



BRONCS WIN ON LAST-SECOND LAYUP



Read the story on page 8

‘Know your worth’: style CEO coaches advocacy

By Jake Tiger

MELISSA Tenzer asked for her daughter’s opinion when putting together her outfit for the night, which was a bit of a role reversal for the self-proclaimed fashionista. She wanted to make sure she had something that said “confidence” in a way that would resonate with a younger generation of women leaders.

She assembled a lively and professional look fit for a CEO, preparing to offer wisdom to the Rider community: a black dress accented with bold, pink lilies; earrings with dangling, metallic flower petals; and powerful black stilettos that brought the whole outfit together.



Jake Tiger/The Rider News

Nancy Musco (left) and Melissa Tenzer (right) encourage students to advocate for themselves in the workplace.

Tenzer, CEO of Dress for Success Central New Jersey, has helped countless clients get spiffy before a big job interview, giving them the style and swagger they need to succeed. Her March 6 event with Rider’s Gail Bierenbaum Leadership Council, however, was less about how to style a blazer, and more about how to be a trailblazer.

‘Know your worth’

The night’s topic was self-advocacy, and looking out from her podium at the dozens of young women in the NJM Room, she demanded of them, “know your worth.”

Each year, the GBLC chooses a theme, and it chose advocacy for the 2024-25 school year — something especially relevant for today’s women leaders, as recent federal actions have targeted diversity, equity and inclusion, and the identity-based hiring practices it promotes.

Last summer, the GBLC underwent a major change, axing the word “women” from its name, website and social media footprint after a complaint from the Department of Education’s Office of Civil Rights, claiming the group was being discriminatory by offering scholarships and resources while only being open to women.

As a result, the council will open its application process to everyone going forward, regardless of their gender.

GBLC Director Kim Barberich declined to answer questions about the complaint.

Tenzer is a Rider alum, graduating from the defunct College of Continuing Studies with a marketing degree. She declined to say the year she graduated.

In an interview with The Rider News after her event, Tenzer said, “With some of the DEI initiatives being washed away and women really needing to fight for their spot, I really don’t want Dress for Success to get lost.”

Dress for Success is a global nonprofit that supports “unemployed and underemployed women,” according to its website, and has resources in 20 different countries.

Most of Dress for Success’ clothes are brand new, donated by retailers and designers, Tenzer said, which gives people even more confidence in what they’re wearing. They aren’t walking into an interview wearing the pilly vests and second-hand slacks one might find at a thrift store; the clothes belong to them.

“Dress for Success starts with the clothing. Being in this field, I’m an expert on what makes a woman feel confident in what they’re wearing,” Tenzer said.

While the organization does offer professional attire, it is “more than just clothes,” according to Tenzer, as the organization also offers job hopefuls a whole workshop of professional tools: help with

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INSIDE

THE FINAL BUZZER

Men’s basketball split its final two regular season games including a last second exciting win.

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LADY GAGA’S ‘MAYHEM’

Gaga’s latest album brings back the star’s beloved dance-pop sound.

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LOOK INTO YOUR LUCK

Make your month lucky with March Horoscopes!



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SECURITY BRIEFS

BY JOURNEY NEW

Stairway sketches

Painted steps. On March 4, at 12:53 p.m., Public Safety was on patrol when it discovered graffiti on the rear steps to Canastra Center. On the path toward the turf field, the officer observed words spray painted onto the steps. Facilities Management was contacted to have the graffiti removed.



Mysterious odor

Green-house gas. On March 9, at 9:48 p.m., Public Safety was dispatched to University House, for the odor of marijuana coming from outside of the building. Public Safety arrived on location. Residence Life reported seeing someone near the entrance of the building, smoking an unknown substance that smelled like marijuana. Public Safety checked the exterior area of the building and walked through the interior and could not locate anyone smoking or the source of the odor.



Damaged gate

Broken arm. On March 10, at 4:35 p.m., Public Safety received reports that the gate arm to the Memorial Lot was broken. Upon further investigation, it was discovered that a student's car attempted to enter the lot, damaging the gate arm. The student was cited and the matter was referred to the Office of Community Standards.



Destiny Pagan/The Rider News

Marijuana odors have been reported eight times this academic year, but have only been located once.

Marijuana usage decreases as policies tighten

By Jay Roberson

THOUGH marijuana was legalized in the state of New Jersey in 2021, because Rider is federally funded, it is illegal to possess it on campus. This academic year, The Rider News received eight security briefs regarding reports of marijuana use on campus, but the source of the odor was only located once. Interim Public Safety Director Matthew Babcock said, “Years ago when I was on shift as a PSO [Public Safety Officer] I could do three, four searches a night. Now we might get three to four searches a month.” Because the severity of the punishment for marijuana use has increased, there has been a decrease in reports, Babcock said. Currently, marijuana violation consequences align with the alcohol policy at Rider. “There’s some pretty hefty consequences still associated with being caught with marijuana on campus because it is still not allowed,” Babcock said. “New Jersey may have decriminalized it, but we used to have to call the Lawrence Township Police when finding marijuana.” Though Rider has a no-tolerance policy regarding marijuana, first-time offenders receive a smaller fine, a mandatory education program, community restitution and parental notification, according to the 2024-25 Student Code of Social Conduct. Upon multiple offenses students can receive fines up to \$310, loss of campus driving privileges, suspension from social and recreational events, removal from housing and dismissal from the university upon multiple offenses. To enforce this policy, Public Safety has signs posted in various places on campus, primarily the residence halls, stating: “No Weed” or “No Marijuana.” Babcock said a majority of marijuana reports come from community assistants and community directors in the residence halls, rarely coming from standard residents. Junior English major Eden Lewis, who uses they/

them pronouns, works as a CA in Gee Hall and follows certain protocols when it comes to suspected marijuana. “If we’re doing room checks or if we’re just doing rounds, and we smell it or see it, then we immediately call Public Safety. We’re not supposed to do anything,” Lewis said. Once Public Safety is called, officers report to the residence hall and begin an investigation, according to Babcock. According to Lewis, CAs are not usually a part of the investigation process and are not allowed to dispose of the marijuana themselves if they do find it. Babcock said, “We check all the areas around where the smell is coming from. It’s actually sniffing the door jams of the doors, seeing what’s coming out of a room, checking in bathrooms and common spaces, whatever we can to try to locate the source.” A majority of the time, Public Safety is unable to locate the source of the odor, according to Babcock. “We don’t ever want to accuse anybody, so we’ll knock on the door and have a general conversation with the [suspected student]. If the smell becomes stronger once the door is open, we know we have the source,” said Babcock. In order to search a room, Public Safety must obtain permission from the student by having them sign a permission-to-search form, according to Babcock. “If they refuse permission to search, we contact the Residence Life on-call administrator, one of the CDs or occasionally the student’s case manager. They will either say you have permission to search or you do not depending on the circumstances,” Babcock said. Lewis noted that since becoming a CA in their sophomore year, they have only had to report suspected marijuana a few times. “Issues where [marijuana is suspected] indoors is not much of a problem [in Gee Hall], at least on my floor,” Lewis said. According to Babcock, Rider will continue to enforce its marijuana policy in accordance with federal law.

