



WINTER SPORT UPDATES

Boys Basketball

Raider boys basketball lost in a tiebreaker between SV, New Castle and Pine-Richland and now find themselves on the outside looking in at post-season play. A team with only three seniors and one junior was fun to watch and they wore the Raiders jersey with pride – playing hard night in, night out. We thank graduating seniors Jake Manson, Esheza Okponobi and Kai West, and wish them all the best in their future endeavors. We look forward to 2024-25 with a returning team deep in experience and talent and led by rising senior and All-Conference Big 56 performer Tyler Pepin.

Girls Basketball – Playoff Bound

Raider girls basketball had a complete turnaround this season, finishing 12-10 overall and third place in WPIAL 6A Section 1 play – a marked improvement from last year's 5-17 and last-place finish in section play. The team was rewarded with a spot in the WPIAL girls basketball championship bracket and faced Norwin on Feb. 22, in the quarterfinal round of the WPIAL championships. A final season recap will be provided in March.



Competitive Cheer

Raider competitive cheer had an outstanding year, having qualified for both the WPIAL and PIAA championships. The squad capped off their season by competing recently at the National High School Cheerleading Championships (NHSCC) at Disney World in Orlando, Florida. Despite “throwing zeroes,” (cheer terminology for having a clean routine) the Raiders were unable to advance to the semifinal round. Overall, it was a wonderful year for our competitive cheer squad. Congratulations!



Ice Hockey

At the time of this writing, Raider Ice Hockey had one game remaining in their regular season and was currently atop the PIHL 3A standings with an overall record of 15-4-0. The team will close out its regular season with a game against Peters Township and then will set their sights on capturing the 2024 Penguins Cup! Good luck, Raiders!



Swimming & Diving

Raider Swimming and Diving is in the final preparations for their WPIAL and PIAA championships. The regular season has ended, and the girls team finished section runner-up with an overall record of 12-1 and 5-1 in section meets. The boys were tied for third in the section finishing 6-7 overall and 3-3 in section competition. With eyes focused on the postseason, Raider boys diving holds three of the top five scores entering championships and the girls hold three of the top ten scores. In swimming, boys and girls will have all replays represented at the WPIAL championships and a lengthy list of individual qualifiers. We will recap postseason performances in March. Good luck to our swimmers and divers!

Wrestling

It is that time of year again when our boys and girls wrestlers are singularly focused on the upcoming individual championship season.

Girls wrestling competed at the first-ever WPIAL championships held on Feb. 17, and came away with four medalists and qualifiers for the PIAA West Regional. Hannah Hornick finished runner-up at 148 lbs, Kenley Alexander at 170 lbs secured a third-place medal, Natalie Tofanelli brought home a fifth-place medal at 124 lbs, and Haley Hunter secured her spot with a sixth-place finish at 190 lbs. Good luck to our Raiders as they look to advance to the PIAA Individual Championships in Hershey, PA in early March.



On the boys' side, the Raiders recently competed in sectional championships with a WPIAL berth on the line. For the AAA Northern Sectionals, the top four seeds include Connor Smith (first, 121 lbs) and Zach Hill (third, 139 lbs). They, too, are competing for a spot at the PIAA championships in early March in Hershey, PA. Good luck boys! A final season recap will be provided in March. ■

ALL-CONFERENCE SELECTIONS ANNOUNCED IN BASKETBALL

The Big 56 Conference recently announced its basketball honorees and the Raiders were well represented. The following Seneca Valley student-athletes were recognized for their excellence on the court this season.

Boys Basketball

1st Team

Tyler Pepin

Honorable Mention

Owen Congdon

Kai West

Girls Basketball

1st Team

Natalie Hambly

2nd Team

Emerson Pepper

Honorable Mention

Gracie Cato

Allison Sevin ■



COLLEGE COMMITMENTS – CLASS OF 2024

Many Raider student-athletes made their college commitment official with the early signing period starting in mid-November. We congratulate these seniors on achieving their goals of continuing their athletic and academic careers at the next level. Each of you are tremendous representatives of Raider Athletics and we are very proud of your efforts in the classroom, in competition, and in the community. ■



Name	Sport	College/University	Major
Brennan Hrycko	Soccer	Westminster College	Broadcasting & Sports Communications

ATHLETES OF THE MONTH, JANUARY 2024

The Female Athlete of the Month for January was girls swimmer **Morgan Baker**. The sophomore has been a key part in another winning season for the Raider girls swimming and diving program. With seven total first-place finishes in multiple distances, Morgan helped her team to an 8-1 record over the course of nine meets in the last month. She placed first in the 100-meter freestyle against North Allegheny with a time of 54.69; had four first-place finishes in the 200-meter freestyle with a best time of 1:58.45; and also had wins in the 500-meter freestyle (5:35.32) and 200-meter individual medley (2:23.65). Her times in three events have met the qualifying standards for the 2023-24 WPIAL Swimming and Diving Championships. We recognize Morgan as the January Female Athlete of the Month. Congratulations, Morgan!



The Male Athlete of the Month for January was senior boys ice hockey goalie **Cenzo DiTullio**. Cenzo's incredible play in the net has paced the Raiders all season as they sit atop the Class 3A Pennsylvania Interscholastic Hockey League (PIHL) standings. The Raiders went 5-0 over the last month with Cenzo in goal, including a big 6-4 win over second-place Pine Richland. Over the five games, he faced 111 shots with 92 saved, good enough for an 83% save rate and a 3.8 goals per game average. Cenzo was also one of three Raiders to represent Seneca Valley at the 2023-24 PIHL All-Star game. For an impressive month, we recognize Cenzo as the January Male Athlete of the Month. Congratulations, Cenzo! ■

