



MONTHS AND MONTHS AND FINALLY A MOMENT

When great things happen, the chance for reflection often follows and today, following our boys' soccer state title, is an opportunity not lost on me. As I sat down to write this message it dawned on me it was more than eight months ago our lives were turned upside down by COVID-19 and it was just over five months ago the Wolf Administration gave us hope in the form of preliminary guidance on moving forward with youth sports. The provision was each District would approve a Return to Athletics Health & Safety Plan with stringent measures on how to operate safely amid COVID-19. Ultimately, I knew it would come down to one word: discipline.

Would our student-athletes and coaches have enough discipline for mask-wearing and social distancing? And the answer is a resounding YES! We had what I call a "legitimate" and very successful fall season. We managed to complete schedules almost entirely; we had every varsity fall sport team in individual and/or team post-season play; we had a multitude of student-athletes recognized for their athletic and academic excellence; and, we had a coaching staff committed to providing our kids their opportunities. During competition, I witnessed sheer joy on the faces of our student-athletes and shared in their triumphs and devastations. During those moments all seemed normal and I am grateful for the escape sport provided each of us. The success of our 2020 fall season was a result of collaborative efforts on our campus and in our community. I am grateful to our Seneca Valley School Board and Central Administration for approving our plan to move forward. I am blessed to work with a community who embraced their roles on our CST staff and accepted our mitigation efforts to sit in the stands and watch their children compete. A huge shoutout to the SVTV crew under the direction of Dan McKosky and Jan Plutnicki



who managed to live-broadcast a full state of fall events each night. To our athletic trainers – Tara Bayer, Marissa Johnson, and Nicole Lollo – there are no words to adequately convey my appreciation for everything you did to keep our student-athletes and coaches safe. To David Fuhrman, Diana McCauley and Sandy Millett, you are what makes the Athletics & Activities office run so smoothly and you are valued beyond measure. Finally, to the Raider coaches and student-athletes, THANK YOU for your discipline, your sacrifice, and your commitment. Not only did you deliver daily diversion and enjoyment, but you also provided yourselves and our community memories for a lifetime. You brought daily joy to our office in times of great challenge and that is what I am most thankful for – each of you! **#SVTogether**
#SVRaiderPride ■

CATCH THE WAVE

A recent collaboration by art teachers and students at Seneca Valley will make quite the splash when the project they are working on is unveiled in the District's soon-to-be aquatic center.

The group presented to the School Board on Nov. 2 the renderings of a mosaic design that, when finished, will grace the lobby of the new facility. The Seneca Valley Aquatic Center is in the final stages of construction and slated for completion in January 2021.

The group's artistic mission, as shared by Ms. Amanda Mallin, Seneca Valley Senior High School Assistant Principal and project lead, was to collectively create a mural that would aesthetically enhance the new aquatic space and showcase the commitment that Seneca Valley is a place for all learners. "The hope is for this mural to place value in the arts, culture and creative problem solving," she said.

The group has worked for some time researching various forms of public/street art and developing several drafts, many of them submitted by students. The final draft was developed with the thought of inviting more artists into the mix as students in grades 7-12 will have the opportunity to participate in the creation of the 8'x16' mural. The

mural will be made into a grid design and broken into sections for students

to complete. Finished segments will be pieced together for the final installation, which is anticipated for completion later this school year.



SV students collaborating on the project include current juniors Maddie Amrhein, Natali Camilli, Camryn Kotula and Zatarah Whetstone; current seniors Isabella Bardelli, Kristen Bedell, Lacey Eisengart, Liv Heller, Simren Jayaraman, Grace Johnson, Jenna McDonald, Kayla Moon, Auna Sacco, Paige Welch and Brian Whitney; and 2020 Graduates Max Carpenter, Kassie Curtis, Maya Dietz, Kelsey Gianfrancesco, Taylor Godleski, Milo Hampson, Madison Hatcher, Taylor Henson, Alli Jaecke, Angie Khoury, Keely Lisco, Ella Reynolds, Kate Scanlan, Kelcie Schwartz and Emily Tekelenburg. Secondary (7-12) Art Teachers collaborating on the project include Megan Bonistalli, Jason Woolslare, Aaron Shafer, Jason Shorr, Tabatha Karman, George Williams, and Stan Zimmerman. Additional assistance was provided by local artist Elizabeth Klevens. ■

FINAL FALL SPORT RECAPS

Cross Country

Both the girls and boy's cross-country teams finished in 3rd place at the WPIAL Championships held at White Oak Park on Friday, Oct. 30. In a non-COVID year, these results would have sent both squads to the PIAA championships as team representatives; however, in 2020 the PIAA limited only one team champion from each District along with 10 individual qualifiers. Based on their individual WPIAL results, Noah Petersen (3rd place), Eli DeWitt (8th place) and Dylan Kirchner (12th place) represented SV at the PIAA Championships. Petersen's 14th place overall earned a state medal; DeWitt finished 75th overall and Kirchner finished 51st overall in the girl's PIAA AAA race.



