By Heather Lewis,
Seneca Valley Athletics & Activities Director

LESSONS FOR LIFE

As I sit to write this message, we have just wrapped up our winter sports season and are welcoming the start of spring sports, weather permitting! Recently, I have spent countless hours traveling with teams - to their respective post-season events – and the miles have given me the opportunity to reflect on the season and the performances of our talented student-athletes. My reflection leads to feelings of admiration and appreciation. I continue to be amazed at the accomplishments of our student-athletes but am not surprised, given their dedication and sacrifices in pursuing excellence. My appreciation is for the countless hours our coaches spend with their student-athletes, often at the expense of their own family time. The basis of what we do in Raider Athletics is teaching life lessons, those which will lay a foundation with our students for enduring success. One of the gifts of sport is the opportunity for growth in failure and validation of teamwork in triumph. As we can expect from sport, I have witnessed exhilaration and heartbreak. I have seen Raider student-athletes win championship medals and narrowly miss podium finishes; I have watched personal bests in competition and untimely, devastating injuries at inopportune times. Through it all, our student-athletes have handled their accomplishments and adversity with an uncommon humility and grace. As I think about their futures, I feel confident their education from sport has positioned them for extraordinary accomplishments.

- Heather Lewis, Athletic & Activities Director. ■

WINTER SPORTS FINAL RECAP

Boys Swimming & Diving – WPIAL Runner-Up

The reigning WPIAL and PIAA champions finished their regular season dual meet schedule with an overall record of 8-3 and a section mark of 5-1 to finish as section runner-up. Entering the WPIAL championships, the Raiders had a number of top seeds, and the medal count confirmed the sustained excellence of this program. One of the highlights from post-season was the Raider boys diving team finishing with all four entries on the WPIAL championships podium. Even more exceptional - Isaiah Clerkley, Jeremiah Laslavic, and Sam Hersick finishing **ONE, TWO, THREE** to secure three of the WPIAL's four entries into the PIAA championships! As in section competition, our boys finished as WPIAL runner-up to North Allegheny and in the PIAA championships they were the highest placing team from the WPIAL at number six. We congratulate the entire program – athletes and coaches – on another outstanding season!



Medalists from WPIAL & PIAA Championships:

Boys team WPIAL & PIAA medalists

- **200 Medley Relay** – 2nd place (Connor Seeley, Logan Hockenberry, Gavin Blazer, Haihan Xu)
  - **PIAA** – 6th Place (Connor Seeley, Haihan Xu, Logan Hockenberry, Gavin Blazer, Frankie Walton)
- **200 Free** – Connor Seeley, 4th place
- **200 IM** – Haihan Xu, 1st place
  - **PIAA** –Haihan Xu, 4th place
- **100 Fly** – Gavin Blazer, 4th place
- **200 Free Relay** – 1st place (Gavin Blazer, Connor Seeley, Frankie Walton, Haihan Xu)
- **100 Backstroke** – Connor Seeley, 4th place
- **100 Breaststroke** – Haihan Xu, 1st place
  - **PIAA** – Haihan Xu, 2nd place
- **400 Free Relay** – 7th Place (Gavin Blazer, Logan Hockenberry, Connor Seeley, Frankie Walton)
- **Diving, 1m** – Isaiah Clerkley, 1st place; Jeremiah Laslavic, 2nd place; Sam Hersick, 3rd place; Miles Miller, 8th place
  - **PIAA** – Isaiah Clerkley, 2nd place; Jeremiah Laslavic, 5th place



Girls Swimming & Diving – 4th Place Finish at WPIALs



Raider girls swimming & diving had another great season, finishing the year 8-3 overall (5-1 in section meets) and finishing in fourth place overall at the WPIAL Championships. Five athletes secured individual WPIAL medals and all three relays found their way to the WPIAL championships podium and a spot in the PIAA state championships. The exciting part is that all WPIAL medalists and PIAA performers will return in 2023-24. The future is very bright for our Raider girls swimming & diving program! Congrats to the entire 2023-24 team.

