



SCHOOL SPIRIT, STUDENT SUCCESS

At the time of this writing, we have three teams undefeated in section play (boys soccer, girls soccer, and girls volleyball), a history-making performance in girls tennis, and, in this author's opinion, the best halftime show you will see from any marching band. And we are only one month into the start of the 2023-24 school year. The following includes recaps of our fall sports seasons to date. A few (golf and tennis) are nearing the end of their regular seasons, while many have yet to hit the mid-season point. While the success is obvious, the school spirit and support on display for our student-athletes and student-performers is more noticeable. The year has started off with incredible school spirit, and I am convinced the energy surrounding campus is what propels our students and teams towards excellence. In closing, I must give a shout out to the award-winning Raider Marching Band. In my 12 years with the District, the 2023 halftime performance is by far the most entertaining I have witnessed. If you have yet to see the band perform, join us for a home football game and a Michael Jackson show worthy of the price of admission!

- Heather Lewis, Athletic & Activities Director



FALL SPORTS UPDATES

CROSS-COUNTRY – Boys and Girls (Head Coach: Steve Strellick)

Raider cross-country opened their season at the annual Red, White & Blue Invitational on September 9. In the boys varsity race, junior Max Smith finished 12th out of 243 runners, and senior Ethan Barnett finished 30th. As a team, Seneca Valley finished sixth out of 32 teams. In the opening two Section meets, the boys defeated Pine-Richland 24-34 but fell to Butler 29-26. In the girls varsity race at the Red, White & Blue Invitational, senior Samantha Moury finished 36th out of 234 runners, and junior Sydney Heltzell finished 44th.



As a team, the Raiders finished 16th out of 32 teams. In Section meets against Butler and Pine-Richland, the girls team swept results, defeating Butler 27-28, and Pine-Richland 20-41.

FOOTBALL (Head Coach Ron Butschle)

A noticeably young Raider football squad has opened the season with four difficult losses. Following the loss of 28 graduating seniors last year, this year's squad features many starters seeing varsity action for the first time in their careers. The Raiders have a key 6A matchup with Mt. Lebanon, which will go a long way in determining post-season playoff standings.



GOLF – Boys (Head Coach Dean Leventopoulos)

The boys varsity golf team opened their season with a second-place finish at the Sewickley invite. The team is currently 5-6 in match play with two remaining matches and the SV Invitational remaining before the WPIAL individual postseason competition begins.

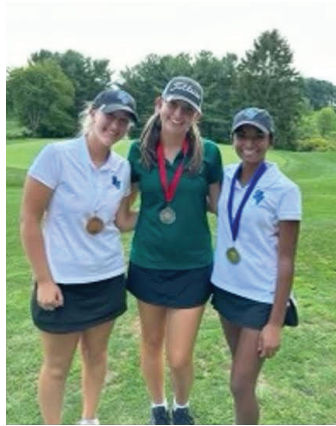


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GOLF – Girls (Head Coach Brian Pesavento)

Under first-year head coach Brian Pesavento, Raider girls varsity golf is currently 10-2 overall and sitting in second place in section play with a 7-2 mark. In addition to their outstanding match-play record, the team recently won their own Climb the Ridge Invitational. Lihini Ranaweera took top honors with a 71, and Madison Sharek finished third overall with a 76 to post the team to a second consecutive Climb the Ridge tournament title. Like their male counterparts, the Raiders have two remaining matches left, and their WPIAL team championship fate rests on those results. They, too, will begin WPIAL individual postseason competition at the end of September.



SOCCER – Boys (Head Coach George Williams)

Once again, Raider boys soccer is off to an undefeated start, sitting at 8-0 and tied for first in section standings. The boys are currently ranked No. 1 in the WPIAL and No. 3 in the state. The United Soccer Coaches Association currently has Seneca Valley ranked 10th nationally. What is becoming a customary start to their season, the Raiders won the annual Intersection Kickoff Tournament and are 6-0 in section play. They have scored 36 goals on the season, with only six against.



SOCCER – Girls (Head Coach Mark Perry)

Raider girls soccer is off to a fantastic start, scoring 39 goals while only giving up three



in their 7-0 start. The girls are tied for first in section play and, despite this impressive start, are currently ranked fourth in the WPIAL. Senior goalkeeper Mia Humphreys posted four shutouts in the first seven games. Senior Ayla Ward and sophomore Ashlee Libby lead a potent front-line attack.

TENNIS (Head Coach Eric Grove)

Raider girls varsity tennis is currently 6-4 overall and 3-2 in section play. At the time of this writing, the Raiders are tied for third place in section play and only the top four teams qualify for the WPIAL team championships. Senior Kylie Staudt is having a fabulous season, having recently qualified for the WPIAL individual championships based on her fourth-place finish at the sectional tournament. Kylie is the first representative from SV in 15 years to compete in the girls WPIAL individual tournament.



VOLLEYBALL (Head Coach Brett Poirier)

After a loss in the Canon-Mac tournament semifinals to start the season, Raider girls varsity volleyball has not lost a match. Currently, the team is undefeated in match play with a 5-0 record, and, in mid-September, the team traveled to Westminster, Maryland, for a tournament where they went 10-0 and brought home the trophy. The Raiders are currently tied for first place in their section and the Western PA Volleyball Coaches Association has them ranked No.2. ■



UPCOMING SPECIAL EVENT DATES FOR RAIDER ATHLETICS

Special Events

- **October 5, 2023:** Homecoming Carnival and Parade
- **October 6, 2023:** Homecoming Football Game vs Hempfield
- **October 27, 2023:** Annual Pink Game vs North Allegheny

Winter Sport Information

- **October 25, 2023:** Drug & Concussion Testing and Athletic Physicals for Winter Sports in Senior High School
 - 30 physicals offered 2:45–5:15 p.m.
- **October 8, 2023:** Final Drug & Concussion Testing and Athletic Physicals for Winter Sports in Senior High School
 - 30 physicals offered 2:45–5:15 p.m.
- **October 9, 2023:** **Deadline** for winter sport paperwork; all papers due in the athletic office.
- **October 17, 2023:** First official day of winter sports – mandatory tryouts begin this day.
 - For the tryout schedule, please contact the coach directly. Coaches contact information is located on the athletics website under [Participation Information](#) tab.

REMINDERS for 2023-24:

- **ALL** paperwork for winter sports is due in the athletic office no later than Thursday, November 9, 2023, by 3 p.m. Coaches will not accept paperwork on the first day of tryouts.
- The PIAA mandates the CIPPE Section 6 form as the only permissible form for doctor's signature.
- All required paperwork for 2023-24 athletic participation is available on [Parent Portal](#) or Athletics website. Paperwork includes PIAA CIPPE Sections 1, 2, 5, & 6 and Drug Test Consent Form.
- If a student played in a fall sport, the only paperwork needed is PIAA CIPPE Section 7 and, if applicable, PIAA CIPPE Section 8 – these forms can be dated no earlier than Oct. 6, 2023.
- All student-athletes must register in the [Parent Portal](#) under "Sports Registration" before the start of each season.
- Tryouts are mandatory. Student-athletes are expected to attend every tryout session.

PROJECT COMPLETE

The 2023-24 school year is already full of BIG accomplishments for the SV Athletics Department! This fall we celebrate a groundbreaking addition to the district that will take our athletic programs and events to the next level.

The new press box is more than a vantage point for capturing game-changing moments, it will also serve as an operations

center for all events held at NexTier Stadium and will provide media the space to broadcast/televise these events. The facility, equipped with a third-level video platform, will open its doors to SVTV, providing students with hands-on experience in sports broadcasting. ■