Football

The Raiders finished the regular season with an overall record of 4-2 and based on tiebreakers found themselves as the #4 seed in the WPIAL playoffs. The Raiders traveled to top-ranked North Allegheny to square off against the Tigers, a team they had not seen all season due to a cancellation on opening weekend. There was great effort displayed on both sides of the ball but unfortunately, we could not get past the deep and talented roster of North Allegheny. In a year that saw many challenges, the collective efforts of coaches and players to finish 4-3 overall is certainly a successful year.



Girls' Soccer

Raider girls' soccer concluded their season at top-seeded Peters Township playing arguably their best game of the season. The second half saw the Raiders put shot after shot on goal, looking for the equalizer against the Indians. However, as the game of soccer can sometimes be, despite their dominance on the offensive end, the cruel nature of sport would see the ball sail wide or just into the outstretched arms of the Indian's goalkeeper. The Raiders would fall 1-0 and bring their 2020 season to a close. Without a senior on the roster, the future is very promising for our girls' soccer program and there is no doubt Seneca Valley will once again challenge for the title of WPIAL's best in 2021.



Girls' Volleyball

Following a first-round, straight-set victory over the Wildcats of Greater Latrobe, the Raiders traveled to nearby top-seeded North Allegheny for a WPIAL girls' volleyball quarterfinal match. As was the case during the regular season, the Tigers experience and depth was just too much for the Raiders to overcome as the girls fell 3-0 to bring a close to the 2020 season. We wish graduating seniors Tori Fowler and Sarah White all the best and look forward to the 2021 season which will return 11 letter winners. ■



CHAMPIONS TRIFECTA – SECTION, WPIAL, PIAA!!!

No journey to the top of any mountain is ever easy. For the 2020 boys' soccer team the path could not have been any steeper, but the incline was no deterrent. Nor were halftime deficits in the PIAA and WPIAL championships, or double overtime, or a roster depleted at times due to COVID protocols. Nothing would stand in the way of the 2020 AAAA Section, WPIAL and PIAA Champions! Congratulations to Head Coach George Williams, Assistant Coaches Jay Roman and Scott Stewart and the entire Raider squad for capturing the program's first-ever state title and second-ever WPIAL title in come from behind, double OT wins over WPIAL top-seed Peters Township 4-3 and PIAA District 1 champion Neshaminy 2-1. Sophomore Beaux Lizewski had the match of his young career scoring a hat trick, including the game winner with 4:40 left in the 2nd OT to lead the Raiders to their second WPIAL title. At Hershey Park, on a beautiful late fall evening, seniors Nathan Eastgate and Zach LaValle rose to the occasion on the offensive end while a defense, anchored by senior goalkeeper Adam Davies, tightened the reins and never relented following an early first half goal by Neshaminy. Eastgate tied the game early in the second half on a cross from LaValle. LaValle would have the hero's moment 36 seconds into the second OT finishing a cross from junior Luke Simpson, catapulting Seneca Valley to the pinnacle of PIAA boys' soccer. **CONGRATULATIONS** Raider Boys' Soccer – you have had a season for the ages! ■



ATHLETES OF THE MONTH, OCTOBER 2020

The Female Athlete of the Month is senior girls' volleyball setter/hitter Sarah White.

Sarah led the Raiders to an overall record of 8-8 and section record of 6-6 while playing a vital role in helping the Raiders reach the WPIAL 4A quarterfinals. In the month of October, Sarah recorded 164 kills, 131 assists, 57 digs, 18 blocks, and 12 aces. She was voted first team All-Section for the fourth year in a row. Sarah was recently named a first team Under Armour All-American, which denotes being one of the top 24 players in the country. In addition, she has been named a finalist for the Pennsylvania Gatorade Player of the Year. Sarah has committed to attend Ohio State University and continue her volleyball career for the Buckeyes. For an outstanding month and exceptional career at SV, we recognize Sarah as the October Athlete of the Month. Congratulations and best of luck in your bright future!



The Male Athlete of the Month is junior cross-country runner Noah Petersen.

Noah put together an exceptional season for the Raiders as he was the top SV finisher in all but one meet this fall. On Oct. 6, in a tri-meet against Mars and Hampton, Noah finished in first place. At the WPIAL 3A Championships, Noah finished with a season-best time of 16:06 placing 3rd and earning a bronze medal to qualify for the state meet. Noah's individual performance played a key contribution in leading the Raiders to a 3rd place finish as a team at the WPIAL meet. At the PIAA State Championships, Noah medaled finishing in 14th place with a time of 16:46. For an outstanding month, we recognize Noah as the October Athlete of the Month. Congratulations and we look forward to seeing your success continue here at SV! ■



DID YOU KNOW?

Seneca Valley had two coaches named 2019-20 Pennsylvania Coaches of the Year by the PIAA Board of Directors as announced last month. Congratulations are extended to Steve Strellick and Brian Blackwell, honored as Girls Cross Country and Boys Swimming & Diving Coaches of the Year, respectively. The PIAA selects these annual honors based on sportsmanship, adherence



to PIAA Bylaws, respect of officials, coaching impact, and success at inter-district championships. Both Steve and Brian are well-deserving of these honors and will now stand with all other state honorees for consideration as National Coach of the Year. ■

