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# Dean of Moore Library set to leave the university

**By Samantha Clark**

**Sharon** Whitfield, Dean of Moore Library, is set to leave Rider on Oct. 14 to pursue other opportunities, according to a Sept. 28 email from Provost and Senior Vice President of Academic Affairs Kelly Bidle.

Closing her seven-year tenure at the university, Whitfield transformed the library into what it is today, a space that is "a hub for student activity and study," according to Bidle.

The introduction of Beanbag Alley, which added more comfortable seating and study spaces, as well as designated red, yellow and green noise zones that were set throughout the library to indicate specific silent sections, allowed the library to become a place for both work and community.

Whitfield told The Rider News that her new position stretches outside of traditional library work and focuses on curriculum development, emerging technologies and artificial intelligence, three areas that allow her to further explore preexisting interests and developments she made throughout her career.

Although she is leaving her position as the library's dean, Whitfield plans to remain at Rider in a part-time role, allowing her to continue working with colleagues and students that made her time at the university so fulfilling.

"I've worked at a few other New Jersey institutions," Whitfield said. "I will say that Rider has the most welcoming colleagues that I've ever had. They're supportive, they champion you, they cheer you on."

As much as the faculty impacted Whitfield, fulfilling the students' wants and needs is what has contributed to her successful transformation of the on-campus study space.

For example, Whitfield worked to allow athletes to complete their required study hours in the library, a concern that she turned into tangible change.

This addition, among many others, contributed to a 19% increase in students' library usage from September 2025 to September 2026, according to Whitfield.

"Meeting the needs of the students and driving that kind of change makes a significant difference in how they're using the library and how to create a hub," Whitfield said.

According to Bidle's email, outside of the library, Whitfield worked on the Provost's leadership team, where she made significant contributions for the classroom, technology and faculty development.

"She was an extraordinary librarian, really up to date about electronic resources, really up to date on emerging technologies," Bidle said in an interview with The Rider News. "I think that brought a lot to the library, and ideally, I'd like to find somebody who has some of those similar qualities."

The university plans on conducting a national search for Whitfield's replacement, with Dean of the Norm Brodsky College of Business Eugene Kutcher chairing the committee.

During the national search, Bidle said she hopes to maintain Whitfield's restoration of student activity in the library, although her impacts extended beyond the specific initiatives she introduced.



Photo courtesy of Rider University

After seven years, **Sharon Whitfield**, the Dean of Moore Library, is leaving to pursue other opportunities.

"[Whitfield] brought such a unique blend of passion and advocacy and just sort of forward thinking. All of those things were just really, really priceless to me," Bidle said. "I'm going to miss her, and all that she brought to the table, but I'm confident we'll find somebody who can carry that momentum."

# 2025 annual security reports released by Public Safety

**By Cal Sutton**

**Rider's** Department of Public Safety released its 2025 Annual Security and Fire Safety Report on Oct. 1.

The report, released on a yearly schedule, compiles the data of all criminal and non-criminal offenses that occurred on campus during the year. Reports are required to be published by Oct. 1 of each year.

## Criminal cases

In 2025, there were zero cases of criminal homicide. Criminal homicide is defined in the report as "Murder & Non-Negligent Manslaughter" and "Manslaughter by Negligence."

There have been zero cases of criminal homicide on Rider's Lawrenceville campus in the past three years, according to the report.

There were also zero cases of rape and statutory rape on the Lawrenceville campus in 2025. Rape numbers have decreased on campus over the past three years; there were six rape cases in 2023, two in 2024 and zero in 2025.

In 2025, there were three cases of fondling, as opposed to one case in 2023 and one case in 2024.

Dating violence increased from zero cases in 2023 and 2024 to two cases in 2025, but domestic violence decreased from seven cases each year in 2023 and 2024 to two cases in 2025.

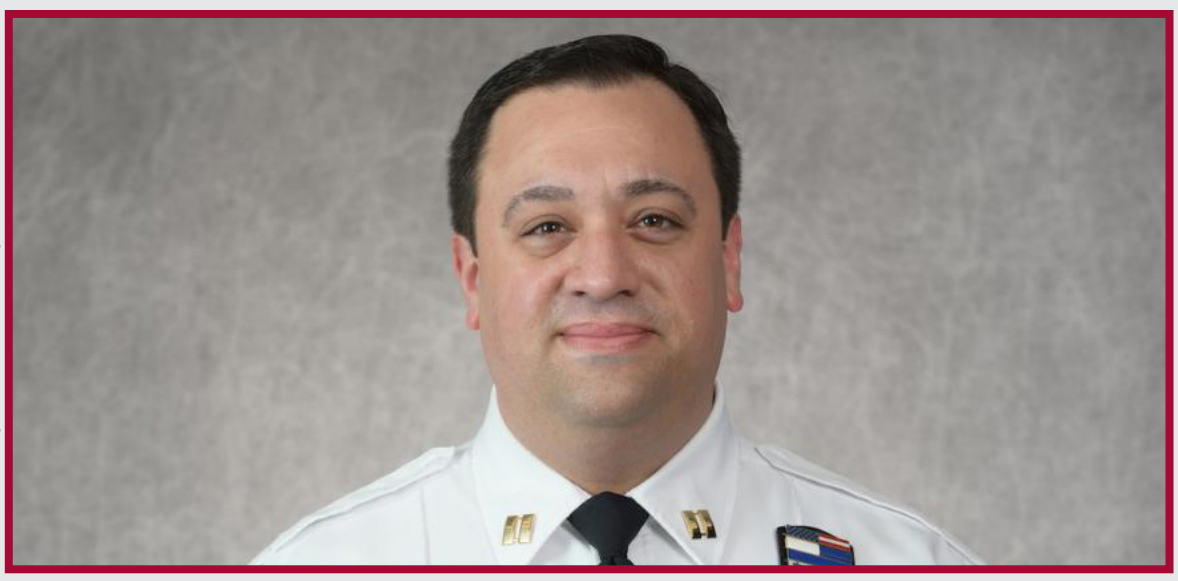

Photo courtesy of Rider University

Public Safety Director **Matthew Babcock** commented on the 2025 Annual Security and fire Safety Report.

There were zero cases of stalking, robbery, motor vehicle theft and arson in 2025. There was one case of aggravated assault in 2025, while there were zero in 2024 and three cases of aggravated assault in 2023.

Staff members from Rider's Title IX office were not available for comment by the time of publication.

Burglary cases rose in 2025, with seven cases on the Lawrenceville campus from two in 2024 and four in 2023.

According to Public Safety Director Matthew Babcock, the rise in burglaries on campus were from an offense by one group of students.

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*Test your Halloween knowledge!*

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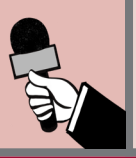
**EDITORIAL: SILENCING THE PRESS SILENCES US ALL**
*The Rider News staff discuss the ban of several media outlets at The White House.*

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**RIDER DEFENDS HOME COURT**
*Rider volleyball swept their weekend at Canastra Hammer Arena.*

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# SECURITY BRIEFS

BY JENNA MUNSWAMI

*Information provided by Public Safety Director Matthew Babcock*

## Timber!

Damaged vehicle. On Sept. 27, at 1:43 p.m., Public Safety was dispatched to the parking lot behind the General Service Building for the report of damage to a vehicle. Public Safety responded and spoke with Facilities Management, who reported that one of their work vans was damaged by a falling tree limb. The vehicle sustained damage to the roof and side door. No injuries were reported.

