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Quidditch team seeks to up its game

BY NANCY LAVIN AND RYAN SPOONER
Managing Editor and Contributing News Reporter

Ever see the people running around the quadrangle with brooms between their legs on a Sunday afternoon and wondered what was going on? For those who haven’t realized, it’s just another day of practice for the University of Rhode Island Quidditch team.

URI’s quidditch team, known to its team members as the “Rhody Ridgebacks,” kicked off its fourth semester this fall. Inspired by last season, the team said it is focused and ready for a successful season this year.

“We’re still having fun, but now that we’ve seen the game and know what it takes to compete, we know what we need to do to get better,” team member Brian Ahl, who is the Seeker co-captain and head with, said. “Everyone comes to practice every day with that attitude and it really helps. We’re all motivated to improve not just physically as a team, but better overall in all aspects,” he added.

Though it has been a club since December 2010, it was not officially recognized as a student organization by the Student Senate until December 2011. Later, in February 2012, the team joined the International Quidditch Association (IQA), becoming one of currently 773 schools across the country. After joining the IQA, Rhody Ridgebacks members teamed up with Brown University and two schools from Massachusetts and Connecticut, respectively, to form the Southern New England Conference (SNEC).

Club president Zara Collier hopes that as the team gains more experience, they can compete against bigger, more seasoned teams.

“Eventually I’d like to see Quidditch become a club sport here,” she said. “I’d also like to see us approach the level of Emerson and [Boston University], two of the best schools in the region.”

This season, URI will be hosting a series of matches within the SNEC to determine who represents the region in this year’s Quidditch World Cup, which will be held in Florida in the spring.

Up next, the team will face off against Brandeis and CAMPS this weekend. Later, on Nov. 17 and 18, the team will travel to Newport for a weekend tournament.

When asked why URI students should look out for this rising team, Collier likened the Rhody team to Middlebury College, where quidditch originated.

Mayor Taveras gives job to former student

BY GILDA CENTENO
Contributing News Reporter

A former University of Rhode Island student has stayed in state for an opportunity to work with a local politician.

With her current position as multimedia and social media coordinator for the Office of Mayor Angel Taveras, Meaghan McCabe who graduated last year with a major in marketing and minor in English, felt very fortunate to have been chosen to work alongside such a team of professionals.

The 21-year-old, who was a member of the Business Honors Society and the College of Leadership Rhode Island, said she learned a thing or two about politics through her latter involvement.

“Having an opportunity to be part of the College of Leadership R.I. gave me an interest in politics,” McCabe said. “It was definitely a stepping stone in choosing to work in politics.”

McCabe, who articulates herself proficiently, acknowledges URI as being an excellent investment.

“One thing unique to URI is that there are so many opportunities to connect with professors who are willing to connect with students,” McCabe, who credits her parents for the advice in pursuing an education at URI, said.

Along having a successful education at URI, McCabe testifies to the importance that is good writing. She said writing is challenging, especially when trying to fine tune it. “Writing is an invaluable skill to achieve while an undergrad,” McCabe said.

It was this passion in writing that led McCabe to follow a career path in media. “This position combines all of my interests, which is really rare,” she said.

With the responsibility of overseeing all web media and design under the Office of Mayor Taveras, McCabe has great appreciation for the opportunity and along side that she has direct involvement in the creation of all design material and management of all social media accounts.

She described social media as a tool that is instrumental in politics. In her involvement as main coordinator of all social media to Taveras, McCabe has gained insight into the use of Twitter and Facebook as political aids.

“Social media happens in real time with many people at once, which gauges citizen response in an efficient manner for political use,” McCabe said.

Student Senate changes charitable donation procedure in handbook

BY SHAWN SAIYA
Managing Editor

The University of Rhode Island Student Senate approved its Finance Handbook for the new academic year at its meeting last night. The most notable change to the document is the procedure for student groups to follow when collecting charitable donations.

