# Seneca Valley Sports Hall of Fame



## Fifteenth Annual Induction Banquet

## September 21st, 2023

# *Seneca Valley Sports Hall of Fame*

## *Fifteenth Annual Banquet and Induction Program*

September 21, 2023

Seneca Valley Senior High, Harmony, PA 16037

### *Banquet*

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| Doors Open | Seneca Valley Senior High | 5:15 P.M. |
| Welcome & Invocation | Bob Magerko | 5:45 P.M. |
| Buffet Dinner | Seneca Valley Senior High Cafeteria | 6:00 P.M. |

### *Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony*

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| Induction Ceremony | Seneca Valley Senior High Auditorium | 6:45 P.M. |
| Welcome | Wayne Roccia, SV '68 | |
| Remarks | Heather Lewis, Seneca Valley Director of Athletics and Activities *on behalf of the Seneca Valley School District Administration* | |

### *Presentation of Inductees*

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|---|---|
| **Ryan Vilella,** SV'13 | Introduced by George Williams, Ryan's soccer coach |
| **Conor Barrett,** SV '08 | Introduced by Denis Barrett, Conor's father |
| **Patty Brain Cekella,** SV '86 | Introduced by Emily (Cekella) Berger, Patty's daughter |
| **Alexandria Karika,** SV '12 | Introduced by Karen Martini, Alex's volleyball coach |
| **Brooke Gilliland Klatt,** SV'97 | Introduced by Megan (Gilliland) Pearson, Brooke's sister |
| **Anthony Laslavic**, SV '98 | Introduced by John Laslavic, Anthony's father |

***Congratulations to the 2023 Seneca Valley Sports Hall of Fame Inductees!***

## Seneca Valley Sports Hall of Fame Committee

Mr. Wayne Roccia (SV '68 + Coach)
Mr. Steve Mayes (SV Coach)
Mr. Mickey Flood (SV '90 + Coach]
Mr. Larry Wendereusz, Jr. (SV '92 + Coach]
Ms. Megan Meeder (SV '96 + Coach)
Mr. Dan Follett (SV '07 + Coach)
Mr. Bob Magerko (SV Coach)
Mr. Dan Dickey (SV '07 + Coach)
Mrs. Megan (Peaco) Hammer (SV'11)

*Founders and Former Committee Members: Ken Lockey, Tom Heckendorn, Sue Ennis*



**Ryan Vilella**

Seneca Valley Class of 2012

Soccer

Ryan Vilella, a 2012 graduate, achieved not only local but national recognition during his time on the SV soccer team. Ryan began his collegiate career first at Xavier and completed his collegiate career at Robert Morris University. Ryan shared how sports have influenced his life.

*"Playing soccer and sports taught me how to adapt to different cultures and social classes. Also, being responsible for my actions on and off the field, as well as time management."*

A four-year letter-winner and four-year starter, Ryan's freshman year earned him the title of team offensive MVP and the 8th spot on the AAA Finest Fifteen ranking. Ryan was the team's leading goal scorer and received honors of all-section selection. As a sophomore, Ryan earned honors of all-section in addition to all-WPIAL. Ryan once again earned a spot on the AAA Finest Fifteen, ranking 3rd this year. Ryan was also named a Post Gazette Player to Watch and the Post Gazette North All-Star. Ryan's junior year brought even more recognition with all-section, all-WPIAL, and now all-state honors. He was once again on the Pittsburgh Post Gazette Players to Watch list and received the title of team offensive MVP. During his senior season with SV soccer, Ryan was Team MVP and Team Captain. He finished his SV career with his fourth year of all-section honors, third year of all-WPIAL honors, and second year of all-state honors. In 2012, Ryan was named Pennsylvania State Player of the Year and NSCAA High School National All-American, both being the first time in school history. Ryan's impressive career statistics included 38 career goals and 27 career assists.

In addition to playing for SV, Ryan competed with the Beadling Soccer Club, serving as captain for five years. Ryan's team made four consecutive state championship appearances, with back-to-back honors of regional champions in 2011 and 2012. This team also made two national appearances and earned a bronze medal in 2012. Ryan was named to the USYS National Championships Best 11 Team both in 2011 and 2012. Ryan also competed internationally while on the Region 1 Olympic Development Program team. During his five years (2008-2012), Ryan represented the ODP team at inter-regionals in Disney and in international events in Italy and Costa Rica.

Reflecting on his time with the SV soccer program, Ryan shared that his favorite memories included *"making the team as a freshman and all the seniors that year making it easy for me to be the freshman on varsity, being a part of the varsity team all four years, being on the bus trips to and from games, and being able to represent the team in school."*