## Student health

Medical emergency. On Sept. 29, at 4:07 p.m., Public Safety was dispatched to the Canastra Health and Sports Center for a student suffering a medical emergency. Public Safety responded, evaluated the student and requested an ambulance to respond. Lawrence Emergency Medical Services, Capital Health Paramedics and Lawrence Police responded to the incident.

## Speed limit optional

Reckless driving. On Oct. 3, at 8:42 p.m., Public Safety was dispatched to Horseshoe Drive, in the area of Zeta Tau Alpha, for the report of a vehicle driving recklessly on campus. Public Safety responded to the area, but could not locate the reported vehicle. Public Safety then met with the students who reported the incident, obtained more information and are investigating.

Sarah F. Griffin/ The Rider News

# Decrease in liquor and drug violations, increase in weapons

**CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1**

"That [increase in burglaries] really stems from one instance with multiple students doing repeat offenses into the dining hall," Babcock said.

In 2025, Rider released ownership of the university's campus in Princeton. While Rider no longer owns the property, it was owned for long enough to be added to the 2025 report.

"We owned it for a long enough period of time last year; we felt it prudent to include it in statistics for one more year, and it will not appear next year," according to Babcock.

There were zero cases of any criminal offenses on the Princeton campus in 2024 and 2025.

### Liquor, drug and weapons violations

There were zero arrests connected to liquor and drug laws on the Lawrenceville campus in 2025. Disciplinary actions/judicial referrals for liquor violations also dropped to 29 on-campus violations and 29 residential facility violations, from 59 on campus and 52 in residential facilities in 2024.

"I have always mentioned that disciplinary referrals for alcohol violations have fallen over the years," Babcock said. "To support that, looking back 10 years to 2016 up until now, there was a peak year in 2017 of 112 referrals and it has steadily dropped since then. There have been some increases periodically, but it has been consistently lower ever since, down to the 29 referrals in 2025."

There was one arrest in 2025 for a weapons law violation. There were 12 disciplinary actions/judicial referrals for weapons law violations.

Liquor, drug and weapons law violations were zeroes across the board for the Princeton campus in 2023, 2024 and 2025.

### Fire reports

Every residential building on campus, according to the report, is equipped with on-site fire alarm monitoring, full sprinkler systems, smoke detectors, carbon monoxide detectors, fire extinguisher devices and set evacuation policies in place.

Each residential building had four fire drills in 2025. There were zero fires on the Lawrenceville campus in 2025, a decrease from the one fire in Ziegler Hall in 2024 which sustained less than $1 in damages.

There were zero instances of fire in residential buildings on the Princeton campus. Students have not been housed on Princeton's campus since 2021.

The 2025 Annual Security and Fire Safety Report also has information pertaining to on-campus policies including, but not limited to: Timely Warnings, reporting crimes, Title IX procedures and information on how the university responds to crimes.

# Rider transitions away from NoWires

**By Brannagh Rattigan**

A universitywide email delivered Sept. 25 broke the news many were hoping for: a reformation in the network used by Rider.

Previously operating with NoWires, Rider has begun shifting into operating with MyResNet, an entirely new network.

While NoWires was Rider's own network, MyResNet belongs to the vendor Boldyn Networks, and can be accessed by students through using the SSO, single sign-on, in each student's Rider credentials.

Tyler Romanowski, a member of the user services team on OIT, explained that the reasoning behind the network change was to improve the student experience.

"We've heard your complaints about the old network, some of the troubles that you've had connecting your devices, maintaining the connection, the speed, really anything in regards to that," Romanowski said. "We brought in this company to enhance the experience and make it a lot easier."

Romanowski shared that Boldyn Networks is both experienced and qualified in working with higher education institutions, and should have no trouble aiding the transition from NoWires to MyResNet.

"MyResNet is a lot easier to connect to. It's a lot faster, it's a lot more reliable and it's modern infrastructure for us," Romanowski said.

Lucy Grath, a sophomore music education major, expressed her concerns with the NoWires network.

"I get kicked off the Wi-Fi pretty often. Sometimes the connection is just really slow, which affects my ability to keep up in class or get work done. It can be really frustrating," Grath said.

However, upon receiving the informative email on MyResNet, Grath has high hopes for the efficiency of the new network, while still expecting hiccups.

"I'm hoping that the new Wi-Fi will help with some of the issues, although I'm still anticipating that there may be occasional problems just because of the number of students and faculty using the Wi-Fi at the same time," Grath said. "I would really like to see faster speeds and a more reliable connection overall."

Work on the network began the week of Sept. 20, first prioritizing the residence halls. The residential buildings are expected to be finished by Oct. 9. A timeline for the rest of the buildings on campus will be determined soon.

"We're on a pretty aggressive timeline to get all the dorms done. From that, the academics. We're working out the timeframes with that company, but it's not new to them, and we really trust our partnership with that company," Romanowski said.

While the operation is going smoothly at this point, road bumps can be, at times, unavoidable. If students are to experience any technical difficulties, Romanowski stressed the options available.

"If students experience anything, Boldyn, which again is the vendor, has a great support channel right through their website. They provide 24/7 support," Romanowski said. "If the students experience any other issues or Boldyn's not able to help, you can always ... submit a Help Desk ticket, and then we can escalate it with our Boldyn representatives."



Grace Juarez/ The Rider News

MyResNet will now be the operating network at Rider.

# Remembering Alain Brutus, '25, a light on and off the stage

**By Samantha Clark**

**Some** people leave a mark on a place, others leave a mark on the people in it. Alain Brutus was one of those people to impact those who surrounded him.

A graduate from Rider's BFA program in 2025, Alain was a performer in every sense of the word. According to friends, peers and faculty alike, he had the raw ability to warm every room, whether he was commanding a stage or filling a space with his laughter and light.

"Alain was not only incredibly talented, but also a gem of a human. He was kind, supportive and always ready to laugh. … He was a bright light in our community," Sean McCarther, professor and chair of the Department of Performing Arts, said.

On stage, Alain was a force to be reckoned with. Upon graduation, he was cast in Broadway's production of "Aladdin" as a member of the ensemble and an understudy for the title role. This great feat was a true testament to his raw talent seen on stages, as he stepped into the world he had spent years working towards.

It was not those moments, though, that made Alain shine so bright. It was not the applause or the accolades, but the small moments in between, when Alain was simply there; sitting beside others, making them laugh, checking in.

"He made a genuine connection and friendship with every person he met. He had a way of making you feel valued, seen and important," an alum said. "He was only at Rider for two-and-a-half years, yet, somehow, it feels like everyone who knew him had not just an awesome interaction with him, but a genuine friendship."

That is what makes remembering those lost so important. Life is not measured only by accomplishments, achievements or by the stages someone stood on. It is held strong and steady by the people who were changed from simply knowing them.

Anyone who had the great opportunity of watching Alain perform could say that his talent was undeniable, but talent was only a small part of what made him so special.

Theater was where Alain shined, but not the only place he left his mark.

Somewhere among the moments before the curtain rose and after it fell, Alain became more than a performer; he made an impact on people's lives.

There is no easy way to say goodbye to someone who was lost too soon.

With more songs to sing, more stages to brighten and more dreams to chase, Alain's story does not end with the final bow.

His light will continue to shine through every classmate who sat next to him, every performer who shared the stage with him and every person who had the wonderful privilege of being warmed by his joy.

A friend and alum said, "I will miss him more than I'll ever be able to put into words. But I hope to honor him by walking through this life with a little more authenticity, a little less judgment, and a lot more laughter and light — the way Alain did."