Tenzer urges women to fight for equal pay

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

resumes and cover letters, interview prep, lessons on self-advocacy and social media do’s and don’ts. Barberich said, “Helping people is just so important. ... A lot of what she said is just really powerful.” Like Tenzer, Barberich also considered herself a fashionista; her first jobs out of college were as a buyer for Bloomingdale’s and Tiffany, curating the perfect selection for stylish shoppers. Barberich, sporting a clean, all-black, professional look, said her personal style has grown more “conservative and minimal” with age. **Fighting for fairness** After a 10-minute presentation, Tenzer and her colleague, Nancy Musco, a director at Dress for Success, sat down in two red, cushy lounge chairs at the front of the room for a fireside chat, where Tenzer answered questions from Musco and attendees. The most prevalent theme in Tenzer’s hour-long event was knowing one’s professional worth, and fighting for equal and fair wages in the workplace. Junior English major Brooke Foster, a member of the leadership council, said Tenzer’s talk taught her to “never take the first answer” from employers, with Tenzer having advocated for herself and her women coworkers on multiple occasions. While working as a human resources adviser for a nonprofit, Tenzer did a salary survey and found that the men were making “much more” than the women, she said during the fireside chat. The women’s salaries were boosted to make them equal to the men. Data published by the Pew Research Center on March 4 found that American women on average made 85% of what men made in 2024—a 2% increase from 2023. But, the gap remains vast, and it was something Tenzer encouraged young women to be cognizant of as they entered the workforce. Tenzer said, while it can be tempting for eager college students to take the first job offer they receive, it’s important to practice self-advocacy from the start and fight for what you’re worth. Foster said, “Advocacy is something I’m passionate about. ... With everything that’s going on, we need to be able to feel confident, feel empowered, go for the positions we want even if it’s what society thinks isn’t the best for us.” *Sports Editor Kadie DiGiuseppe, Social Media Editor Kaitlyn Seawood and Copy Editor Brianna Velazquez are members of the Gail Biernbaum Leadership Council. They had no part in the writing, editing or reporting of this story.*

ASC and library aim to expand outreach

By Grace Bertrand and Caitlyn Sutton

In February, the Academic Success Center and Moore Library joined forces to facilitate new drop-in writing and research support for struggling students. In an effort to combine writing and research tutoring under one umbrella, Amy Atkinson, the assistant director for academic tutoring, explained their main goal was to make it easier for students to receive help with academic papers.

“If we can bring it all together under one roof, that might make it easier for students to seek that kind of support,” Atkinson said.

The easy-to-access drop-in writing and research hours, taking place on the third floor service desk in the library, were developed in hopes that students would utilize the resources provided once they realized they needed a bit more assistance than they planned.

“I don’t want to say that you have to feel pressure in order to seek writing tutoring, but I know sometimes students feel like they may not need it initially and then recognize later on that they do,” Atkinson said.

A set of “inaugural pilot” workshops took place on the last three Fridays in February to test the reception from students. Atkinson confirmed that despite the amount of outreach they achieved in flyers and emails, the workshops did not receive the attendance they had hoped for.

“Sometimes it takes a little while for those kinds of things to catch on,” Atkinson said.

The drop-in hours strived to help students avoid the stress of scheduling and attending a standard 50-minute appointment with the writing studio.

In addition to lifting the pressure of time commitments, during drop-in hours students would have access to “all the different books and sources that they may need,” said Atkinson.

Sharon Whitfield, a librarian at Moore Library, was the one to reach out to Atkinson and Shane Conto, director for academic tutoring, in hopes to collaborate with the ASC on this new initiative.

“When both the Academic Success Center,

particularly the writing studio, and the library are together, we really can offer a more holistic approach to students’ writing needs,” Whitfield said.

While the support offered by the two parties has often been referred to as a workshop, Whitfield explained what they are doing is not a workshop, but rather a combination of two “integral services.”

When it comes to their outreach approach, Whitfield expressed the desire to re-strategize promoting their new services on campus. According to Whitfield, students had not approached her inquiring about the new services until recently, after the three-week trial ended, in preparation for midterms.

Atkinson and Whitfield both declared plans to bring back the service later on in the semester closer to finals week. “Having [drop in hours] support those final papers would be really great,” said Whitfield.

While there are still plans to continue their efforts later in the semester in April, Atkinson explained that there may be changes made in the schedule to better meet the needs of students. The writing workshops that took place on Valentine’s Day and the Eagles Superbowl parade gained the least amount of traction, which Atkinson acknowledged was not the best decision, looking back.

Senior English major Anthony Cammarano, one of the two student writing consultants for the ASC, agreed with this sentiment. Cammarano explained that there was not a big demand for the service at the beginning of the semester due to a lack of research papers being assigned yet.

“Many classes have research projects, and not just English classes or CMP classes, throughout the fall and spring semesters,” said Cammarano. “I could see it being a valuable resource for anyone who needs to just come in.”



Destiny Pagan/The Rider News

The service desk on the third floor in the library held writing and research hours.

For Cammarano, writing and research go hand-in-hand and the service allows students to receive both services in one place.

Whitfield, who agreed with Cammarano’s point, expressed the necessity for a writing and research service at a time when students have fallen in the habit of using artificial intelligence for homework.

“I’m not against using AI as a tool,” Whitfield said. “But, how do you use it to make it a productive tool that allows you to still critically think and enhance what you want to say?”

Whitfield expressed the value in students attending these services so they can learn how to gain the skills of research and writing with the help of tutors and the library, rather than learning nothing from AI.

“I definitely see the human element that we can offer in the central research and writing studio that far surpasses what AI can do,” said Whitfield. “I would say this type of service blows AI out of the water and can support you in a much better way than artificial intelligence can.”