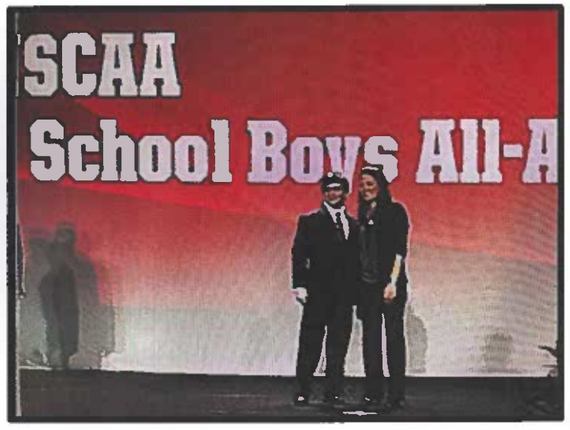
Ryan would like to thank his biggest fans and supporters. *"First and foremost, I would like to thank my parents, my brother Luke, and my grandparents as they were always there to support me. A special thanks to my girlfriend (now my wife), Vanessa for always being there for me as well. I would like to thank all my Seneca Valley coaches, my club soccer, Regional, and National coaches. Lastly, I would like to thank all my teammates throughout my years of playing!"*

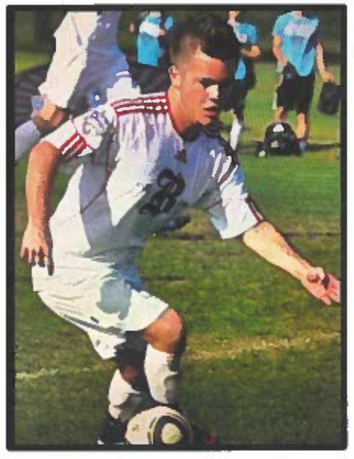
**Ryan Vilella-Additional Photos**













**Conor Barrett**
Seneca Valley Class of 2008
Volleyball, Track & Field

Conor Barrett, a 2008 graduate, demonstrated success for both the SV volleyball and track & field teams, competing impressively in both sports that were held during the same season. Conor continued his collegiate career at Penn State University, where he competed with the PSU Track & Field team during his freshman year while studying Energy, Business, and Finance. Conor shared how sports have influenced his life.

*"Sports were such an important part of my life throughout my formative years- by that I mean High School. I still play some volleyball, but all of that time spent on fields and courts have had a drastic impact on how I've developed; Perseverance, determination, close friendships, communication, physical health, mental health, solidarity have all had a heavy impact on how I chose to evolve. All the while growing up and through high school, sports were everything to me. I hated going to school, but I loved playing sports. I hated practicing, but I loved competing. I hated losing, and I absolutely loved winning, still do. There are some things worth working towards and sports instilled that into me as I developed. I carry that determination with me today and I feel very grateful to have that."*

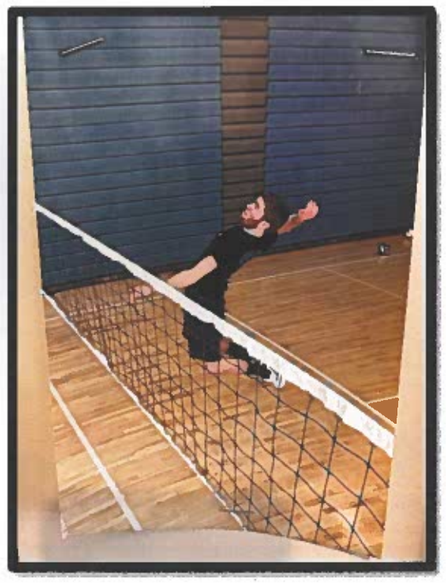
Conor joined the SV boys' volleyball team in middle school and continued through his senior year. Conor assisted his team in reaching the WPIAL quarterfinals his freshman, sophomore, and senior year. The team earned the honor of AAA Section 2 Co-Champions in 2007. A three-year letter winner, Conor earned AAA All-section honors as an outside hitter during his senior year season.

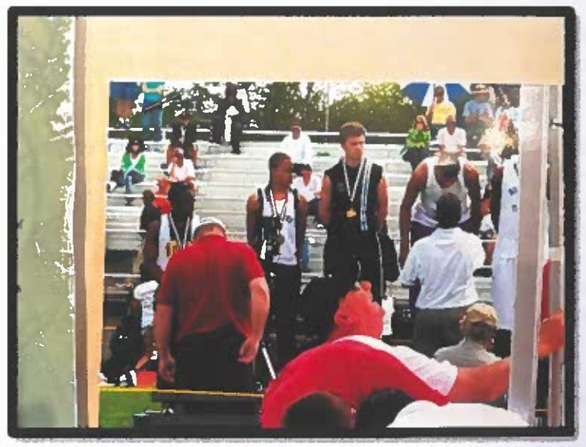
While balancing his time on the volleyball court, Conor quickly gained recognition as an impressive high jumper for the track and field team. As a sophomore, Conor placed 7th in the WPIAL championships. In his junior year season, Conor received the title of WPIAL High Jump Champion, qualified for the PIAA state meet, and set the school record with a jump of 6'8". As a senior, Conor earned the title of WPIAL champion once again and placed 3rd at the PIAA state meet. Conor also broke his previous school record with a jump of 6'9", which remains the school record. Conor also holds a spot on the SV Top Ten list for triple jump as third overall. In addition to being a back-to-back WPIAL High Jump Champion, Conor also earned the title of 2-time Baldwin Invitational Champion and a 2nd place medal at the PIAA Indoor State Championships.

