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Winter break unfavorable for men’s basketball team

BY MIKE ARELSON
Sports Staff Reporter

To say that the winter break was more angst than joy for the University of Rhode Island men’s basketball team would be an understatement.

After starting the break 2-2, including a thrilling double-overtime win at Boston College, the Rams have dropped five straight games, all in conference play, and now sit at 3-7 on the season and 0-5 in the Atlantic-10 Conference.

The losses have stung, but all for different reasons. The Rams did not show up to play against the University of Richmond, faded against Duquesne University, George Washington University and LaSalle University, and lost a tight two-point game at Fordham University. The Rams started the break with an 80-61 loss to rival Providence College at the Ryan Center. It was the first time URI had lost to PC at home since the Thomas M. Ryan Center opened in 2002.

As the losses piled up, the Rams have had to face personnel changes as well. In the days following the PC game senior captain Jamal Powell was ruled out due to a back injury. Jamal is currently leading the team with 16.4 points per game, was dismissed from the team for violation of team rules.

University of Rhode Island freshman TJ. Buchanan attempts to put the ball in the hoop in the Dec. 23 game against Providence College at the Ryan Center.

MEMORIAL UNION FIRE SAFETY SYSTEM CONSTRUCTION PROGRESS

BY HILLARY BRADY
Editor-in-Chief

A new semester means new construction for the University of Rhode Island Memorial Union, as the project to install a new fire suppression and alarm system, continues.

The $1.9 million project, which began around the final exam period last semester, will bring the entire Memorial Union up to fire code compliance after the Station nightclub fire in Warwick, R.I. on Feb. 20, 2003. The Memorial Union, which was built in sections dating back to 1954, 1964 and 1993, respectively, did not have a sprinkler system. The system installed in the building is part of a new, campus-wide project to update older buildings, which are considered “major places of assembly,” up to recent fire codes, Hamilton said.

The fire alarm system consists of a new set of lights and horns—though there are several completed boxes and lights installed, such as in the Rams Den, the system is not active yet. Until the new system is ready to be implemented and tested, the old fire alarm system is still active, Hamilton said.

The sprinkler system is still underway in various parts of the building. In places such as the Rams Den, the pipes in the ceiling are in place (in the rafters, the black pipes are still visible), and will be painted to match the rest of the ceiling and pipe work. All visible pipes will be painted, or concealed under a drop ceiling, Hamilton said.

While areas such as the Bookstore and Rams Den are mostly completed, construction is still underway in other areas, such as in the hallway behind the Total Image Salon, where an older ceiling, found under the drop ceiling tiles, had to be removed in order to design the new sprinkler ductwork.

These types of construction “surprises” are typical in working with an older building, Hamilton said.

Much of the Memorial Union underwent the majority of the major displacement from construction during the winter break, where work was done throughout the day when students were not on campus.

Work has now gone to a “third shift,” and will be completed from 11 p.m. through 7 a.m., to get “as much normalcy back as the timing as possible,” Hamilton said. Since the Union is unique in that it has both student occupants and business occupants, the goal is to disrupt normal operations as little as possible. So far, this has been successful—during the day businesses operate normal hours and extra security and precautions are in place during the evening construction to make sure products and equipment are left undamaged during the process, Hamilton said.

The mailroom is open, Ronzo’s Pizza resumed operation yesterday. Annie’s is set to open at the end of this week, and the Deli, which was only open on Mondays, is now also open Tuesday through Friday.

Manager talks about Building Services

BY NANCY LAVIN
New Editor

If there’s something strange in your neighborhood, who ya gonna call? Unless you’re in New York City, no, it’s not Ghostbusters. At the University of Rhode Island, try Building Services instead.

“We’re probably the people who know the most about what goes on here at URI, and definitely in the Union,” said Shawn Miner, a junior Criminal Justice Major and one of the Building Managers on duty.

This well-kept secret is located right next to the Information Desk on the second floor of Memorial Union, where Miner says the group does the majority of its work.

“Basically we’re in charge of making sure rooms open and close, setting up AV wires, helping out with whatever customers need. It’s a little bit of everything,” said Miner.