Finance Committee chairwoman Kristin Stewart said that the change was needed because there had been previous incidents when groups collected money that never found its way to charity. Stewart said the new rules, which require groups to deposit all donations within one business day of the event and donate the money within two weeks, will lead to more accountability.

Stewart explained that groups that had previously failed to donate charitable contributions were not withholding the money intentionally. She said that the lack of an accountability system often led to the actual donation to charity being put off or forgotten about.

Other changes to the handbook were minor, including the removal of items that no longer applied, such as keeping a list of senate-recommended caucuses on file recommended to student groups.

-- In other news --

-Student Senate elections will conclude today. Polls are open from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. in the main entranceway of the Memorial Union. Freshman, At-Large and Off-Campus representatives are up for election.

- The second President’s Meeting of the academic year will be held on Monday at 7 p.m. in the Memorial Union Ballroom. The presidents and treasurers of all recognized student organizations must be present at the meeting.

- The Student Senate safety and lightening walk will be postponed. The walk will be rescheduled following the election of new senators this week and the filling of vacancies on the Campus Affairs Committee.

- The Musicians Guild was approved for funding to replace a broken amplifier. The group needed a new amplifier after the old one stationed working during freshman orientation concerts the group facilitated over the summer. With the new amplifier the group will continue to hold concerts.

The Good 5¢ Cigar

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www.ramsigar.com
Freshman Representative

KARLY TURGEON

Hello, I'm Karly Turgeon and I'm running as a freshman representative for the Class of 2016. Using my academic and life experiences, I'm confident I can apply my leadership and interpersonal skills to the URI community. I'd like to help decide what events and policies take place. I'm respectful of my peers and professors. I approach everything with the highest degree of integrity and honor. I'd be grateful if you selected me as your representative.

RAQUEL MENDEZ

Hi, I'm Raquel and I'm a political science major. I would be an effective freshman representative because I realize how critical freshmen year is to our college experience. We learn how to be independent and successful, which makes it the first stepping-stone during college. I will be working towards academic, social, and self-achievement for all students. I will be an available source for support in making college less frustrating. Please elect me to represent you.

JOE MAYNARD

My name is Joe Maynard and I am currently running to be a freshman representative in the Student Senate. I would consider myself to be a valid candidate for this position because I am dedicated to the responsibilities of the Senate, while also being passionate in achieving the goals beneficial to the freshmen class. With an open mind, I plan on incorporating new ideas and new opportunities to better your college experience. Thank you.

ADAM SCHMUTER

You know, we are fortunate to belong to a university that prides itself on community. I have only been here for some short time, but nevertheless, I already feel welcomed and at home. While we will hold different traditions and values, it is, in a sense, our individual diversity that immediately unifies us. After serving as class president for three years in high school, I am committed to teamwork and leadership. "Settle with Schmutter!"

On-Campus Representative

REBECCA TENAGLIA

I'm a freshman pharmacy student with an interest in leadership studies from Bethlehem, Penn. At URI, I've attended the Leadership Institute, worked in the athletic business office and aquatics center and plan on joining Lambda Kappa Sigma. I absolutely love URI and would be honored to have your support. It would be my goal to make continuous improvements that make living on campus a better experience for everyone.

JENNA SOLOMON

Hi, my name is Jenna Solomon and I am running for Student Senate. Since the seventh grade, I have been actively involved with the student council and held the positions of representative and treasurer. Now as a junior in the pharmacy program, I am looking forward to being a part of the student senate and making a difference in our school's community.

RACHEL CONBOY

I have four years experience as my high school class president, as well as other officer positions in a variety clubs and activities. I learned that just showing up once a week does not get things done. It is those extra hours of sending out emails, setting up extra meetings and striving for perfection that will create progressive outcomes and a successful year. If elected, I promise to continually work for student satisfaction.

