyball, field hockey, and men's and women's soccer were all in action for the Broncos this weekend. Read up on all of them!

FIND THE STORIES ON [THERIDERNEWS.COM](https://www.ridernews.com)



### WOMEN'S SOCCER

# Rider falls to 1-3-1 in sluggish open

By Kadie DiGiuseppe

**R**IDER women's soccer fell short to Saint Joseph's 0-2 and at New Jersey Institute of Technology 0-3, bringing their season record to 1-3-1. The Broncos were outshot 35-15 across both games.

## Tough competition

Coming off their first home loss of the season, the Broncos were met with their second home opponent: the undefeated Saint Joseph's Hawks.

While both teams began the match with ferocity and determination, the Hawks scored first in the 34th minute, putting the Broncos behind 1-0.

After halftime, the Hawks defense came out looking for a fight, getting a penalty kick that led to another goal to put Rider behind by two.

Though Rider was shutout, it had 11 shots, including six shots on goal, four saves and four corner kicks.

"Overall, I think we can only go uphill from here," said senior midfielder Hannah Mendez.

Graduate student goalkeeper Ellie Sciancalepore had four saves in her fourth start of the season.

Sciancalepore and her upperclassmen teammates welcomed in nine new freshman, including Tess Ferrie from Branford, Connecticut, Leah Marcell from Webster, New York, and Valgerður Sigurjónsdóttir from Reykjavik, Iceland, who all had shots on goal for the Broncos.

Other incoming freshman include Kaia Lyn,



Destiny Pagan/The Rider News

Freshman midfielder **Ava DeGeorge** passes the ball.

Megan Cairns, Isabell Kronow, Joanna Abdelmalak, Ava DeGeorge and Annie Small.

"I think we were better today than we were against Seton Hall. Our defensive shape was good. I think we limited them to chances," said Head Coach Drayson Hounscome to Rider Athletics.

## Bounce back

After the Broncos extended their losing streak to two games, Rider traveled to Newark, New Jersey, where it played its third road game of the season against NJIT.

NJIT controlled the game, having two corner kicks and three shots within the first 10 minutes. The Broncos let the Highlanders score their first goal of the game in the 13th minute.

Rider gave up another goal in the 24th minute with only one shot against NJIT.

The last goal against the Broncos did not come until the last 10 minutes of the game after a penalty corner in the 80th minute.

The Broncos may not have scored a goal in the game, but they were able to get opportunities down the field, including three corner kicks.

Sciancalepore gained six more saves during the game including her remarkable diving save she made before halftime.

However, her defense allowed the Highlanders to take 23 shots, including nine shots on goal, which ultimately led to the 3-0 loss, Rider's first to NJIT in five years.

"We're going to face adversity but I don't think that these games really reflected who we are," Mendez said, "It all comes down to passion and grit."

When asked about how she was feeling about the teams first Metro Athletic Conference opponents, Mendez said, "We're going to come out hungry for a win."

After three consecutive losses, the Broncos will travel to Fairfield University at 1:30 p.m. on September 7. The game will stream on ESPN+.

### MEN'S SOCCER

# Broncs handle Saint Joseph's in 2-2 start

By Rich Saile

**F**RESH off winning the Metro Athletic Conference and then losing a first-round matchup in the NCAA tournament, Rider men's soccer began its season with a stretch of nonconference opponents, ultimately going 2-2 through its first four games.

## Narrow loss at Lehigh

On Aug. 26, the Broncos traveled to Bethlehem, Pennsylvania, to take on the Lehigh Mountain Hawks. In the early minutes of the first period, both the Broncos and Mountain Hawks each missed a pair of corner kicks. In the 43rd minute, the Mountain Hawks finally got on the board with their first goal of the game: a free kick that snuck low past the wall of Broncos, giving them a 1-0 lead going into halftime.

Coming out of halftime, the Broncos took an aggressive approach offensively to get the tying goal, but they missed multiple shots, including one in the 57th minute. As junior midfielder William Baker collected the ball inside the box, he attempted a point-blank shot.

However, the Lehigh goalkeeper charged at Baker and prevented the tying goal. The Mountain Hawks held on to win the match 1-0 and drop the Broncos' record to 0-2-0. The Broncos were outshot 11-10 including on shots on goal 4-2.

## Squeaking by Stony Brook

On Aug. 29, the Broncos concluded a three-game road trip where they traveled to New York to take on the Stony Brook Seawolves. Early in the first period, the Broncos missed shots, but so did the Seawolves, thanks to Rider's defense. Salama prevented two shots on goal from the Seawolves, and both teams went into halftime scoreless.

In the second half, the Seawolves missed a pair of corner kicks and came out aggressively on offense to try and score the first goal of the game. Salama had three saves in a span of five minutes, with two in the 62nd minute, to help the Broncos' stifling defense from

allowing a goal from the Seawolves.

After a missed shot from freshman midfielder Jakub Strapek, the Broncos finally scored the first goal of the game, by Bryan Akongo in the 82nd minute. Akongo intercepted a Seawolves pass that he took to the 18-yard box and shot inside the right post, past the Seawolves goalie, giving the Broncos a 1-0 lead.

The Broncos defense held off two Seawolves shots in the final five minutes as the Broncos captured their first win of the season, shifting their stats to 1-2-0.

"So proud of this group tonight. Stony Brook is a strong side and well-coached. We knew it would be a tough test for us. Tonight I saw the fight, the grit, the work rate that makes up Rider men's soccer. We battled all over the field and tactically grew from last game. We also took a great step forward in our brotherhood tonight. This group just needs to keep growing together. Overall, I'm pleased with everybody's efforts and the bench energy was great," Head Coach Chad Duernberger said to Rider Athletics.

## Home opener win

On Sept. 2, the Broncos finally returned home to play their first home game at Ben Cohen Field, taking on the Saint Joseph's Hawks.

The Broncos offense started off strong, scoring their first goal of the game less than four minutes into the game. Akongo scored his second goal of the season with an assist from Strapek and graduate student back Cole Sotack.

Just a little over five minutes later, the Hawks tied the score at 1-1 with a penalty kick. The Broncos broke the tie in the 29th minute as junior midfielder Momo Diop scored his first goal of the season, assisted by Akongo and sophomore midfielder Ezra Punselie, giving the Broncos a 2-1 lead entering halftime.

"We wanted to show our team early on, being our first game at Ben Cohen, and try to push the game and the tempo and get on the scoresheet early. That's been something we've really focused on the last couple of games. It didn't happen at Stony Brook. We got the game winner in the 82nd minute. But it happened

today, so I was really happy to see us get one early," Duernberger said.

The Broncos stormed out after halftime with their offense in attack mode, keeping the ball in Hawk territory. The Broncos had two corner kicks in 33 seconds and scored their third goal of the game early in the second half.

Junior midfielder Theo Da Silva scored inside the left post, putting the Broncos at a 3-1 lead. It was Da Silva's first goal.

Rider held on to win its second straight game and made its record 2-2-0. Rider outshot the Hawks 15-7 and narrowly edged out the Hawks on shots on goal at 4-3.

The Broncos travel to Washington, D.C., on Sept. 7 to take on the George Washington Colonials. The game is at 1 p.m. and will be broadcast on ESPN+.



Kaitlyn D'Alessio/The Rider News

Graduate student midfielder **Adel Al Masude** scans the field.