Minor started working for Building Services in his second semester at URI, and says he has found it to be a very positive and unique experience.

“I saw it as a good opportunity—a new experience and a new challenge that was different than working in retail or anything like that,” he said.

Of course, Minor acknowledges that like all jobs, it comes with its own set of challenges.

“It’s like working on the fly because people have such an array of different questions and you’ll never be able to answer all of them,” he said.

At the same time, he adds that being able to answer most of the questions people do have is the most rewarding part of working for Building Services.

In light of the construction in the union, Minor says his team has had substantially more to do, and a lot more improvisation is
Basketball
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role.
Holton, who has won the last two A-10 Rookie of the Week awards, is averaging 10.4 points per game and a team-leading 7.9 rebounds per game. Add in senior Orion Outerbridge, who is grabbing an average of 7.1 rebounds a game, and the Rams are averaging 37.9 boards a game, good for 54th most in the country. (There are 348 Division 1 teams.)

With all of these quality players winning awards and putting up big numbers the question that needs to be answered is: why is this team 3-17?

Watching Rhody fade against Richmond and Providence showed that confidence might be an issue. The Rams were trading the lead with the Friars before a pair of Bryce Cotton three-pointers early in the second half turned a three-point game into a 14-point game and the Rams never made another major rally.

In contrast, the Rams bent to the point of shattering, but didn’t break against BC and escaped Chestnut Hill with a hard-fought win that seemed to be a turning point in the season, but the results have been few and far between since then.

Now what?
The Rams have 11 games remaining this season and 10 of those games are against teams with 10 or more wins. Six of those games are at home and the Rams have the talent and ability to pick up four or five wins.

The only thing missing from this team is leadership, and they have plenty of leaders on the floor.
The Rams open the second semester tomorrow at home against St. Bonaventure University. Tip-off is at 7 p.m.

Globes
From page 3
majority of the nominated films, heavy favorites such as “The Artist” and “The Descendants” were not available at my local theatre prior to the ceremony. It was even more disheartening for me when they took home the Best Picture awards in both Musical or Comedy and Drama respectively.

Luckily, I was able to see both films eventually and have to admit “The Descendants” was the right choice in its category. I cannot say the same for “The Artist”. While this do not mean it should have been nominated, it seemed rather pretentious in the sense that I felt the filmmakers made it solely to win Oscars. I respect their choice to make a silent film, but it frustrated me at the same time because I feel voters sometimes choose the most artistic (no pun intended) film as opposed to the truly best. I would have given the award of Best Picture Musical or Comedy to “Midnight in Paris”, Woody Allen’s finest film in almost twenty years.

Acting awards, in my opinion, sometimes suffer a similar fate. While the best performances usually win generally speaking, sometimes an award goes to someone who gives a good performance but doesn’t match some of their finest work. I feel in these cases an individual wins based on their reputation and not necessarily their performance. This rings true with both George Clooney and Meryl Streep who won Globes for leading roles in dramas. While they were both compelling performances, they don’t match their finest work and there were other nominees in both categories that should have won.

Unlike Meryl Streep, Leonardo DiCaprio’s portrayal of FBI director J. Edgar Hoover in Clint Eastwood’s biopic is not just a flawless imitation, but allows the viewer to get inside the individual’s head. Although far from perfect, Eastwood’s film allows DiCaprio to explore the feelings, emotions, and conflicts that Hoover dealt with during his lifetime. Streep is unable to do that as effectively, and I believe DiCaprio was once again robbed of an award, although he lost to Clooney not Streep.

I would have given the Best Actress Globe to Rooney Mara, who gave a grade-A performance in David Fincher’s adaptation of Stieg Larsson’s “The Girl With the Dragon Tattoo.”

Aside from those awards, I believe all of the other winners were deserving of the trophies they won. In regards to snubs, I was shocked that Fincher was snubbed of a best director or best picture award. “The Girl with the Dragon Tattoo” is an improvement of the already great Swedish adaptation and Fincher was thought to be a favorite last year for “The Social Network”. I felt nominations were in order as partial sympathy and for the quality of the movie.