Off-Campus Representative

ANTHONY DAVIDSON

My name is Anthony Davidson. I'm a political science major here at URI. I am interested in assisting URI students as your off-campus housing representative. I am currently stretching my outreach and involvement in the community and being a commuter resident of Bonnet for two years is a strength that I bring to the campaign. I believe I will be a positive, charismatic, and interesting addition to the Student Senate.

JACOBO MUSALI

Hello, my name is Jacobo Musali. I have been a commuter for three years, dealing with both URI's fickle "schedule" and the inconsistent class times that are forced onto commuters. Finally I have decided that joining for off-campus affairs would be the best way to make the commuters' voices heard. In short, if at least a slightly more convenient ride sounds good to you, then vote for me.

LUCY GILDEIN

Hi, my name is Lucy Gildein and I am a member of the women's soccer team. I am looking forward to having the opportunity of representing the off-campus students. Let's Go Rhody!!!!!!!!!! "We are all inventors, each sailing out on a voyage of discovery, guided each by a private chart, of which there is no duplicate. The world is all gates, all opportunities." - Ralph Waldo Emerson.

At-Large Representative

ARISTIDES KAPPATOS

My name is Aristides Kappatos. I am running for at large representative for URI's Student Senate. My goal is to be involved in making helpful decisions that benefit the students as well as the university as a whole. I want to represent the students and ensure our voices are heard throughout the URI community. I hope to serve you, the students, well as a future URI senator. Feel free to contact me at akappatos@my.uri.edu

TYLER BOITEAU

My name is Tyler Boiteau and I am running for At-Large Representative. I decided to join Student Senate because I enjoy being involved with what goes on with the student body. I am a good candidate for this position because I have the experience from high school government. With my experience, my responsibility and organization, I will be able to help the entire student body have a great college experience. Vote for me!

RACHEL MCAEER

Hello, student body. My name's Rachel McAeer. Fun facts: I'm witty, insightful, assertive, a little weird, and somehow, these traits have helped me earn more than my fair share of leadership positions in the past. Honestly, I love for getting involved and helping others do the same and Student Senate is a perfect opportunity to do just that. I put 100 percent into everything I do and would more than appreciate your consideration.

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CONTINUED

Student

From page 1

As for drawbacks to her current position as media coordinator, McCabe said that long hours are part of the job, with the constant bombardment of comments occurring all day. She said "Social media has long hours. It doesn't end at 5p.m. or starts at 8a.m."

With room for growth in the field of social media and its novelty as a platform for communication, McCabe said her current position is pivotal in her future success.

Quidditch

From page 1

"We're thinking big and doing the impossible by starting this team here, just like the students at Middlebury College," she said.

Ahl answered with an old sports adage. "Why? Because we're an underdog, and everyone loves the underdog."

Beasts

From page 7

caps, and that the storm that ravaged the Bathtub is linked to thawing them out of this. This is where I can see some viewers feeling a sense of disconnect, as this element of the plot could feel disingenuous and out-of-place. However, the aurochs are a metaphorical element of the story that gives its themes more significance and the film a unique quality that makes it stand out from the usual crop of stripped-down indie dramas that it is clearly related to.

Even though "Beasts" is certainly a very good film and is worthy of the attention it has been getting, I'm not sure I completely fell in love with it as much as others did/will. The lack of a straightforward plot was not an issue, as I've seen many other films in a similar vein, although I would have liked more connective tissue to carry it from scene to scene. A more prominent through-line would have helped the make the structure more fluid and some scenes have more impact.

Ultimately, this doesn't drag the film down too much, as I've seen many other films in a similar vein, although I would have liked more connective tissue to carry it from scene to scene. A more prominent through-line would have helped the make the structure more fluid and some scenes have more impact.

