

Photos by Josiah Thomas and Graphic by Jay Roberson/The Rider News

Speaker unpacks sports’ slow adoption of social change

By Caroline Haviland

KEVIN Blackistone stood before a crowd on Oct. 17, as students sat ready to hear his remarks on the prevalence of sports in culture and how, contrary to popular belief, it is not the engine for social change that many believe it to be.

“We have, for a very long time, forded sports this idea that it is in the vanguard of social change. That is not necessarily true,” said Blackistone.

A projector screen hung above him, reading, “The Myth of Sports and the Myth-Making of Sports Journalism.”

Blackistone has spent his career studying this topic, and observing in his childhood. He grew up a fan of Washington’s NFL team, which only recently changed its culturally insensitive name.

Owen McCarron, a junior radio and podcasting major, introduced Blackistone at the event.

“As sports continue to grow, and so does the course of the world, it is crucial to maintain a level head and stay educated on matters that are greater than who bought off the refs and why the Jets can never win a Super Bowl,” said McCarron.

Blackistone, an award-winning sports columnist at the Washington Post, an ESPN panelist and a professor at the Philip Merrill College of Journalism at the University of Maryland, came to Rider to “demythify” the narrative told in sports journalism.

The story starts with a familiar name in the sports world: Jackie Robinson.

‘America’s pastime’

Baseball has commemorated Robinson as a pivotal point of desegregation in the U.S. His jersey number, 42, was retired by the MLB in 1997, and April 15 was declared Jackie Robinson Day. What sports media has left out of this foundational story, according to Blackistone, is what happened to “the Jackie Robinsons before.”

Prior to Robinson stepping up to the plate, Moses Fleetwood Walker joined the Toledo Blue Stockings in 1883 as the first African-American player in Major League Baseball. Blackistone said Walker’s participation faced resistance from an influential figure in 19th century baseball, Cap Anson, whose protest “drew the color line,” which many adhered to for decades afterward.

“We the media have told you that Robinson was the first Black man to play Major League Baseball and we the media rarely, if ever, tell you the story about Fleetwood Walker and Cap Anson,” said Blackistone. “America’s pastime is watching the game in which the only people allowed are white men. One of the most marvelous flips of a script in history.”

Robinson’s integration in 1947 was part of a lineage of events from the Civil Rights Movements of the 1940s. His story adds to the notion that sports has been a slacker rather than a leader in racial justice.

‘White-washed’ journalism

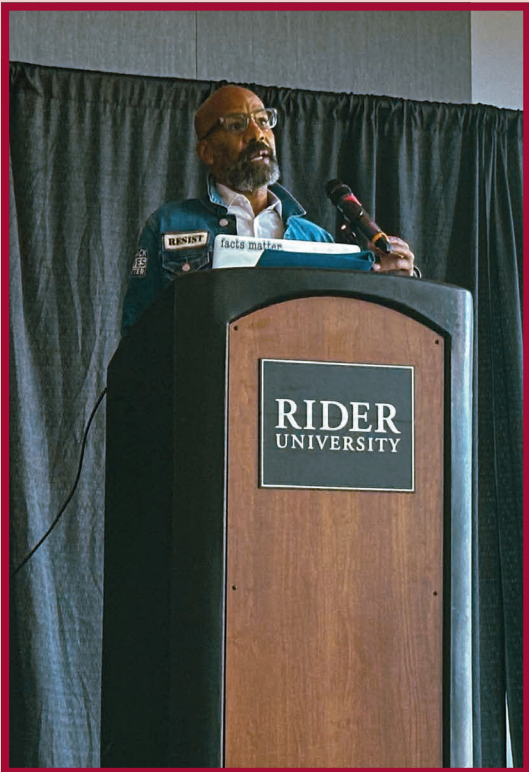
Sports journalism in the U.S. began in 1819 with the American Farmer Magazine, the first periodical dedicated to sports. The publication sparked numerous others over the following 15 years, all of which were owned and operated by white men.

“Thus laid the racial roots for sports journalism in the U.S.,” said Blackistone, “which was and continues to be mostly white men interpreting the performances of Black athletes.”

Blackistone provided an example of sports journalists supporting racist stereotypes based on a study conducted in the second half of the 20th century. Black athletes have been perceived in the media by their natural athletic ability, such as Michael Jordan being applauded for his “athleticism,” while white athletes are described by their intelligence, like Larry Bird for his “brilliant plays.”

The racial injustice in sports is identifiable apart from the discrimination of players. The appropriation of native culture and imagery for team names, mascots and logos has been “white washed” more in sports than in any other corner of society, said Blackistone, such as the Kansas City Chiefs in the NFL and the Chicago Blackhawks in the NHL.

“You can’t talk about systematic racism in this country without understanding what happened to the native people here after [Columbus] touched these shores,” said Blackistone. “Sports washing did not begin with golf. It’s been around for a long time.”




Grace Bertrand/The Rider News

Award-winning journalist **Kevin Blackistone** speaks about racism within sports and the media.

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Check out previews for Rider men’s and women’s basketball.



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TRANSFER STUDENT WEEK


How can Rider better welcome its transfer students?



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RIDER STUDENTS OUT & PROUD

On National Coming Out Day, Rider created a safe space its for students.



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New Res Life director brings modern mindset to campus

By Hannah Newman

In late August, Rider welcomed a new Residence Life director, Sean Killion, whose passion for a vibrant on-campus living community and impactful roommate experience are evident in his use of modern, roommate-selection technology.

“Roommate conflicts are one of the greatest challenges that we deal with in our field, especially in the first two to four weeks of the semester, and just figuring out how to maximize success in that experience is pretty important,” said Killion.

Killion said roommate-matching tools were starting to become a prominent factor in the roommate selection process, which is why he chose to research the impact they had on the student’s experience.

“At the time [of writing my dissertation], the use of technology was really kind of new in how we were using technology for things like housing selection, roommate matching and how social media impacted that,” said Killion. “It was a really cool experience because we were one of the first schools to use Facebook and Roomsyc.”

According to Killion’s research, these roommate selection tools did not change the trajectory of women’s experiences; however, it had a significant impact for men, as many performed better academically and forged stronger relationships with their roommates.

Director of Student Involvement and First Year Programs Kadi Diallo said, “I am excited to build on our success and collaborate with Sean and his team to continue providing our students with the best possible experience.”

A native of Philadelphia, Killion spent the last 17

years working at Temple University, his final position being the senior director of housing administration.

After graduating with a degree in business administration, Killion worked in marketing and advertising before deciding to go back to school, which led to his future in higher education, affording him the opportunity to receive his Master’s Degree, and later, a doctorate.

Killion received his MBA at La Salle University, where he worked on the business side of housing administration and occupancy for four years. Afterward, he attended Temple University for his doctorate and wrote his dissertation on the impact of roommate matching on first-year student success.

Despite the benefits of roommate matching technology, Killion stressed that students dictate their experience based on the way they go into the lifestyle shift of sharing a room.

“A lot of times it’s about how students approach situations,” said Killion. “If students rely too much on the university or the process to give them what they need, that’s not the best solution. If they go into it with an open, positive attitude, those are the people that are going to have the most success.”

A program that Killion instituted at Temple was a room-decorating contest that provided an opportunity for students to showcase their home away from home. The contest was a marketing opportunity for residence halls and illustrated the reality of living on campus. Killion hopes to bring something similar to Rider.

“It’s really hard to visualize that experience of [living in a dorm] in a clean way,” said Killion. “People spend a lot of money decorating their rooms, and I think capturing that is really exciting.”