*Rider's Counseling Center offers free resources for students, faculty and staff in Zoerner House near the south entrance of campus. Walk-in appointments are available, offering mental health support through the Healthy Broncs Portal. Contact the Center at counseling@rider.edu or 609-896-5157.*



Grace Juarez/The Rider News

# Seven days of sensory experiences

**By JC Church, Connor Reichert and Sofia Santiago**

**Following** the grand opening of the new Sensory Garden, Rider's Counseling Center hosted a full week of events, targeting the five senses.

Sept. 30 was the "forest bathing" event at 9:15 a.m. Immersing attendees in the sights and sounds, the event allowed them time to admire the woodland bordering the Sensory Garden.

Jill Siletski, associate director of counseling and outreach, led tours of the garden and explained the intention behind its design.

"We call it a sensory garden because it's meant to engage the different senses," Siletski said.

The Sensory Garden brought attention to the space with a new way to relax and take time to self-reflect on campus, whether it be with friends or much needed time to get away from all the stressors of college life. The area beautifully displays plants, sounds and fragrances that bring cozy feelings that college students often need.

These interactive elements were intentionally selected and arranged to create a therapeutic experience. Many of the plants are native, and each component of the garden was chosen with sensory engagement in mind.

These scents hit the nose and immerse guests, welcoming a warm, comforting experience, especially when it comes to plants, such as lavender, mountain mint, Russian sage, bee balm and hyssop.

The space also includes plants that attract pollinators and other insects, allowing students to observe nature as part of their experience.

"Everything that is in the garden has been planted and placed with intention and chosen with intention to make sure it engages senses we find to be therapeutic," Siletski said.

The activity on Oct. 1 featured "flow on the lawn," where yoga practice took place. Attendees could bring their own yoga mats or use the ones provided.

On Oct. 2, the Counseling Center hosted a mindful walk through the garden, where they encouraged participants to listen to the sounds around the space.

The garden is intended to offer students a place where they can slow down, reconnect with their surroundings and find a sense of calm.

"The goal is to bring peace and make you feel relaxed and calm, depending on any different level you prefer," Siletski said.

One of the garden's key sensory experiences involves touch, where students can explore the different textures of plants, including lamb's ear.

"So if you find yourself feeling stressed, overwhelmed, frustrated, upset, this might be the plant that relaxes you because it's nice, soft and fuzzy," Siletski said.

The grass species within the garden's grounding pad is Japanese forest grass that feels soft under the feet. The presence of the plants within the soil emphasizes the present moment and gives a relaxing vibe as the nature around catches the eye.

Oct. 3 was a sensory-sound experience and on Oct. 4, there was a stone-stacking and rake and release event.

The garden also incorporates other interactive elements, including beads and sound, allowing visitors to engage multiple senses simultaneously.

"You can try feeling the beads, but also there is sound attached to it," Siletski said. "You're engaging the different senses, and it's a great place to pause, start your release and begin to experience the sensations of the garden."

In addition to providing a space for observation and relaxation, the Sensory Garden offers opportunities for students to participate directly in gardening activities.

"We do offer mindful watering and gardening if students are interested," Siletski said.

Mindful gardening encourages students to focus their attention on simple tasks and the experience of working with plants. Activities such as weeding can become opportunities for students to slow down and concentrate on the present moment.

Oct. 5 was a Sensory Garden scavenger walk starting at 11 a.m., providing the opportunity to fully explore the garden and potentially discover something new.

Siletski highlighted the garden's climbing plants and other features that encourage students to interact with the environment and observe how the garden changes over time.

The Sensory Garden is designed, not only as a place for relaxation, but also as an opportunity for students to explore creativity and connect with nature.




Alyssa Scudieri/The Rider News

The Sensory Garden will soon offer workshops and events.

"I feel like it's a good experience to learn about it because we might like the fact that everything is smooth and has its place," Siletski said. "Being able to actually make and create has its own positive chaos."

Through its combination of plants, textures, sounds and opportunities for hands-on participation, the Sensory Garden provides members of the Rider community with a space to pause, explore and experience the natural environment in a new way.

For students, the garden offers a new place to relax and spend time outdoors.

Cheyenne Cope, a junior graphic design major, appreciated the variety of activities and spaces available throughout the garden.

"I think it's pretty cool. I think there is a lot of stuff that people can use here, especially the bean bags and Zen garden. I also really like the curtain with the beads," Cope said.

Elecita Williams, a senior biology major, said she was immediately drawn to the peaceful atmosphere.

Williams also said she enjoyed the garden's natural features, including its mushrooms and edible bell peppers, as well as the opportunity to sit and play the drums.

"I love it. This is my new favorite place," Williams said. "It's very peaceful, and I would definitely come here all the time to study, chill and have a peace of mind."

HOME AWAY FROM HOME

# Friends from Shanghai find each other again

**By Sofia Santiago**

**After** a whole semester, 7,400 miles and a 22-hour flight, two friends were finally reunited: senior business administration majors Jiarui Dai and Nayun Lin.

They are able to call Rider home, thanks to the Sanda-Rider Cooperative Program, a joint effort between Rider and Sanda University in Shanghai, China. Due to universitywide changes, this will be the last year the program will run.

Since 2005, the program has given students the opportunity to earn a Bachelor of Science along with a Master of Business Administration or a Master of Accountancy degree from both Sanda and Rider. During students' senior year, they are required to study for two semesters on Rider's campus.

The program required a Sanda GPA of 2.5 and above and a passing score on the CET-6, the national English proficiency exam for college students in China.

Although Dai and Lin have been studying English since kindergarten, they are especially excited to improve their skills at Rider.

"It is a good environment to speak English, and, because after I come back to my hometown, I seldom speak with foreign people," Dai said.

Lin explained that the experience is beneficial for her, since she hopes to work for her family's business in international trade.

Dai shared her plans to pursue her master's in the U.S., and now that Rider is not an option, she is looking at schools on the West Coast.

As students of the program, they have been classmates and friends since their freshman year, and the two originally planned to make the journey together starting in spring 2026 and finishing in fall 2026, before the program ends.



Photo courtesy of Jiarui Dai

Senior business administration majors **Nayun Lin** (left) and **Jiarui Dai** have been friends for three years.

However, because of visa issues, Lin was unable to depart on time, and Dai had to come to the U.S. alone.

"I was nervous before I came here because I'm taking a long flight to the U.S. and I'm alone, and I don't know [if] I can make friends here. I didn't know anything," Dai said.

The pair talked through social media during this time, Dai sharing her new experiences and feelings and Lin supporting her friend virtually and catching her up with what was happening back home.

"I [was also very] sad because I was just waiting for the visa for a very, very long time," Lin said.

Halfway through the spring 2026 semester, Lin received good news.

"[Just when I wanted] to give up because I [was] already going to school in China, the visa came, I told my teacher and she said, 'Maybe you can [go] next semester, so you can do it,'" Lin said.

Now, the two are able to share their time abroad together and meet up every day. They both enjoy traveling and have similar music tastes, so they plan to attend concerts and explore New Jersey, New York and the surrounding areas together.

Dai will have to return to China at the end of this semester, leaving Lin alone for spring 2027. However, the pair expect to graduate together in Shanghai, reunited again 7,400 miles away.