Even with those caveats, the surprising performances and unconventional chemistry between Wallis and Henry injects the film with the life it needs to stand out among the crowd. "Beasts of the Southern Wild" is a piece of filmmaking where the rough edges haven't quite been sanded off, but the shots of imagination and verisimilitude that break through the surface give it a singular identity and life all its own.
Planning

While some students are sitting around and procrastinating, trying to figure out what they should do, you should be the proactive one and already have a plan of action. This may seem vague, but planning out what you'd like to do for the day, week, month, year or career in school can be beneficial to you. It can also help reduce stress in the long run. Getting to school in the first place requires you to plan out some sort of long-term goal—choosing your major. The first two years give you leeway in having to do so, but after that, you should have an idea of what you would like to do. Sometimes what you go to school for isn’t what you end up doing. It could be because the lack of positions in the field, or maybe you had a change of heart after you completed your major. It’s not a problem if you decide to switch it up; just think of it as a new perspective or trying something you haven’t done. If that’s not the case, you can comfortably fall back on your original choice.

After realizing your dream major or career path, you now want to think about what you’d like to do post senior year. It could be because the lack of positions should have an idea of what you would like to do. Come with your senior year.

Sometimes you have assignments due soon, you need to think about what you’d like to do post senior year. You may think noth­ing of the incoming class of new students, but this label likely applies to you. Think about what you’d like to do post senior year. Before you do anything else, apply to URI for at least one year. With the thousands of dollars students spend to study at URI, most figure why can’t they splurge on all the unhealthy and delicious food they might not receive back home?

Problem is, will you be just as satisfied when you look in the mirror and realize how many pounds you gained? Staying healthy on campus is not too difficult because URI offers many nutritious options that you may not be aware of just yet.

For each type of meal plan, students are offered free combo meals each day at Ram’s Den in the Memorial Union. This means that for lunch, they can grab a burger, fries and a cup of soda on the way out. The healthy option, however, would be to switch the fries for a piece of fruit, and pour some water in a cup to cut calories. Water is always the healthier choice, and many doctors recommend drinking 64 ounces per day.

Dinnertime is when a majority of URI students travel to Mainfare and Butterfield to grab a quick meal before they head back to their studies and other activities. In both dining halls, there is a salad bar, filled with a variety of vegetables, meats, cheeses and dressings. Another thing students can do is take advantage of the university’s gym. A portion of the fees students pay to come to URI go toward the school’s athletic center. There they have exercise equipment such as treadmills, bikes and elliptical machines. Classes like zumba and spin are also offered throughout the year.

The United States of America has the highest obesity rate of any country in the world. Even though Rhode Island is a small speck on the world map, we’re not literally the smallest in size. Stay healthy and eat right this year, and don’t succumb to fried food and soda.
One of the most Watch Hawaiian recording hits, brings the heat with his soul - strong features from 22 Oahu. Kanye West's time, where "presentation of the musical Flow," its hitter comes. A legacy to live up to...

BY MARTIN LANNAN  Contributing Entertainment Writer

"Cruel Summer," the first collective hip hop album from Kanye West's G.O.O.D. Music label, is an eclectic mix of club hits, slow jams and "summer-time, windows down" heaters. Despite three delays in its release, "Cruel Summer" does not disappoint. With contributions from 22 artists, some of which are not a part of G.O.O.D. Music, "Cruel Summer" comes off as an accurate representation of the musical genius that is Kanye West.

The album starts with a completely unexpected feature from B. Kelly on the track "To the World." I know, I thought the same thing: where has he been hiding? Apparently at Kanye's Hawaiian recording studio in Oshu. Nevertheless, B. Kelly brings the heat with his soulful sound, along with booming bars from Kanye, this track sets the tone for the album.

As the album progresses, the listener is treated to strong features from heavy hitters of the rap industry, such as Jay-Z, Raekwon, DJ Khaled, Jadakiss, Ghostface Killah, Ma$e and fellow Chicagoan, Chief Keef. A perfect example of this comes on the track "Clique." "Clique" is an ode to the classic "crew" mentality. It is certainly the most "Watch the Throne"- sounding track, so fans of the album will be smitten. Strong production from Watch the Throne wunderkind Hit Boy, coupled with flowing verses from Jay-Z, Big Sean and Kanye, make this the premier track of the album.