Photo courtesy of Sean Killion

Sean Killion was named the new Residence Life director after 17 years at Temple.

Although Killion has analyzed various resources for students to have the best roommate experience, he concluded that the adventures that students encounter inside and outside of their dorms contribute immensely to their futures.

“These experiences [conflicts with roommates] are good life lessons, because, when you graduate and start working professionally, you’re going to have conflicts in the workplace and you’re going to have to figure out how to deal with those things,” said Killion. “These moments are good ways to train and educate yourself on these types of situations.”

Rider named top school for veterans, military spouses

By Hannah Newman

RIDER was named a top school for veterans and military spouses by a national ranking organization based on its efforts to continue educating veterans and their family members, a university article published in April said.

The organization, VIQTORY, states in the article that the university earned gold status in a survey that consisted of 1,800 schools.

According to Assistant Dean of Students Keith Kemo, who oversees Rider’s Dr. Eugene Marsh Center for Veterans and Military Affairs, the ranking has to do with the resources the university has for active duty service members, veterans and their families.

“We have a group of people here who spend extra time making sure that veterans and their families can navigate college, whether it be the financial aspect, getting registered for courses or getting them in touch with an adviser,” said Kemo.

Rider has 65 active military students from different sectors of the Veteran Readiness and Employment program, including Chapter 35 for dependents and Chapter 33, which grants benefits that fully cover their expenses at Rider, according to Sue Stefanick,

registrar and school certifying official.

Not only does Rider have strong organizational support for these students, but the university provides classes that fit all military and veteran job schedules at a variety of ages, according to Terrence Bolton, a graduate student and intern for the Veterans and Military Affairs Office.

“As a continuing education veteran, [I see that] a lot of the programs are geared toward online [courses], because they know that the majority of us come in at an older age, and it’s much easier for us to take the online courses to allow us to work and be a student at the same time,” said Bolton. “However, I am different. I am able to come to classes in person and be here physically, which shows other veterans how to get acclimated back [in]to the civilian sector.”

The university’s Veterans and Military Affairs Office is located on the second floor of the Bart Luedeke Center.

“A lot of it had to do with the location because of all the assistance that’s available right here [in the BLC],” said Stefanick. “The Bursar’s Office, Financial Aid, myself and the registrar are all in this one-stop area.”

Eugene Marsh was a Rider alum and veteran who

died in 2021. Marsh’s family donated money after his passing, which enabled the university to build a bigger and more convenient space for the university’s veterans and their families.

There will be a flag planting ceremony Nov. 9 and Nov. 10 in honor of Veteran’s Day on the Campus Green.



Photo courtesy of Rider University

In a survey of 1,800 schools, Rider’s resources for veterans and their spouses earned the university’s distinction as a military-friendly school.

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Oct. 7 survivor shares story one year later

By Jake Tiger

LIRON Hacoheh said life in Kfar Aza, the Israeli village she lived in, was “95% heaven and 5% hell.” She described a social, beautiful community situated two kilometers away from Gaza as images of lush, emerald farms flashed on a screen behind her.

Once a year or so, rocket sirens would cut through the tranquility, signaling another attack from the neighboring Gaza strip. Everyone would take shelter while Israel’s Iron Dome intercepted the attack, and life would resume soon after.

On Oct. 7, 2023, though, Kfar Aza as Hacoheh knew it changed forever: “It wasn’t heaven anymore. It was 100% hell.”

Hacoheh, a survivor of the attack last year, shared her story at Rider on Oct. 9, recounting a day that killed 1,200 Israeli people, according to the U.S. State Department.

Rider’s branch of Hillel, an international Jewish campus organization, held the event as part of its “Faces of Oct. 7” series, where survivors visit the university to share their perspective on a day U.S. President Joe Biden called “the deadliest day for Jewish people since the Holocaust.”

The event was held in the Mercer Room in Daly Dining Hall, and the crowd of around 50 attendees was a mix of people from various groups, namely members of the Rider community, including President Gregory Dell’Omo, as well as representation from Adath Israel Congregation, a synagogue on the other side of Lawrenceville Road.

Public Safety officers were stationed outside the building and at the entrance inside the dining hall.

Rider Hillel President Ethan Handelman, a senior education major said, “No matter what you believe in, it’s important to educate. ... Whether you agree with me or disagree with me, education is the best tool there is to spread awareness on campus. ...

There’s a right way to communicate with people, and it doesn’t always have to be political.”

The attacks were carried out by Hamas, a Palestinian organization that the State Department declared a terrorist group in 1997.

The day sparked a still-raging war between Israel and Hamas that, during the past year, has killed 42,603 Palestinians, according to Gaza’s Health Ministry, and about 1,200 additional Israelis, according to the Israeli Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Hacoheh woke up at 6:30 a.m. Oct. 7, 2023, to the sound of sirens and explosions and quickly noticed that the bombings were louder and heavier than the usual, yearly attacks. She grabbed a kitchen knife, water, and she and her family headed for the shelter in their home.

“It was very chaotic,” Hacoheh said. “It was like [Grand Theft Auto]. It was like [the] end of the world.”

They spent hours texting other family members in Israel who sheltered. Hacoheh received a pair of texts reading, “They are in our house. ... Run away. We love you.” Over the course of the day, family members stopped responding.

Hacoheh and her family spent 22 hours in hiding before the Israeli Defense Forces rescued them at 2 a.m. the next day. They were told to run and only look straight ahead, as death and destruction lied to either side of them.

Two weeks prior to the attack, Hacoheh said she celebrated her 30th birthday, receiving a Star of David necklace from her father as a gift. At the time, she did not feel a strong connection to her Jewish identity and almost gave it back to her father. Over a year later, she was wearing it when she spoke at Rider and recalled clutching it tightly as she prayed for safety on the day of the attack.

After Hacoheh’s recounting of Oct. 7, 2023, a Q&A portion began, and while Handelman



Jake Tiger/The Rider News

Rider Hillel President **Ethan Handelman** (left) with **Liron Hacoheh** (right).

stated he did not want the event to become political, different perspectives slowly emerged until attendees were giving their varying opinions on the war.

One audience member, who was Jewish, was righteous in his defense of Israel, saying, “the world has a lot to gain from a Jewish victory” and Palestinians “forget who they are every 300 years.”

Another audience member, who was also Jewish, retorted by saying people must pray for coexistence, and Israel should not “bludgeon every last enemy.”

Hacoheh has also shared her story at other schools in the northeast this month, including Stony Brook University, Drew University, Hofstra University and Binghamton University.

On Oct. 16, the leader of Hamas, Yahya Sinwar, who orchestrated the Oct. 7, 2023, attacks, was killed by an Israeli airstrike, according to the IDF. It remains unclear whether Sinwar’s death will lead to a ceasefire or escalation.

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107.7 The Bronc brings Scream Screen to ‘Us’

By Sofia Santiago

SPOOKY season swung into full effect with Rider’s annual Scream Screen drive-in theater hosted by the student-run radio station, 107.7 The Bronc.

On Oct. 18, over 40 decorated cars parked in the SRC parking lot with candy and games, ready for the Trunk-or-Treat portion of the night.

Entering the event, guests were greeted with Monster Mini Golf, inflatable ax throwing and a haunted maze. New and returning food trucks lined the back perimeter and offered spooky green mac n’ cheese, cheesesteaks, 1911 Smokehouse Barbeque and Lady and the Shallot, which served vegan options.