*This article is part of the Home Away From Home series by The Rider News to highlight international students from the S.N.O.*

Gail Demeraski/The Rider News

HOME AWAY FROM HOME

By Ryan Denkovic

Designed by Grace Juarez

# Spooky crossword



## Down

1. 1818 Mary Shelley novel
2. Rider's Horror Film Drive-in Event
3. Matthew _____; Stu Macher in "Scream" (1996)
5. Linus, who are you writing to?
7. Final girl actress in John Carpenter's "Halloween," Jamie _____
9. ____ Skellington

## Across

4. October holiday
6. Spooky MJ song
8. Be careful not to say his name three times!
10. Addams Family daughter
11. Oct. 30, AKA _____ Night

**Find the answers here!**

**Play online here!**

GBLC 2026 Signature Event

Gail Bierenbaum Leadership Council at Rider University

Featuring Val Ackerman

The founding president of the WNBA and recently retired commissioner of the Big East Conference



Enjoy a night of refreshments and networking opportunities during GBLC's biggest event of the year!

WNBA

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When: Thursday October 15th, 2026 from 6:00pm - 8:00pm
Where: Bart Luedeke Center, in the BLC Theater & Linda Luedeke Lobby

Approval OCL through October 16, 2026

Courtesy of Megan Rothstein

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DEADLINE OF OCTOBER 16TH

Available to male Freshmen and Sophomores who strive for balance in everyday life.

Courtesy of Matthew Cruz

# Silencing the press silences us all

As journalists, we are told to report the truth. So, imagine being told to report the "truth," only if it is approved by those with the power.

On Sept. 18, this unfortunate statement became reality when President Donald Trump banned three media outlets, CNN, MS NOW and Politico, from entering the White House and stripped them of their credentials, directly prohibiting their access to the ever-changing landscape of United States politics.

In a statement accusing these left-leaning outlets from publishing "fake news" and negative coverage, Trump candidly violated the constitutional rights of all American citizens, the freedom of speech.

Brannagh Rattigan, sophomore news editor, said, "I find it very disheartening that we live in a country that's so full of opportunities, and we are actively watching them be stripped away from us under this presidency."

Junior Managing Editor Cal Sutton continued, saying, "They're keeping them from reporting the truth, because that is what journalists are there to do, and it is so incredibly upsetting to see that being ripped away from people, one by one, outlet by outlet."



Grace Juarez/The Rider News

The Rider News staff discuss the ban of several media outlets at The White House.

The First Amendment of the United States Constitution emphasizes the importance of freedom of speech, which provides protection for religion, assembly, speech, the press and the right to petition the government.

With this barring, Trump blatantly stripped these rights from all those who proudly wear press badges for these outlets.

"It seems every time that we are talking about a violation of our amendments, in terms of freedom of speech, somehow Donald Trump is looped into that conversation, which is extremely troubling to know that he is the one leading the country," junior Executive Editor Samantha Clark said.

This constitutional violation is especially concerning, due to the fact that all three affected media outlets are known to be left-leaning, which holds opposing goals to Trump and his administration. With that, it poses the question, "Why is he prohibiting only left-leaning outlets?"

"Whether [the outlets] were Democratic or Republican, no matter the situation, it's never fair to silence one side of things," Rattigan said. "Whether the circumstances had been different or not, this would be just as serious."

On Sept. 24, the three outlets' credentials were fully reactivated and were allowed back on the White House grounds after U.S. District Judge Timothy Kelly issued an emergency order ruling, which stated the violation of the organizations' constitutional due process rights.

Despite this return of access, the initial prohibition lasted six days, causing all subsequent information from that week to be lost among the three outlets during the exclusion period.

"And even if nothing was lost, it doesn't reverse the consequences," Clark said. "He is supposed to lead our country, and he just doesn't care about the things that our country is supposed to stand on."

This is not the first time this country has seen the president ban outlets that promote free speech and expression. In 2025, the White House barred the Associated Press from covering Cabinet meetings due to the viewpoints of the outlet.

Although in both past and present instances Trump eventually reopened access, it does not defer from the fact that he handles criticism with punishment, rather than as a natural part of democracy.

Tatyanna Beauliere-Jackson, senior social media editor, said, "I think the leader of the free world should be able to accept criticism of his work without feeling undermined or belittled in any way, and it just sends a horrible example to those coming up in journalism."

This directly impacts student journalists, as it excuses any limitations placed on the future of media due to the decisions of a sole man in power.

Sutton said, "We are student journalists who fight to be able to use our voices consistently. Is this the climate we are expected to enter into post-graduation and thrive?"

That question deserves an answer.

Journalism is not supposed to be comfortable; it does not exist to make leaders look good, protect public officials from criticism or spread news that is approved by those in power. Journalism exists to reveal the raw news that matters.

Junior Features and Entertainment Editor Sofia Santiago said, "This also makes me think about how journalism and writing and that group of professions are being devalued more and more. It sort of delegitimizes it even more in the views of the general public. Because, I mean, at the end of the day, what we do here is valuable."

Senior copy editor Jenna Munswami added, "I cannot imagine a world in which journalists cannot tell the truth and report it and just be banned from that, because society deserves to know what is happening. They deserve to know the truth."

Journalism provides eyes and ears to the public, and when those eyes and ears are deliberately closed, it is not just reporters who lose their voice. We all do.

*This editorial expresses the unanimous opinion of The Rider News editorial board. This week's editorial was written by Executive Editor Samantha Clark and Managing Editor Cal Sutton.*

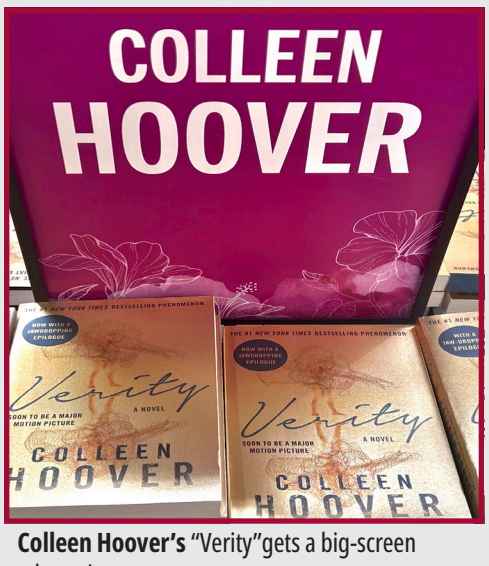
# DIGITAL EXCLUSIVES:

Read Alfie Eville and Jenna Munswami's articles in the opinion section this week.



Grace Juarez/The Rider News

Shine bright and bold with your fashion choices.




Alfie Eville/The Rider News

**Colleen Hoover's** "Verity"gets a big-screen adaptation.

# Hispanic Heritage Month: Confessions from a first-gen college student




Grace Juarez/The Rider News

A reflection on Hispanic Heritage Month, as it comes to end.

**Hispanic** Heritage Month is all about celebrating culture and traditions in Latino and Hispanic communities. It is an important month to celebrate what makes up these communities, as well as celebrate the people who come from families filled with rich culture. Growing up as a first-generation child, there is an overwhelming amount of information in culture, traditions and social systems to learn about as the first one in the family to grow up in the U.S. Along with that, it is to learn about where your family comes from. When people learn you speak two languages, you eat the foods they get for takeout every weekend and your parents' hometown is not in the 50 states you learn to memorize, they are fascinated and amazed. However, from the many questions I have gotten about it, I was never asked, "Was it difficult growing up as a first-generation daughter?" and the answer to that question is, yes. It is a new experience for you and your family.

According to fiveable, "first generation" refers to the first people born in a family who immigrate to a new country. They are usually growing up in a household that is a reflection of the country of origin. We learn to adjust to a new culture, social and political setting in comparison to our national origin.

