



## TAKE A TOUR!

Take a video tour of the new SV Aquatic Center with Seneca Valley Athletic Director Heather Lewis and IKM Architecture Project Principal Matt Hansen here: [https://youtu.be/z\\_ZDMjdOxis](https://youtu.be/z_ZDMjdOxis). ■



## WHAT COULD BE BETTER?

Have you ever found yourself in a moment of reflection asking, “What could be better?” This past week, with temperatures in the mid-60’s and the sun shining down on the lower level of campus, I have taken the time to walk the fields and venues to check in our spring sport student-athletes and coaches. On these daily walks I have sensed a real joy and perhaps even a small bit of relief but all the while I have said to myself, “What could be better than this?” To see our spring sport programs in full swing caps off twelve-months of unanticipated challenges, heartbreak and raw emotion at times. While the 2020-21 athletic season has provided #RaiderNation with so much success, I truly believe the pinnacle was the start of spring sports on March 8, 2021. I look forward to watching our spring teams complete the year of athletic participation and anticipate as much success as our fall and winter teams have achieved. And I know the answer one winter sport student-athlete would reply when asked, “What could be better than this?” Read on to see why senior Alejandro Herrera-Rondon would reply, “Nothing!” ■



## WINTER SPORT FINAL RECAP

### Athletes of the month: February 2021

The February Female Athlete of the Month was junior girls’ basketball standout **Olivia West**. Olivia led the Raiders in scoring as she was averaging nearly 16 points per game and almost six rebounds per contest. She was shooting 48% from the field and 38% from 3-point range. Olivia’s size and skill caused havoc for visiting teams. Due to injuries and youth, Olivia was versatile in playing multiple positions on the floor and her leadership was outstanding. The #13-seeded Raiders fell to the #4-seed Mt. Lebanon Blue Devils in the opening round of the WPIAL 6A playoffs on Wednesday, March 3. For an outstanding month and exceptional junior campaign, we recognized Olivia as the February Athlete of the Month.



The Male Athlete of the Month was senior basketball sharpshooter **Cole Brooks**. Cole helped pace the Raiders to an overall record of 10-10 and section record of 6-5 while averaging 23.2 points per game. Cole scored 30-plus points in four games this season, including a season-high 35 points on three separate occasions. This season, he made an impressive 97 3-point field goals while shooting 44% from behind the arc. Cole shot 60% overall from the floor and led the team at the charity stripe at 80%. Cole’s scoring helped the Raiders enter the post-season as the 9th-seed where they defeated #8 Mt. Lebanon before falling to eventual WPIAL Champion Upper St. Clair 72-70. For an outstanding month and a terrific senior season, we recognized Cole as the February Athlete of the Month.



### Athletes of the month: March 2021

The March Female Athlete of the Month is sophomore swimmer **Peri Gaguzis**. At the WPIAL Championships, Peri earned four medals. In the 500-yard freestyle, Peri took silver with a time of 5:04.04 qualifying for the PIAA state meet. Peri was a member of the 200-yard medley relay team that finished runner-up at the WPIAL meet with a time of 1:46.13 earning a qualifying spot at states. Peri placed 5th in the 200-yard individual medley and was also a member of the 200-yard freestyle relay which finished 3rd at the WPIAL meet. At the PIAA state championships, Peri earned two medals. She placed 6th in the 500-yard freestyle with a time of 5:02.53. In addition, the 200-yard medley relay team earned a 5th place finish setting a new school record with a time of 1:45.44. For an outstanding month and exceptional sophomore season, we recognize Peri as the March Athlete of the Month. Congratulations!

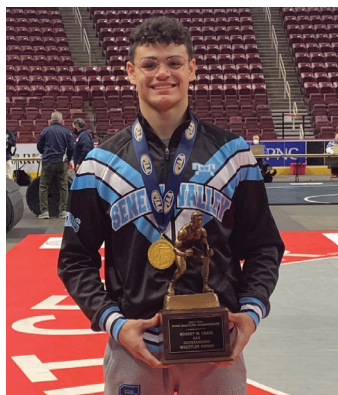


The March Male Athlete of the Month is senior wrestling standout **Alejandro Herrera-Rondon**. Alejandro finished his senior season with an undefeated record of 39-0 winning his third PIAA championship, third WPIAL championship, and fourth section title. Alejandro is now the all-time winningest wrestler in Seneca Valley program history, with 175 career victories. Out of his 39 victories this season, 19 came by fall as he totaled 62 pins in his career. According to the latest pools, FloWrestling ranks Alejandro 3rd and Track Wrestling ranks him 4th nationally in the 152-pound weight class. For an outstanding season and a phenomenal career at Seneca Valley, we recognize Alejandro as the March Athlete of the Month. Alejandro will continue his academic and athletic career next year wrestling for the Sooners at Oklahoma University. Congratulations and best of luck! ■