These drop-in hours to assist students with research are important to both the library staff and the ASC. “I think that taking advantage of these types of services is going to get you a better grade,” said Whitfield.

Photo courtesy of Joana Pirela de De Gregorio



International students have a new resource called Culture Shock, a meeting space in the CDI meant to serve as a safe space to bond with one another.

Culture Shock meetings aid international students

By Caroline Haviland

CULTURE Shock, a new group-based service held by the Rider Counseling Center, has been established for international students to adjust to their new environment at Rider.

The weekly meetings, held in the Center for Diversity and Inclusion on Tuesdays at noon, are targeted to foster a safe space for international students to connect, share experiences and build a sense of community, according to Counseling Center Doctoral Intern Elizabeth Gonzalez.

To build upon their preexisting identity based safe spaces such as Roy. G. Biv: LGBTQIA+ Support, the Counseling Center worked collaboratively to recognize any other student groups that needed support.

“[The Counseling Center] started this because we understand that the international student experience is different, and we wanted to have additional support for them,” said Gonzalez. “It can be hard and definitely a cultural shock when coming to the United States for college.”

As a former Venezuelan international student at Rider, Global Programs Manager Joana Pirela de De Gregorio said she understands how to personally relate to the students, viewing herself as a “mirror for the students” to walk them through their obstacles.

International students additionally receive immense support from the Office of International Education prior to and upon their arrival in the United States, said De Gregorio.

Before their departure, the OIE creates a WhatsApp group chat between the students to give them an opportunity to know one another, ensures all students know the essential items and documents to bring to the airport, and provides them with a ride to campus once they have landed.

The students’ first days at Rider are filled with legal paperwork, sharing meals together, meeting administrators and walking through campus to learn their way around. After these initial introductions, it is up to the students to make the effort to ask for help and foster connections in their time abroad.

“We tell students that if they need to talk to someone, we’re here. We call our office the home away from home,” said De Gregorio. “We have an open door policy, so if they really need help, one on one time with any of us, they can come in.”

De Gregorio said the new Culture Shock service is a reflection of the great relationship between the Counseling Center and the OIE, and the work the university puts into making sure people from different countries find another home in Lawrenceville.

Fall 2024 consisted of the largest international class the university had seen in over a decade, with 84 students from 30 countries, showcasing that “the OIE is doing something right,” De Gregorio said while patting herself on the back.

“This is a team work. ... It’s us being open to diversity and people from other countries, to other languages,” said De Gregorio. “It’s so people feel safe and I think we create a safe space.”

Chicana poet ‘empowhers’ students to speak out

By Grace Bertrand

STUDENTS gathered in a crowded room on the third floor of the Franklin F. Moore Library on Feb. 26 to educate themselves on books that have been banned or challenged by public schools, universities and libraries.

Angélica María, a Chicana poet and musician, catapulted herself headfirst into music and poetry at a young age. Through her discovery of the writing medium, she felt empowered to help young students become confident in their own skin and speak out.

“When you choose art and you choose a creative life, you’re choosing to create your life,” said María.

On March 10, the Center for Diversity and Inclusion invited María to the NJM Room to host a poetry workshop of over 40 students, specially curated for Womxn’s History Month. Living in both Los Angeles and Mexico City, María has conducted various poetry workshops across universities nationwide since before the pandemic in 2020.

Her workshops range from topics such as “Say My Name,” where writers learn to reclaim the power of their names and “A Pledge to the Body,” where writers learn to uproot the shame and insecurities of their bodies, to “Speak Up & Speak Out,” where writers use poetry to speak out against sexual assault.

“Whether it’s a poem or thinking about something differently, or even remembering one of the performance pieces, I want something to stick with [students] when they walk out of here,” said Jasmine Johnson, director of the CDI.

To kickstart the night, María performed a fusion of personal poems and music that incorporated interconnected themes of reclaiming toxic narratives. These four poems included “Exotic,” a light-hearted piece about eating a man for dinner, “Ode to Eve,” an embracing of the villainization of women, “To the girls with long names,” a celebration of the women in María’s family with long names and “They call me

bien creido,” a negative term in Spanish used for a woman who is full of herself.

“I really wanted my poems to be more women-centered because it’s womxn’s month,” said María. “I would say naturally my poems and music are always women-borned.”

After performing her pieces for an hour, María turned the spotlight to the audience with a writing workshop and open-mic session that allowed students to write their own pieces pertaining to their names, bodies and any insecurities or narratives they wanted to reclaim.

After around an hour of looking over students’ shoulders with pressure and gathering shy volunteers to overcome their stage fright, the open-mic portion of the evening began. One by one, 19 students made their way to the front of the room to read aloud their poems on insecurities about their curly hair, non-American names, body parts, past mistakes and forgotten histories.

Cassie Rudolph, a junior game design major and treasurer of Rider Poets, shared her empowering poem about the insecurity she felt in what she named her “strawberry arms.”

“My arms have always been a very odd point of contention in my body,” said Rudolph. “I’ve always had a bit of a hard time coming to terms with it, but I did and now I love it. I trained my arms to be machines of creativity.”

Dealing with what Rudolph calls a “triple threat” of eczema, Keratosis pilaris and rosacea, she expressed that poetry often felt like the only place she could air her grievances about her arms.

“Because [poetry] has a connotation of feeling and artistic expression more than a lot of other writing mediums, it allows both free thought and a lot of emotion,” said Rudolph. “Poetry just seems to flow and reach from your heart rather than your head.”

María shared a similar sentiment to Rudolph,

explaining how poetry had been a driving force in her personal life. She expressed how poetry gave her the ability to take back her power and identity as a Chicana.

“I feel like my history is around me all the time and I can’t ignore it, but there are also parts of my culture that I’m interested in reframing and rewriting,” said María.

The CDI partnered with four student organizations for the event, including the Student Government Association, Rider Poets, Rider DominiRicans and Lambda Theta Phi Latin fraternity.

Johnson explained how important it was for the CDI to partner with student organizations for this event, calling them the “backbone” of the university, which is coincidentally the exact label María gave to women: “I just feel like women are the backbone of the world.”

“To me, celebrating women is just something that is long overdue and can never be done enough,” said María.



Grace Bertrand/The Rider News

(From left to right) **Kyylah Harley**, graduate assistant for CDI, **Jasmine Johnson**, director of CDI, **Angélica María** and **Michael Nelson**, student worker for the CDI helped facilitate the “EmpowHER” event.