The trunk-or-treat area offered more than just candy, with pumpkin decorating, spin art and game prizes available to take home. Students, community members and their children walked around in costumes, enjoying the activities and atmosphere as Michael Jackson’s “Thriller” and other Halloween classics played.

Later in the night, cars loaded the parking lot to await the presentation that the giant screen had to offer.

“Our events make [students] feel like a kid again,” said John Mozes, general manager of 107.7 The Bronc.

Mozes explained the organization process and plans for the drive-in movie. 107.7 The Bronc works with a company called Funflicks that rents out and sets up the giant inflatable screen and projector.

There were speakers set up in front of the screen to provide the movie’s sound for outside spectators, while cars further away tuned in to 88.9, a free signal in the

New Jersey area, on their stereos. It was not through 107.7 The Bronc, as other programming was broadcast at the time.

It was the ninth year Scream Screen has taken place on campus. The movie is always a secret until the very last moment, a tradition that creates suspense and intrigue for the event. This year, 107.7 The Bronc showed the movie “Us.”

Mozes shared plans for the 10th anniversary, including additions to make it an extra special celebration.

Since 107.7 The Bronc is student-run, students are involved in every aspect of the event, from organization to graphic design and social media. This provides valuable work experience in marketing and branding.

Junior Emily O’Connor, double majoring in film and television and arts and entertainment industries management, is the social media director for 107.7 The Bronc.

O’Connor shared how marketing included creating brand awareness through weekly email blasts sent to students and the larger Rider community, flyers around dorms and campus and a special 10-day countdown on Instagram, showcasing the different movies that could be chosen.

Photo courtesy of Saryia Branham



107.7 The Bronc hosted its ninth annual Scream Screen, featuring the movie “Us.”

Kye Taran, a freshman biology major, said her favorite part was the trunk-or-treat, recalling how she used to do it in elementary school and still finds it a lot of fun.

“It’s a lot of fun to get out and get in the Halloween spirit and trick or treat since we are kind of too old to do it,” said Taran.

Mozes shared this sentiment when mentioning what he hopes people take away from Scream Screen. He says that students are at an age where they are “not kids anymore.”

“It’s a great way for people to come together... and give a sense of normalcy back, and I think that’s really, really important,” Mozes said.

The Rider News and 107.7 The Bronc are developing a new promotional collaboration this year. However, The Bronc had no part in the writing or editing of this story.

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Rider University

A tribute to Raven Syed

honest

Honest. That's the first word I would use to describe Raven. Not shy, not timid, not closed off. Honest. And that's exactly the first thing I would say when asked about him. He was honest about everything. If I asked him about my t-shirt or even when I spelled field wrong... 7 times... in one paragraph. He would never let me down when needing the full truth. But I didn't want the truth that day, I didn't want to believe it was the truth. I couldn't believe anyone was being honest with me because the only person that I knew to be truly honest was YOU.

You were one of the first people I met when I transferred to school, while we didn't talk much in the beginning I made it my mission to make you laugh every time I saw you. With passing waves and quick remarks I tried my best to sneakily

become your friend. Then you moved in right down the hall. I remember waking up early just so we'd pass and have a quick chat before we were off to class. I hoped to grow on you like you had grown on me. The day you started at the news I was beyond excited because I knew for a fact nothing would get past you. I knew you would be HONEST. Not just with me but with the people around you. You quickly adjusted and I got the chance to see you flourish. You were impactful even when quiet.

But now it's too quiet. And I fear I will never trust anyone to be as truthful, as caring, as thoughtful, as honest as you. I've always noticed you, as you have always noticed me. I will forever remember you and miss you, honestly.

-Destiny



Raven

For Raven
By Jay

More than the 41%

You were supposed to live.
Is what I keep saying
To prove that statistic wrong
Only 18 years old
The man you would've
become
If you felt the strength you
had
You had it, Raven

Communities big and small
Sit and wallow
At the presence brought forth
The kind and caring de-
meanor
When you struggled the most

I hope you found home
In the little time you had
You made me welcome
Even on your hardest days

The silly t shirts
And sly remarks
Your presence will be felt
For an eternity

I'll remember to be me
To honor the most real you
You reminded me it's ok
To show people I'm here
Just like you did, Raven
You'll be with me forever.

for raven

part of me

I only started getting to know Raven within the last few weeks. When he was in the newsroom with us, he was quiet and kept to himself a lot of the time, which was something I understood and related to quite a bit.

But over the last month or so, he began opening up in a really amazing way. He was joking around and talking to us about his day, all while being an absolutely brilliant copy editor.

We were putting the paper together one night earlier this semester, and he told me, when he first started working here, he felt scared and anxious because he didn't know any of us. He wasn't sure how he fit in with us just yet. He said he didn't feel that way anymore.

Part of me was upset at myself for not doing more early on to make him feel welcome, but I was mostly so, so proud of him for working through his worries and finding his place in our little family. It meant so much to me that our newsroom was a place where he could feel safe and wanted.

I can be a pretty closed off and anxious person sometimes. When I'm not doing well mentally or I'm in an uncomfortable situation, I have a tendency to retreat back into my comfort zone and shut people out. Raven didn't do that, and it stuck with me.

Watching Raven slowly unfurl each week was so beautiful and moving to me, and I wish I would have told him that. Thank you for being here, Raven.

-Jake

I sat in your seat today and stared where you stared, felt the table you felt, listened to the hum of the radiator like you listened. You were always smarter than all of us, always knowing things none of us knew.

I remember when you told me you could speak five languages (almost six), and I dropped my mouth open in shock. You laughed at me and said it really "wasn't that hard." That was just the crazy intelligent person you were, Raven.

We talked about how life was cruel and unfair. We used to share stories about loveless times and cope through humor, even though none of it was funny. I will never forget your slow, sarcastic laugh. I wish I could hear it now.

I keep waiting for you to walk in the door and mutter a quiet hello. Or to spit out some witty, matter-of-fact retort. This whole school feels empty without you. I find you in every room.

I would have walked with you, Raven. We would have sipped the sweet air and laughed and cried and spun until we were dizzy. I would have dropped everything for you, if you had only asked.

If it's true that life is made up of tiny moments, I know you changed mine. Every conversation, every laugh, every smile we shared since my first day here has carried me to now. You mattered to all of us, Raven. It will never be the same without you. I will love you forever.

-Maggie

i find you



you are
LOVED!



Raven Syed Sep 23 at 5:42 PM

womp womp



Colleton 7:41 PM

i miss you

pure inspiration

Raven was nothing less of pure inspiration in my eyes.

He was one of the most talented, intelligent and well-rounded students that I have ever met on this campus.

He would catch edits that no other eyes could see and bring new ideas that were unmatched.

Watching Raven grow and getting to learn more about him every week was a gift.

The smiles he brought to the copy desk every week and his contribution to making the newsroom the home that it is can never be replaced but left an impact that will be kept forever in my heart.

He was a shoulder for those around him and I will continue to live every day being a shoulder for one more person than the day prior just for him.

Thank you for allowing The Rider News to be part of your story Raven. You are forever loved.

-Hannah Newman

at rest

I met Raven last year when he sat behind me in environmental science. That was the first time we had entered each other's bubbles.

The first time I remember hearing his voice was when he spoke up in class to say how the snow in New Jersey was nothing compared to the snow in Connecticut.

He then went on to talk about how much he loved it there and I remember hoping that he could find that same feeling here.

I still hope that he was able to find a home away from home here.

After that, Raven and I would talk to each other about assignments and even started having small interactions outside of class.

Eventually he started at The Rider News and I remember asking him in class the day after his first day of training how he liked the newsroom. He said that everyone seemed nice and that he could see himself working there. I'm really grateful he did.