Reflecting on his time as a SV dual-athlete, Conor shared that some of his favorite memories included *"Volleyball Theme nights, the atmosphere of competing in playoffs, winning WPIALS, competing at States, celebrating and spending time with teammates, leaving class early, overnight trips, High jumping to a crowd with the team watching, hanging out with the team during the downtime, Going to Buy-n-Fly after school before volleyball practice for a hot dog and a 99 cent Arizona iced tea."*

Conor would like to thank his biggest fans and supporters. *"Dan Sample for Jumping and Jeff Beavers for volleyball. I was only able to pull this off because they were so accommodating, with outdoor track and volleyball being in the Spring. Dan was incredibly supportive in every way possible and was always able to cheer me up and help me focus. He went above and beyond in helping me train and always brought a positive attitude to practice and meets. He could see my potential and made it his mission to help me jump higher, which I will always remember. Jeff was the best volleyball coach I could ask for. He also made it a mission to help me thrive as a player. Always supported me in any way that he could, within volleyball and off the court. He saw my potential and helped me grow as an athlete and human being. I'm forever grateful to both coaches for working with me and all of the incredible support that was given. Donna Beavers was such a great team mom as well. Our team had a connection with each other and with our coach as we played together through the 6 years together, something I'll always cherish. Mom and Dad were also very important as well, with lots of patience and encouragement and driving me around to all those matches and meets."*

**Conor Barrett-Additional Photos**







**Patty Brain Cekella**

Seneca Valley Class of 1986

Track & Field, Cross-country, Basketball

Patty (Brain) Cekella, a 1986 graduate, excelled as a tri-sport athlete during her time as a Seneca Valley Raider. The recipient of both the 1986 Murray Award for best scholar athlete and Sherman Outstanding Female Athlete award, Patty continued her collegiate career at Grove City College, where she was inducted into the college's Hall of Fame in 2019. Patty shared that she has learned many life lessons from her three sports.

*"The one that I share most with my students is to always do your best, that way you live life with no regrets. I also tell them that practice gives you confidence, and if you find yourself in a situation that you are not confident, you just need more practice."*

Patty was a valuable athlete for SV's cross-country, basketball, and track & field teams, earning a total of nine letters in her three seasons of each sport. Patty earned the additional title of Team MVP for her cross-county team during both her junior and senior seasons. During her junior and senior basketball seasons, Patty also received section honorable mentions and the title of Team MVP her senior year. As a track & field high jump athlete, Patty placed in the top ten for both the WPIAL and PIAA championship meets her junior and senior seasons. As a junior, Patty placed 4$^{th}$ at WPIALs and 9$^{th}$ at the PIAA state meet. Patty broke the high jump record three times during her junior year. As a senior, Patty placed 3$^{rd}$ at the WPIAL championship and 8$^{th}$ at the PIAA state meet. She broke her previous high jump record this season with a jump of 5'5", which currently holds the second spot on the SV all-time top ten list.

Reflecting on her time as a Seneca Valley athlete, Patty says her favorite memories included *"teasing Coach Stewart in cross country with hiding on the bus and pink flamingos, the one from track was getting a flat tire on the turnpike on our way to the PIAA meet and Coach Roccia and Coach Sample having to change it. But looking back on the whole experience, it is the overall encouragement that I always received. Especially in the individual sports, when I doubted myself, my coaches were always there to cheer me on and to transfer their confidence and support to me. It was because of these coaches, I had tremendous pride to be a Seneca Valley athlete."*

After her time as a Raider athlete, Patty continued her collegiate career as a tri-sport athlete for the Grove City College Wolverines while she pursued a degree in mathematics and secondary education. Patty participated in cross-country, basketball, and track & field for three seasons, earning nine total letters. During her cross-county seasons, Patty assisted her team in earning Second Team All-PAC twice and earned recognition as Team MVP her junior year. As a basketball athlete, Patty helped the Wolverines earn their first PAC championship title during her first season. The following year, as team captain, Patty ranked second on the team in points and rebounds. In her final collegiate season, Patty was recognized as All-PAC and Team MVP. Patty continued to excel as a track & field athlete, earning Team MVP

honors in 1988 and helping the team earn its first conference title in 1989. Patty received runner-up honors in both the high jump and 800 meters at the 1989 conference championship. In her 1987 season, Patty set the school record for the high jump, which she broke her next season with a jump of 5'3". During this season, she also set the school record for the 800-meter with a time of 2:28.93. Patty continues to hold the college's high jump record today.

Today, Patty still plays basketball as a team member for the Senior Olympics of Western Pennsylvania. The team qualified for the national tournament held in Pittsburgh this past July, which resulted in a victory and a gold medal to add to Patty's impressive athletic achievements.