### THREE-TIME STATE and WPIAL CHAMPION – Ale- jandro Herrera-Rondon

Senior wrestler Alejandro Herrera-Rondon capped off a record-shattering career as a Raider, capturing the 2021 PIAA state title at 152 lbs. and going undefeated (39-0) on the season. Quite simply, there has been no better wrestler in the state this season and Alejandro's talents were rewarded with his third state gold medal and the honor of being named "Outstanding Wrestler" for the 2021 PIAA State Championships. In addition to this third state title, Alejandro also collected his third WPIAL title and fourth consecutive section title in an SV singlet. The Oklahoma Sooner recruit currently holds the Seneca Valley record for victories with 175, including 62 pins.



### Wrestling – Raiders Claim Three WPIAL and PIAA West Super Regional Champions

For the third straight year Dylan Chappell and Alejandro Herrera-Rondon walked away from the WPIAL championships as gold medalists, but this season sophomore Tyler Chappell joined the parade of champions. Tyler Chappell started off the championships winning gold at 106 lbs. with a 5-2 victory in the title bout. Older brother Dylan continued the Raider success with a tough 7-5 win in the 132 lb. finals and Alejandro completed Seneca Valley's trifecta of WPIAL champions with a 2-0 win at the 152 lb. weight class. All three would advance to the 2021 PIAA West Super Regional the following weekend and, again, Seneca Valley would bring home three gold medal winners – Tyler at 106, Dylan at 132 and Alejandro at 152 lbs. This trio would take their talents to the floor of the Hershey Giant Center on Saturday, March 13, 2021 bringing home three medals. Following a tough 2-1 loss in the semifinals, Tyler wrestled back in the 106 lb. consolation bracket to capture third place. For the third consecutive championship match (WPIALs, PIAA West Super Regional and PIAAs), Dylan Chappell faced off against his Hempfield opponent on center mat for the 132 lb. state title. And while Dylan's fate would be different than the previous two meetings, his third consecutive PIAA runner-up medal is quite a feat for the Bucknell University bound recruit. The program's leader in pins, Dylan will leave the program with three WPIAL titles and three PIAA runner-up medals. The final member of this outstanding trio of 2021 is senior Alejandro Herrera-Rondon who brought home a 2021 WPIAL and PIAA West Super Regional gold medal en route to winning his third state title. We commend this trio of talented student-athletes and wish all graduating seniors of our wrestling program the best



of luck as they continue their academic and athletic careers at the collegiate level.

### Wrestling Medalists from WPIAL & PIAA Championships:

- Tyler Chappell (106 lbs): WPIAL, **1<sup>st</sup> place**; PIAA West Super Regional, **1<sup>st</sup> place**, PIAA, **3<sup>rd</sup> place**
- Dylan Chappell (132 lbs): WPIAL, **1<sup>st</sup> place**; PIAA West Super Regional, **1<sup>st</sup> place**, PIAA, **2<sup>nd</sup> place**
- Alejandro Herrera-Rondon (152 lbs): WPIAL, **1<sup>st</sup> place**; PIAA West Super Regional, **1<sup>st</sup> place**, PIAA, **Champion**



In closing, while revised PIAA wrestling Team brackets only advanced District winners, the overall success of our 2020-21 Raider wrestling program was one for the books. The Raiders brought home their third consecutive WPIAL Team runner-up trophy and secured its fourth consecutive Team section title. For a year wrought with challenge and sacrifice, these student-athletes and coaches showed the resolve champions are made from. Congratulations, Raiders – you have made us all very proud!

### WPIAL Swimming & Diving Championships – One day, two trophies!

While our section-winning Raider boys program lost an agonizingly close chase for a WPIAL title, falling to host Upper St. Clair 276.5-275, the Seneca Valley Boys and Girls Swimming and Diving Teams were the only school to come away from the championships with two trophies as the girls team placed second overall, two spots up from last season's fourth place position. Both teams benefitted early on securing points from the WPIAL Diving championships held the final weekend in February. The divers' success and momentum carried into the swimming portion of the championships where SV crowned multiple WPIAL champions and brought home plenty of hardware.