I also would have liked to see the film “Drive” get some nominations and even some awards, but I still have the Oscars to look forward to. I have spoken about my disdain for Spielberg previously, so I won’t dive into “Rango” losing to “The Adventures of TinTin” for Best Animated Feature.

In all honesty, I don’t follow television that much but there were some quick things that flustered me about the nominations. Jim Parson’s portrayal of Sheldon in “The Big Bang Theory” was totally glanced over and “Game of Thrones” along with “The Walking Dead” was the biggest travesties of the Globes in regards to nominations. Steve Buscemi was also robbed of the Best Actor award for his performance in “Boardwalk Empire”, but those are the only quarrels I have with the TV awards.

After watching, I didn’t have much to comprehend aside from those problems. I consider the Globes somewhat of a bore, but Gervais still entertained me and it was great to see Morgan Freeman win a well-deserved lifetime achievement award. All I can say now is bring on the Oscars!

Basketball
From page 1
With the Rams losing the bulk of their starting point guard, I felt the filmmakers made the ceremony. It was even more disheartening for me when they took home the Best Picture awards in both Musical or Comedy and Drama respectively.

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Recently anti-piracy legislations down, but not out

Golden Globes provide snubs, surprises, suppressed Gervais in 69th award show

BY MATT GODDEBAU Entertainment Writer

Last year’s ceremony was infamous for Gervais’ quick-witted, slightly controversial and shocking brand of humor. Much like the rest of the world, everyone was eager to see what he would do this year. Unfortunately, I was greatly disappointed by his antics as host this time. It appeared that the big heads in charge of the ceremony placed some large restrictions about what Gervais could say.

Although Gervais joked fun at the regulations, it still came off as awkward and it was clear that he could have been just as entertaining and forceful with his jokes when given more control. With that said, he still said some raunchy things, making such quips about Justin Bieber and a turkey baster as well as a “beaver” joke to Jodie Foster.

This time of year is my favorite time of the year as a writer and aspiring critic. Some of the films that have been critically acclaimed from various sources and festivals are being released in some of my local theatres. While I had seen the

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CLASSIFIEDS

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Rhody Sports

Men's track and field team takes third place at US Naval Academy Invitational

BY JONATHAN SHIDELL
Sports Staff Reporter

The University of Rhode Island men's track team had its first indoor scoring meet of the season this past weekend. The Rams went on to take third place at the United States Naval Academy Invitational in Annapolis, Md.

Rutgers University won the event with a score of 182, while Temple University finished fourth with a total of 112. In the men's weight throw, senior Thaddeus Kusiak placed first with a total of 18.27 meters as teammate junior William Janes finished fourth with a throw of 16.84m.

The Rams also were very successful in the shot put event. Junior Andrew Piccisci finished second with a toss of 15.14m and finishing third behind him was teammate freshman Sam Snyder with a throw of 14.69m.

Rhode Island also showed strength in the long jump where senior Ronald Woodley (6.95m), junior Wayne Seaton (6.88m), and freshman Mike DiMambro (6.82m), finished third, fourth and fifth respectively. Woodley won the men's triple jump with a final total of 14.98m.

Sophomore James Strawserman placed second for the Rams in the men's pole vault reaching 4.80m while teammate sophomore Jordan Burandt took seventh with a vault of 4.20m.

The Rams dominated the preliminary of the 60-meter hurdles where sophomore Max Leonard won. In the prelims Shaitak Bardhan and Seaton finished 1-2-3 in that order. In the finals Seaton won (8.21) while Castilletti took second (8.28) and Bardhan finished third (8.37).

The Rams next goal came a full 20 minutes later at the 10:50 mark of the second period when senior center AJ Chua. Bishop got to the middle of the ice in front of the net and left the puck for Chua who buried it for his sixth goal of the season.

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The Rams also dominated the 60-meter dash preliminaries, where senior Nicholas Guglielmi, junior John Guglielmi, and Victor Boonham recorded yet another 1-2-3 finish for the Rams. In the finals Guscott went on to win (7.05), DiMambro took second (7.09) and Boonham placed fifth (7.16).