Patty would like to thank her biggest fans and supporters. *"My biggest fans were always my parents Tom and Edie Brain. I am grateful for my jumping coach, Dan Sample, who always showed patience and belief in me. (High jump used to have triangular metal bars which required a mental toughness to convince yourself to jump!) I am also grateful for coach Denny Stewart who was willing to cross the picket line to coach cross country during the strike of the 1985-1986 school year."*

**Patty (Brain) Cekella-Additional Photos**













## Alexandria Karika

Seneca Valley Class of 2012

Volleyball & Basketball

Alexandria Karika, a 2012 graduate, is an athlete who soared on both the SV volleyball and basketball courts before earning her wings as a Navy pilot. The 2012 Murray Award for outstanding athletic and academic standards, Alex graduated in the top 10% of her class after receiving highest academic honors her entire school career. Alex also served as a member of the National Honor Society her junior and senior years and was selected to attend the 2012 Honeywell Leadership Challenge Academy held at the National Space Center. After graduation, Alex continued playing volleyball for the Naval Academy. Alex shares that her participation in sports have impacted her life in many ways.

*"Sports have played a huge part of my life and their impact continues to resonate with me today. The lessons I learned and the skills I developed playing sports are truly invaluable. A few that stick out to me are time management, discipline, communication, and perseverance. Playing sports has shaped me into the person I am today. I am so thankful to have been involved with sports from a young age and had the ability to continue the journey into college. Sports not only taught me many life lessons but gave me the opportunity to meet many wonderful people, some who have become friends for life."*

A four-year letter-winner and starting setter, Alex made a great impact on the SV varsity volleyball team. Starting as a freshman, Alex's team earned the titles of Section champions and WPIAL runner-up. The team was WPIAL runner-up once again her junior year with Alex as team captain. After being named section champs her senior season, Alex, team captain once again, assisted her team in achieving the coveted title of WPIAL champions in 2011. Alex was awarded both All State honors and All Conference honors her sophomore, junior, and senior seasons. In addition to her SV accomplishments, Alex also played club volleyball for three years and was a three-year participant in the Junior Olympic National Tournaments. In 2009 and 2010, Alex was selected to play on the Keystone Region High Performance Volleyball team. The team placed 2nd and 3rd respectively in the National Tournament, with Alex serving as team captain in 2010.

Alex's accomplishments were not limited to the volleyball court as she was a strong athlete for the SV Varsity basketball team as well. Alex was a four-year starter and letter-winner for the basketball team. In the 2010 KSA Florida Holiday Tournament, Alex was awarded MVP honors. By the end of her senior season, Alex held several school records including game points scored (35), rebounds (21), and free throws (12). Alex's name is still on several all-time lists today. She ranks #3 on the Top 10 All-Time Scorers list with 973 points. Alex was named the Butler Eagle Girls' Basketball Player of the Year in 2012, which was the same year she was selected for the All-Star Basketball Team.

Reflecting on her time as an SV Raider, Alex shares that her favorite memories were *"winning the WPIALS Championship my senior year, bus rides to and from games, and team tournaments for both volleyball and basketball."*

After being recruited and signing to play volleyball at the U.S. Naval Academy, Alex started as a setter for the team her freshman and sophomore years. Alex earned a varsity letter each year as well as 2nd team all-league honors in 2012 and all-league weekly honors twice the same year. Additionally, Alex was recognized as the Patriot League Rookie of the Year in 2012. Despite only playing for two years, Alex holds numerous assist records at the Academy, including "most assists per set." Alex ranks 4th all-time for most assists.

Alex interned at the NASA Goddard Space Flight Center prior to her senior year at the Naval Academy. She graduated in 2016 with a BS degree in Aerospace Engineering. After graduation, Alex went to Flight School and earned her wings in 2018. Once she graduated from helicopter pilot training, Alex was stationed in San Diego and assigned to Helicopter Sea Combat Squadron 8 (HSC8). She deployed on the USS Theodore Roosevelt aircraft carrier in 2020 and 2021. In June of 2020, Alex was promoted to Lieutenant. That same year, Lieutenant Karika was awarded a Navy Achievement Medal and the Sikorsky Rescue Award for a successful search and rescue mission that saved two lives. In 2022, Lt. Karika earned Elite Naval Aviator credentials by completing a grueling ten-week advanced air combat weapons and tactics training course. Lt. Alex Karika is currently stationed at Helicopter Sea Combat Weapons School Pacific.

Alex would like to thank her biggest fans and supporters over the years. *"My family has meant everything to me during my athletic career. I owe my success to the unwavering support of my parents and my sister. They have supported me through every single endeavor, and I could always count on them to be there for me. They encouraged me to push my limits both on the court and in the classroom and were always there to help me get back up when things didn't go as planned. To my parents and sister, I say thank you. Thank you for being there through it all, being my biggest fans, and for helping me become the person I am today. Your love and support have been invaluable, and I am so grateful. I also want to thank all my coaches who have played a pivotal role in my athletic journey. Coach Martini (Varsity Volleyball), Coach Matthews (Varsity Basketball), Coach Snyder (Club Volleyball), Coach Bock (US Naval Academy Volleyball), and Coach Peaco (7th/8th grade basketball), you have each left an indelible mark on my life. Your support, guidance, and dedication have not only shaped me as an athlete but also as an individual. Your mentorship and unwavering belief in my potential have been a constant source of motivation. Thank you for the countless life lessons and for believing in me every step of the way. Go Navy, Beat Army! Fly Navy!"*

