Men’s, women’s indoor track and field teams each take second place in weekend’s Atlantic-10 Championship

BY COLIN HOWARTH
Contributing Sports Reporter

The University of Rhode Island men’s and women’s indoor track and field teams both placed second in the Atlantic-10 Championship this past weekend, with each team finishing behind the University of North Carolina at Charlotte.

MEN

The men’s team won back-to-back A-10 Championships prior to Sunday, and only fell to Charlotte by 24.5 points. St. Joseph’s University finished a distant third, 88 points behind the Rams.

“I’m extremely happy with the effort on the weekend,” URI men’s head coach John Copeland said. “We knew we would be one or two. We needed some help from other teams [to place first] but we didn’t get it.”

Senior Andrew Reigstad suffered an injury during the 60-meter hurdles and had to withdraw from the meet after he won three of the first four events in the heptathlon on Saturday. This was just one of the many injuries the Rams suffered during the weekend.

Junior pole-vaulter James Strawderman injured his leg restraining and sophomore Ben Lakeman suffered an injury during the 400-meter dash.

“I’m disappointed with the injuries, but it’s part of the game,” Copeland said. “Reigstad got hurt on the hurdles, which started an avalanche of injuries.”

Although Reigstad had to withdraw, redshirt junior Trent Baltzell stepped up and won the heptathlon for the Rams. Baltzell came into Sunday in third place in the event, but was able to score 2,208 points in the final three events to take the win.

“Everyone is disappointed with the result [of not placing first], but I think we can lie part of the blame on injuries,” Baltzell said. “We only lost by 24 points and we could definitely have made that up.”

Junior Anthony Davidson won the 500 meters by .09 seconds and placed second in the 200 meters, while sophomores Jalen Young and Tyler Oliveira placed third and fourth, respectively. Young also placed second in the 400 meters with a time of 49.28 seconds and Oliveira was part of the 4x400-meter relay team that took second place, along with freshman Jose Ortiz, senior Wayne Seaton and sophomore Andrew Sakovits.

WOMEN

The Rhode Island women’s track team claimed its best finish since 2005 this past weekend, while Charlotte won second straight Atlantic-10 Championship. Prior to the final two events of the meet, URI was looking at fourth place, trailing Charlotte, University of Dayton and Virginia Commonwealth University.

The Rams passed Dayton after placing second in the 4x800-meter relay, and were only trailing VCU by 2.5 points. The relay team consisted of juniors Niahm Ryan, Juliana Galante and Frances Brillanté as well as senior Hayley Madsen.

Rhody dominated the
Track

From page 1

4x400-meter relay, the final event of the meet, and outscored VCU by five points, giving the Rams second place. The team that won the event included freshmen Jennifer Czerapowicz and Mariah Claudio, senior Kalyen Sheehan and sophomore Lauren Burke.

“We were extremely pleased with the second place finish and it’s one [or] two places higher than we thought possible,” URI assistant coach John Melnick said.

In the 200-meter dash, junior Hannah Janeczak placed third while Sheehan and junior Jennifer Christian placed sixth and seventh, respectively. Sheehan also won the pentathlon on Sunday. Janeczak also finished fourth in the 60-meter dash, while Christian took sixth. Senior Haley Madsen placed third in the 1,000 meters as well, only .63 seconds off the winning time.

Senior Shannon Meehan was part of a three-person tie for third place in the high jump and senior Kelly McCabe placed fifth for shot put.

“We had a bunch of great performances and looking for more of the same at New England’s,” John Melnick said. “For New England’s we are hoping to improve on last year’s third place finish.”

Rhode Island’s next event will be the New England Championship next weekend on at Boston University.

Last year, the URI men’s team placed second at the meet, behind the University of Connecticut, and the women placed third, behind Connecticut and Sacred Heart University.

“We still got some great championship meets left,” Copeland said.

‘Harlem’

From page 1

up.