The thing about Raven was that even if you didn't know him, you knew him.

He was a kind soul that found temporary rest here on Earth before leaving to find permanent rest somewhere else.

A lot of emotions that are in the air right now are grief, sadness, anger, guilt and regret. But I think the one Raven would want most is love.

He was always filled with love even if he didn't think he had it in him. His light always radiated through the darkness that held him down.

Raven I'm going to miss hearing your voice and seeing your smile that you rarely ever showed.

My only regret is that I won't ever get the chance to experience more of your light.

-Grace



a friend

At first, I knew Raven mostly as a colleague, and in passing waves of kindness on our way across campus. In my almost two semesters of knowing him, I tried to make small exchanges of pleasantries to later establish a deeper connection.

I knew him when he first became a copyeditor and he was timid, but I enjoyed taking the time to leave my desk chair that was across the room when I had free time to visit him at the copy desk.

Originally, he did not initiate conversation with me, but by the beginning of this semester, we made huge progress and shared many facts, feelings and hilarious stories.

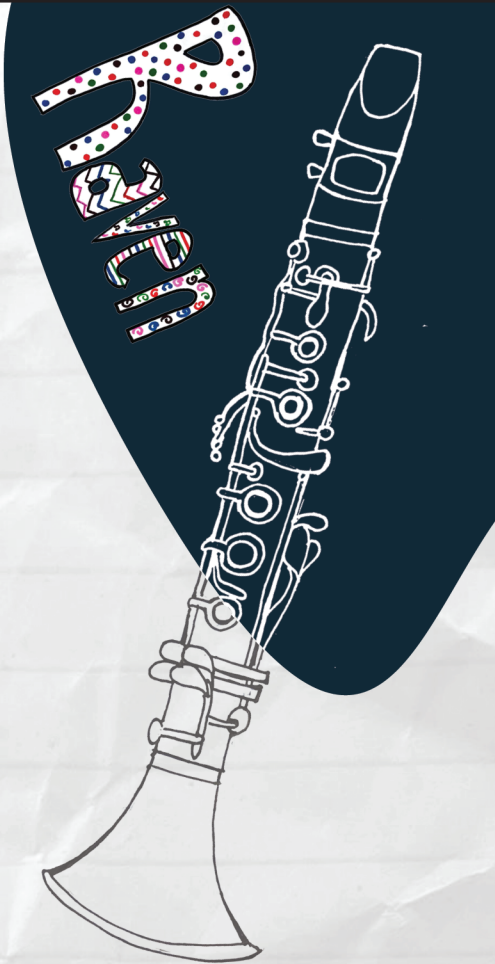
Whenever I felt overwhelmed, I knew Raven and the other copy editors as a beacon of light and a pillar to steady myself when the earth felt like it was crumbling beneath me.

When my feelings felt too big to carry myself, traversing the newsroom and visiting him and the other copyeditors reminded me that you can have fun and have stress at the same time. He taught me that I don't have to be stuck in a cycle of sadness or anxiety.

I knew from when I first met him that he was supportive, but that was before I was made aware of his immense impact on campus through clubs, organizations and genuine friendships.

Not to mention, he made eloquent, concise and considerate comments and edits on my stories. He was so talented and he put everything into each extracurricular he was a part of.

In my chair across the room, I would wear noise canceling headphones to tune out my surroundings and to lock into



not alone

I am at a loss for words. I want to say everything perfectly.

I want to honor Raven and the impact that he had on the community.

It is times like these that words are the most difficult to find, but also, that they can be the most healing and impactful.

Even though I want to say everything perfectly, I have come to realize that perfection is not warranted. It is OK to be messy, to be honest, and to express how you are feeling.

It is OK to be feeling a lot right now. There is no wrong feeling to have at times like this. Just know that you are not alone.

Hold each other tighter and longer. Tell your friends and family that you love them. Let others know what they mean to you and don't let them forget it.

It is OK if you don't have the words right now. You are not alone.

Raven was such a kind soul and it was an honor to get to know him. Seeing Raven around campus, in the dorm halls, or in the newsroom always provided me with a welcoming face and I felt like I could be myself around him. His absence will be felt and it will hurt.

Raven, we love you and you will always be remembered.

-Libby D'Orvilliers

my stories. I did have difficulty focusing when I heard boisterous laughter from the copyediting desk, and I was sure that he was the catalyst.

I wish I had the chance to make him laugh again or to form a closer relationship with him.

I had so much more to talk to him about. While hearing stories about his life, I found out that we both played clarinet. I would have loved to tell him that.

I learned a lot from him. I related to him. I miss him.

-Madison Lewis

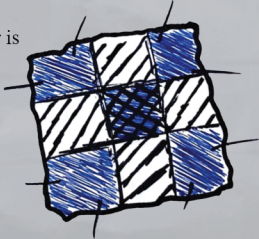


blue plaid
klaudine bessasparis

angel numbers have danced across my vision,
yet i don't recall 999 ever making an appearance.
your chapter was meant to continue,
hand-in-hand with the rest of us.

how'd we miss the signs?
were they torn down in rage
before we even walked by?

now all i can remember is
pounding feet
slamming doors
weeping cries
whispering disbelief
"no"
"it's him, isn't it?"
heartbreaking nods
that turn into
full body shakes.



and as the news trickled out
so too did our tears,
and your chair, now permanently empty,
stared at us,
coaxing sobs out of
the most stoic among us.

the math doesn't add up –
why'd you think that your choice was
the one and only option
if you're great with numbers?
what did your intelligent mind do
to deceive you into making such a decision?

lilyisthatyou was *pulling on my halo*,
passing it to you,
creating unimaginable pain
that leaked from my eyes
just days before.

while your *faith was dying slowly*
'cuz you thought *nobody really knows me*,
my tears mingled with mourning,
knowing that your clock was breaking
before anyone else,
my final message to you, pleading,
hoping to see your wonderful soul
across from mine three days later.

i never realized you thought you were
hard to love.

why'd we think you coming out of your shell was progress,
when it instead was the smooth seawater
days before a thunderstorm
comes blasting through to destroy
everything around it?

now *my world is painted black and blue*,
your bruise striking every door frame,
every coffee table...
every glance exchanged with glasses-covered eyes
catapulting me
back into the newsroom,
your smirk hidden underneath
every quip that escaped your lips
and every tug on your favorite flannel.

purple and black,
such halloween colors.
bats and witches
would cackle at the sight
until i clamp my hand over their mouths,
begging them to understand that
this time
it's coincidence.
this time –
it's comfort
as the world stands still
and nothing feels real.

what made you think we wouldn't
embrace you?
your lent your ears to us,
and we've wanted to do the same.
now we sit in silence,
a snuffle on the other end of the line,
static before clarity,
followed by disbelief.

i didn't think twice when ruel said *fall in love for a year*
and then *i'll disappear* –
misunderstandings mashing my memories,
wish that you were here
even if you thought
growing up is strange
so you
push away thinking we would do the same.

Now your namesake howls from the trees,
crow's calls shrieking in loss.
a flock of your friends,
an undying desire to hug you
buried within their bones,
united,
but
already
too
late.

blue plaid

National Transfer Student Week: Celebrating progress, pushing for more

As a transfer student at Rider, I've experienced firsthand both the excitement and challenges that come with entering a new academic environment. Rider proudly advertises itself as a transfer-friendly school, and, in many ways, it truly is. The seamless credit transfer process and the abundance of resources for students like me make it clear that Rider values its transfer population.