Frights and films: Rider highlights horror genre

By Madison Lewis

STUDENTS, teachers and film buffs alike congregated in the Rue Auditorium for two consecutive days of horror film discussions, student films and featured speakers who are well regarded in the industry.

The event, The Horror Film and Modes of Monstrosity hosted by the Department of Media Arts, dedicated March 5 to three student panels and one featured speaker, Dr. Barry Keith Grant.

The student speakers conversed about movies like “Jennifer’s Body,” “The Purge,” and “It.”

Grant, professor emeritus of film and popular culture at Brock University, Ontario, talked about documentary-esque horror films like the “Blair Witch Project,” among others.

Cynthia Lucia, director of film and media studies, said that the symposium occurred annually for 20 years with a different theme every year – the theme “documentary” being last year’s.

There were three general events; student panels, student film festivals and guest speakers.

She described the student panels as an analytic presentation of a particular film.

It was an opportunity to look closely at aesthetic decisions.

“Hearing people respond to their work and when they are thinking about cross fertilization between their work and the work of others on their panels,” said Lucia.

In preparation for the event, Lucia sent an email to potential student speakers in the film, theater, English and psychology departments.

The email detailed how to “Adopt-a-Horror-Film.”

According to the email, interested students had to “put together a 15-20 minute presentation on the film to share with those attending symposium events.”

“They ... used scholarship from key works of literature on the horror film to support their own thinking and to help enrich their own thinking,” Lucia said.

The students had the opportunity to present their personal films to the professors and student filmmakers in the crowd.



Gail Demeraski/The Rider News

The Department of Media Arts has hosted a film symposium with a different theme every year for 20 years.

The filmmakers stood proudly in front of the large screen that displayed their creations after the film was shown to the intrigued crowd.

After they explained their design, budgeting, casting and aesthetic choices, the audience offered helpful feedback and sung praises.

“It’s an incredibly valuable experience to hear people respond to your work and also to find a format that will speak to a wider audience,” she said.

Scott Alboum, at one point, addressed the filmmaker and the audience to ask about if his interpretation of the film was valid, or if he misunderstood the creative choices. The filmmaker responded and said it was up to interpretation.

Reylan Alexis film and television major spoke about the movie “The Night of the Hunter” and presented as a co-director of “Two moves ahead.”

“To the credit of ... Dr. Lucia who teaches a lot of the film analysis courses,” Alexis said. “She gives us the language to be able to explain what we’ve seen in an academic sense and once you have the foundation of the language down, you can expand that to more complex ideas.”

He appreciated the feedback from the crowd, planning on implementing some changes for his films.

Dr. Shawn Kildea, the chairperson for the Media Arts Department, Scott Alboum, video technologies coordinator, Kelly Bidle, dean of the college of Arts and Sciences and Associate Dean Brooke Hunter were in attendance and offered feedback for the student films.

“The joy of filmmaking is the conversation that happens after the filmmaking,” he said.

Junior film and television major James Felcon, co-director of the film “Two steps ahead” and the cinematographer for the film “Dear Vivian” attended both days of the symposium.

“A lot of the time in the film community, people don’t produce work they have pride for; they produce it for a grade,” he said. “It felt like we have been doing things wrong for a long time, trying to make films for a grade.”

Felcon found it validating to be supported by his knowledgeable peers and professors.

“[The event] taught ... me that when you are passionate about something and make something for yourself, oftentimes people will just naturally respond to it better.”

Felcon found that there was a stark difference between the film symposium and his classes.

“In film classes ... you’ll hear ... ‘it was good’ or just go on their phones midway through,” he said. “It was nice having people take an interest. I wasn’t at all nervous standing up there. It was comforting.”

The second day of the symposium concluded with the featured speaker Dr. Ashley R. Smith, ’09 Rider alum. She talked about how female authorship impacts the horror film industry.

“As a college, this is what we’re all about ... Expanding intellectual and creative opportunities,” said Lucia.

MARCH HOROSCOPES



PISCES



Feb. 19 - March 20

This is your season, Pisces, and the universe is shining its light on you! Self-reflection will bring clarity, and you will feel a renewed sense of purpose. Let your creativity and emotions guide you—you are capable of more than you realize.

ARIES



March 21 - April 19

This month, Aries, you are on fire—figuratively, of course. Your energy levels are soaring, and the universe is pushing you to take charge. A big opportunity is on the horizon, and now is the time to act boldly. Be mindful not to burn out—balance is key.

TAURUS



April 20 - May 20

Patience is your strong suit, but March might test it, Taurus. Unexpected shifts in your routine will require flexibility, even if you would rather stick to what is familiar. Embrace change as an opportunity for growth rather than an inconvenience. By this month's end, you will be glad you did.

GEMINI



May 21 - June 20

Your social life is buzzing and your words hold extra power this month, Gemini. Conversations, both old and new, will open doors you were not expecting. Make sure you are speaking from the heart—genuine connections will take you far.

CANCER



June 21 - July 22

March urges you to focus on emotional well-being, Cancer. You have been carrying a lot and it is time to lighten the load. Prioritize self-care and surround yourself with those who uplift you. Mid-month, a moment of clarity will help you release lingering doubts and move forward with confidence.

LEO



July 23 - Aug. 22

All eyes are on you this month, Leo, and you are more than ready for the spotlight. Your leadership and charisma will draw people in, giving you the chance to make a lasting impact. However, do not let pride get in the way—listening to others will strengthen your influence even more.

VIRGO



Aug. 23 - Sept. 22

You thrive on structure, Virgo, but March is nudging you to be a little more spontaneous. Say yes to last-minute plans, explore new ideas and step outside your comfort zone. You might just discover a passion or opportunity you never expected.

LIBRA



Sept. 23 - Oct. 22

Balance is everything, but this month, you might feel like you are being pulled in too many directions, Libra. It is OK to set boundaries and prioritize what truly matters. By doing so, you will create space for deeper connections and meaningful experiences.

SCORPIO



Oct. 23 - Nov. 21

March brings transformation, Scorpio, and you are ready for it. A shift in perspective or a bold decision will empower you to embrace change. Trust that everything is aligning in your favor, even if it does not seem that way at first.

SAGITTARIUS



Nov. 22 - Dec. 21

Adventure is calling, Sagittarius, and this month is all about exploration. Dive into something new—whether it is a skill, place or an unexpected challenge. Be sure to pace yourself—you do not have to do everything at once!

CAPRICORN



Dec. 22 - Jan. 19

Hard work pays off, Capricorn, and this month is proof of that. Something you have been working toward is about to gain momentum, recognition may follow. Do not be afraid to celebrate your wins, but also remember to take breaks when needed.