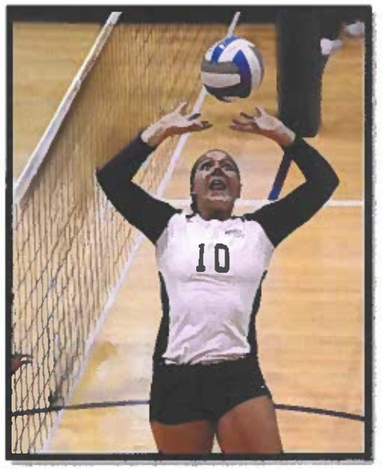
**Alex Karika-Additional Photos**







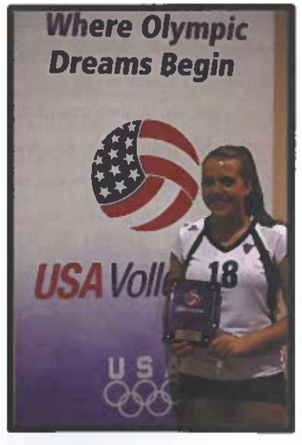















**Brooke Gilliland Klatt**
Seneca Valley Class of 1997
Swimming

Brooke Gilliland Klatt, a 1997 graduate, was a stand-out swimmer for Seneca Valley. A recipient of the 1997 Murray Award for top female scholar athlete, Brooke also served as senior class president and a member of the National Honor Society her junior and senior years. Brooke's excellence continued during her time with the Penn State University Women's Swim Team. Brooke went on to qualify for Olympic trials and was selected to participate in the 2002 Olympic Torch Relay. Brooke has given back to her community by serving as a lifeguard and teaching swim lessons at the Zelienople Community Pool and serving as an assistant coach for the Seneca Valley Swim Club. Brooke shares how sports have influenced her life.

*"Participation in swimming helped me define my core values early and with every success and failure, I am continuing to further develop my character. One of the most influential life skills I learned through sport was persevering past failures with optimism, persistence, and hard work. Surrounding myself with greatness and working together on teams has made my athletic, personal, and professional journeys more fun and rewarding. Being surrounded by greatness has also pushed me (and continues to push me) to be better and raise my standards to a higher level in all aspects of life."*

A four-year varsity letter winner, Brooke also qualified for both the WPIAL and PIAA championships all four years she swam for SV. As a sophomore, Brooke was a member of the first relay to qualify for the PIAA meet (the 200-medley relay). Brooke received the David A. Ketterer Award as a freshman, sophomore, and junior. She received the MVP award as a senior. Brooke served as co-captain of the women's team from 1996-1997, and she holds records in seven events: 100 butterfly, 100 backstroke, 100 freestyle, 200 freestyle, 200 medley relay, 200 freestyle relay, and 400 freestyle relay.

In addition to being an impressive athlete for the SV Varsity team, Brooke also competed with the SV Swim Club. She qualified for the Eastern Zone Competition thirteen times. Brooke was also a Junior National Qualifier in four different events. Reflecting on her time as an SV Raider, Brooke shares her favorite memories.

*"All four WPIAL and PIAA Swimming Championship meets are obvious favorite SV athletic memories. Some special individual and relay accomplishments happened at Trees Pool at Pitt (WPIAL's) and McCoy Natatorium at PSU (PIAA's). The energy from our fans in the stands dressed in black and blue was incredible. The amazing feeling of being shaved, tapered, and confident that all our hard work was about to pay off are feelings I can still remember. However, my favorite and most vivid memories come from the times during the season when I was doing the daily grind with all of my teammates – the pre-practice stretching and core strengthening on the poolside mats when we had nervous anticipation for the grueling work in the pool that the next two hours would bring – the weightroom workouts where the only thing louder than the music was the muscle soreness and fatigue – and the insanely challenging winter break workouts (especially on New Years Day) when the pool must have gained volume from our sweat and tears. Those are my favorite memories and without them, the individual and team accomplishments at WPIAL's and States (and beyond) would not have been possible."*

As a four-year member and letter-winner of the Penn State Women's Swimming Team (1997-2001), Brooke received Academic All-Big Ten honors from 1998-2001. Brooke was co-captain of the women's team from 2000-2001 and received the Karen Walizer Service Award in 2001. In 2001, her team earned the title of Big Ten Championship Team Runner Ups. Brooke ended her swimming career with three of her lifetime best times, including recording an Olympic Trial qualifying time in the 50-meter freestyle. Broke was a member of the 11th ranked team in the nation. Brooke graduated from PSU with BS in Kinesiology in 2001. She went on to become a Doctor of Physical Therapy from New York University in 2005 and achieved her PhD in Rehabilitation Sciences from the University of Pittsburgh in 2017.