Yet, despite this reputation, there's one area that could benefit from improvement: how orientation and Welcome Week integrate transfer students.

National Transfer Student Week, running from Oct. 21 to Oct. 25, is a time when institutions across the country recognize and celebrate the contributions of transfer students. It's the perfect opportunity to reflect on how to better support transfers not just after they've arrived, but from the moment they step on campus.

Rider has earned its place as one of the most transfer-friendly schools in the nation, recognized by Phi Theta Kappa for the eighth consecutive year.

As an honor society for community college students, PTK plays a major role in guiding students through the transfer process. Rider's close relationship with PTK is a key part of its appeal and the organization deserves a lot of credit for Rider's transfer success.

I wouldn't have known about Rider without PTK. The organization introduced me to Rider's generous transfer scholarships and academic opportunities that aligned with my goals, making my transition not just possible, but exciting.

Coming to Rider from Northampton Community College, I had already experienced college life. I wasn't the typical freshman, wide-eyed and nervous about leaving home for the first time. I didn't need a crash course on what it meant to navigate campus or balance academics with social life. What I did need, however, was support in understanding the nuances of my new institution, meeting peers who were also new transfers and learning about resources tailored specifically to the unique challenges we face.

Welcome Week, for all its well-intentioned excitement, felt largely focused on first-year students. The events, orientation sessions and social gatherings seemed tailored to those just beginning their college journey. For instance, the class photo is taken with people who aren't in your class, but merely started at Rider during the same time. As a transfer student, I often felt out of place.

According to a 2023 survey I conducted with 34 transfer students, 32.4% did not feel included and their transfer needs were not met during orientation, and 17.5% felt the same way about Welcome Week.

Transfers are missing a separate, dedicated space to navigate the transition into Rider.

While Rider has done well to create transfer-specific advising and resources, organizations like the Transfer Student Association have also stepped in to fill some gaps. TSA is a great outlet for transfer students to get involved, meet others who share their experiences and even gain leadership opportunities. However, not every transfer student finds their way to organizations like TSA right away, especially when they may feel overwhelmed or isolated during the first few weeks on campus.

A transfer-inclusive Welcome Week with activities tailored to those who already know how to "do college" would help us adjust to this new campus. Separate sessions during orientation could help transfer students connect, share tips and build a supportive community. Transfers often juggle jobs, commuting or adjusting to new living situations. While we're ready to dive into our courses, we still need help finding our place at Rider and learning how to "do Rider."

As we reflect on National Transfer Student Week, we can use this time to commit to ongoing improvements that fully embrace the diverse needs of transfer students, ensuring that their transition is as smooth and enriching as possible.

Rider, you've earned the transfer-friendly badge — now let's continue building on that foundation for future transfer students.

Kaitlyn Seawood
senior journalism major



Student transfer experience coordinator **Kaitlyn Seawood** (center in gray) poses with fellow transfer student workers.

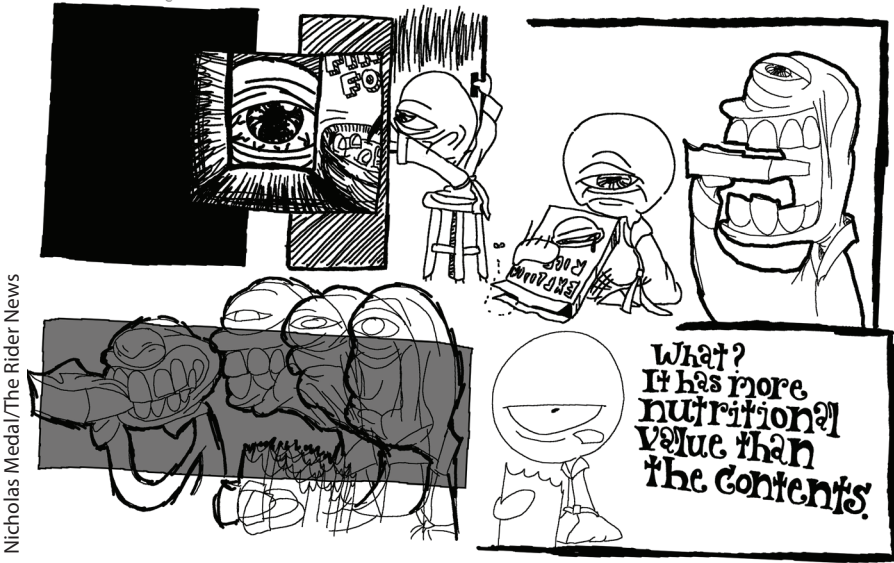


DIGITAL EXCLUSIVE:
BOOK REVIEW: 'Into the Uncut Grass' and into our hearts

By Libby D'Orvilliers



Trevor Noah's new picture book appeals to adults and children alike.



Nicholas Meda/The Rider News

THE Rider News

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RSTC impresses guy who doesn't like musicals

I've never been the biggest fan of musicals. I've actively avoided them, to be perfectly honest.

However, when I heard about the Rider Student Theater Company's latest production, "The Guy Who Didn't Like Musical," something dormant within me sputtered to life. I had to see this musical.

I always found musical theater to be too tropey and predictable, even having seen only a handful of productions in my life. "The Guy Who Didn't Like Musical" does not stray away from these conventions; instead, it ribs them in a way that I quite enjoyed.

The production parodied the musical genre and its cultish following as a sort of zombie apocalypse breaks out, turning most people in the town of Hatchetfield into flesh-devouring thespians.

The titular "guy," Paul, played by freshman public relations major Vincent Piraino, wards off the plague with his unbreaking disdain for musical theater. Piraino's portrayal of Paul was fantastic, and it was one I connected with in the deepest parts of my soul, despite the character being intentionally unremarkable.

Early on, Paul says to a musical-loving coworker, "I'd rather do anything than go see 'Mamma Mia.' The idea of sitting there trapped in a musical ... That is my own personal hell."

Paul is just like me.

Finally, someone voiced what I had been too scared to admit my entire life, fearing that my truths would cause those around me to sing and barrel turn and rip my limbs off. Unlike Paul, I am too young and cowardly to be the martyr this world needs.

I started relating to Paul the moment the curtains were drawn, as the musical begins with an introductory song by a group of infected townsfolk who grovel about how unbelievable it is that Paul hates musicals: "He doesn't like musicals? What should we do with him? Should we kill him?"

My Rider News colleagues were actually asking each other these same questions when I pitched this review to them and revealed my apathy toward musical theater. Never in my life have I seen people turn on me so fast.

When I wasn't commiserating with Paul, the audience and I giggled through witty, often raunchy lyrics and dialogue delivered by a talented and versatile cast. There were times where the humor seemed to rely a bit too much on vulgarity, but those instances hardly detracted from the experience as a whole.

At the climax of the show, Paul makes his way to the source of the outbreak, a local theater where a meteor crashed. Paul tries to push through the horde, but the infected people finally start getting to him.

Paul, who abstained from any singing or dancing up to that point, suddenly repels the horde by unleashing a beautiful, squeaky-clean falsetto that would have sent natural disaster alerts to every wine glass in a 10-mile radius.

The decision to save Piraino's vocal talent for the very end was shocking and incredibly effective.

Paul lobs a grenade at the meteor and seems to save the day, but the show ends with a Paul-led song, revealing that he, too, was taken by the infection. Rest in peace, Paul; your righteous actions will not be forgotten.

Junior acting major Ava Hojnowski directed the performance, and standouts on stage included freshman musical theater major Natalie Beasley, freshman musical theater major Finn Alexander and freshman musical theater major Libby Phillips, who each played multiple roles.

