



## WINTER SPORT SEASONS UNDERWAY

The Pennsylvania Interscholastic Athletic Association (PIAA) winter sports season officially began on Friday, Dec. 1. The following is a brief recap on the start of the respective seasons.

**Boys Basketball:** Boys basketball traveled to North Hills for their Tip-Off Tournament and came away with a split, beating Perry Traditional Academy (84-41) and falling to Hampton (67-40). Following the opening weekend, the Raiders fell 70-58 to visiting North Catholic and then traveled to Franklin Regional for the 20th Annual Mike Rettger Memorial Tournament. After an impressive 62-54 win over Laurel Highlands, SV fell to hosting team Franklin Regional, 43-39. After five games, the Raiders are currently led by three players averaging double figure points per game (ppg) – Tyler Pepin (18.4 ppg), Kai West (12.2 ppg), Owen Congdon (10 ppg). Next, the Raiders will host Fox Chapel, travel to Baldwin and Penn Trafford, and, over winter break, compete in three games at the Kaylee Scholarship Association (KSA) event in Orlando, Florida.



**Girls Basketball:** After opening the season with two losses at the Woodland Hills Play 4 Mae Tournament, the Raiders have reeled off four consecutive wins over Fox Chapel (70-61); Friendship Collegiate in Washington D.C. (59-37); and High School for Construction Trades, Engineering and Architecture (CTEA), in Queens, New York (46-22) in the “She Got Game” Classic, as well as Neshannock (56-24). The balanced scoring of the 2023-24 Raiders was never more evident than in their game against Fox Chapel where SV had four players in double figures – Natalie Hambly (19 pts), Makayla Canty (15 pts), Allison Sevin (15 pts), and Emerson Pepper (13 pts). Next up for the team includes a home game against North Catholic and two games against Kiski and Shady Side Academy at the Shadyside Holiday Tournament over winter break.



**Ice Hockey:** At the time of this writing, Raider Ice Hockey is off to another great start currently tied atop PIHL AAA standings with eight wins in their first 11 contests. SV will face Upper St. Clair, currently tied for third place in the PIHL standings, before a break in their schedule over the holidays.

**Swimming & Diving:** At the time of this writing, Swimming and Diving has squared off against Riverside and Fox Chapel with the girls team at 2-0 on the season and the boys team at an even 1-1. The early highlight of the season came as senior diver Isaiah Clerkley broke a 24-year-old team and pool record for six dives, scoring 331.90 points (the previous record was 318.80 points). Congratulations, Isaiah, on a record-setting performance!

| SENeca VALLEY BOYS SWIMMING & DIVING |         |      |            |
|--------------------------------------|---------|------|------------|
| VARIETY                              | TIME    | YEAR | EVENTS     |
| O. BLAZER                            | 1:33.29 | 20   | 100 MIDDLE |
| SIMMONS                              | 1:30.75 | 21   | 200 FREE   |
| CONALDSON                            | 1:46.87 | 22   | 500 IM     |
| SIMMONS                              | 20.74   | 22   | 50 FREE    |
| CLERKLEY                             | 331.90  | 23   | 6 DIVES    |
| CLERKLEY                             | 32.5    | 22   | 100 DIVES  |
| O. BLAZER                            | 47.95   | 20   | 100        |
| SIMMONS                              | 45.18   | 22   | 200        |
| CLERKLEY                             | 48.06   | 01   | 500        |
| CONALDSON                            | 1:23.31 | 22   | 1000       |
| LOZOWSKI                             | 47.83   | 20   | 100        |
| O. BLAZER                            | 54.95   | 23   | 200        |
| CONALDSON                            | 3:05.26 | 22   | 1000       |
| CLERKLEY                             | 3:11.35 | 21   | 1000       |
| SIMMONS                              | 3:11.35 | 21   | 1000       |

**Boys Wrestling:** Boys wrestling opened their season at the Hampton Duals and came home with a fourth place finish out of 12 teams, going 3-2 on the day. Victories were collected over Hampton, Kiski and Norwin, along with tough losses to Plum and Franklin Regional. Prior to school being dismissed for winter break, the Raiders took part in the Panther Classic at Mount Aloysius College and hosted Butler in a section dual meet. Over the holidays, SV will compete in the nationally renowned Powerade Tournament at Canon-Mac.



**Girls Wrestling:** Another milestone was achieved for the Raider girls wrestling program as they traveled to Plum for the first official PIAA-sanctioned dual meet against the Mustangs. The Raiders did not disappoint, coming home with a 54-12 victory. Prior to the holiday break, SV hosted Butler in a girls dual match and will then compete in the nationally renowned Powerade Tournament at Canon-Mac over the holidays.



In addition, all sub-varsity teams have started their seasons and are off to great starts. As always, I am so appreciative of our coaches and grateful for all they do for our student-athletes. As we pause for the winter holidays, may we cherish the time with family and friends. The Seneca Valley Athletics Department wishes all #SVRaiderNation a Happy Holiday Season. ■



## ATHLETES OF THE MONTH, NOVEMBER 2023

The Female Athlete of the Month for November was girls soccer forward **Ayla Ward**. The senior team captain led her team to a 13-3-1 overall record with the two regular season losses coming against eventual section champion and WPIAL runner-up North Allegheny. Ayla led the team as captain and with 25 goals and 10 assists, averaging two goal contributions a game. She had seven multi-goal games, including four hat tricks and two four-goal games. Ayla's impact for the Raiders was emphasized by the fact she scored in 13 of 16 regular season games. Her efforts on the season were recognized by area coaches as she was named to the All-Section, All-WPIAL, and Big 56 first teams. We recognized Ayla as the November Female Athlete of the Month. Congratulations, Ayla!



The Male Athlete of the Month for November was junior boys soccer midfielder **Tyler Prex**. Tyler's stellar play on offense helped the Raiders to a 13-1-3 record including another WPIAL 4A Section 1 title. He was a key contributor on the team and finished with 12 goals and 17 assists to total 29 points on the year. He led the team in goal contributions, averaging close to two a game. He had several standout games, including scoring the game-winning goal against North Allegheny to seal the section title along with two free-kick assists to bring the Raiders level in their WPIAL playoff match with Norwin. The end of season accolades rolled in for Tyler as he was named to first teams for All-Section, Big 56, WPIAL and State, and was named WPIAL Co-Player of the Year. For an impressive month, we recognized Tyler as the November Male Athlete of the Month. Congratulations, Tyler! ■



## ADDITIONAL HONORS ANNOUNCED FOR FALL SPORT RAIDER STUDENT-ATHLETES AND COACHES

While the fall season is in the books, the awards continue to arrive for Raider student-athletes and coaches.

We congratulate soccer junior midfielder Nathan Prex for being honored as the 2023 Boys Soccer Player of the Year by the Butler Eagle and named to the Trib-Live Boys Feb 15 Soccer Team and PA Soccer Coaches Association All-State Team.



We congratulate soccer senior forward Ayla Ward for being honored as the 2023 Girls Soccer Player of the Year by the Butler Eagle.



We congratulate Ollivia Congdon and Bria Stepp, named All-State by the PA Volleyball Coaches Association. ■



## 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. ■

| Name           | Sport    | College/University | Major                         |
|----------------|----------|--------------------|-------------------------------|
| Isabella Kling | Swimming | Gannon University  | Accounting & Criminal Justice |
| Zach Tkatch    | Baseball | Gannon University  | Mechanical Engineering        |
| Ayla Ward      | Soccer   | IUP                | Nursing                       |