Brooke shares her thanks with her biggest fans and supporters. *"Swimming can be an individual or team sport and I am grateful that for me it was both. I remain close friends with high school teammates and continue to get together with my best friends and teammates from college who live all over North America. At Seneca Valley and Penn State I was fortunate to be surrounded by teammates who encouraged and pushed each other to be the best athletes we could be. The team bonds led to many great memories and friendships. My teammates were and continue to be some of my biggest supporters and I am huge fans of them.*

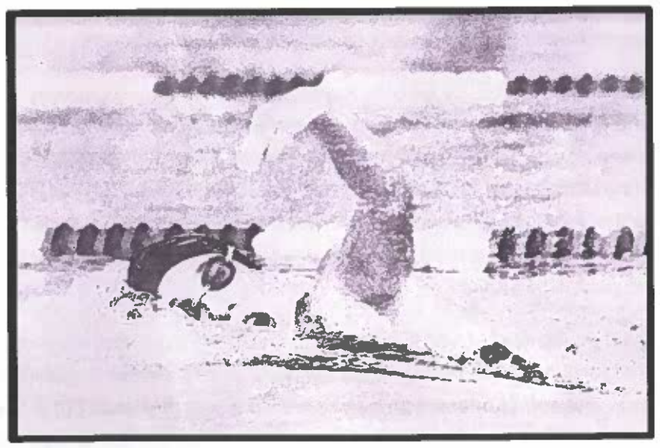
*I have also been incredibly lucky to have coaches who have supported and influenced me in and out of the pool. From the time I started swimming in a summer league for Southwest Aquatics Club (now Seneca Valley Swim Club) at the Zelienople pool with Sue Teets and Georgianne Barry, to Age Group swimming with Bob Miller, to High School swimming with Dave Belowich, to NCAA Division I swimming with Bob Krimmel, Fran McDermid, and Bill Dorenkott. I could write pages on how each has positively impacted me (in the past as an athlete and in the present with frequent reflections and applications of things I have learned from them). I will be forever grateful for their time, knowledge, support, and inspiration.*

*Without a doubt, my biggest fans and supporters were my dad, my mom, and my sister Megan. They believed in me when I did not believe in myself, and they were there from the beginning to the end of my swimming career. From the first time I swam a 25-meter butterfly race as a 6-year-old and I put a towel over my head and said, "I stink!" to ending my collegiate career at the Big Ten Championship meet as a senior with three lifetime best times (including the 100-yd butterfly). They encouraged and supported me in everything I ever did. My parents drove me to countless meets and practices and one time they even flew to Minnesota to watch me swim for 23 seconds (and we all wish it had been a couple of tenths shorter!). I am so grateful that my parents supported me in my decision to go to a university where I would be challenged athletically. I have countless cards and notes from my mom with inspirational and motivational quotes that she would give me often. My dad called me every day the week after Big Tens my senior year to make sure I was doing okay after being done swimming. Meg was four years younger than me, but I do not think I had a louder or more loyal fan -and- knowing that she looked up to me was very motivating (and we all knew that she was soon to inspire us with her athletic pursuits!). The pride I have always had to be on "Team Gilliland" is immeasurable as is my appreciation for the sacrifices that my family made for me."*

Brooke also shared a final reflection on her nomination into the SV Athletic Hall of Fame. *"I am incredibly grateful for the life lessons I learned and the opportunities I was provided with while I was a student-athlete at Seneca Valley. It is an honor to be inducted into the Hall of Fame and while I am "proud of the past", I am even more "committed to the future". (quote credit: Seneca Valley School District Motto)*

**Brooke Gilliland Klatt-Additional Photos**





**Anthony Laslavic**
Seneca Valley Class of 1998
Soccer, Track & Field

Anthony Laslavic, a 1998 graduate, was a champion dual-sport athlete for Seneca Valley. Anthony continued his athletic career at LaRoche College. Anthony has also given back to the sports community as a coach. He coached the SV high school jumpers from 1999-2002, SVSA Soccer from 2010-2013 and again from 2018-2022, and CTAA Baseball from 2013-2015. Anthony shares how sports have influenced his life.

*"Through sports, I've discovered the true power within me, transcending boundaries and embracing endless possibilities, but more than anything I learned empathy of others. The opportunities through high school and collegiate athletics continue to shape my outlook on life and career to this very day. The unique camaraderie among my sports communities, where each individual looked out for one another, instilled a profound lesson in treating everyone with equal respect, irrespective of their skill level or level of engagement. This principle has seamlessly transcended into my professional journey, where I've embraced a similar approach. In my career path, just as in SV sports, I've come to recognize that each person possesses the potential to contribute in their own way, leaving an impact that may surprise you. This understanding has been particularly valuable in my role as a coach for youth sports. Guided by the ethos of SV sports, I ensure that I nurture and support each young athlete, recognizing that their growth may unfold at its own pace. This wisdom has fostered an environment where every member feels valued and motivated to thrive. The invaluable lesson from my SV sports days echoes loudly – the pursuit of excellence is a constant journey. I carry this principle into my professional endeavors, continuously seeking improvement and expansion. Just as in sports, where there is always someone who excels, I remain mindful that excellence is a journey, not a destination, and that each step forward is a victory in itself."*

As a member of multiple club soccer teams in addition to the SV varsity team, Anthony was an elite soccer player. Anthony served as team captain in 1996 and 1997 and earned four varsity letters. His team was honored the title of Most Valuable Soccer Team in 1996 and 1997. Anthony was also an Olympic Development Program Region 1 player qualifier.