Before anyone asks, no, the show didn't change my mind about the genre, but as a guy who doesn't like musicals, I'm relieved to say I'm glad I made it to this one.

Jake Tiger
senior journalism major



Photo courtesy of Hailey Tedesco

Freshman public relations major **Vincent Piraino** is surrounded by cast members of "The Guy Who Didn't Like Musical" during a tense musical number.

Practicing tolerance as politics take center stage

In the current political climate, it can be challenging to feel safe expressing ourselves and respecting others' beliefs. But, believe it or not, people with all kinds of political views feel the same way. Polarization is one of the biggest problems in U.S. politics now.

Professor Libby Newman, chair of Rider's department of government, politics and law, researches political theory, specifically democratic discourse and polarization.

"Scholars talk about two kinds of polarization: ideological polarization, which is people getting further and further apart in terms of what they believe or what their political positions are... and affective polarization, which is more of an identity-driven emotional distancing as people come to trust each other less and less, not based on opinions, but based on belonging to a group of some sort," said Newman.

According to Newman, there has always been both kinds of polarization in our political environment, but now, it is more driven by identity and emotion rather than differences of opinion.

"Americans trust each other less, and they're more likely to say now that somebody's political party is a good indication of whether or not they're a good person," said Newman. "Once you start judging people like that, it just shuts down any conversations."

If this is starting to describe you, don't panic. Many people feel the same way. According to Pew Research Center, "61% of U.S. adults say having political conversations with people they disagree with is generally 'stressful and frustrating.'... As has been the case since 2021, there is no partisan difference in the shares viewing political conversations with people they disagree with as stressful."

These feelings remain consistent from all different walks of life. "Across most demographic and political groups, majorities say these conversations are more stressful and frustrating than interesting and informative," reports Pew.

All of these statistics reflect the overall polarization occurring in the country, especially during election season.

Many people may also lack the desire to understand and relate to one another. However, that may be to your own detriment. Newman believes that tolerance and respect are essential.

"There's a general need to understand other people and see where they're coming from. I think we tend to have grave misunderstandings about each other," said Newman. "We can't solve collective problems if we're not willing to work together."

Elections and politics are unavoidable. However, tolerance and respect are not. The best strategy Newman recommends for cultivating a safe conversation is to take it offline.

"Online conversations tend to be toxic. You can hide your identity, you're willing to say things in comments online that you would never say to someone's face, there's trolling and people say things they don't necessarily mean," said Newman.

Humanizing political perspectives and doing proper research are also helpful. Newman recommends not getting your news from TikTok or other social media sites, but instead to evaluate news sources with the website Ad Fontes Media. It ranks news sources based on their biases and the political beliefs they favor.

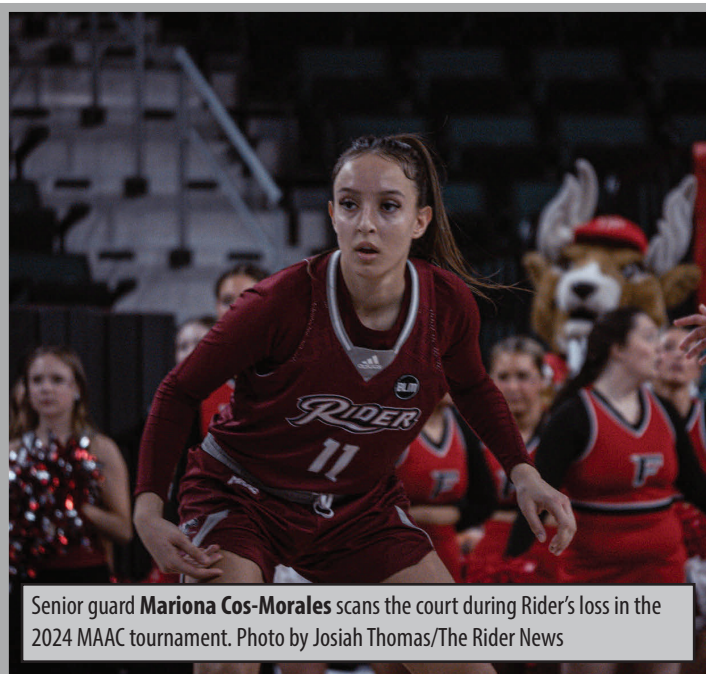
"Everyone wants to be heard and seen and not misrepresented," said Newman. This election season, try to relate to your fellow Americans. We're all human. We all have opinions. Let's be understanding of one another and respect each other.

Bridget Gum-Egan
senior English major



Yanuel Santos/The Rider News

It is important to practice tolerance and understanding of other's political opinions, especially during the election season.



Senior guard **Mariona Cos-Morales** scans the court during Rider's loss in the 2024 MAAC tournament. Photo by Josiah Thomas/The Rider News

By Kadie DiGiuseppe

AFTER going 10-21 for the second year in a row, Rider women's basketball is looking revamped and ready for the 2024-25 season with five new freshmen and two transfers.

The Broncos moved up to the ninth spot in the Metro Athletic Atlantic Conference's preseason poll while they were previously ranked 10th out of 13 teams.

Ahead of her 18th season, Head Coach Lynn Milligan said she "wasn't surprised" when asked how she felt about the Broncos' preseason ranking.

Last season, Rider saw a second-round exit in the MAAC tournament for a second consecutive year. Despite that, Milligan said she believes her team "finished strong last year" considering the Broncos came within six points of the nationally ranked Fairfield Stags in the semifinal round of the tournament.

Motivating factors

When asked about the nail-biting loss they ended their season with, Milligan said, "I wouldn't say [the loss] motivated us, but it certainly makes things real. It makes our sense of urgency a little more heightened. So, I think it helps build that chip on your shoulder and keep [it there]."

Looking forward to the upcoming season, the

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

Youthful Bronc newcomers bring a 'vibe' of toughness

question looming over the Broncos was, "how will they perform without their stars from last season?" The seniors that graduated including star players were forward ToniRenée Blanford, guard Molly Lynch, forward Sofie Bruintjes, guard Makayla Firebaugh, guard Jessika Schiffer and guard Taylor Langan, Milligan looked forward to seeing her young team make an impact.

Before the season, Milligan had been vocal about the "vibe" of this year's team: "This has been a really fun group. They've got... a good, different vibe about them. ... Practices have been really fun," Milligan said. "There is a genuine care [and love] for each other. ... [that] we don't take for granted."

Senior broncs

Milligan expressed excitement for her two transfers, junior forward Emilee Tahata and senior guard Gabby Turco, both from La Salle University, saying that they have "edge."

Milligan also explained that she is looking forward to welcoming two new players who have played at the D1 level before. The Broncos look to improve their 21% shooting from the field and 10% from beyond the arc with help from the transfers. Last season at La Salle, Turco shot over 20% from the three point line.

"They have a genuine love for the game. They brought that with them. People like Gabby [Turco], Tahata have really understood why they came here and why they're here," said Milligan.

Milligan also believes that her seniors will provide good leadership to the team. The Broncos have four seniors this year, compared to last season's four seniors and two graduate students. The seniors include guard Sanaa Redmond, guard Jamia Blake, guard Mariona

Cos-Morales and Turco.

"No one on the roster has been with us for a full four years, so that's different. But that's college basketball these days. However, that is one of the reasons I'm excited we have five freshmen and three sophomores. So, we've got eight of our 14 players as underclassmen, so we are young on paper. But, I think we have a maturity about us," said Milligan.