A lot of children learned what is considered responsible at a young age, but to us first-generation children, responsibility was a little different. Responsibility was making sure we translated everything our parents needed to know. Phone calls, school documents and doctor appointments are needed to make sure my parents understood everything. I would sit next to my mom at parent-teacher conferences, not because I was in trouble, but because I needed to be there when my teacher asked, "Can you tell your mom you are doing a good job?" It is explaining to parents every permission slip signed, asking for a doctor's note or talking to someone over the phone. Even when we did not understand it all, I, and many others, were who our parents had to rely on because we were the only ones they had. It is because we grew up in a new environment and immersed ourselves in it at a young age, which parents do not always get a chance to learn about. While this can make us stronger and more understanding, it can also be a lot to carry.

Many of us saw how much my parents worked. I noticed it even more as I got older. Eventually, I understood that work sometimes had to come first. So when our parents were unable to attend our school events, it eventually became insignificant; our school events eventually became no big deal when they could not show up. During these events, our friends would talk about vacations, trips and family outings, and we could never relate. When I would ask my parents to go on a trip just like my friends, it was simply a "we can not afford to right now," but if I worked hard like them, I would be able to go whenever I wanted. So we do.

In a 2016 U.S. National Household Education survey, it was shown that students earning "mostly A" grades were 51% among students with immigrant parents and 48% among those with native parents. My parents never pressured me to do well in school, but I knew I had to do the best for them. 91% of immigrant parents expected their children to obtain a college degree, which was significantly higher than the 72% of native parents who expected the same. A 57% majority of the immigrant parents expected their children to get graduate or professional degrees, whereas a 36% minority of native parents had similar expectations. School was a privilege they never got, so we need to succeed for them.

Growing up the way many children of immigrants have, it was difficult to feel like you belonged in your community. We struggle with our biculturalism, trying to maintain a dual cultural identity so we can adhere to others. In my case it felt like I was too Mexican for my American friends; we grew up with different lives, and it was difficult to relate to them the way they related to one another. I would worry about stuff that was too mature for kids my age: helping my siblings with their homework when I did not understand it myself, taking them to doctor appointments or parent–teacher meetings when my parents were at work, taking them to practice or events and balancing school and work at the same time. Even then, I was too immature for adults. My Spanish, which dwindled from speaking only English at school, made me feel too American for my family.

Latino culture and U.S. culture can feel conflicting and confusing as you try your hardest to keep a balance between the two. You have to remember where your family came from, working hard to make sure you had the best chance at life that they could not have themselves. But having immigrant parents is a golden opportunity to learn about the one thing they brought with them when coming to the country: their culture. The food my parents made that created strange looks was only a fraction of the food their heritage had to offer. It is going to birthday parties filled with music and Latin dance, surrounded by family, and making a bed out of chairs because the party is going on late. It feels proud when you see your culture being represented in art, movies, etc. It becomes important to protect and stand up against racism and unfair decisions. So, while it comes with a lot of challenges, like figuring out how to fill out a FAFSA and college application, it is a journey of finding a comfortable balance between culture, expectations and goals.

*Andi Arroyo*
*sophomore journalism and political science major*

OUT ON CAMPUS

# All identities can coexist

I have had a multitude of conversations recently with people in my personal life about shifts in the queer community; ones that resemble an establishment of hierarchy in the "validity" of specific LGBTQIA+ identities.

My main worry is the consistent removal of the letter "T" in many uses of the acronym "LGBT" or "LGBTQIA+."

There is an increasing amount of TERFs, or trans-exclusionary radical feminists, that are taking society by storm.

One of the most commonly talked-about individuals considered a trans-exclusionary radical feminist is J.K. Rowling. She wrote the "Harry Potter" book series, which was a huge success, being made into movies and television shows to follow.

Rowling is well known for her views on transgender individuals, most famously, her distaste for transgender women. In 2019, Rowling expressed glaring support for a researcher who lost her job after stating that individuals cannot change their sex.

While takes on transgender issues vary person-to-person, it is important to acknowledge that transgender individuals are not here to be "deceptive" or "trick" people.

Rowling stated in a tweet in 2025, "Rationality goes out of the window when you pretend men can be women."

The rise in transphobia across the nation and around the world is incredibly troubling. Claiming to be a feminist, yet excluding one of the most vulnerable groups, goes against what you are fighting for.

There are also many lesbian groups that have radical views to the extent of claiming lesbians are not "real" lesbians if they love a transgender woman.

This is incredibly problematic, because, whether these specific groups believe themselves to be transphobic or not, that is exactly what they are.

Trans-exclusionary radical feminists need to reflect on what exactly it is that they are fighting for. It is unfair and upsetting to see people rallying against such vulnerable populations.

It takes only a little bit of common sense to see why it is an incredibly deep-rooted issue that we need to take large strides to avoid spreading.

Trans women are women. Trans men are men. We need to stop fighting; we need to let identities coexist.