Moving along, "New God Flow," "Cold" (formerly known as "Theraflu") and "Mercy," the album's lead single, round out the fast-paced, club-type hits that listeners will certainly be playing for months. In true Kanye West fashion, this album included something for everyone. "The One" is a cool ballad that finds Kanye aligning himself with the greats of our time. "If you ever held a title belt / you would know how Michael felt / Tyson / Jackson / Jordan / Michael Phelps." Despite its inherent originality (when have we not heard Kanye declare his supremacy) and some shaky lines from 2 Chainz, "The One" is lyrical entertainment from both Kanye and Big Sean.

While certainly a diverse and well-crafted album, "Cruel Summer" is not free of flaws. Hip-hop album reviewers' favorite punching bag, 2 Chainz, makes three appearances. In this case, that is too many for me. With verses like "Rain pourin' / all my cars is foreign / all my broads is foreign / money tall like Jordan," it's a wonder why a genius like Kanye chose to carry 2 Chainz' dead weight throughout the album. It seems to me that the quasi-G.O.O.D. Music member, 2 Chainz (not officially signed), probably contributes more as a popular presence than an actual artist. Further, "Cruel Summer" includes a disappointingly weak track from old-friend KID CuDi. "Creepers," produced by the relatively unknown Dan Black, has CuDi rapping for only 1:45 of the 3:14-minute-long track. Although Black and CuDi have made great music in the past ("Symphonies") they fail to spark any sort of flair that would make this track anything more than filler.

In the end, "Cruel Summer" offers superb production from Hit Boy ("Clique," "Cold" and "Higher"), as well as some pleasant surprises, namely G.O.O.D. rookie Cyhi the Prynce ("The Morning" and "Sin City"). Also, solid verses from Raekwon, Ma$e, Common and Jadakiss add a quality veteran presence that make for a well-rounded album.

Overall, I give "Cruel Summer" a B-rating. While essentially a hobby project for West, he was successfully able to bring a large group of artists together for the purpose of creating a solid album. I cannot give it an A because that grade is reserved for classics. An A- would constitute the artist's best or rarely his/her second-best work. This album can certainly be counted as one of West's better projects, but does not stack up to his first two albums, "College Dropout" and "Late Registration."
Joss Whedon brings excellence, talent, experience to ‘The Avengers’

**BY MELISSA LICHTMAN**
Contributing Entertainment Writer

The 2009 Emmy winner, Joss Whedon, is continuing to make an impact in the world of television and film as many loyal fans anxiously await the premiere of his new television series, “S.H.I.E.L.D.” The new show is based on the Marvel comic world as it is seen in Whedon’s film, “The Avengers.” He continues to work on new and successful projects. However, many fans still find themselves hooked on his hit show that has been off the air since 2005, “Buffy the Vampire Slayer.”

Joss Whedon’s career had already been well established by the time he created “Buffy the Vampire Slayer” in the late 1990s, which would turn out to be his career-defining show. Whedon began his career as a television writer following the footsteps of his father and grandfather before him. Whedon’s father, Tom Whedon, wrote and produced for the NBC show “Good Morning America.”

This more-experimental-than-expectected take on Bruce Banner has its fans, but, for the most part, it is shunned more often than not. Marvel looked to correct the wrongs of this with 2008’s “The Incredible Hulk.” Whedon would like to take the away success that it could have been, it tempered the flames generated by the previous trial until Mark Ruffalo replaced Edward Norton for “The Avengers,” proving that the third time is the charm.

