

Broncs' Tale

Rider University Men's Basketball • Spring 2007 Update



Coach's Corner

As I look back at my first year as the head basketball coach at Rider I have mixed emotions. I think we took a big step forward in our quest to become one of the elite mid-major basketball programs in the country. We were able to double our win total from the previous season and we were the only Division I basketball program (out of seven) in the state of New Jersey to finish with a winning record. I was extremely proud of the way our players bounced back after a tough season in 2005-06. Although we were a much better team in 2006-07 our goal was not to win 16 games. Our goal as always is to win the MAAC championship and to advance to the NCAA tournament. As the calendar turns to June our players are returning for summer school and workouts. This team is very motivated. We have a group of guys with a tremendous work ethic and they will have a great summer preparing for next season. We will also welcome our three incoming freshmen Matt Griffin, Justin Robinson and Mike Ringgold at the end of June for summer school. It is an exciting time to be a Rider basketball fan.

Finally I would like to say thank you to Terrence Mouton. Terrence had a great career for us and more importantly earned his degree in business administration in May. I am very proud of Terrence's accomplishments on and off the court. I hope everyone has a great summer! We will be back on the court before you know it and we could not be more excited about our chances to be a great team next season.

New Signings for Upcoming Season

Mike Ringgold and Matt Griffin of Philadelphia and Justin Robinson of London, England, have signed national letters of intent to further their education and basketball careers at Rider University.

Ringgold, a 6'7" forward, spent the past season at Winchendon Preparatory School in Winchendon, MA, where he was named Team MVP after averaging 15.0 points and 9.0 rebounds on a team that posted 22 wins. As a senior at Philadelphia's Roman Catholic High School, Ringgold averaged 18.0 points and 8.0 rebounds per game, earning First Team All-Catholic and First Team All-City honors.

Griffin is a senior at St. Joseph's Preparatory School in Philadelphia, PA,

where he led his team to a 22-8 record in 2006-07. Griffin, a 5'10" point guard was named First Team All-Catholic and Third Team All-City this past season as his team's MVP. During his senior campaign, Griffin averaged 11.5 points and led his team with 6.0 assists per game.

Robinson led Blair Academy to the MAPL title as a junior and a runner-up finish this past season. The 6'2" point guard led his team in assists for the second straight season with 6.0 per game and was second in scoring at 12.0 points per game. As a junior, Robinson was named First Team All-MAPL and Second Team All-State by the Star Ledger.

ESPN Old Spice Classic

The 2007-08 season is highlighted by the invitation to play in the Old Spice Classic over Thanksgiving in Orlando, Florida at the Disney's Wide World of Sports Complex. The tournament will give Rider three games over the Thanksgiving weekend versus top flight competition. All games will be broadcast on the ESPN network of channels.

The Broncs will open up with the Wolfpack of North Carolina State on Thursday, November 22 at 2 p.m. on ESPN2. "The ESPN television exposure



will be great for our basketball program and our university," said Rider head coach Tommy Dempsey. Following that game, Rider will play either Penn State or South Carolina on Friday, November 23.

The other side of the bracket will feature Kansas State, Villanova, George Mason and Central Florida. "I know our players, coaches, administration, alumni, boosters, and fans are extremely excited about the tournament," said Dempsey. All eight teams will play three games in a bracket-tournament format November 22, 23, and 25, 2007.

2007-2008 Non-Conference Schedule

The Broncs will play one of the toughest non-conference schedules in recent history. The main highlight will be the Old Spice Classic Tournament over Thanksgiving weekend in Orlando, Florida. The 2007 field includes top 25 teams Villanova, North Carolina State and Kansas State, as well as South Carolina, Penn State, Central Florida and George Mason. The Broncs will also travel to play Big East up-and-comer Rutgers, Drexel, Monmouth and Murray State. Rider will also be on the road in late February to play an ESPN Bracket Buster game which will again match the Broncs with a powerful mid-major team. Rider will host Delaware, Fairleigh Dickinson, Binghamton, and NJIT in early season contests at the Broncs' Zoo.

Net Results Basketball Camp 2007

Weekend Team Camp • June 22-24

Open Week I • June 25-29

Open Week II • July 15-19

Contact Tracy at 609-896-5076 for more information.



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Season Review

After a season of transition for the basketball program, the 2006-2007 campaign was a season in which the Broncs doubled last year's win total and were the only Division I basketball team in the state of New Jersey that finished the season with a winning record.



