FOOTBALL

Look for the Colonials to open up the aerial attack this season as they defend their NEC title. Jeff Sinclair led the league with 22 passing touchdowns, and his favorite target, tight end Shadrae King, is back to torture defenses. Lineman Nolan Nearhoof is a threat to opposing quarterbacks, piling up 5.5 sacks last year.

THE BIG GAME: HOMECOMING
OCT. 8 VS. ST. FRANCIS

The fireworks show after this first night game at the Joe could well be a repeat of the action on the field. The Red Flash have a speedy back and return man in Kyle Harbridge, but they managed only one win last season, while the Colonials had just one conference loss.

BLOWOUT BOYS

The Colonials had an average margin of victory of more than two touchdowns against NEC opponents last season.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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<th>Points/Game Scored</th>
<th>Allowed</th>
<th>Victory Margin</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. RMU</td>
<td>31.5</td>
<td>16.5</td>
<td>15.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. C. CONN. STATE</td>
<td>32.5</td>
<td>27.1</td>
<td>5.4</td>
</tr>
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<td>3. MONMOUTH</td>
<td>26.5</td>
<td>23.4</td>
<td>3.1</td>
</tr>
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MEN’S SOCCER

Four of the team’s top scorers last year were freshmen, including Daniel Calabretta and Miro Cabrilo, who each booted three game-winners. Goalkeeper Toba Bolaji is one of the most suffocating netminders in the NEC.

THE BIG GAME:
OCT. 2 VS. FAIRLEIGH DICKINSON

A grudge match against the team that snatched the Colonials’ chance to get back to the playoffs after a four-year drought. The teams fought to a 1-1 double-overtime draw and tied for the final NEC playoff berth, but the Knights got the nod thanks to tiebreaker rules. Good news: the Knights’ star striker, Dominic Reinold, signed this summer with a Portuguese pro team.
**PREVIEW**

**MEN’S BASKETBALL**

In a season stacked with challenges—a new coach, a season-ending injury to a promising young star, a brutal slate of nonconference matchups—the Colonials came up big. Led by Velton Jones, the team caught fire in the postseason and nearly made NEC history with a third straight title, falling just short in overtime in Long Island. With four of five starters returning, expect another run at the championship.

**THE BIG GAME:**
**NOV. 11 VS. RIDER**

The Broncos should pose a strong early challenge. The alma mater of legendary Fighting Irish coach Digger Phelps had 26 wins last year and made it to the MAAC semifinals.

**WOMEN’S BASKETBALL**

Playoffs seem a foregone conclusion for this perennially strong team. Scoring threats include NEC Rookie of the Year Artemis Spanou, who led the conference in rebounds, and Mary Durojaye, who shot a deadly 52% from the floor.

**THE BIG GAME:**
**DEC. 3 VS. MONMOUTH**

When these teams last met, Spanou’s desperation heave banged off the rim at the buzzer, and the Colonials were out of the playoffs. NEC Defensive Player of the Year Alysha Womack brings the conference’s stingiest defense to “The Chuck.”

**VOLLEYBALL**

Each of the last 12 years, the Colonials have qualified for the conference tournament. Can they make it a lucky 13 this season with eight freshmen on the roster?

**THE BIG GAME:**
**HOMECOMING OCT. 8 VS. BRYANT**

You’re coming already for the football game. So take a break from tailgating and head down to Sewall Center to watch some digging and spiking. A loud crowd should give RMU’s young guns a big boost against the Bulldogs.

**FIELD HOCKEY**

Top scorers Chantele Crow, Julie Gabriel, and Ally McGuire are all back for their senior year. Meanwhile, coach Olivia Netzler recruited three freshmen from her native Australia, where the sport is just called “hockey” and the women have three Olympic gold medals—or two more than the men.

**THE BIG GAME:**
**OCT. 16 VS. SIENA**

**STARS TO WATCH**

### #7 SHADRAE KING

The team’s receiving leader, King racked up 531 yards and seven touchdowns last year, putting him near the top of NEC charts. The senior has been picked by pigskin prognosticator Phil Steele as one of the best tight ends in the entire FCS.

### #2 HANNAH VEITH

Last year’s team had five seniors; this year, Veith is it. After leading the conference in blocks and finishing second in hitting percentage at .347, she’ll need to be a leader on the court for a very young team.

### #7 DANIEL CALABRETTA

The smallest player on the team, Calabretta packs a lot of firepower into his 5’6” frame. The NEC Rookie of the Year led the Colonials with 29 shots last year and was second in scoring with four goals—three of them game-winners—and an assist.

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