For moviegoers, last year’s “Captain America,” starring Chris Evans, was their first screen-silver exposure to the patriot with a big heart. Lucky them, as comic fans have been haunted by a largely unseen adaptation back from 1990. Created back in the dark age of superhero movies when everything not named Batman or Superman was not worth a candle, it was plagued by its low-budget, cheap effects, cheesy writing and terrible acting. A similar situation happened with The Fantastic Four, as the penned 2005 version (coincidentally also starring Chris Evans) was about as adequate as a mid-by a mid-90s, low-budget endeavor that wasn’t even meant to be released! Once a bootleg copy crept onto the Internet, the genie was out of the bottle.

In big three, Batman, Spider-Man and Superman, have been privy to endless changes for decades, more so than other superheroes to date. Both Batman and Superman started out strong with a couple good movies, before descending into parody and cheese with their third and fourth tries, especially with the infamous “Batman and Robin.” Batman has rebounded tremendously with the Christopher Nolan trilogy, bringing the superhero genre to greater heights of appreciation and respect. “Superman Returns” was not nearly as successful, although with the team behind the Nolan Bat movies working on next year’s “Man of Steel,” Superman’s reputation seems to be well on its way back.

The return of the web head with “The Amazing Spider-Man” has been met with a weak range of emotions. After the thud of “Spider-Man 3,” many fans were looking to see some else tackle the character, and mostly got what they wanted with the new reboot. Others were not so enthusiastic, missing the fun and light spirit that Sam Raimi brought to the property with his trilogy that was replaced with a more melancholic and serious tone. Whether this shift in style will have to be proven through an excellent sequel, but for now, final opinion is in the air in that case.

Someone who just can’t catch a break is “The Punisher,” with three attempts that have all failed in different ways. Dolph Lundgren, Thomas Jane and Ray Stevenson each have some fans of their own, but even they would agree that the one they prefer is not a great version of the character. Perhaps the skull jacket vigilante just can’t be done properly, and should be given rest. And “Dredd” won’t be the last reinvision, as “Daredevil” is due for a new try sometime in the future. Another “Fantastic Four” is in the works too. In many ways, these superhero movies movies have tried more than ever before, as that industry is certainly no stranger to continuing characters past their breaking points too.

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\text{\textbf{Beasts of the Southern Wild} imagines new possibilities for independent films}\

\text{BY AUGIE KING Entertainment Editor}\

\text{Occasionally, a nearby theater will have an opening for a week or two and decide to show an indie festival favorite that had been gaining buzz for the past few months. Last semester, after invariably searching for a couple weeks, I was able to find a nearby showing of the highly-acclaimed action film, "The Raid," and it didn't disappoint. Now, as Oscar season looms on the horizon, this will become more common, and the past week offered showings of the Cannes Film Festival favorite "Beasts of the Southern Wild."}\

\text{There isn't much of a conventional plot running through the film; it's mostly meandering around (though not necessarily in a detrimental way) as the camera follows Hushpuppy and her father as they live in The Bathtub. The Bathtub is an island off the coast of Louisiana where a community of people living on the fringes of society have taken up residence. It's not a glamorous place to live, but the people have bonded together and are proud to call the place their home. When a hurricane floods the area and the government comes in to remove them, they refuse help because they have grown so accustomed to taking care of themselves. There are certainly parallels to Katrina at play here, but "Beasts" doesn't want to cater to current event emotional manipulation, and instead remains steadfast and focused on the tough relationship between father and daughter. It's certainly an odd relationship, partly fueled by the loss of Hushpuppy's mother, and the heart of the film is about watching these two find mutual ground together and grow closer, without resorting to a trite, clichéd handling of the material. As non-actors plucked out of obscurity to create a more palatable air of reality, Quvenzhane Wallis and Dwight Henry give performances as natural and nuanced as the best actors working today in the industry. Wallis is the reason the film has been gaining significant traction since the festival showings, and it's easy to see why. For a girl who was only years old during filming, and even contributed to the writing of her character, she's a pint-sized wonder that powers the film with incredible conviction and will. Hushpuppy is just as capable of taking care of herself as the adults surrounding her; just like most other children her age, she has a certain degree of imagination too. While it isn't a pertinent portion of the plot, "Beasts" also has elements of magic realism that balances out the gritty setting of the Bathtub. Throughout the film, Hushpuppy is referencing tales of a creature called the aurochs. According to her tale, the titular beasts of the film were frozen under the ice until recently. Continued on page 3}\

