Raider Athletics
September 2018

Heather Lewis, Seneca Valley Athletics and Activities Director

The sights and sounds of kicking off the new school year never gets old. The moment our "Roaring" Raider Marching Band starts camp in early August and the tackling thuds of football preseason fill the air, the anticipation grows in our student-athletes and community for the first whistle of the season. Something new this year was the start of our home football schedule prior to the first day of school and our student body and community were in full force supporting all of the participants of Friday Night Lights – our football and cheer squads and, of course, the award-winning Raider Marching Band! To date, we have met with much success on the fields, courts, and courses and below you can read of our team accomplishments through September. In closing, the pride our student-athletes display when competing in the Seneca Valley jersey is a reflection of a vibrant and committed community – a community of teachers, coaches, classmates, parents and fans second to none. The gratitude from this office is immeasurable; the opportunity to share these moments is much appreciated.



Fall Sports Updates

Cross Country: At the time of this writing, the Raider boys' cross-country team is fresh off a runner-up finish at the PIAA Foundation meet and the girls finished a respectable sixth place. For the boys' race, Seneca Valley placed three runners in the top-10 – Sam Owori (5th), Seth Ketler (9th) and Connor Volk-Klos (10th). Rounding out the scoring were Noah Peterson (25th) and Aidan Domencic (37th). On the girls' side, Megan Aaron paced the Raiders with a 9th place finish followed by four underclassmen in Bailey Royhab (Soph.), Lizzy White (Jr.), Dylan Kirchner (Soph.) and Ruthie Hughes (Fr.). Both teams are undefeated as of this writing and have their sights set on WPIAL titles and PIAA qualification.





Football: Raider football has emerged from the challenges of 2017 a more mature, complete and seasoned squad – one not afraid to meet the challenges of WPIAL 6A football head on. The 2018 Raiders play with no fear and a confidence necessary for success on Friday nights. Through the first five games, Seneca Valley is 4-1 with their lone loss coming in a tight 20-14 battle with Central Catholic on the road. On average, Seneca Valley is scoring over 25 points per game while holding opponents to just over one touchdown per game, including two shutout wins over Canon-McMillan and Butler. With five games remaining, the Raiders look to position themselves for a chance at a return trip to Heinz Field and the WPIAL 6A finals.

Golf: Boys and Girls: The WPIAL held its sectional qualifiers for WPIAL individual championships and both squads sent representatives onto the next round. On the girls' side, senior Lexi Tofanelli advanced to the WPIAL finals slated for Oct. 3, at Diamond Run Golf Course. For the boys', three players have advanced to the WPIAL semifinals: Mark McNulty, Zach Brown and Ryan Bartos. In addition, the Raider boys' golf team has advanced to the WPIAL team semifinals scheduled for Oct. 9. Pictured on the right: Senior Lexi Tofanelli following her qualifying round at the sectional tournament.





Soccer: Boys and Girls: At the time of this writing, a quick glance to the WPIAL section standings and one will see Seneca Valley boys and girls team atop of their section races. Both teams are ranted in the top three of the WPIAL with the boys occupying the top spot and the girls' in the third spot. With a little less than half of the section season to play, both teams look to solidify their spots atop of their respective section races. Pictured on the left: boys soccer celebrating their Kick-Off Classic championship on the opening weekend of the season.



Tennis & Volleyball: Girls Tennis narrowly missed qualifying for the WPIAL team tournament and will end their season in early October. A final recap will be provided in October. Girls' volleyball is at the midway point of section play and look to make a run at WPIAL postseason qualification. Updates will be shared in October.

Friday Night Lights: The sights of competition and camaraderie. In addition, we congratulate the Raider football squad for shutting out Butler (37-0) and taking home the Butler Eagle Travelling Trophy for the twelfth straight year.



KDKA Extra Effort Award – Jake Stebbins

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Bob Pompeani of KDKA visited Seneca Valley on Sept. 25, to recognize senior football captain Jake Stebbins as the recipient of the KDKA Extra Effort Award. The piece will air on KDKA on Thursday, Oct. 4. You do not want to miss the TV debut of senior teammate Alex Cassese! Congratulations Jake on a well-deserved honor!



Jake Stebbins, KDKA Extra Effort Award Winner.



Senior Alex Cassese rehearses his opening lines with Bob Pompeani for the KDKA Extra Effort introduction.

Special event dates for Raider Athletics

Special event dates for the fall season include:

- **Oct. 5, 2018:** Senior Night Football game vs Hempfield
- **Oct. 11, 2018:** Homecoming Week – Annual Carnival at NexTier Stadium
- **Oct. 12, 2018:** Homecoming & Pink Out Football Game vs. Woodland Hills
- **Oct. 31, 2018:** Drug & Concussion Testing and Physicals – Senior High immediately after school
  - Stop in athletic office for processing
  - Testing/Physicals start at 2:45 p.m.
  - Participants may ride activity bus home
  - This is the only test date for winter sports

  Note: There are limited spots for sport physicals awarded first come, first served
- **Nov. 7, 2018:** Deadline for winter sport paperwork; all papers due in athletic office

Reminders for 2018-19:

- **ALL** paperwork for winter sports due in the athletic office no later than **Wednesday, Nov. 7, 2018 by 3 p.m.** Coaches **will not** accept paperwork at 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 2018-19 athletic participation is available on SV Portal.
- All student-athletes must register in the SV Portal under "Sports Registration" before competing.
- First official day of winter sports is Nov. 16, 2018. For tryout schedule, please contact coach directly. Coach contact information is located on athletics website.
- Concussion ImPACT testing only needs to done **every other year**.



Seneca Valley's Aquatic Center to open in 2020

In August 2017, the board approved an agreement with IKM Architects to design the Seneca Valley Aquatic Center. After more than a year of thoughtful planning and working cooperatively with a core group of stakeholders, their vision was realized on Sept. 4, 2018, when initial plans and renderings were met with excitement and enthusiasm by the crowd.

"I'm very pleased with the design," said Dr. Tracy Vitale, Seneca Valley Superintendent of Schools. "I feel very strongly about providing to our students a facility where they will learn a very important life skill."

The current swimming facility, located in the Seneca Valley Intermediate High School, is now 54 years old. After many years of repairing the facility, it became time to address a long-term solution. As such, it has been a part of the District's long-term facilities planning efforts, which were presented to the School Board in 2014. The facility was also a part of the District's 2015 Feasibility Project, which was an in-depth study of the District's facilities to address long-range planning and responsiveness.

Board members, at the time of the project's approval, expressed their interest in the space becoming an asset to the community and look forward to the many students and residents it will attract of all ages.

"This new aquatic facility will be maximized by teachers during the instructional day, by coaches during after-school activities, and by the community in programmatic efforts for all residents," said Ms. Heather Lewis, Athletic Director.

The timeline of the project includes a design concept process with ground breaking to take place next year and a grand opening to occur in spring 2020.

To view the building plans, please visit www.svsd.net/AquaticFacility.