New additions

Rider welcomed five freshmen this season, including guard Camryn Collins, guard Amany Lopez, guard Emmy Roach, guard Jocelyn Chavez and forward Winner Bartholomew.

"They're incredibly talented and they want to come here and win," Milligan said about the incomers.

Looking forward to the upcoming season, Milligan knows this year will be extraordinary. "We haven't won the way we want to... the past couple of years. There is an expectation there that we put on ourselves, and we are excited about that," she added.

Milligan described that she and her coaching staff will continue to "put all the pieces in the right places," for the team to be successful. Milligan believes that the team has invested a lot in the program, and she really wants it to pay off.

"They have a good way about them off the court that carries onto the court. And our job is just to make sure that that great chemistry that they have off the court... [can be seen in] results on the court," said Milligan.

Rider will begin its season in Alumni Gym on Nov. 4 at 6 p.m. against Navy. The game will be streamed on ESPN+.

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

New Jersey native returns home for senior season

By Kadie DiGiuseppe

AFTER three years of Division I basketball at La Salle University in Philadelphia, 5-foot-10-inch senior guard Gabby Turco will finish out her college basketball career in Lawrenceville, New Jersey, as a Rider Bronc.

The Wildwood, New Jersey, native knew that Head Coach Lynn Milligan was interested in her for years before making the decision to play for the team.

Milligan said she feels confident in Turco, knowing that she has already had experience with Division I basketball: "Gabby [Turco has] fit in really well. Gabby is a player that I watched since [she was in] high school, so I've followed her career."

After she graduated from Wildwood Catholic High School as a 1,000-point scorer, Turco enrolled at a Division II school, Saint Anselm College, where

she played basketball from 2020 to 2023. After having her freshman season canceled due to COVID-19, Turco was a well-known figure in the Northeast 10 Conference after

being awarded NE10 rookie of the year following seven rookie of the week awards.

Turco ranked second in the conference and 10th in the nation in free throw percentages at 82.0% with 73 free throws made. On top of that, Turco made third team all-conference after being ranked fourth in her division in scoring and eighth in assists. She also started in all 28 games her first year as a Hawk, scoring 439 points in that season, which is the second-highest for a first-year student at Saint Anselm in program history.

Long time coming

Milligan explained that she had known Turco for a while, as they are both from South Jersey.

"We thought she was going to come here before La Salle, but that didn't happen, but we got her back, and so we say, 'Last one, best one.' So, we want this to be her best year," said Milligan.

"Coach Milligan welcomed me back with open arms, and I couldn't be more thankful to have her as my coach and, even down to the assistant coaches and the directors, they're all always there for me," said Turco.

When she entered the transfer portal after her second season with Saint Anselm, Turco admitted that she was between La Salle University and Rider but ended up choosing La Salle. During her time as an Explorer, Turco played in 29 games during her junior year and made eight starts with four double-digit games, including her season high, 17 points against the University of Massachusetts.

"I went back in the portal because I wanted to end my career on a good note," Turco said. "I told Coach Milligan, everything happens for a reason. There's a

reason I ended up back on this campus. ... I hope I can make a name for myself so I can go overseas and continue playing. Also, obviously winning a MAAC championship, like everyone else in the program. To me, being on a new team and building that chemistry and having the winning culture is super important, but I also think, off the court, building that bond is the right beginning."

Senior season

As a new senior on the team, Turco admitted that she was afraid about coming to a new program. All those worries quickly faded when she met her teammates: "Off the court, I couldn't even explain how close our team is. It's so crazy that we've only known each other since July, because it really feels like we've known each other my whole college career. They feel like sisters to me."

"I feel like the community at Rider is much more family-oriented, and everybody really wants you to succeed, not just on the court, but also in the classroom and beyond that. They just really care about you," Turco added.

Milligan says that Turco has already taken those steps in preparation for the upcoming season during practices to be the best player she can be this season. Milligan explained that she is a natural-born leader due to her day-to-day work ethic and attitude.

"South Jersey kids are tough, so she has that toughness about her too. So you know, she's been around, but I'm glad that she gets to finish here with us. I want this to be her best year. I want this to be everything that she's been working for," Milligan said.



Senior guard **Gabby Turco** is a transfer from La Salle University. Photo courtesy of Peter G. Borg/Rider University

MEN'S BASKETBALL

Tariq Ingraham: the last Bronc standing

By Benjamin Shinault

OVER the last three seasons for Rider men’s basketball, they have added and subtracted copious amounts of talent through the transfer portal and freshman recruitment. But one thing has remained the same: graduate student forward Tariq Ingraham. From having an injury riddled stay at Wake Forest to taking his talents back home, Ingraham has had quite the journey on his way to Rider.

Early adversity

Ingraham came to Rider before the 2022-23 season as a transfer from Wake Forest University. At Wake Forest, Ingraham faced adversity immediately. During a practice before his freshman season tipped off, the 6-foot-9-inch forward tore his left achilles. The injury sidelined Ingraham for the rest of the season, but he went on to make a speedy recovery from his injury in time to play in the 2020-21 season.

In that season, Ingraham only appeared in two games. Ingraham shined in his collegiate debut against Delaware State, recording 19 points and five rebounds in 18 minutes, and shooting 100% from the field and the free throw stripe.

Despite the great performance against Delaware State, Ingraham only saw seven more minutes wearing a Demon Deacons jersey. Ingraham, in his second season with Wake Forest, dealt with more medical concerns. With this, Ingraham packed his bags and headed for a change of scenery.

“I’m going to go where I am wanted,” Ingraham said.

Back home

Ingraham, who is from Philadelphia, played high school basketball at Monsignor Bonner & Archbishop Prendergast Catholic High School. With the Friars,

Ingraham played with former Bronc Ajiri Ogemuno-Johnson ’23.

In high school, Ingraham made 2019 All-State, led his team to the 2019 Class 4A Pennsylvania State Championship game and part of the 1,000-point club.

Wake Forest recruited Ingraham in his senior year of high school, which is where he committed, but his true home was always Rider.

“I wanted to be close to home, [Head Coach Kevin Baggett] actually recruited me in high school, but I decided to go to Wake, and he recruited me with Ogemuno-Johnson,” Ingraham said.

In his first season with Rider, Ingraham played in 30 games and started 16 of them as a junior. He finished with averages of six points, six rebounds and shot 59% from the field.

From there, Ingraham only got better. Last season, Ingraham averaged nearly 10 points and seven rebounds, and blocked 29 shots.

Ingraham, commonly a rebounder and defender, dabbled in his offensive bag of tricks and scored in double figures 14 times.

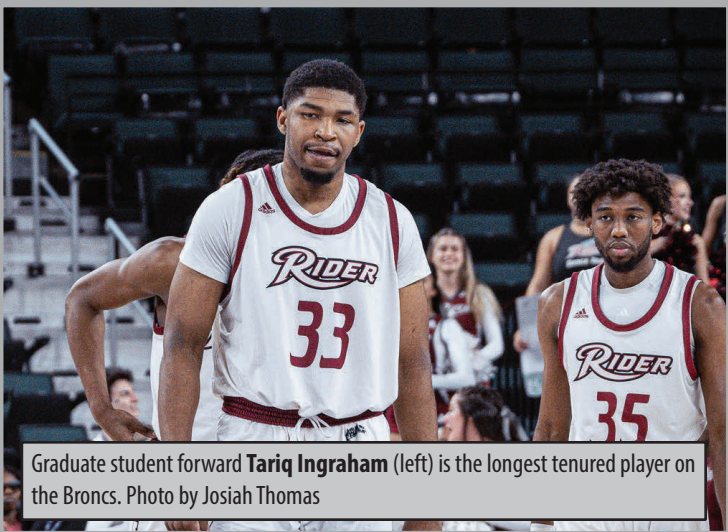
Ingraham was a magnet for the basketball last season, as he reeled in 207 rebounds, which planted him at sixth in the MAAC.