\text{BLUNDERGRADS}\

\text{EYES ON THE PRIZE... EYES ON THE PRI-}\

\text{by phil flickinger (www.blundergrads.com)}
Rhody SPORTS

Rhode Island men's basketball primed to retake campus prominence, glory
BY HARRISON MARDER Contributing Sports Reporter

As a kid, I was always enamored with the student sections and college basketball games. I spent hours dreaming about how my experience in my future school's student section would be. To be, I couldn't wait to be in the middle of all of the chaos, my face painted, my throat hoarse from cheering on my team, supported by hundreds of my peers doing the same things I was doing, feeling the same as I would.

When I made my decision to attend the University of Rhode Island, I knew that I was going to get to experience a proud basketball heritage. I also knew that I was finally going to be able to live out one of my lifelong dreams when I joined "The Mob," the school's official student section.

The first game of the basketball season finally came around, and I was ready to head over to the Ryan Center and experience a true college basketball fan section. However, throughout not only the first game, but much of the season, my experience in "The Mob" was not exactly what I had hoped it would be. At first, I was not really sure why "The Mob" was not meeting my expectations. We had everything that every other student section in the country had. We had the matching t-shirts, the chants, and the face paint. There definitely was something missing, I just could not put my finger on it. Then, one afternoon when I was checking the Atlantic-10 conference standings, it hit me. What "The Mob" and I were both missing was a competitive team.

Even before I knew I was going to be a Rhode Island Ram, I knew that URI basketball was consistently a competitive program. Under former head coach Jim Baron, the Rams had four straight 20-win seasons from 2007-2010, made the NIT five separate times and even advanced to the final game of the NIT during the 2009-2010 season. These were successful teams, and that was exactly what I was expecting when I arrived on campus as a freshman.

Last season the Rams finished 7-24, tying their second worst win total during the Jim Baron era. Their play was inconsistent throughout the entire season, and interest in the team was dwindling not only by members of "The Mob," but also by the majority of student body. I would often ask my friends if they wanted to go any of the basketball games with me, and the response was almost universally every time: "I don't want to go and watch a losing team." At this point, I felt like my dream of being a part of a true college basketball fan section with a winning team was something that would never be a reality.

I was really not considering joining "The Mob" for this season of Rhode Island basketball until I heard about the hiring of Dan Hurley as the new head basketball coach. Hurley was a very successful high coach in New Jersey, and also lead Wagner College to a 25-5 record last season. On top of Hurley's impressive coaching resume, he also brought in his brother Bobby to be a part of his coaching staff. Bobby was a former first-round pick of the Sacramento Kings, and a two-time national champion at Duke University.

Finally, it seemed like URI was making a statement. Finally, it seemed as though URI wanted to get back to its winning ways. I can only hope that the addition of the Hurley brothers will revive URI basketball. Basketball needs to get back to being the biggest ticket on campus, and the Hurley brothers have the ability to do that. It is time for URI basketball, and for me, one am ready to see what this new era can bring.

Golf team finishes better in Connecticut tournament than previous performance
BY BRANDON MAXWELL Contributing Sports Reporter

The University of Rhode Island golf team competed in the Hartford Hawks Invitational this past Monday and Tuesday at Bell's Bridge Golf Club in South Kent, Conn. where they did not disappoint. When all was said and done, the Rams ended the tournament out of 16 schools and barely missed beating Sacred Heart University and Boston College out for second place. Rhode Island finished with a score of 897.

The University of Hartford won the tournament with a score of 875. Temple University's Brandon Matthews had the best individual score of the tournament with a 214. He also posted the lowest round of the tournament during Monday's afternoon session shooting a 68.