*Cal Sutton*
*junior journalism major*



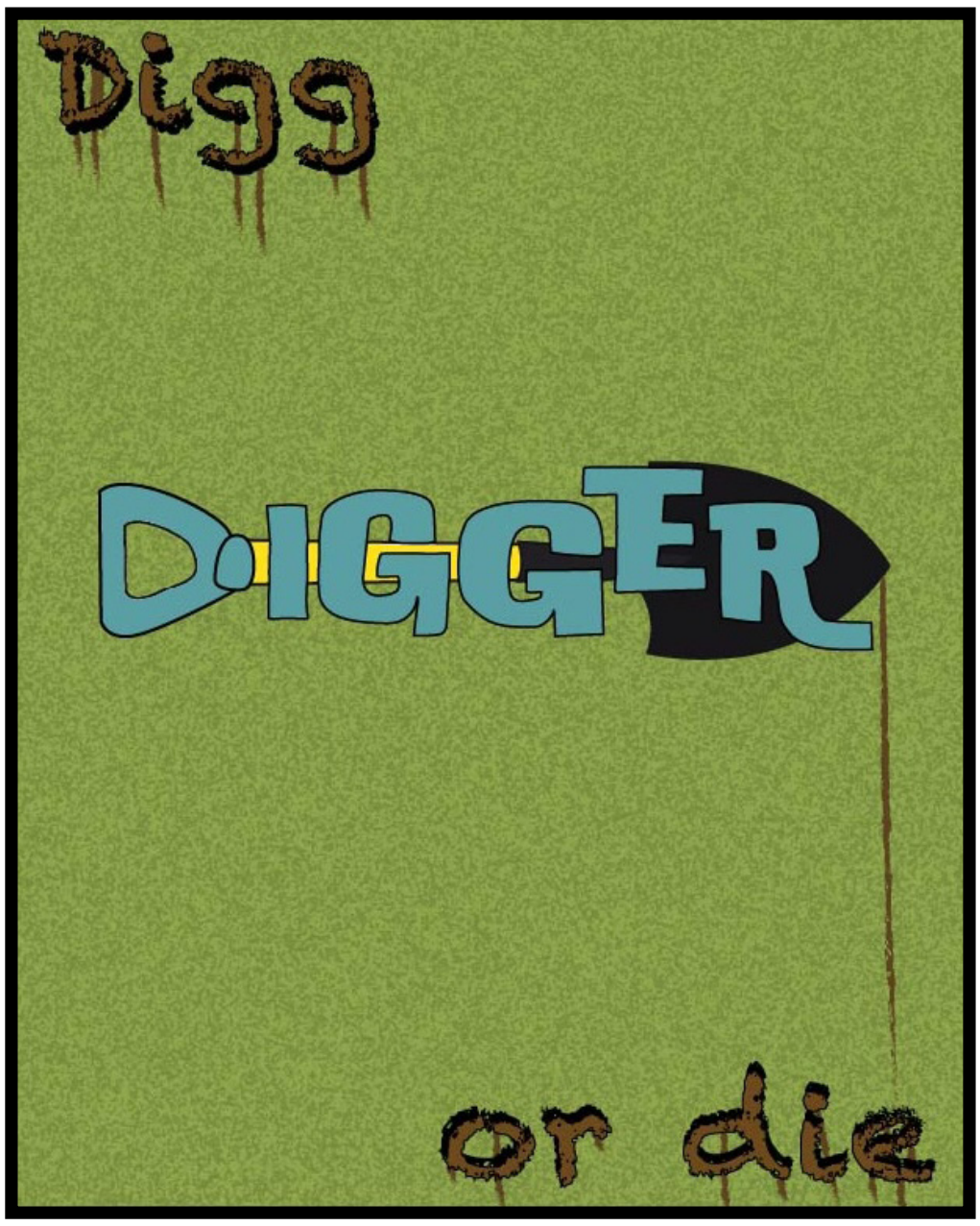

*This article is part of the Out on Campus column by Cal Sutton to spread awareness and shine light on LGBTQIA+ identities.*



# "Digger" strikes gold: A film review

**Films** like "Digger" are quite difficult to put into words. Upon viewing, I left this film unsure of what I had just watched. Not that I was confused, but rather, that I was unsure of my thoughts on it. It was the first film where I did not immediately know what to rate the film. After thinking about it more on the drive home, I figured it out. "Digger" is difficult to put into words, but I can sure as hell try. In fact, I can tell you, with confidence, one word that describes this film perfectly: art. This film is, without a shadow of a doubt, art.

"Digger" is the latest film from "Birdman" and "The Revenant" director, Alejandro G. Iñárritu. In the days leading up to the film's release on Oct. 2, it was sparking quite the debate online. The film debuted on Rotten Tomatoes with a staggeringly low 41% and a lot of backlash from critics, with many saying that it was one of the worst releases of the year, let alone ever. However, there was a lot of praise for the film as well, which left me quite nervous about what to expect. I had very high expectations for the film, and I feel as though those expectations were met, but certainly not in the way that I was expecting.



Amanda Del Monte/The Rider News
"Digger" could be the next under appreciated masterpiece.

The film follows multi-billionaire oil tycoon Digger Rockwell as he must correct the mistakes of an oil-drilling operation that goes catastrophically wrong, sending a glacier multiple times the size of Washington D.C. barrelling towards Europe. The title character, Digger, is played by Tom Cruise, in what is one of the best performances in film so far this year; he is practically unrecognizable in this character. Cruise's performance is also seemingly the only thing that everyone can agree is great about this film. He is not the only one in the film to give an incredible performance, however. I would go so far as to say that there is not a single bad performance in the film, and most of the main and supporting cast gave performances that are almost award worthy all around. Every single character, no matter how much screen time they have, is performed incredibly. From the trailers, I knew that Cruise would give the best performance of the film, but Riz Ahmed and John Goodman also gave very good performances, with the former giving one of the best non-Digger monologues in the film.

While the film is incredibly well acted, visually striking and amazingly written, I would be amiss to say that it is for everyone. This film is not doing too well among critics and some audiences because they say that it is "preachy," or morally and politically driven, and while I think that is an understandable conclusion to come to, I do not agree with that sentiment. The film does not hold back or leave its message in any nuanced way. Yes, it makes its point abundantly clear to the point where it could get annoying. However, I do not think that it should have held back. Climate change is a very real, very dangerous crisis that is already passing thresholds of permanence, yet, it still is not addressed seriously enough. This film spells that out for you and does not pull any of its punches.

Branching off of that, another comment I have been seeing a lot is that the film is mostly unpopular with Americans, and I can totally see why. Iñárritu heavily criticizes the United States and its citizens. Specifically, the film criticizes our car-centric society and embarrassing lack of walkable cities and public transport. I was left feeling extremely guilty and dreading the fact that I had to drive home after the film was over, and I know that is the exact reaction that Iñárritu intended to get out of his audience. As Cesar A. Cruz once said: "Art should comfort the disturbed, and disturb the comfortable," and that applies here to the nth degree. Most people do not like being called out and being uncomfortable, and this is a film that feels designed to do just that, so I would imagine that is where most of the negative reviews for this film have stemmed from.

Despite being made uncomfortable by the film and being called out, I still feel as though I have to give this film five stars out of five. It truly is masterful in everything it does and I would not be surprised if public perception of this film shifts over the next 10 to 20 years, similar to John Carpenter's "The Thing." However, as I said before, I think that it would be immeasurably hard to recommend it to non-film buffs. "Digger" is not a film that prides itself on its accessibility. This film will make you uncomfortable. Full stop. Great art is supposed to do that. If you still want to give it a chance, I say go for it. If you are willing to open your mind to its ideas and be made a little uncomfortable, then I think you will really enjoy this film. And if you are someone afraid of being made uncomfortable, still go watch it; because you are the exact person this film was made for.

*Ryan Denkovic*
*sophomore English major*

THE Rider News

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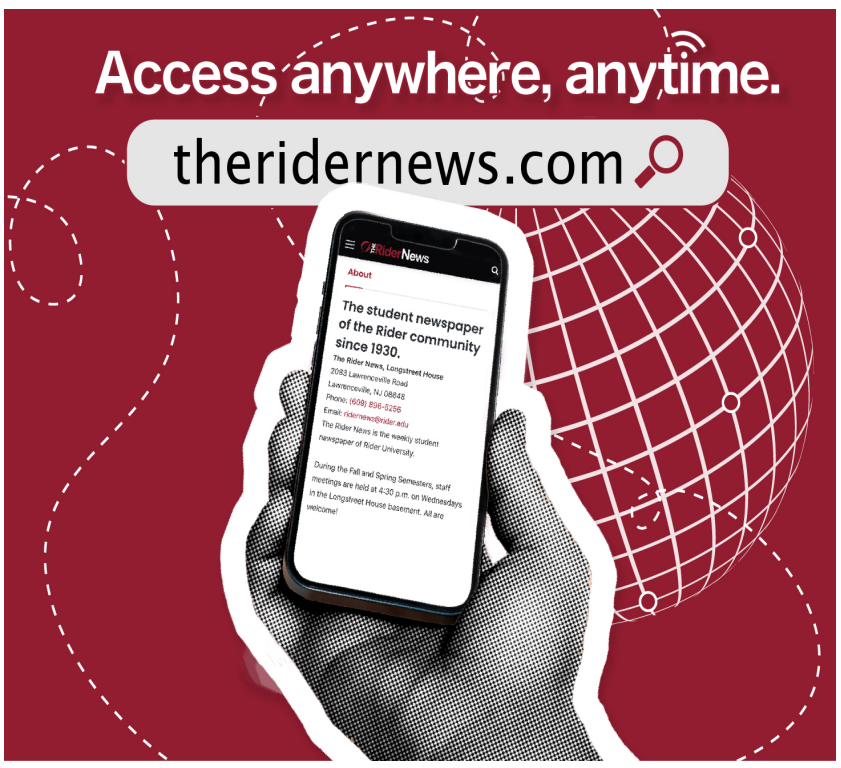

FIELD HOCKEY

# Broncs move to 3-1 in NEC play with win, splitting for the week

**By Joey Poto**

**Rider** field hockey picked up a crucial 3-2 Northeast Conference win against Merrimack College before suffering a heart-wrenching 3-2 defeat to Lock Haven University in the final seconds.