“I know we had something special when the Rhody Ram signed on,” Sullivan said. “My friend Tom Thers was able to get the Rhody Ram in the video, after that I knew we had something special.”

At the time of writing, the video has amassed 12,762 views on Youtube. Sullivan didn’t expect the video to have had this many views in under a week.

“My prediction for the first day was 1,000 views tops, I was only 9,000 or so off,” Sullivan said.

There are plans for a second Harlem Shake-URI Edition video and the event page on Facebook currently, at the time of writing, stands at 546 confirmed going. Though he was directly responsible for the first video, Sullivan said he isn’t directly involved with the second, but has been spreading the word about it.

“If we can get everyone who was in the original together with all of its fans, I think the students of URI will make magic,” Sullivan said.

The second Harlem Shake video will take place at Mackall Field House Saturday Feb. 23 at 3 p.m. The event page suggests arriving early because they “will be writing down all [of] the participants URI ID [numbers] to keep track of how many people attend.”

Mateus said he will be filming the second event as well, but might ask one or two people he knows to help him “because looking at the event on Facebook, it looks like I may have my hands full.”

Finding out what the event creators is to break a world record. Donations will be accepted during the event and will benefit the American Heart Association. The event can be found under the name, “Project X URI Harlem Shake.”

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URI Harlem Shake

February 21-23 & February 28-March 2, 2013, 7:30 p.m.
February 24 & March 3, 2013, 3:00 p.m.
URI Fine Arts Center, J Studio
Tickets: 401.874.5843, or www.uri.edu/uritheatre
What: OFFICIAL Guinness World Record Attempt! We need you (and 2,999 friends) to High-Five Rhody for Most High Fives in 1 Hour by an individual!

When: Sunday, February 24th, Intermission between Men’s & Women’s Basketball games (so come to the games!)

Where: Ryan Center

Why: Raise awareness for affordable housing and South County Habitat for Humanity. Free foam finger with any donation at the event!
Rhody SPORTS

Baseball team swept by Florida State University in weekend series

BY JONATHAN SHIDELER
Sports Staff Reporter

Although the University of Rhode Island baseball team may not have had a victory this past weekend against No. 11 Florida State University, there are still positives that players and coaches can take from the weekend.

The first game on Friday afternoon was an 11-5 loss. Senior Mike Bradstreet didn’t have his best stuff and the Rams were eliminated from the tournament. Bradstreet went 3.1 innings allowing six earned runs on five hits, one of which was a home run.

“Street’s movement and sink wasn’t there,” head coach Jim Foster said. “He depends on keeping his pitches low and they just weren’t staying down, good hitters are going to hit those pitches.”

Senior Mike Lebel and sophomore Timmy Caputo were the lone offensive standouts in the first game for Rhody. Lebel went 2-4 with 3 RBIs, and Caputo batted ninth went 2-3 with an RBI and a walk.

Saturday’s game was tighter contest for Rhody. Senior Sean Furey started the game for the Rams strong, keeping FSU scoreless through the first three innings. Furey then ran into trouble in the fourth inning with his command. He walked the bases loaded with two outs and the Seminoles were able to get a run across to take a 1-0 lead.

In the top of the seventh Caputo scored due to a throwing error by the Seminole sophomore third baseman Joe Brizuela. Senior Kevin Stenhouse then drove in two runs in a run via a sac fly to left-field, which gave Rhody a 2-1 lead.

The one run lead was quickly squandered in the bottom of the seventh due to sloppy playing from the Rams. After a fielding error, a wild pitch, a batter hit by pitch and couple of walks, FSU was able to score three runs without a single hit in the inning and take a 4-2 lead.

“We didn’t throw strikes and got hits when we needed them,” Foster said. “We made some mistakes and they took advantage of that, that’s what good teams do.”

FSU scored two more runs in the game and held the Rams scoreless in the last two innings to put the final score 7-0.