The Rams were once again led by the superb play of senior Brandon Chiccokora, who finished in a tie for eighth place.

"I think Brandon is clearly our best player," Rhode Island coach Gregg Burke said. "He played terrific in leading us in both tournaments. He is playing three to four strokes better, I believe he is going to be the best player in New England before it's all said and done.

This marks Chiccokora's second straight top-10 finish this season. Junior Andrew Fioreno finished in a tie 17th place posting a 225, while fellow junior Jared Adams finished just behind in 18th with a score of 226 and finished 19th.

"Andrew was more consistent," Burke said. "He putted extremely well, but didn't get a lot of breaks on the green.

"Andrew was probably the guy that I thought could have had better scores if he had a few breaks. He played terrifically, but just didn't get a few breaks on the green."

As a whole, the team did a lot better than it did in its previous outing at the Adams Cup

"I think they were all disappointed with their performance at the Adams Cup," Burke said. "We literally didn't even talk about it after we matched during the week. We just practiced. We made practice a little more fun, a little lighter."

The loose atmosphere must have helped because the team finished 26 strokes better than the week before.

"I think they knew how they had to do, and they went out on Monday especially, and did a great job," Burke said.

The Rams next outing will be at the MacDonald Cup at the Yale Golf Club in New Haven, Conn. this weekend.

Follow Brandon on Twitter @BMax15

Cross-country competes in Ted Owen weekend meet
BY JAKE MARROCCO Contributing Sports Reporter

Rhode Island women's and men's cross country team got back into action for the Central Connecticut State University Ted Owen Invitational over the weekend. Rhode Island finished ninth and fifth, respectively.

Despite sitting their top five finishers from the Bryant Invitational, the women's team had three runners finish in the top 35. Sophomore Nicolette Pelrine ended the race in 25th place with a time of 19:20:61, junior Ariana Colella came in at 32nd with a time of 19:34:71 and freshman Madeline Byrnes followed immediately after Colella in 33rd at 19:34:87.

"They had a great meet," head coach Laurie Feit-Melnick said. "[Pelrine] had a personal best on that course. [Colella] had a top 10 performance, and [Byrnes] had an all-time personal best... The top three ran very close to each other.

Following not too far behind was sophomore Sarah Krizan, who finished 43rd with a time of 20:19:54. Sophomore Ashley Toland and Brianna Kimball finished within seconds of each other at 66th and 68th place, respectively, with times of 20:40:31 and 20:49:49.

"If you look at Bryant, everyone had a good performance or a personal best," Feit-Melnick said. "Some people opened up this weekend that didn't race as much, so it was very positive."

Feit-Melnick plans on running all of her best runners in the Paul Short Invitational, which will take place at Lehigh University in Bethlehem, Penn. this Friday.

"The top five from the Bryant race will compete this Friday," Feit-Melnick said. "I'll add the top three from this past weekend. Nicolette, Ariana and Maddie will all race at Lehigh...It's all about experience in a bigger field. (more than 100 people,) so we've been training hard and are committed to getting a meet under our belt and working well as a pack."

The men's cross country team will begin its rigorous preparation for the next meet immediately, despite it being a couple of weeks away.

"The New England course is going to be a pretty hilly race, so that's easier said than done sometimes," Copeland said. "On this day they really did get it done. They did a race job trying to hold that whole group together."

The men's cross country team will return to the track on Oct. 7 for the New England Championship at Stanley Park in Westbrook, Maine.

"I think the main key is for us to try run faster," Copeland said. "That's certainly a big factor of what we need to do, but I think we've got the potential and the ability to get that done."

Copeland says the team will begin its rigorous preparation for the next meet immediately, despite it being a couple of weeks away.

"The New England course is going to be a pretty hilly race, so that's easier said than done," Copeland said. "I don't want to say this will be a killer week for them, but it will be a hilly week for them."

Follow Jake on Twitter @jmarrec19