## Conference heroics

The Broncs traveled to face the Merrimack Warriors on Oct. 2 in a match that started out slow, as neither team could produce a shot in the opening four minutes.

Junior goalkeeper Jade Regnart would make the save on the Warriors' first attempt, then the following shot was blocked, marking the only two shots for the Warriors in the period.

A pair of shots in the seventh minute would not close with a score for the Broncs, and a ninth-minute chance for senior forward Liv Cox was saved.

Off an assist from senior defender Emma Bonshak late in the opening period, it was junior forward Sam Connelly scoring her first collegiate goal for the first score of the match.

Within the first few minutes of the second period, Merrimack came out hot with four penalty corners and three shots, one saved by Regnart.

Eventually, the pressure became too much when Merrimack found the answer to tie it at 1-1, with Bonshak's scoring attempt being saved.

The third period was the quietest, as there were only four shots in the whole period, all by the Broncs.

One of those shots gave Rider the lead when freshman midfielder Caroline Mauer scored to give the Broncs a 2-1 lead heading into the final period.

Neither team would even take a shot until the 50th minute, when Merrimack was given a penalty corner, where they capitalized to tie the score at two.

With the game looking like it would go to overtime, senior midfielder Ang Borisow scored to give the Broncs a 3-2 lead with seven minutes left.



Photo courtesy of Rebekah Hartzell

Senior midfielder **Ang Borisow** taking a shot past her defender.

"I was so excited, but honestly, you think about how it was a whole team effort," Borisow said. "Everyone has a role and I was able to put that in for our team."

The Broncs stood strong until the end, as they led the shot tally 15-8, allowing just one Warriors shot in the entire second half.

Head Coach Gina Carey-Smith commended her team's accountability.

"We have worked very hard in counter defense this past week," Carey-Smith said. "Everyone is taking accountability with recovering and marking which helped so much."

With their win at home, the Broncs continued their strong start to conference play, advancing to 3-1 in the NEC games across the season.

## Late heartbreak

After their conference win, the Broncs then traveled to Lock Haven on Oct. 4 for an out-of-conference matchup.

Despite having more offensive pressure early, it was the Bald Eagles who would strike first, taking that 1-0 lead into the end of the first period.

Going into the second, Lock Haven started out with some early pressure with a pair of penalty corners, however, just a few minutes later, the game would flip and Rider would be the one turning up the heat.

After two Bonshak shots and another from senior forward Ella Lewis were saved, it was Cox who broke through with a 22nd-minute goal.

Following fouls and substitutions by both teams, the half ended with the score tied at one apiece.

The Bald Eagles challenged early, with their first shot of the half being blocked, then Regnart made the save on the second.

At the seven-minute mark, Lock Haven took a 2-1 lead, but it was Borisow who found the equalizing score at the end of the third.

As the fourth period commenced, the Rider offense produced multiple shots and penalty corners, searching for the winning score.

Lock Haven, on a penalty corner and with three seconds remaining on the clock, scored the game-winning goal.

This loss was a heartbreaker for the Broncs, but Borisow has the mentality to learn from the mistakes.

"You learn more from losing, so you try to take those losses and learn how to prevent them in the future," Borisow said.

Returning to Ben Cohen Field for a home stretch, the Broncs will take on Mercyhurst University in an NEC matchup on Oct. 9, then a non-conference faceoff against Davidson University on Oct. 11. Both games will be streamed on ESPN+.

MEN'S SOCCER

# Broncs fill the Metro awards, a draw and a win in Metro play

**By Joshua Yuhas and Jon Coiro**

**Finding** the back of the net early has been a key to their success this season, as Rider men's soccer held a 2-2 draw against Iona University, then returned to Ben Cohen Field for a 3-0 victory over Niagara University.

## Surviving the pressure

The Broncs looked to continue their early scoring success on Sept. 30 when sophomore midfielder Drew Heil's shot was blocked.

Seeing themselves on the flip side of the trend, it was the Gaels scoring in the first 10 minutes.

Iona would not relent, as they produced the next four shots within a five minute period following the goal, with one off the left post, one being blocked and the final one missing high.

After surviving the onslaught, senior defender Ryan Vaubel took a shot that was saved by the Gaels' goalkeeper.

Action settled down until the end of the half, when graduate student goalkeeper Marius Helias made his first save of the game to keep the deficit at one.

The Broncs were outshot 10-3 across the opening half, however, Helias made two saves.

Early in the second half, the Broncs' surge began when senior defender Michael Holliday broke through off an assist from Heil and junior forward Emmanuel Dan-Adokiene to tie the match at one.

An exchange of counterattacks commenced, as the Gaels charged down the field, but was saved by Helias, then the Broncs flipped the field.

In the 53rd minute, it was Dan-Adokiene scoring to give the Broncs their first lead of the match, with Heil collecting his second assist of the day.

Producing four of the next five shots, the Broncs maintained the pressure and freshman midfielder Gavin Farrachio's shot was stopped by the Gaels.

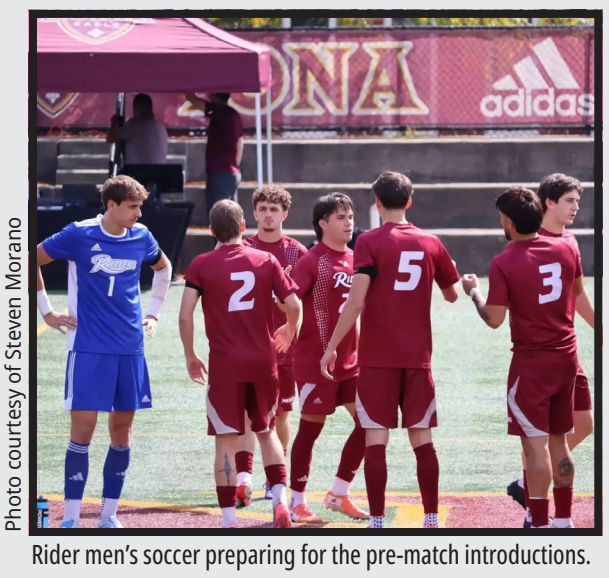


Photo courtesy of Steven Morano

Rider men's soccer preparing for the pre-match introductions.

On an instant charge, Iona would work their way across the field right after the save and find the back of the net to tie the match at 2-2.

Up to the final whistle, Rider's defense would face 10 shots, but Helias held strong through the barrage, making three saves in the sequence, closing the match in a draw.

## Quick starts in both halves

The Broncs looked for victory at Ben Cohen Field for their Alumni Day matchup on Oct. 3.

Heil has been no stranger to this, as he rumbled in to beat the Niagara goaltender less than three minutes into the match to give the Broncs an early jolt on their first shot of the day.

The momentum remained with Rider as Heil and Dan-Adokiene took their chances at the net.

The Purple Eagles tested Helias at the 20th minute when he made a save.

The hot pair of the week in Heil and Dan-Adokiene connected, once again, just inside the 35-minute mark, when Heil caught a fast break into Niagara territory, feeding the ball to Dan-Adokiene, chipping it in for his second goal in as many games.

Heil's goal and three assists earned him the Metro Player of the Week honors, as well as Dan-Adokiene's two goals and one assist getting the Rookie of the Week honor.

"Every game we play, we're getting closer and closer to that next step. We still have a ceiling and we're starting to get there at the right time," said Heil.

In a run of substitutions to begin the second half, one of them being Heil coming out for sophomore midfielder Colton Beuck.