Baggett, who has known of Ingraham’s talents since his high school days, spoke out on what Ingraham means to the Broncs both on and off the court.

“Riq [Ingraham] has been everything we thought he would be. He’s been a great leader on the court, off the court. He’s playing at a high level with great confidence,” Baggett said.

‘He held my head up’

The Broncs have had quite the amount of roster turnover over the three years while Ingraham has worn



Graduate student forward **Tariq Ingraham** (left) is the longest tenured player on the Broncs. Photo by Josiah Thomas

cranberry and white. This season alone, Rider is adding 10 new players, and, last season, Rider welcomed in eight.

Over the three years of being at Rider, one player in particular sticks out to Ingraham. He looks up to and owes a lot to his former high school teammate, Ogemuno-Johnson. Ogemuno-Johnson and Ingraham played together at Rider for one season.

“Ajiri [Ogemuno-Johnson], when he was here, held my head up when I got into some difficulties,” Ingraham said.

Past experiences

Back in the 2022-23 season, when Rider saw an early exit by the hands of the Saint Peter’s Peacocks, and the year after, when Rider once again faced elimination in the quarterfinal round, Ingraham has had his fair share of playoff scars.

Ingraham, the longest-tenured Bronc on the roster, delved into how he feels and what he expects both for himself and his brand new teammates.

“We want to get to the NCAA tournament. That’s my dream, my college dream. Obviously, I want to play professionally after that, but I want to experience playing in the NCAA tournament,” Ingraham said.

Ingraham’s road to the tournament will start on Oct. 26 in the Alumni Gym when the Broncs welcome Holy Cross for an exhibition match.

MEN'S BASKETBALL

New-look Broncs hope to turn the page

By Benjamin Shinault

ANOTHER season passed for Rider men’s basketball when it dispersed from the hardwood at Jim Whelan Boardwalk Hall in Atlantic City, New Jersey, last March. The Broncs experienced yet another Metro Atlantic Athletic Conference tournament loss by the hands of the Saint Peter’s Peacocks, and they saw many of their top players either graduate or hit the transfer portal.

It’s the harsh reality of modern college basketball, but the Broncs are rolling out a fresh squad for the 2024-25 basketball season.

A clean slate

Heading into last season, the Broncs were predicted to be the best team in the MAAC, according to the conference’s preseason poll.

This season, Rider saw its preseason ranking take a significant dip to the seventh spot. Rider only has six players returning this season: graduate student forward Tariq Ingraham, graduate student guard T.J. Weeks, sophomore guard Ruben Rodriguez, sophomore forward Ife West-Ingram, junior forward Tyriek Weeks and junior guard Jack McFadden.

T.J. Weeks and Ingraham are the only returning starters for Rider, meaning that Head Coach Kevin Baggett, now entering his 13th season with the Broncs, will have some adjusting to do.

“This is going to be a team effort. It’s not as much as one individual. It’s going to be all the individuals trying to get the new guys to understand our concepts, our language and what it is to play hard,” Head Coach Kevin Baggett said.

Whether its the new playbook, the new chemistry on the floor, the Broncs coaching staff will have their work cut out for them to get the new additions settled in.

Freshman frenzy

Entering last season, the Broncs added eight new players to the team: five freshmen and three transfers. This season, Rider added three freshmen and seven transfers.

The freshmen the Broncs added include guard Flash Burton, guard Maurizio D’Alessandro and forward Cole McCabe.

Burton, a 6-foot-3-inch guard from Philadelphia, is a certified scorer, as he was only the fourth player in his school’s history to record 1,000 points. Burton also scored 40 points in a single game, good enough for a school record at O’Hara High School in Springfield, Pennsylvania.

D’Alessandro, as a sophomore in high school, D’Alessandro was named to the first team Virginia All-Prep League team.

McCabe, a commanding and athletic force downlow, from Miami Beach, Florida, stands in at 6 feet, 8 inches and is known for his scoring ability and strong follow throughs at the rim.

New Broncs on the block

The Rider recruitment staff did not waste any time bringing in the newest batch of Broncs to Lawrenceville. Seven new transfer students will hit the floor, and the starting lineup will be almost completely different.

Some of these new Broncs come from larger programs, such as Appalachian State, Troy, Florida State, DePaul and Nevada.

Junior guard Zion Cruz, who is from Trenton, New Jersey, spent last year at Pratt Community College in Kansas, where he averaged 14.6 points per game and a field goal percentage of 47.8%.

The Broncs also landed junior center Alaaeddine Boutayeb, who played at both Florida State and

Arkansas State before joining Rider’s team. Boutayeb, who is from Morocco, is a giant on the court, standing at 7 feet, 2 inches and weighing 230 pounds.

Another player who will don cranberry and white this year for Rider is junior guard Andre Young. Young, from Mableton, Georgia, shares a highschool with Rider alums Dwight Murray Jr. ’23 and Mervin James ’24, who both attended Pebblebrook High School like Young.

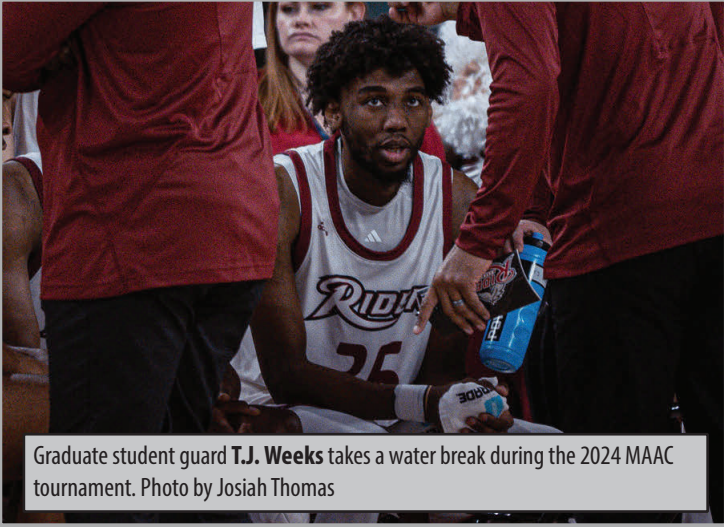
Breaking down the schedule

Rider will have quite the tough trek through out-of-conference play, taking on UCLA, Iowa and Villanova, all on the road.

On Oct. 3, the MAAC released the new format for the 2025 MAAC Championships in the wake of the MAAC receiving two new teams, Sacred Heart and Merrimack.

“I agree with it and we will see if it’s good or bad and I found it hard to think that all 13 teams can make it in and play at a reasonable time where we are not playing at 11 or 12 o’clock at night,” Baggett said.

Rider begins the new season during Homecoming weekend on Oct. 26 against Holy Family at 4 p.m. in the Alumni Gym.



Graduate student guard **T.J. Weeks** takes a water break during the 2024 MAAC tournament. Photo by Josiah Thomas

Sports

ONLINE

BUT WAIT, THERE'S MORE

Field hockey, men's and women's soccer, and volleyball were also in action this week. Scan the QR to read all the game recaps!

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THE RIDER NEWS



**"BASKETBALL
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Josiah Thomas/The Rider News