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Junior Daniel Simoes was a double-gold winner, taking home individual gold in the 200 IM and helping secure 1st place in the boys 400 Free Relay. Joining Simoes on the relay were classmate Kevin Donaldson and sophomores Gavin Blazer and Haihan Xu. Senior Edie Sawyer (Ohio University recruit) captured gold as the favorite in the girls 100 Breaststroke, breaking her own school record with a time of 1:04.20. Six Raider swimmers competed and medaled in the maximum-allowed four events including Gavin Blazer, Kendall Craig (Akron University recruit), Kevin Donaldson, Peri Gaguzis, Daniel Simoes and Haihan Xu.

In a record-setting season and the opening of our brand-new Aquatics Center, the Seneca Valley Swimming & Diving programs not only meet but continue to reestablish the standard of excellence in the pool. We congratulate our seniors on their accomplishments and wish them all well in their academic and athletic pursuits in college.



### Medalists from WPIAL & PIAA Championships:

Boys team finished as WPIAL runner-up with 6 PIAA event qualifiers and 22 WPIAL medalists. Their final standing from PIAA AAA championships was fourth place. The list of medalists includes:

- **200 Medley Relay** – 6<sup>th</sup> place (Connor Seeley, Haihan Xu, Gavin Blazer, Zach Lozowski)
- **200 Free** – Kevin Donaldson, 2<sup>nd</sup> place
- **200 IM** – Daniel Simoes, **1<sup>st</sup> place**; Haihan Xu, 3<sup>rd</sup> place
  - **PIAA** – Daniel Simoes, 2<sup>nd</sup> place
- **100 Fly** – Gavin Blazer, 6<sup>th</sup> place
- **100 Free** – Daniel Simoes, 3<sup>rd</sup> place; Kevin Donaldson, 5<sup>th</sup> place
  - **PIAA** – Daniel Simoes, 2<sup>nd</sup> place
- **200 Free Relay** – 3<sup>rd</sup> place (Daniel Simoes, Gavin Blazer, Zach Lozowski, Kevin Donaldson)
  - **PIAA** – 4<sup>th</sup> Place (Daniel Simoes, Gavin Blazer, Haihan Xu, Kevin Donaldson)
- **100 Breaststroke** – Haihan Xu, 3<sup>rd</sup> place
  - **PIAA** – 7<sup>th</sup> place



- **400 Free Relay** – **1<sup>st</sup> place** (Kevin Donaldson, Gavin Blazer, Haihan Xu, Daniel Simoes)
- **PIAA** – 2<sup>nd</sup> place (Kevin Donaldson, Gavin Blazer, Zach Lozowski, Daniel Simoes)
- **Diving** – Trevor Elliott, 3<sup>rd</sup> place; Jeremiah Laslavic, 5<sup>th</sup> place; Matt Laslavic, 6<sup>th</sup> place

Girls team finished as WPIAL runner-up with 5 PIAA event qualifiers and 19 WPIAL medalists. The list of medalists includes:

- **200 Medley Relay** – 2<sup>nd</sup> place (Ria Dietz, Edie Sawyer, Kendall Craig, Peri Gaguzis)
  - **PIAA** – 5<sup>th</sup> place
- **200 IM** – Kendall Craig, 4<sup>th</sup> place; Peri Gaguzis, 5<sup>th</sup> place
- **100 Fly** – Ria Dietz, 4<sup>th</sup> place
- **200 Free Relay** – 3<sup>rd</sup> place (Kendall Craig, Edie Sawyer, Bella Stefanowicz, Peri Gaguzis)
- **100 Free** – Kendall Craig, 8<sup>th</sup> place
- **500 Free** – Peri Gaguzis, 2<sup>nd</sup> place
  - **PIAA** – 5<sup>th</sup> place
- **100 Backstroke** – Ria Dietz, 2<sup>nd</sup> place
- **100 Breaststroke** – Edie Sawyer, **1<sup>st</sup> place**
- **400 Free Relay** – 5<sup>th</sup> place (Bella Kling, Kristen Bedell, Abby Perry, Bella Stefanowicz)
- **Diving** – Ashley Felitsky, 4<sup>th</sup> place; Rylie Smith, 7<sup>th</sup> place ■