Medalists from WPIAL & PIAA Championships:

Girls team WPIAL medalists

- **200 Medley Relay** – 7th place (Bella Kling, Alissa Wilson, Sonya Dietz, Lena Rothrock)
- **200 IM** – Alissa Wilson, 5th place
- **50 Free** – Claire Riehl, 8th place
- **200 Free Relay** – 5th place (Claire Riehl, Lena Rothrock, Audrey Wolfe, Morgan Baker)
- **100 Free** – Claire Riehl, 7th place
- **400 Free Relay** – 5th place (Bella Kling, Morgan Baker, Alissa Wilson, Claire Riehl)
- **Diving, 1m** – Cooper Burcham (7th place); Chloe Petersen (8th place)

Boys Wrestling – Sends Two to PIAA Championships

A tradition that never gets old – Raider wrestling sends multiple team members to the PIAA state championships. Senior Tyler Chappell and junior Connor Smith earned their trips to the Hershey Giant Center and Connor brought home a medal, finishing in 8th place at 114 lbs. Freshman Zach Hill earned a spot on the podium at WPIALs, finishing in 8th place at 133 lbs. We congratulate Tyler on an outstanding career – one that featured him never being pinned – and wish him all the best starting his Pitt wrestling career next year.



Wrestling Medalists from WPIAL & PIAA Championships:

- Connor Smith (114 lbs): WPIAL, 3rd Place; PIAA, 8th place
- Tyler Chappell (127 lbs): WPIAL, 4th Place; PIAA qualifier
- Zach Hill (133 lbs): WPIAL, 8th Place

Girls Wrestling – Sends Two to State Championships

In what can only be described as an outstanding inaugural season, Raider girls wrestling qualified two athletes out of the regional tournament for the state championships – sophomore Maddee Fischer and junior Khloe Hollinger with Fischer coming home with an 8th place medal. In addition, junior Natalie Tofanelli and freshman Haley Hunter earned top-8 medals at regionals. With a roster which featured only one senior, it is an exciting future for girls wrestling at Seneca Valley. Congrats girls on setting an extremely high standard!

Wrestling Medalists from Regional & State Championships:

- Maddee Fischer (130 lbs): 4th Regionals; 8th States
- Natalie Tofanelli (130 lbs): 6th Regionals
- Haley Hunter (170 lbs): 7th Regionals
- Khloe Hollinger (190 lbs): 3rd Regionals; State qualifier







Boys Basketball – WPIAL Playoffs

Raider boys' basketball drew the 7th seed in the WPIAL bracket and traveled to Upper St. Clair on Feb. 24, 2023, for their quarterfinal match-up. The opening half saw the USC Panthers shoot lights out while our Raiders struggled to find their rhythm and SV entered the locker room down 31-14. The lead grew to 18 for USC early in the second half and, as this team has done all season long, the Raiders fought their way back into the game outscoring the Panthers 20-4 in the fourth quarter! Despite their heroic effort in the fourth quarter, the Raiders fell 45-43 after a last-second shot by senior Luke Lawson fell short. This year's team will be remembered for their "never say quit" attitude – always fighting until the final horn. Congrats on a good season boys.

All-Conference Selections Announced in Winter Sports

The Big 56 Conference recently announced its winter sport honorees in boys' and girls' basketball and the Raiders were well represented. The following Seneca Valley student-athletes were recognized for their excellence on the court.

Boys Basketball

1st Team	2nd Team
Luke Lawson	Connor Oros

Girls Basketball

2nd Team	Honorable Mention
Natalie Hambly	Emerson Peffer

COLLEGE COMMITMENTS – CLASS OF 2023

Raider student-athletes continue to make their college commitment official through the winter months. 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 proud of your efforts in the classroom, in competition, and in the community.

Name	Sport	College/University	Major
Evan Bulvin	Men's Lacrosse	Univ. Mount Union	Business Management
Ella Butterfield	XC/T&F and Swimming	Bethany College	Biochemistry
Maya Perry	Women's Lacrosse	Virginia Wesleyan	Univ. Elementary Education