The Broncs started off the season with an impressive 5-2 record in non-conference play. The five wins included tough road victories at Delaware, Binghamton and Boston University, as well as two thrillers at home against Northeastern and Drexel. Against Northeastern, Terrance Mouton went the length of the floor and knifed his way to the basket for a layup in the final seven seconds to post a one-point victory for the Broncs. Two nights later, in front of a sell-out crowd, Ryan Thompson's 3-pointer with six seconds remaining sent the game against Drexel into overtime, and the Broncs would eventually hold off the Dragons for an 89-81 overtime victory. The win also marked the 100th career victory as a head coach for Tommy Dempsey.

Conference play for the Broncs began with a 69-55 win at home against defending MAAC Champion, Iona. Rider collected its third MAAC victory of the season against Saint Peter's. That 75-69 win was highlighted by Jason Thompson surpassing 1,000 career points as he led the Broncs with 22 points and 11 rebounds. Rider followed up the win against Saint Peter's with an exciting win at Fairfield when junior forward Joel Green converted on two free throws with 1.9 seconds remaining to lift the Broncs to a 64-63 win. In the Broncs' only game at the Sovereign Bank Arena this year, Rider knocked off Siena by torching the Saints for 55 points in the second half. Senior guard Terrance Mouton scored his 1,000th career point and junior forward Jason Thompson led the Broncs with 31 points and 16 rebounds.

In February, the Broncs were impressive in their final two conference home games of the season in knocking off Manhattan and Canisius. Against Manhattan, Jason Thompson led the Broncs

with 23 points and tied a career high with 20 rebounds. Two days later, the Broncs put up a season high 98 points against Canisius as five Broncs finished with double figures in scoring and freshman Ryan Thompson finished with his first career double-double by scoring 10 points and grabbing 12 rebounds.

At the MAAC Tournament, the Broncs won their first round game against Iona 77-62 and then saw their season end a night later against eventual MAAC Champion Niagara.

The season included a number of individual highlights headlined by junior forward Jason Thompson being named First Team All-Met, MAAC Defensive Player of the Year, First Team All-MAAC, as well as being named to the CollegeInsider.com 2007 Mid-Major All-America team and Collegeinsider.com 2007 Mid-Major Defensive All-American team. Thompson was one of just three Division I players to average over 20 points and 10 rebounds for the season, the other two being Kevin Durant of Texas and Nick Fazekas of Nevada.

Senior Terrance Mouton played in his 119th career game in the quarterfinals of the MAAC Tournament, breaking the Rider record of 118 games played, and junior Kam Warner scored a career-high 24 points off the bench to lead Rider to a MAAC win at Canisius. Sophomore Harris Mansell led the MAAC in three-point field goal percentage at .530, the next closest was at .429, while Kevin Hickman and Joel Green were named to the MAAC All-Academic team.

Next season the Broncs return all but one player from the 2006-2007 team and hope to make a run at a MAAC Championship.

Season Accolades



Jason Thompson

First Team All-MAAC

MAAC Defensive Player of the Year

First Team All-Met

CollegeInsider.com 2007 Mid-Major All-America team

CollegeInsider.com 2007 Defensive All-America team

1,000 Point Club



Terrance Mouton

1,000 Point Club

Awards Banquet

We would like to thank everyone for their support of Rider basketball and especially for attending the awards banquet. Your dedication to the program is a tremendous asset for our entire team.

We wish our lone senior Terrance Mouton great success with his life beyond basketball. We all will remember Terrance's four years as a Rider Bronc fondly. For those of you unable to attend the banquet, here is a rundown of this year's awards.

Bronc Backer Award:

Shaun Sullivan

Kendall Anderson-Friedman

Richard H. Bubacz Award:

Sportsmanship, Leadership, Scholarship

Harris Mansell

Rookie of the Year:

Ryan Thompson

Coaches Award:

Terrance Mouton

Gilbert P. Rossi '42 MVP:

Jason Thompson

Staff Team Defeats Players in 1st Annual Softball Game

The coaches, athletic trainer, managers, and radio broadcast staff teamed to defeat the Rider basketball players in the 1st annual softball game at Mercer County Park on Wednesday, May 2. The victory was highlighted by head coach Tommy Dempsey's RBI single in the bottom of the 8th inning. Demonstrating a flawless glove at short and a 2-4 performance at the plate earned Dempsey a unanimous selection

as team MVP. Assistant coach Kevin Baggett earned the win by pitching the final four innings and allowing only one hit. Down 8-4 in the bottom of the fifth inning, Dempsey had a two run double that started the rally to bring the staff team back to victory. Junior Kevin Hickman showcased his baseball skills in center field robbing three potential base hits with diving catches and going 2-4 at the plate as well.