

WINTER SPORTS FINAL RECAP

Boys Swimming & Diving

Leading the way for SV Raider boys Swimming & Diving was the diving trio of Isaiah Clerkley, Miles Miller and Colin Stevens. Clerkley reclaimed the title of WPIAL champion and was joined on the podium by Miller (4th) and Stevens (6th). Our swimmers represented at the WPIAL championships in all three relays – 200 Medley Relay (19th); 200 Free Relay (18th); and the 400 Free Relay (19th),



along with Tyler Snow, who finished 17th in the 100 Back.

Medalists from WPIAL & PIAA Championships: Boys team WPIAL & PIAA medalists

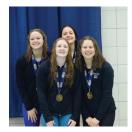
- **Diving, 1m** Isaiah Clerkley, 1st place; Miles Miller, 4th place; Colin Stevens, 6th place
- PIAA Isaiah Clerkley, 1st place; Miles Miller, 10th place

Girls Swimming & Diving - 3rd Place Finish at WPIALs

Raider Girls Swimming & Diving finished in 3rd place at the WPIAL Championships behind North Allegheny and Fox Chapel. The Raiders were able to bring home quite a few medals and qualified all three relays and two individuals – Bella Kling (100 Back) and Katie Bookwalter (100 Breast) – for the PIAA Championships at Bucknell University. Listed below are the medal-winning performances from both the WPIAL and PIAA. Congratulations, girls on a great season.

Medalists from WPIAL & PIAA Championships: Girls team WPIAL & PIAA medalists

- 200 Medley Relay 3rd place (Lena Rothrock, Katie Bookwalter, Bella Kling, Audrey Wolfe)
- PIAA 8th place (Lena Rothrock, Katie Bookwalter, Bella Kling, Sasha Myers)
- 200 IM Alissa Wilson, 5th place
- 50 Free Sasha Myers, 8th place
- 100 Fly Bella Kling, 6th place
- 200 Free Relay 7th place (Sasha Myers, Lena Rothrock, Audrey Wolfe, Morgan Baker)
- 100 Free Sasha Myers, 5th place; Morgan Baker, 8th place

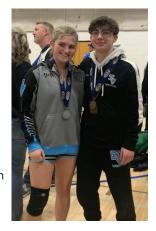




- 100 Back Bella Kling, 6th place
- 100 Breast Katie Bookwalter, 5th place
- 400 Free Relay 5th place (Morgan Baker, Bella Kling, Alissa Wilson, Sasha Myers)
- Diving, 1m Ali Waters, 6th place

Raider Wrestling – Sends two to PIAA Championships

The boys and girls wrestling program each sent one representative to the PIAA State Championships. Senior Connor Smith repeated as a medalist, earning an eighth-place finish at 121 lbs. In the first-ever girls bracket, Hannah Hornick finished one round short of medalist status. Only a sophomore, we can be certain Hornick will have a return to the Hershey Giant Center in the next couple of seasons.



Wrestling Medalists from WPIAL & PIAA Championships:

- Connor Smith (121 lbs): WPIAL, 4th Place; PIAA, 8th place
- Hannah Hornick (148 lbs): WPIAL, runner-up; PIAA West Regional, runner-up



Girls Basketball

As reported in our February issue, Raider girls basketball qualified for the WPIAL Championships where they ran into a buzz saw in the form of the Norwin Knights, the eventual WPIAL 6A Champion. The girls were countered with tenacious defense and lights-out shooting, falling in the quarterfinals 58 – 20. We thank our departing seniors – Kaydence Kilhof, Emerson Peffer and Allison Sevin – for all of their contributions.

Ice Hockey

Raider Ice Hockey finished their regular season in third place in the PIHL standings and faced the Mt. Lebanon Blue Devils in the opening round of the Penguins Cup playoffs. The Raiders came off the ice a 4-0 winner and advanced to take on the Tigers of North Allegheny (NA) in the semifinals. Unfortunately, the Raiders spotted the Tigers an early 3-0 first-period lead and were unable to overcome the deficit, closing the gap to 3-2 before an empty-net goal made it 4-2 NA with 24 seconds remaining. Congratulations to the team on another fantastic season!

Page 18 Seneca Valley | March 2024

THE ELEGANCE OF EXCELLENCE!

Culminating a career that includes back-to-back WPIAL titles and multiple team and pool records, senior diver Isaiah Clerkley can now add STATE CHAMPION to the resume. In a state championship event holding a substantial lead, Clerkley put on a daring display of sheer athleticism and diving talent. Even after what some might call a botched eighth dive, Clerkley still managed to defeat the next closest competitor by 77.90 points. As a comparison, in 2023 when Clerkley finished as state runner-up, the margin between first and second place was 3.35 points! As I sat on the pool deck amongst the meet officials, I could hear their comments: "Has he missed one yet?" "What

is the state record?" "He is just so clean on his entry." And while we know Isaiah did "miss" one dive, there is no disputing the power of his takeoffs, the complexity of his executions and elegance of his pure vertical entries. Oh, and about that record – not since 2014 when the current PIAA record of 596.15 points was established, has anyone scored near Clerkley's total of 570.40 – a new Bucknell Pool record I might add! Quite simply, Isaiah Clerkley put on a masterpiece of 1m diving and those in attendance were the beneficiaries of his diving distinction. We congratulate Isaiah and wish him well at Penn State University where he will continue his diving career in the Big 10!

- Heather Lewis, Athletics & Activities Director



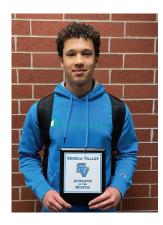
ATHLETES OF THE MONTH, FEBRUARY 2024

The Female Athlete of the Month for February was girls wrestler **Hannah Hornick**. The sophomore had a stellar season wrestling in the 148 lb. weight class. Hannah went 14-9 during the regular season which earned her the seventh seed at the 2024 Western Pennsylvania Interscholastic Athletic League (WPIAL) Girls Wrestling Championships. She went 3-1 on the day to earn a silver medal and qualify for the Pennsylvania Interscholastic Athletic Association (PIAA)



Girls Wrestling West Regionals. Hannah again came in second place and qualified for the inaugural PIAA Girls Wrestling State Championships. She placed in the top-10, falling one round short of a state medal. She ended her season with a record of 23-15. We recognized Hannah as the February Female Athlete of the Month. Congratulations, Hannah!

The Male Athlete of the Month for February was senior boys diver Isaiah Clerkley. Isaiah had an incredible regular season with multiple recordbreaking performances. He first broke Seneca Valley's 23-year-old six-dives record of 318.80 with a score of 331.90. He then proceeded to break his own record five more times, finishing his Seneca Valley career with a six-dives score of 370.70. Isaiah also broke Seneca Valley's 11-dives record with a score of 583.35, besting the previous record of 522.5. He then



completed a clean sweep during postseason championship events. He came in first place at the 2024 WPIAL Diving Championships with an 11-dive score of 583.35, to repeat as WPIAL Champion. Isaiah then blew away the competition with another gold medal performance at the 2024 PIAA Diving Championships with a score of 570.40, more than 75 points ahead of the second-place finisher. For an impressive season, we recognized Isaiah as the February Male Athlete of the Month. Congratulations, Isaiah!

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 in 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.

NameSportCollege/UniversityMajorAmari HensonFootballWalsh UniversityEntrepreneurship



Seneca Valley | March 2024 Page 19