AQUARIUS



Jan. 20 - Feb. 18

Your mind is full of ideas, Aquarius, and March encourages you to put them into action. This is a time to trust your instincts and take the first step toward a goal you have been contemplating. Trust your intuition—it will not steer you wrong.

PRESENTED BY KAITLYN SEAWOOD & DESIGNED BY GAIL DEMERASKI

Lady Gaga brings ‘Mayhem’ back to pop music

FRIDAY was a historic day for “little monsters” everywhere. Lady Gaga’s freshest record, “Mayhem,” was released to thunderous applause and rave reviews from fans across the globe.

Lady Gaga is nothing short of a superstar and has been in the pop music scene for nearly two decades. That being said, I had some minor doubts that Gaga could bring anything fresh to the table with her sixth solo studio album. I was happy to discover that my doubts were not supported.

Having had Gaga’s discography on shuffle all week leading up to the album’s release, I thought I had a good idea of what was to be expected in the new album. Nothing could have prepared me for the wild musical masterpiece that was about to blast through my car’s stereo.

Gaga’s past two records showed off her ability to be versatile. Her past solo record released almost five years ago, “Chromatica,” was very “of its time,” capturing the otherworldly experience of COVID-19 Pandemic lockdown. While I absolutely adore her fourth solo studio album, “Joanne,” for its unique country-esque tones, it is good to see with “Mayhem” that we are ready to get back to the dance floor with a classic pop record.

The album opens with Gaga’s two previously released singles, “Disease” followed by “Abracadabra,” which started yet another viral dance trend. I feel like, despite these being the lead singles, the songs are more cookie-cutter, cut-and-paste-type pop songs in comparison to the rest of the album. These tracks were probably intentionally ready-made for the masses and the TikTok dance trends in order to garner hype for the record’s release. Not that there is anything inherently bad about writing a song with the intent to choreograph a cool number and music video to it, these songs just lacked the same unique flavor as the rest of the album.

Gaga is truly the expert at writing a catchy chorus. One that is just enough of an earworm that you will catch on quickly, but not one that will annoy you to no end by the third listen through — I’m looking at you “Don’t Start Now” by Dua Lipa.

For example, I found myself singing along to the chorus of the third track “Garden of Eden” on my second time listening to the album. This track has a beat that makes me want to run through the streets and dance like no one is watching, my hair going wild.

In speaking with fellow fans of Lady Gaga, I have heard several of my peers describe this record by comparing it to other “eras” or artists. For example, I have heard the album being called “Madonna-esque” and even that the song “How Bad Do U Want Me” sounds like it could have been on a Taylor Swift record. I found the latter statement particularly shocking.

It is taking the easy way out to compare such a unique record to what has already been produced instead of viewing it as a new, separate entity. Gaga is unique. No

one sounds like her and she does not sound like anyone else. This album is not an exception.

Weird and crazy and wild, “Mayhem” has all these expected elements of a classic Lady Gaga record. Yet, this record brings something new to the dance floor.

What it brings beneath all the tunes perfect for the club, is a peek into the star’s personal thoughts. For example, in “Perfect Celebrity” Gaga sings, “I’m made of plastic like a human doll / You push and pull me, I don’t hurt at all,” perhaps alluding to not only the pressure that being in the spotlight puts on her, but on women in all professions. Gaga has also noted that the track “Blade of Grass” was inspired by her real-life romantic relationship.

“Mayhem” provides the temporary escapism of a dance-pop track we need right now. If you listen closely though, Gaga still makes sure to keep us grounded in reality. Underscoring some of the bass heavy tracks, you will hear lyrics such as “I don’t wanna fade into the darkness tonight... Watch me, I swear/I’ll dance in the shadow of a man” from “Shadow of A Man.” Deeper lyrics like these capture the struggle that many women artists feel — that they have to have male “supervision” in order to stay relevant and successful.

Track eight, “LoveDrug,” keeps the high-energy record spinning at top volume, but also maintains more serious undertones. “I know this time/I won’t escape these thoughts in my head/I need you tonight/ But I’m gonna fight the feelin’ instead/I don’t wanna feel, I don’t wanna cry/ So I’m gonna dance until I feel alright.” This song captures the undertones of the record more explicitly and reflects that “dancing away the pain” is often a coping method that this album can provide.

The 14-track-long album concludes with the Grammy-Award winning duet with Bruno Mars “Die With a Smile.” While incredibly crafted, this song has a completely different vibe from the rest of the record and not the song I would have chosen to end on. On its own, “Die With A Smile” is a fantastic song, but put at the end of a synth-filled dance-pop record, its slower

ballad-like tone seems jarring.

Aside from the incredible selection of songs this record adds to Gaga’s discography, the artistic choices made in the packaging and promotion of “Mayhem” blew me away. From the broken glass imagery on the cover, to the bright red lettering on the merchandise, it is chaotic and messy — “Mayhem,” even — and I am loving it.

When you listen to this album, make sure you have the speakers up at top volume. Do this album justice, whether in the club or in your kitchen, turn it up and dance like no one—or everyone—is watching. The world is our stage little monsters.

