Raider Athletics
December 2018

Heather Lewis, Seneca Valley Athletics and Activities Director

Winter Sports Underway

The 2018-19 winter sports season has begun and our Raider teams are following the success from this fall and have already recorded some impressive performances. Here is an update on the early start to the season.



Boys' Basketball

Under first year head coach Kevin Trost, the Raider boys' basketball team currently stands at 3-2 overall with wins over Hampton, Laurel and Shadyside Academy. They will begin section play on Friday, Dec. 21, at Pine-Richland and over the winter break Seneca Valley will host a holiday tournament featuring Shaler, Brashear and Riverside. On Thursday, Dec. 27, the Raiders square off against Brashear at 3 p.m. and will play at either 1:30 p.m. or 4:30 p.m. on Friday, Dec. 28. Starting out the season, the Raiders start four seniors – Trey Berringer, Brendan Koken, Marcus Might and Zac Zajacs and one junior in Mason Bush and each has taken their turn leading Seneca Valley in scoring and/or rebounding.



Girls' Basketball

Head coach Todd Schoeffel returns to the sidelines following a number of years assisting the boys program. Coach Schoeffel has the Raiders out to a quick 5-0 start on the season, including a section win over visiting North Hills. This year's squad is a mixture of experience with senior starting guards McKenna Gross and Gretchen Koken and two freshmen – Jess Bickart and Olivia West – playing key roles. Returning junior starters Maddie Karchut and Haley Cramer bridge the gap between seniors and freshmen. On the season, Seneca Valley is averaging over 62 points per game while holding teams to an average of 40 points. This is a fun team to watch – one that gets up and down the court – and we encourage you to stop in for a game at the William Paul Gymnasium.

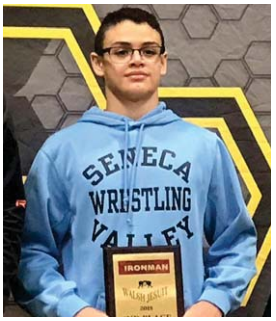


Swimming and Diving

At the time of this writing, the Raiders competed in only one meet on the season and the boys' and girls' teams, coached by Brian Blackwell - came away victorious over visiting Knoch. The boys won 97-68 and the girls were victorious 102-74. The night was very exciting as junior Owen Blazer broke the school record, held for 26 years, in the 200 IM. Following the meet, Seneca Valley had already secured 25 individual WPIAL cuts and four relay WPIAL cuts – not a bad first meet at all! In diving action, the girls placed first (Katelyn Caccamo), second (Meghan Keppler) and fourth (Maddie Montalbano) while the boys went one-two (Matt Laslavic and Trevor Elliott).

Wrestling

The Raider wrestling program, under head coach Kevin Wildrick, enters the 2018-19 season with lofty goals and a schedule featuring two nationally competitive tournaments. The first event of the season – Walsh Ironman – was a collection of the nation's finest teams and individuals and our Raiders put their names on the map. Sophomore returning state champion Alejandro Herrera-Rondon finished second at Walsh Ironman, losing 2-1 to the nation's top-ranked wrestler out of Selma, CA. Sophomore Dylan Chappell advanced to the quarterfinals. Following a decisive 49-30 section win over visiting Armstrong, the Raiders then competed at the King of the Mountain Tournament held at Central Mountain H.S. and finished second in the team standings on the strength of nine medalists. Champions were Dylan Chappell (113 lbs.) and Alejandro Herrera-Rondon (120 lbs.) and runners-up were Drew Vlasnik (138 lbs.) and Nick Montalbano (152 lbs.) Rounding out the rest of the medalists were Hunter Swedish (7th, 106 lbs), Chanz Shearer (6th, 126 lbs.), Jason Geyer (3rd, 132 lbs.), Antonio Amelio (7th, 145 lbs.) and Davin Beahm (7th, 195 lbs.) Following dual matches against WPIAL powers Kiski Area and Hempfield, the Raider wrestling team will compete at the national acclaimed Powerade Tournament over the holiday break.









Cleveland welcomes Raider Girls' Basketball

Due to the diligence of our Raider Girls' Basketball Boosters and coaching staff, Seneca Valley tipped off against Southside Beaver on Friday, Dec. 14, at the Quicken Loans Arena, home of the Cleveland Cavaliers. The Raiders walked off the court victorious and then spent the evening at the "Q" watching the Cavaliers take on the Milwaukee Bucks. Not only was it an awesome opportunity for our athletes to compete in the same venue as the pros but it also provided our middle school teams the opportunity to join their varsity peers on the bus ride up to support Seneca Valley and take in an NBA game. Overall, it was a wonderful experience for the 2018-19 Raider Girls Basketball program and we are grateful to the boosters and parents for making the evening possible.





Key dates for Raider Athletics

- **Feb. 19, 2019:** Spring sport drug & concussion testing and physicals at Senior High – starts immediately after school – register in the Athletic Office. Physicals limited to first 30 persons – no reservations in advance.
- **Feb. 22, 2019:** All spring sport paperwork is DUE – please turn in to the Athletic Of-fice, located in the lobby of the Senior High School.
- **March 4, 2019:** First OFFICIAL day of spring sport tryouts/practices for all varsity, junior varsity, junior high and middle school teams.