The Rams came out of the gate strong scoring five runs through the first four innings. On the mound for Rhody was junior Liam O’Sullivan who had an impressive debut throwing a shutout through the first five frames.

In the sixth inning O’Sullivan retired the first batter but then gave up a double and a triple, both runners would go on to score and cut Rhody’s lead in half.

After taking a run in the top of the eighth inning to push the lead to 6-2, the wheels fell off the wagon for Rhody in the bottom of the eighth. FSU scored four runs on three hits and one error to tie the game at six.

The game went to the 10th inning when it came to an end courtesy of a two-run walk off homerun by FSU’s freshman outfielder DJ Stewart.

“I’m proud of the way our guys played,” Foster said. “They did a great job of getting their pitches in deep pitch counts and getting into their bullpen early. For our hitters it’s good for them to get a look at pitchers as good or better than what they see in the [Atlantic-10 Conference].”

In the three games they played the Rams were able to outhit the Seminoles 23-22.

“We could have stole at least one of those games,” senior Chris Famiglietti said. “But we didn’t do the job all the way through. We just need to put it behind us and get the job done this week.”

This weekend the road does not get easier; the Rams will travel to No. 25 University of Mississippi for a three game series.

Women’s ice hockey team finishes third at league tournament

BY JAKE MAROCCO
Sports Staff Reporter

The University of Rhode Island women’s ice hockey team took third place at the Eastern Collegiate Women’s Hockey League tournament at the Bradford R. Ross Arena this past weekend.

The Rams were eliminated on Saturday by Northeastern University, 3-2 in the semifinals, but captured third place on Sunday when they defeated SUNY-Canton, 7-0.

On Saturday the Huskies, Rhode Island found itself down on the scoreboard early when Kelsey Hickey put Northeastern on the board two minutes into the game. The Rams were able to tie it up later in the first period on a goal from junior Alisia DiFilippo.

Northeastern was able to jump out for good in the second period, netting scores from Jordan Green and Nicole Collins to make the score 3-1. DiFilippo tallied another goal with five minutes to go in the game but Rhode Island could not finish the comeback.

“We were right there; we had the opportunities, but they just didn’t finish,” Rhode Island head coach Beth McCann said. “Executing and finishing is what they’ve got to do.”

On Sunday, the Rams charged into the arena and steamrolled Canton 7-0 in the third-place game.

The Rams took an early advantage against the Kangaroos, scoring two first period goals off the sticks of sophomores Sydney Collings and Cassandra Catlow. Rhode Island’s defense stifled Canton, only allowing for two shots on goal.

Captain goaltender Alyssa Altshuler had a strong game in net for the Kangaroos, with 64 saves, but the torrid Rams offensive was too much.

Rhode Island exploded in the third. Freshman Bethany Saunders scored early and senior captain Lauren Hillberg, who had four points in the game, tacked on her only goal of the day to expand the lead to 6-2.

“We rebounded and it gave the team a little more confidence,” McCann said. “The bottom line is we didn’t win three games [against Northeastern] that we should have. Maybe it’s a good thing to get to nationals that we have this feeling.”

Catlow and Collins each contributed a late power-play goal and freshman Molly Verdrame netted her first goal of the season to seal the victory in a game that saw 10 Rams register a point.

Junior goalie Kayla DiLorenzo was able to register her fourth shutout of the season after sending away 11 shots.

Rhode Island defeated Massachusetts defeated Northeastern in the finals, 2-1, on a goal from junior Chelsea Jaramillo with three minutes remaining to clinch the championship.

Rhode Island will be waiting to receive word on if they will be traveling to the American Collegiate Hockey Association Division-I National Tournament. Only eight teams will compete and those selected are determined through a coaches’ poll.

“We know we are one of the fastest teams in the ACHA,” McCann said. “We’ll be doing a lot of shooting drills and seeing the holes in the net rather than the goalie. I think once they can do that they’re going to win games very easily.

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