Libby D’Orvilliers
junior psychology major

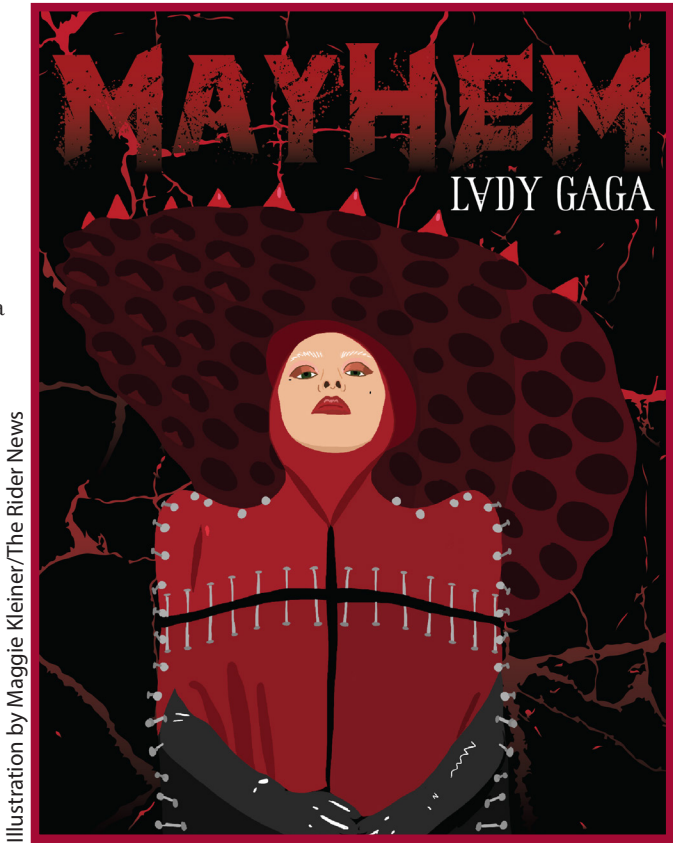


Illustration by Maggie Kleiner/The Rider News

DIGITAL EXCLUSIVE: The CDI: A critical campus resource

By Jay Roberson

Destiny Pagan/The Rider News



DIGITAL EXCLUSIVE: RSTC’s ‘Steel Magnolias’ blossoms on stage

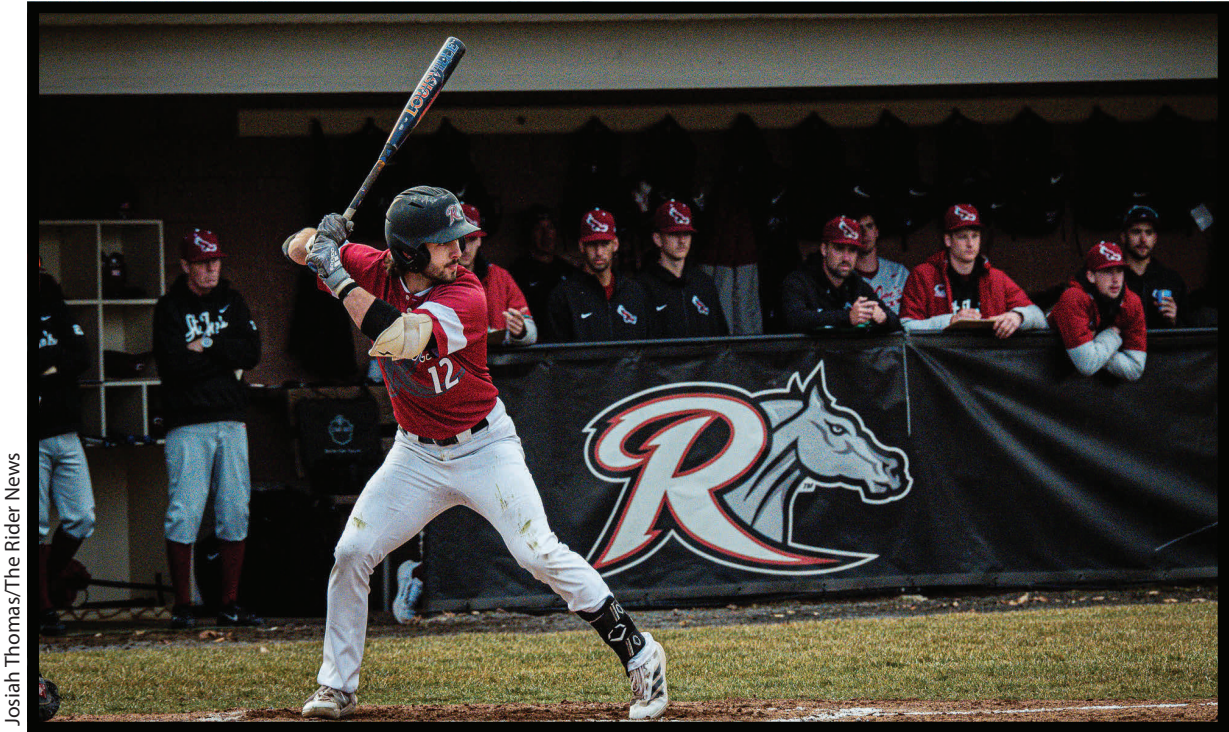
By Jenna Munswami

Photo courtesy of Ava Puentes



BASEBALL

Rider scores 58 runs in explosive MAAC-opening sweep of Peacocks



Josiah Thomas/The Rider News

Sophomore outfielder **Kyle Neri** prepares to take a swing.

By Benjamin Shinault

RUNERS were not hard to come by for Rider baseball as it started the Metro Atlantic Athletic Conference play on March 7 against the Saint Peter's Peacocks in a three-game series.

The Broncos' runs-per-game-average of 10 is tied for 13th in the nation and the Broncos average of 11.3 hits per game is 19th.

Rider got off to a hot start in conference play as it traveled to Saint Peter's. In game one, the Broncos put up 25 runs, the most the team has scored all season.

In the first inning alone, Rider put up eight runs. Half of those runs came off the bat of freshman infielder Peter Crespo when he sent a ball over the wall to give him the first grand slam of his collegiate career.

The other four runs were split between sophomore outfielder Kyle Neri, who had a two-run single and a fielder's choice that scored one, and a junior outfielder Erich Hartmann single up the middle that scored a run.

Having some run support after a half inning, junior pitcher PJ Craig took to the mound for his third start of the year. Craig ran into some trouble in the bottom of the first inning, walking one, throwing a wild pitch and giving up a run but after that, Craig was able to accumulate five more innings giving up just six hits, two earned runs and four strikeouts.

Both teams had a standstill until the fourth inning when Neri put one over the fence to give the Broncos a 10-1 lead. The Broncos scored a few more runs by the end of the fifth to extend their commanding lead to 15-1. Rider continued to pour it on the Peacocks, seeing its lead swell to 25-2.

The Broncos' 25 runs were the most the team have scored in a game since 2017, when they put up 28 runs against Saint Peter's.

With the Broncos up 25-4, the game was called due to darkness and was resumed the next day. Down by 21, the Peacocks did not stray away from a fight as they put up 13 runs, but the lead was too much to surmount and the final score was 25-17.

Rider's offense wasn't out of gas in game two as the Broncos won 16-8. The Broncos scored a run in each of the first four innings to go up 8-2. To reach that 8-2 lead, came from a solo homerun from sophomore infielder Joe Tirolly.

On the mound for the Broncos was senior Brian Young. For the better half of his start, Young, drifted through Saint Peter's lineup, finishing with six innings, allowed just two earned runs and struck out a

season-high seven batters.

Following the exit of Young came another big blast from Tirolly, his second of the game, to give the Broncos a 13-3 lead. The Peacocks closed the gap to 13-8 coming from a two-run homerun and two RBI singles that scored three runs.