Beuck followed the footsteps of Heil, setting up sophomore midfielder Axel Lucas for his first goal of the season and a 3-0 Rider lead to go with it.

Cruise control for the Broncs prompted Head Coach Chad Duernberger to mix different players into the fold.

"We always go with the next man up mentality. These guys train so hard everyday and go with that [mentality], and thankfully we had an opportunity to get [other] guys some minutes," Duernberger said.

The Purple Eagles held a 13-12 shot advantage, but it was a convincing win for the Broncs.

Heil, after the match, detailed the strong mentality of the group to maintain success.

"What's so good about this group is that we're really good at taking criticism. Guys will get on each other, but no grudges are held," Heil said. "Next game we're focused on how we can get better based on what we're telling each other."

The Broncs will hit the road to face off against the Merrimack University Warriors on Oct. 10 at 6 p.m. in North Andover, Massachusetts. The game can be streamed on ESPN+.

VOLLEYBALL

# Rider defends Canastra Hammer Arena with two Metro wins

**By Lindsay Scarola**

**Rider** volleyball picked up two Metro Conference wins in a weekend sweep, defeating Canisius University, 3-2, and Niagara University, 3-1.



Liliana R. Basille/The Rider News

Freshman outside hitter **Maisie Nawrocki** celebrating a kill with her teammates.

### Down to the wire

The Broncs started hot, scoring the first six points against Canisius University on Oct. 2, including three kills from junior outside hitter Aubrey Baker.

Down 7-2, the Golden Griffins went on a 5-0 run to tie the set, then added five more to take the lead.

Rider fought back with four of its own, including an ace from freshman middle blocker Tori Bonacci, to tie the set at 12.

Though they were down late, the Broncs outscored Canisius 5-1 taking the opening set, 25-22.

The Golden Griffins led 4-1 in the second, but the Broncs countered, tying the set at five.

Locked at 13-13, Rider then took a six-point lead after going on a 7-1 run led by two blocks and kills from senior middle hitter Molly Rohde and senior outside hitter Rylah Robinson.

The Broncs held on with a 5-1 run to take a 2-0 lead in the match.

Momentum changed in the third set, Canisius would lead 4-1 and never trailed in the set.

Despite Rider remaining close throughout, the Golden Griffins closed it out with a 9-1 run to gain a set and stay alive.

11 ties and three lead changes defined the fourth set. Rider held a 15-13 lead with an ace from sophomore defensive specialist Carly Allen, but Canisius fought back to tie it at 17.

Down by two, the Golden Griffins went on a 5-1 run, flipping the momentum and taking the fourth set, 25-22, forcing the final set.

In a winner-takes-all match to 15, Canisius had the lead early, but Rider came back to tie the set at seven.

Trailing 10-9, the Broncs broke the serve to take control. Back-to-back kills from Robinson gave them a 12-10 lead.

A kill by Bonnaci made it 13, but an attack error from Canisius gave Rider set point, allowing for Rohde to finish the match with the final kill.

Following the match, Head Coach Jeff Rotondo reflected on the importance of the win.

"This was definitely a win we needed to get, and our mindset going into this match was a key all week. I was proud of the way the team battled through the ups and downs of the match. … Overall, this helped solidify that our start was not reflective of who we are as a team," Rotondo said.

### Momentum carried over

In the opening set on Oct. 3, Rider made a 6-0 run after trailing 10-9 taking a seven-point lead over Niagara due to back-to-back double blocks from senior right side Anja Kelly and Rohde.

Holding the lead, 21-16, the Broncs ended the set on a 4-0 run, with a block and a kill from Robinson and Rohde.

Early on, it looked like Rider would dominate in the second set, having a 7-3 lead off an ace by senior setter Katie Cook.

However, the Purple Eagles came back on a 6-0 run to take the lead in the set 11-10.

After multiple lead changes, Niagara held onto a late two-point advantage before scoring four straight points to take control of the set and tie the match.

Rider regained its momentum in the third.

Up 11-6, it pulled away with a 9-1 run, securing a 25-12 set win and taking a 2-1 lead in the match.

The Broncs held a 10-6 advantage when the Purple Eagles scored four to tie the set. Now tied at 11, the Broncs regained control on a 4-0 run with aces by senior libero Simone Langford.

The Broncs continued to pull away with another four-straight points. An ace from freshman defensive specialist Olivia DeSaro put the final point on the match, securing the 3-1 win.

Reflecting on the weekend, Rohde said the team's confidence played a major role in its ability to respond and finish strong.

"When we're playing with confidence, we communicate better, play more freely, and feed off each other's energy. I think that helped us come out ready to compete and play more like ourselves," Rohde said.

The Broncs will travel to Sacred Heart University on Oct. 9 for a 7 p.m. matchup before heading to Fairfield University on Oct. 10 for a 4 p.m. match. Both games will be streamed on ESPN+.

WOMEN'S SOCCER

# Flashy shots and saves define sweeping Bronc efforts

**By Joshua Yuhas and Liliana R. Basille**

**Rider** women's soccer returned to the win column in emphatic fashion, with a 2-1 win over Merrimack University and a 2-0 shutout against Iona University.

### DeGeorge takeover

Senior forward Ava Ferrie took the first shot on Sept. 30, before sophomore goalkeeper Ashley Moore made her first save.

The Ferrie sisters maintained a hold on the early chunk of the first half when shots from junior forward Tess Ferrie and Ava were saved across a three-shot sequence for Rider.

Junior forward Annie Small would just miss off the crossbar and a shot from Ava was stopped by the Warriors' goalkeeper, leaving the two sides lockstepped through one half.

The second half became a takeover for junior midfielder Ava DeGeorge, who shuffled to her left to keep her defender in the air, then lofted a beautiful ball from outside the box into the left side for the Broncs' first goal.

After an exchange of shots, play began to slow down, until DeGeorge once again struck from outside the box for the second goal.

"It was great to see Ava DeGeorge play so well and score two quality goals," Head Coach Drayson Hounsome told Rider Athletics.

That second one would prove to be a game changer, as Merrimack would find the back of the net in the 89th minute, but it was not enough to stop a win for the Broncs.

### Thrilling shutout

Wanting to spark a winning streak, the Broncs started the game with high intensity on Oct. 6 against the Gaels, with two shots from Ava, and one from Small and Tess.

Play slowed down significantly, with both Iona and Rider taking four shots, while Moore only had to make one save.

Coming back from halftime, the Broncs had the determination to put a goal on the board in a high-paced second half.

DeGeorge lifted another beauty of a shot that the Gaels' goalkeeper knocked up into the crossbar and the pressure continued.

Tess, from the right side, knocked the ball off the crossbar before recollecting the ball to score her first goal of the season, with an assist from Small.

With that excitement, the Broncs wanted to put another one on the board when junior back Leah Marcell headed the ball down to Small, who scored her first collegiate goal.

Throughout the night, Moore made spectacular saves to maintain the shutout, earning the Metro Defensive Player of the Week for her efforts.

Moore spoke about the defensive efforts to hold the Gaels scoreless, despite facing 15 shots across the night, with six of them on goal.



Liliana R. Basille/The Rider News

Junior forward **Tess Ferrie** pushing the pace forward.

"Our team, our backline, it's our second year together, so we are definitely super composed when it comes to that," Moore said. "It's all about, hey, that moment happened, now let's go attack the next play."

The Broncs will look to carry their momentum when they head on the road on Oct. 7 against Manhattan University at 3 p.m. The game will be streamed on ESPN+.