Anthony also found success as a champion jumper for the SV Track & Field team. A three-year letter winner, Anthony first qualified for WPIALs in 1997 where he placed 8$^{th}$ in the triple jump. The following year, Anthony once again qualified for WPIALs where he placed 5$^{th}$ in the long jump and achieved the title of WPIAL Champion for the

triple jump. In addition to being WPIAL champion his senior year, Anthony also earned the prestigious title of MVP of Field for both the Mars and Baldwin Invitationals. At the Baldwin Invitational, Anthony received the gold medal for triple jump and silver for long jump. Anthony traveled to the PIAA State meet this year where he placed 6th in triple jump and 10th in the long jump. At the U.S. Nationals Qualifier meet in Slippery Rock, Anthony placed 3rd in triple jump and 7th in long jump. Anthony also set the school record for both the triple and long jump his senior year. His long jump record was held from 1998-2019, and he is currently #3 on the SV Top 10 list. For the triple jump, Anthony ranks #2 all-time as his 1998 record was just beat in 2022. Reflecting on his time as a Raider, Anthony shared his favorite SV memories.

*"My journey as an athlete at SV will forever hold a cherished spot in my heart. While remarkable victories on the field certainly left an impression, it's the camaraderie within the team and the honor of being a role model that truly etched itself into my memory. Stepping into the realm of SV athletics in 1998 felt like entering a realm of belonging, where every teammate was family. The coaching approach mirrored this sentiment as our coaches didn't stand as obstacles, but rather as architects of our triumphs. Their presence was a source of boundless enthusiasm, igniting a fire within us. Unlike any coaches I've encountered, even through my college years, they kindled a relentless pursuit of excellence within me, a flame that still burns bright. These memories are a treasure I will forever hold. And of course, breaking records and winning titles was pretty fun too! Today I look at SV athletics through the eyes of my own children and could not be prouder to know that the veins of BLACK & BLUE still run deep through my own family."*

After graduating from SV, Anthony received a college scholarship to play soccer at LaRoche College. He received honors of two-time AMCC All-Conference First Team in 1999 and 2000. In 1999, Anthony was named the Pitt Invitational Champion in both long and triple jump as a LaRoche athlete. The following season, he was once again the Pitt Invitational Champion in the triple jump as an independent. Anthony graduated from LaRoche with a BS in Business Communications with cross-registration at Carnegie Mellon Mechanical Engineering. He went on the earn his Masters' degree from Pennsylvania University-Wharton School of Business. Anthony is currently serving as the Senior Vice President of F.N.B Bank and Director of Equipment Finance.

Anthony would like to thank his biggest supporters. *"I want to thank God for making it possible for me to seek and continue to accomplish my goals. In addition, I want to thank both of my parents for their continuous support and inspiration throughout my life, particularly in the area of sports. You also drove me to my workouts and gave me an endless supply of shoes and other gear. I also want to thank my classmates from the 1998 and surrounding classes for all of their support and encouragement throughout the years. They saw me as a team leader and have always been there to cheer me on and push me to do my very best in all I do. One friend in particular, who I owe so much to and I know is a powerful source of who I am today, is my SV classmate and great friend, Greg Wimer. Also, thank you to my older brother Jonathan for helping me get stronger by wrestling with me when I was younger, and teaching me the value of being a "wild and rowdy boy."*

*Special thanks to a few stand out SV coaches: Mr. Dan Sample who stayed after school every day and put in a lot of time and effort. I would like to express my gratitude to him for his help. Mr. Wayne Roccia for being one of the greatest head coaches I've ever had and for being amazing. Mr. Harsh, who blew me away with his wealth of sports and academic knowledge- a vision of a quiet leader at its best! Next, Mr. Ray Peaco. The first time he was ever gone from his wife and house was when he traveled with me to the States to support and encourage me. For this, I would also want to thank him. I will always be grateful. I want to thank Ms. Sue Ennis for helping me stay out of trouble early in my athletic career and for helping me have a level head. She was resilient and motivating. Finally, Mr. George Williams, who joined SV soccer during my time as an athlete- it is clear to see his motivation and success as a coach is still limitless today. Thank you for upholding the legacy of SV soccer and keeping the flame burning for decades now.*

*Last but not least I need to thank my own family: I want to thank my wife Katie, for always encouraging me and supporting me through everything - you are the best teammate to build this pretty spectacular life together. And of course, Miles and Lena- my own personal successes will never compare to the unmatched happiness I feel when I witness you succeed in the things you love! I love you all and I am looking forward to more wonderful things."*

Anthony also shared a reflection that can be used for advice for aspiring athletes. *"Sports should never be viewed as something that must be mastered, but rather as something that should be attempted. If you never attempt, you'll never succeed."*