With the Broncos up by five entering the ninth, they

added a few runs to the column coming off a Neri single to left field which scored one and a double from Crespo that brought around an additional two runs to cement the game at 16-8 to give Rider another series win.

In search of their first series sweep of the year, the Broncos strided onto Jaroschak Field for game three of its opening MAAC series. Coming off two games where Rider scored a collective 41 runs, the Broncos were not stepping off the offensive gas pedal in the series finale.

Heading out to pitch for game three was junior pitcher Clayton Poliey, who let up a brutal attack by the Peacocks. Poliey recorded one out but not before Saint Peter's scored seven runs on five hits, reached on a walk twice.

Coming to the rescue for the Broncos was sophomore pitcher Jake Dorety who recorded 5 2/3 innings pitched, allowed just two runs and struck out three. Dorety struggled with commanding his pitches, as he walked five but performed some damage control and helped Rider stay in the ballgame.

Offensively for the Broncos, the scoring started with a sophomore outfielder Griffin Puvel RBI double that put the Broncos on the board, 7-1 in the second inning. The Broncos' pitching staff kept the Peacocks at seven runs which allowed Rider to storm back and take the lead, 8-7 by the conclusion of the fourth inning.

In that surge of offense, was two home runs coming from Tirolly and Crespo. Tirolly, in his last five games, has hit six home runs, and Crespo has hit three home runs in his last four games. Tirolly and Crespo have surely brought the boom to Rider's offense early in the year.

"Our offense is in a groove, and we're putting up enough runs to win another big day out of Joe Tirolly. He has been driving in runs, but that is because we have guys doing their jobs and getting on base," Lipinski told Rider Athletics.

With Rider up 8-7 entering the fifth, Saint Peter snagged the lead right back off a liner up the middle which scored two, giving the Peacocks a slight 9-8 lead.

The lead stayed in favor of the Peacocks until the seventh inning when the Broncos flooded runs upon Saint Peter's.

First, Hartmann hit a grand slam to put Rider up 12-9. Following came another home run, this time off the steaming bat of sophomore catcher Nick Shuhet. After some sloppy play by Saint Peter's, the score ran to 17-9.

The ninth came and went as the Peacocks added a run off a sacrifice fly but the Broncos in their comeback win, swept the Peacocks on the road to win their fifth straight.

Rider now looks to continue its MAAC sovereignty, looking to defend Sonny Pittaro Field in a series against the Quinnipiac Bobcats.

Game one will start at 3 p.m. on March 14.

WRESTLING



Destiny Pagan/The Rider News

Senior **Isaac Dean** was one of the four Broncos to make the NCAA tournament.

Broncs send four wrestlers to NCAA tournament

By Dave Green

RIDER wrestling delivered a stellar performance at the 2025 Mid-Atlantic Conference Wrestling Championships, with four Broncos claiming individual titles.

Graduate student Sammy Alvarez, junior Enrique Munguia, senior Isaac Dean and sophomore Brock Zurawski battled through tough competition to secure their spots atop the podium.

Alvarez, the one seed at 149 pounds, showcased his technical prowess throughout the tournament. After securing key victories over Buffalo and Edinboro, Alvarez faced Central Michigan University in the final.

Controlling the match from start to finish, he tallied four takedowns en route to a commanding 13-4 major decision, securing his first MAC Championship.

Munguia, also the one seed at 165 pounds, earned a first-round bye before dispatching Buffalo via technical fall in just 3:24.

In the final against Central Michigan, Munguia broke a scoreless deadlock with a reversal and sealed the win with a decisive takedown in the final period. His victory secured the MAC title and guaranteed his spot at the NCAA Championships.

At 184 pounds, Dean made an early statement with a dominant 20-4 technical fall over Northern Illinois University. Dean continued his momentum, reaching the final against Edinboro.

In a dramatic finish, a last-second non-call forced overtime, but Dean responded with an aggressive takedown in the extra period to capture his first MAAC crown.

Zurawski capped off Rider's championship performances with a gritty showing at 197 pounds.

After shutting out Ohio in the opening round, Zurawski advanced to the final against the top-seed Lock Haven.

A clutch reversal in the closing seconds secured his MAC title and NCAA Championship berth.

Will Betancourt, Branden Palcko and Michael Wilson also advanced to day two of the competition in the consolation bracket, with freshman Collin French bowing out on day one.

Despite the individual success, Rider finished fifth in the team standings with 92.5 points. Lock Haven claimed the team title with 121.5 points. Alvarez, Munguia, Dean and Zurawski each earned All-MAC first team honors.

The Broncos now turn their attention to the NCAA Championships, set for March 20 at the Wells Fargo Center in Philadelphia.

Sports

PLAYING SOON

BASEBALL

Rider vs. Quinnipiac
3 p.m. at Sonny Pittaro Field

MARCH 14

SOFTBALL

Rider vs. Sacred Heart
6 p.m. at Herb & Joan Young Field

MARCH 22

LACROSSE

Rider vs. Marist
4 p.m. at Ben Cohen Field

MARCH 22

MEN’S BASKETBALL

Rider advances on Ingraham’s go-ahead layup

By Benjamin Shinault

WITH just seconds left to go, graduate student forward Tariq Ingraham’s shot floated above the rim for what felt like an eternity.

Eighth-seeded Rider, searching for its first tournament win since the 2021-22 season, was locked in a 76-76 tie with Siena in the opening round of the Metro Atlantic Athletic Conference tournament, and after 40 minutes of going back and forth, the pressure building on Rider’s bench burst to cheers in an instant when Ingraham’s layup finally dropped through.

“I’m going to have to increase my blood pressure medicine, I can tell you that,” Head Coach Kevin Baggett said of the tense final possession.

With its dramatic 78-76 win over the ninth-seeded Saints on March 11, Rider advanced to the quarter final of the MAAC tournament in Atlantic City, moving on to face top-seeded Quinnipiac at 6 p.m. March 12.

“We just have to play a complete game,” Baggett said. “They are well coached but again man, this is MAAC tournament time. We are going to be there and give them our best shot.”

The warm and salty breeze from the Atlantic City boardwalk floated in through the doors of Jim Whelan Boardwalk Hall, possibly causing the Broncos’ hot start as freshman guard opened the game with a layup just days after his buzzer-beating 3-pointer in Rider’s regular season finale.

Burton, by the end of the first half, led the Broncos in scoring with 13, the next-closest scorer being senior forward Tank Byard with his six points.

