

So often I hear the question, "We see you at every event, and do you ever go home?" My reply is always the same, "This is the best part of my job…watching our student-athletes compete." The 2018 fall season has not disappointed, providing many opportunities to watch our student-athletes excel on the courts, courses and fields. Equally rewarding is the joy I witness when our teams meet with success, their smiles and team celebrations represent excitement for successful execution of game plans and reward for their hard work and daily efforts. As we bring closure to the fall season and travel along the post-season path, I am grateful for the character and class of our student-athletes. Moreover, even more impressed with their commitment and excellence.

Fall Sports Updates



CROSS COUNTRY: The boys' and girls' cross-country teams traveled to Cal-U for the WPIAL championships and came home with medals, a trophy and multiple PIAA State Championship qualifiers on Oct. 25. In the girls' race, Seneca Valley as a team finished fifth overall and will send two athletes – senior Megan Aaron and sophomore Bailey Royhab – to the state championships on Nov. 3. Bailey finished 11th overall and Megan came in 21st.



The boys' race provided plenty of excitement and some great runs by our own Raiders to secure the runner-up trophy by a mere three points over Mt. Lebanon. By virtue of their second-place finish, Seneca Valley qualifies as a team for the boys' state championships. Individually seniors Seth Ketler (4th) and Sam Owori (9th) finished in the top-10 overall with Connor Volk-Klos (16th), Noah Petersen (25th) and Aidan Domencic (30th) not far behind. Senior Max Weaver (36th) and junior Adam Owori (49th) rounded out the line-up for the Raiders.



FOOTBALL: You would be hard-pressed to find a team with as great a one-year turnaround as our Raiders. Following a tough 3-6 campaign in 2017, Coach Ron Butschle and the 2018 Seneca Valley football squad went to work in the offseason and those efforts have paid dividends with a 7-3 overall mark and tied for third place in the tough 6-A conference. Leading the way has been a defense that gives up under 10 points a game and has three shutouts in a 10-game schedule. Entering the WPIAL playoffs on Nov. 2, the Raiders have the ingredients – a stingy defense and balanced attack – to make a run at a second appearance at Heinz Field in three seasons.

BOYS' & GIRLS' GOLF: The Raider golf teams completed their seasons in mid-October. The boys' program, competing in the WPIAL team championships, finished fourth overall out of 16 qualified teams. In girls' WPIAL individual championships, Lexi Tofanelli shot an 18-hole career best 87 to finish in the top half at Diamond Run Golf Course. Congrats to both teams on another great season.



BOYS' SOCCER: There may not be a more competitive section than the WPIAL boys' soccer section 1. Following reclassification, the eight-team section 1 included seven teams from the 2017 WPIAL soccer playoff bracket. To just make the playoffs in 2018 would be an accomplishment, but for Seneca Valley the sights were set higher. One could say "mission accomplished" as the Raiders finished atop the section standings and earned the top seed in the WPIAL championships. At the time of this writing, the Raiders defeated their quarterfinal opponent, Mt. Lebanon, 7-0 and were set to face Canon-Mac in the semifinals. November's issue will have a final recap on the season.



GIRLS' SOCCER: It has been quite a year for Seneca Valley soccer teams and the girls' team matched the feats of the boys' program, winning a section title, earning the top seed in the WPIAL playoffs and advancing to the championship game in early November. Overall, the Raiders finished 15-2 and were 10-2 in section play. After a first-round bye, the team beat Mt. Lebanon (6-1) in the quarterfinals and shutout a very talented Upper St. Clair team (2-0) to advance to the WPIAL championship game at Highmark Stadium. With their appearance in the finals, the Raiders are guaranteed a place in the PIAA state playoff bracket. November's issue will have a final recap on the season.

GIRLS' TENNIS & VOLLEYBALL: Both seasons for girls' tennis and girls' volleyball have ended. Raider girls' tennis finished 9-6 overall; Raider girls' volleyball finished 6-10 on the season.

Special Event Dates for Raider Athletics

Special event dates for the winter season include:

- **Wednesday, Nov. 7:** Deadline for winter sport paperwork; all papers due in athletic office
- **Friday, Nov. 16:** First official date of winter sport tryouts