**Anthony Laslavic-Additional Photos**












## *SENECA VALLEY SPORTS HALL OF FAME*
### *Inductees Year-by-Year*

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| **2008** | Rich Barron | SV '82 |
| | Tim Kearns | SV '70 |
| | Ken Lockey | SV Coach |
| | Gus Nicoll | SV '84 |
| | George "Doc" O'Shea | SV Trainer |
| | Wayne Roccia | SV '68 + Coach |
| | Dan Swingle | SV '83 |
| | Mark Van Dyke | SV '75 |
| | Van Walker | SV '68 |
| | Martha Fox Weygandt | SV '77 |
| **2009** | Beth Black | SV '77 |
| | Wayne Bloom | SV '78 |
| | Denny Britt | SV '67 |
| | Dave Florie | SV Coach |
| | Richard Lane | SV Coach + SV Trainer |
| | Norman McMurray | SV Contributor |
| **2010** | Thomas Heckendorn | SV Coach + SV Athletic Director |
| | Lynnette K. McBride | SV '87 |
| | Jose Raymundo | SV '89 |
| | Amanda Smith | SV '02 |
| | Charles C. Stevens | SV '65 |
| | Dennis Stewart | SV '68 + Coach |
| **2011** | Matthew Barron | SV '85 |
| | Mark J. Barron | SV '84 |
| | Kari Bonomo Creehan | SV '94 |
| | S. Jason Conti | SV '93 |
| | Megan Gilliland | SV '01 |
| | Bill Miller | SV Coach |
| | Sean O'Shea | SV '91 |
| **2012** | David Cashdollar | SV '67 |
| | David Ferianc | SV '68 |
| | Marlesse Schlott Hames | SV '92 |
| | John Paul Thiebaud | SV '72 |
| | Raymond J. Thompson | Contributor |
| | Janet Wilk Swope | SV '77 |
| | James Walsh | SV '85 |
| **2013** | Stacie Safritt Anderson | SV '05 |
| | Brian Buerkle | SV '88 |
| | Zach Jackson | SV '01 |
| | Toni Riley Kisling | SV '80 |
| | Joan Sherman Trach | SV '75 |
| | 1983 PIAA Champions: Boys' Cross Country Team, *Coach Denny Stewart* | |
| **2014** | Kristen Cheman | SV '00 |
| | Jim Harshaw, Jr. | SV '94 |
| | Terry Henry | SV Coach + SV Athletic Director |
| | Peet Poillon | SV '05 |
| | 1995 PIAA Champions: Baseball Team, *Coach David Florie* | |
| **2015** | C.J. Brown | SV '09 |
| | Barb Hamilton Druschel | SV '80 |
| | Ralph Gross | SV Coach |
| | Mike Schall | SV '97 |
| | Christopher Tully | SV '98 |
| | 2005 PIAA Champions: Girls' Swimming 200-M. Relay, *Coach Tom Donati; Kylie Gamelier, Stacie Safritt, Mandie Huffman, Kelly Connolly* | |
| **2016** | Shawn Cully | SV '01 |
| | Tom Fletcher | SV '01 |
| | Alyson Intihar | SV '06 |
| | Rick Ley | SV '81 |
| | Mary Miller Lococo | SV '79 |
| | Daniel "Tex" Sample | SV '69 + Coach |
| | Emily Wolfarth | SV '08 |
| **2017** | Cory Mazzoni | SV '08 |
| | Abby Myers | SV '11 |
| | 2007 PIAA Champions: Baseball Team, *Coach Eric Semega* | |

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| **2018** | Mike Adamczyk | SV '69 |
| | Adam Boylan | SV '96 |
| | Rich Dobrzanski | SV '77 |
| | Dom Duggan | SV '03 |
| | Eric Marton | SV '96 |
| **2019** | Clair Altemus | SV '70 + Coach + Contributor |
| | Jill Colbert Brown | SV '96 |
| | Jenny Weyman Gilmore | SV '84 |
| | Bob Harsh | SV Coach |
| | Robert A. Magerko | SV Coach |
| | Anthony C. Sunseri | SV '92 |
| | Larry P. Wendereusz, Jr. | SV '92 |
| **2020-21** | Don Barclay | SV '07 |
| | Cathy (Black) Beighey | SV '70 |
| | Brandon Fusco | SV '06 |
| | Roberta (Pickens) Groner | SV '96 |
| | Ron Gruca | SV '91 |
| | Brianne Morgan | SV '96 |
| **2022** | Tony DeRiggi | SV '04 |
| | Da'Lynn Mills | SV '07 |
| | Kevan Smith | SV '06 |
| | 1992 Girls Softball Team | SV '92-'95 |

*Nominations for the Seneca Valley Sports Hall of Fame are accepted throughout the year. All nominations are reviewed annually at the end of January to begin the process of choosing that year's Hall of Fame class.*

*Forms are found online at* https://www.svsd.net/Page/22681.
*Submit nominations to Wayne Roccia by email:* wroccia@zoominternet.net,
*or by mail:* 415 Ridge Road, Zelienople, PA 16063.

***Find us on Facebook:*** **Seneca Valley Sports Hall of Fame**

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The Seneca Valley Sports Hall of Fame Committee
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Thank you to the SV School District leaders for your loyal support of the SV Sports Hall of Fame:

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**Thanks for the additional support from:**

The Seneca Valley ROTC cadets

The Seneca Valley National Honor Society volunteers

**Special thanks to:**

Butler Eagle reporter Derek Pyda for his dedication and outstanding work in researching and interviewing SV Hall of Fame inductees every year and writing the annual series of articles.

The Thompson Family for photos obtained from the archives of Ray Thompson.