Following the opening score from Burton came a 3-pointer from Siena. Siena let the threes fly in the first, cashing in four of its 13 attempts.

After the Siena three came buckets from graduate student guard T.J. Weeks Jr. and graduate student forward Tariq Ingraham to make it 6-6.

With the game knotted up at six, the Broncos hopped and skipped to a 6-0 run to give them their first lead of the game at 12-6.

Siena matched Rider’s run, making things tight with a 12-11 score. Rider stopped the Saints with a

bucket from Burton.

A big abuser of the weak Siena paint defense was Ingraham, who finished the matchup with 19 points and grabbed six offensive rebounds. The Broncos as a team would score 46 of their total 78 points down in the painted region.

“We knew they couldn’t guard me inside, they had to double,” Ingraham said with a chuckle. “Not to be cocky but, we knew if we got down low and made layups, we would win.”

Emerging from the locker room, down a bucket, the Broncos were searching for a win but they were going to have to bite and crawl.

To begin the second half, Weeks splashed a 3-pointer, his first of the game coming at a great time to give the Broncos the lead right.

Following made field goals from Ingraham, Weeks and junior guard Zion Cruz, the score was 45-43, Siena with the slight lead.

From there, Siena went on a detrimental 10-0 run to make the score 53-45. Rider ended it with a layup down low from Ingraham, but Siena kept the Broncos out of striking distance and extended the lead to 13, the largest of the game.

With Rider down 13 with 13 minutes to go, Rider kicked it in high gear and made the score 58-54 with just 10 minutes to go. Hitting the shot to close the gap to four, was Cruz who hit in a step-back action to force a Siena timeout.

Siena’s timeout proved to be fruitful as it was able to stop Rider’s momentum. A few minutes down the line after a few exchanged buckets, Rider crawled back and took the lead thanks to some free throws. It was Atlantic City native senior forward Tank Byard who gave Rider the lead 65-64.

After the Byard free throws, Siena took a two possession lead which soon turned to one and for the final few minutes of the game. It was an intense back-and-forth under the brightest lights.

With a minute left, Rider leading 76-75, Siena headed to the line to shoot an additional free throw after a foul. Siena saw the ball



Josiah Thomas/The Rider News

Graduate student forward **Tariq Ingraham** (center) celebrates minutes after scoring the game-winning basket for Rider.

bounce off the rim and into the awaiting, sweaty hands of Ingraham.

A few seconds later into the final minute of the game, Siena got another chance to make things interesting at the free throw line but once more, the basketball gods blessed the Broncos and the ball rattled off the rim, keeping the game tied at 76 apiece.

With 13 seconds to go, Burton brought the ball up the floor and dished a perfect outlet pass to a wide-open Ingraham.

Ingraham sent it up.

The ball rolled on the rim as all oxygen in Jim Whelan Hall seemed to be vacuumed out, and it finally nestled into the net with 0.7 seconds to go.

Siena heaved it down the floor to no avail and Rider emerged as the winner.

“It was good to see them jumping up and down, celebrating,” Head Coach Kevin Baggett said. “That’s what it’s all about, it’s always about your guys ... it’s always been about getting these guys to win and understand what it’s like to cut those nets down.”

The Broncos will have a tall task as they face top-seeded Quinnipiac. Tipoff is at 6 p.m. and the game will be broadcast on ESPN+.

WOMEN’S BASKETBALL

Milligan out as head coach; ‘I’m at peace’

By Kadie DiGiuseppe

RIDER women’s basketball Head Coach Lynn Milligan was let go after leading the team for 18 seasons, Rider Athletics announced.

The statement came from Athletic Director Don Harnum shortly before 2 p.m. on March 10 on the Rider Athletics website.

“I sincerely wish her nothing but the best in her future endeavors,” Harnum said in the announcement.

Milligan was not quoted in the statement.

In an interview with The Rider News on March 11, Milligan said, “Being in this profession for as long as I have, I’m proud of the longevity that I’ve had. Push comes to shove and it comes down to winning and we did not do that enough. I’m at peace with that. I’m perfectly fine with that.”

The Broncos finished the 2024-25 season with a 7-22 overall record and a 5-15 conference record, which put them in 11th in the Metro Atlantic Athletic Conference standings, just missing the postseason.

This is the first time that Rider has been left out of the MAAC tournament in program history with the introduction of two new teams to the conference and a new playoff format this season.

The tournament is from March 11 through March 15 at Jim Whelan Boardwalk Hall in Atlantic City.

Milligan said, “I’m proud of the work we did at Rider. I was able to coach at my alma mater for as long as I was and just really proud of everything that we did, proud of every player that ever played for me, proud of every coach that ever coached with me, and I feel good about the way that we left the program and

the legacy that we left. I’m just really proud of that and really proud of everybody that associated with it.”

A former manager for the team from 2021 to 2024, Thomas Metz, said he found out the news from an X, formerly Twitter, notification on his phone.

“I was like ‘What coach is getting changed?’ and then when I saw that it was Coach Milligan I was like, ‘Wow.’ I was kind of shocked,” Metz said. “I don’t think Rider will find another coach like Coach Milligan.”

According to the statement, Milligan finished her Rider career with a 214-332 overall record and is the all-time leader for career victories, 11 ahead of current men’s basketball Head Coach Kevin Baggett.

Under her leadership, the Broncos won the MAAC championship in 2020 for the first time in program history. However, that season the MAAC and NCAA tournaments were canceled due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Rider was given the 2020 title for its conference-best regular season record.

“Coach Milligan was a leader on and off the court,” Metz said. “She was a mentor and a leader and all of her players always respected that of her. She always wanted the best out of her players and 100% effort all the time.”

In Milligan’s time at Rider, 13 players combined to earn 20 All-MAAC honors while nine other players earned MAAC All-Rookie Team honors under her. Six special awards were also earned under Milligan, according to Rider Athletics.

Josiah Thomas/The Rider News



Head Coach **Lynn Milligan** will not return to Rider for the 2025-26 season.

Milligan said, “With the number of text messages and phone calls that I’ve gotten from players, past players, alumni, the Rider community, coaches, friends, reminded me that it is less about winning [and] more about the people that I’ve been around.”

Milligan is a 1992 graduate class with a bachelors in communication and in 1994 with a masters in counseling.

“The Rider community has been nothing but wonderful to me and I’m going to miss it,” Milligan said.

The end of the statement reads, “A national search for a new head coach will begin immediately.”