With relay groups performed well for the Rams over the weekend. The 4x400m relay team, which was stashed the puck top-shelf for his sixth goal of the season.

The University of Rhode Island women's swimming and diving team extended its winning streak to three games with a close victory over Wagner College in Staten Island, N.Y. this past weekend.

The Rams defeated the Wagner Seahawks with a score of 205-145. Freshman 'Chaya Zabludoff was the top performer for the Rams. She won the 200-yard freestyle (1:55.57) and placed third in the 100-yard freestyle (54.45).

"I was very proud that she stepped up the way she did," coach Nick Westcott said. "It's always encouraging when one of our younger players helps push us to victory against a very tough opponent like Wagner.

The Rams dominated the relay events throughout the weekend. In the 200-yard medley relay, the Rams took first place. Junior Susan Nugent and fresh­men Emily Thomsen, Rachel Revolinski and Collette Aubin won the event with a time of 1:51.35.

The Rams also won the 400-yard freestyle relay with a strong team effort from freshman Sarah Keshishian, Zabludoff, Nugent and Revolinski.

Revolinski (1:09.23) and freshman Jessica Andruzi (1:09.24) both finished first and second place, respectively in the 100-yard breaststroke. In the 200-yard backstroke Andruzi won (2:22.57) and Zabludoff earned second (2:30.24).

Andruzi won the 200-yard individual medley (2:14.43) and Thomsen took third place (2:17.06). In the 100-yard backstroke Thomsen placed second (1:02.14) and in the 200-yard backstroke placed third (2:15.61).

"Team captain Susan Nugen won the 200-yard butterfly (2:09.69) and the 100-yard butter­fly (59.37)."

"I am so proud of all our young swimmers," Westcott con­tinued. "We have a very good, young group of women who are working with each and every meet we compete in so I'm very excited about the future of this program.

The Rams will host their final home meet of the season this weekend against the University of Vermont. The meet is scheduled to begin at noon on Satuday at the Tootell Aquatic Center.

Patriots favored by Vegas in Super Bowl

LAS VEGAS (AP) — Las Vegas casinos have made the New England Patriots favorites to win the Super Bowl thanks in large part to their dominating decade of winning and the playoff mystique of quarter­back Tom Brady and coach Bill Belichick.

Las Vegas oddsmakers posted Sunday night by Cantor Gaming, the Patriots opened as three-point favorites over the New York Giants after New York beat San Francisco 20-17 in overtime in the NFC championship game. Race and Sports Director Mike Colbert said.

"The public will still like New England," Colbert told The Associated Press. "I don't think people are actually hip to how good these NFC teams are.

The over-under was set at 53 points, while New England was set as a 1-point favorite. The under is slightly more attractive than normal, with bettors required to wager $115 to win $100 rather than $100 to win $100, Colbert said.

Cantor sets lines for several sports books in Las Vegas, including the Cosmopolitan of Las Vegas, the Hard Rock Hotel & Casino, the Palazzo Las Vegas and the M Resort.

The Giants-Colts line favored the Patriots by 37, with a total of 557 points.

New England beat the Baltimore Ravens 23-20 for the AFC title, when Ravens kicker Justin Tucker missed a field goal with 11 seconds left.

Colbert said the 2008 Super Bowl rematch is the best matchup possible for casinos, after the NFL4-28 betting record for Nevada casinos.

The Patriots opened as 14-point favorites four years ago, but Giants backers bet the line down to 12 points and got paid when New England won 17-14.

Nevada casinos lost the most money ever on the Super Bowl that year — $2.6 million. Gambling expert R.J. Bell said the rematch could see $10 billion in wagers worldwide, with only 1 percent of that figur­e gambled in casino sports books in the Silver State.

"The home field factors will make bets more expensive for Patriots backers than the raw matchup would dictate, including the celebrity of Brady and Belichick and the fact that more casual bettors generally gamble on the Super Bowl than other games.

"Betters also like to score­ing — an advantage for the Patriots over the Giants," he said.

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