



OPENING MESSAGE

As we near the end of our first month of school, I think we may all agree the start of 2020-21 is anything but ordinary. The challenges put before our District and our community seem endless; atypical is what we have all come to accept. Yet, what I do know, with a great degree of certainty, is our Raider student-athletes and coaches are resilient, adaptable and committed. All of our teams are approaching the 2020-21 athletic seasons with tremendous strength, uncommon discipline and a high degree of personal

sacrifice. Strength, discipline, sacrifice (SDS) as we've come to frame it. What hasn't changed is the perpetual pride and immense talent of our student-athletes and the exceptional teaching and mentoring by our coaches – a combination of ingredients resulting in a tremendously successful start to our fall season. I applaud the collective efforts of everyone in helping get our fall sports off and running in such a successful way! **#SVRaiderNation** ■

FALL SPORTS UPDATES

CROSS COUNTRY – Boys and Girls (Head Coach, Steve Strellick)

As a precursor to what will most likely be a battle for the WPIAL title, the girls' cross country team defeated long-time rival North Allegheny at the Red, White and Blue Invitational only to be outmatched a week later at the PIAA Foundation meet. Junior Karsyn Spears (pictured left) took home top honors at the Red, White and Blue JV race while senior Gabby Kutchma paced the Raiders to a second-place team finish at the PIAA Foundation race, earning a medal at 16th place overall. On the boys' side, junior Noah Petersen finished 6th overall to medal at the PIAA Foundation meet and helped lead his Raider teammates to a fourth-place finish overall. The next month will be an exciting one for the Raider cross country teams as they look to take home WPIAL titles and advance to the PIAA championships.



GOLF – Boys and Girls (Head Coaches, Kevin Wildrick and Dean Leventopoulos)

Raider girls' varsity, having started the season 0-2 in section play, reeled off eight straight section wins to clinch second place in the section and place in the WPIAL team championships. In addition, freshman Lihini Ranaweera (pictured right) captured the Section 1 championship and advances to the WPIAL individual finals to be held at the prestigious Oakmont Country Club on Thursday, Oct. 1.



At the time of this writing, the boys' varsity golf team sits at 8-3 in section play with one crucial match remaining on Sept. 30, at Butler. The Raiders are currently tied for second place and are seeking a consecutive appearance in the WPIAL team championships. On the individual side, Juniors Nolan Kummer and Nolan Nicklas and sophomore Dante Rossetti advanced out of section qualifiers to compete in the WPIAL semifinals. Good luck Raiders in post-season competition.

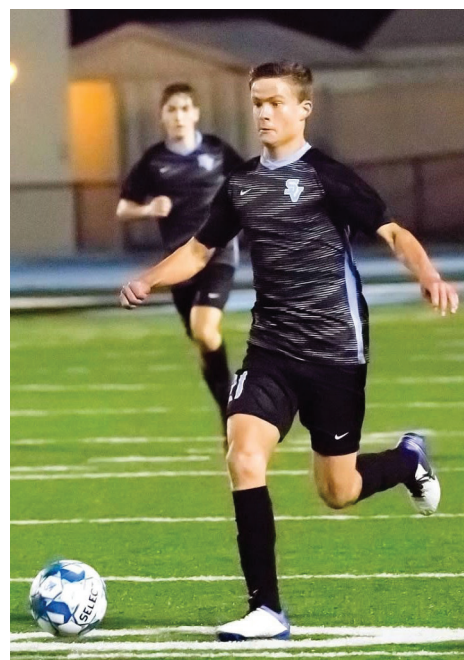
FOOTBALL (Head Coach, Ron Butschle)

Raider football has started the season 2-0, outscoring their opponents by a combined margin of 73-3. Seneca Valley has defeated Hempfield (38-0) and Norwin (35-3) on the strength of a punishing run attack and a shutdown defense. Seniors Ethan West (pictured right) and Nolan Dworek form a one-two punch on the ground and senior quarterback Dustin Horn has favorite targets in Marciano McCowan and Connor Lyczek. Defensively, the Raider defense is an athletic and deep group that can wear a team down over four quarters. Up next for Seneca Valley will be Central Catholic on Senior Night, Friday, Oct. 2.



SOCCER – Boys and Girls (Head Coaches, George Williams and Mark Perry)

What is becoming an annual tradition, boys' varsity soccer sits atop the WPIAL 4-A, Section 1 standings with a section record of 3-1-1, tied with Butler and North Allegheny. Luke Simpson (pictured right) is one of many underclassmen making their mark on a deep and talented varsity roster.



Following a delayed start to the season, the Raider girls' soccer program has split their opening two games, beating Pine-Richland (1-0, OT) and falling at Butler (2-3.) With no seniors on the roster, Seneca Valley will rely on an athletic and deep roster to wear down opposing team.

TENNIS (Head Coach, Eric Grove)

Girls' varsity, nearing the end of their season, has played some great tennis at times. Vibha Hodachalli and Sienna Summers represented SV in the WPIAL Section singles tournament, both falling in the first round. Section doubles take place Thursday, Oct.1, and the regular season closes out with two matches at Butler on Oct. 5, and at home with Blackhawk on Oct. 6.

VOLLEYBALL (Head Coach, Brett Poirier)

The girls' varsity volleyball team opened the season with defending PIAA AA champion North Catholic and fell in a thrilling five-set match. Following section losses at Shaler and to Pine-Richland, the Raiders have reeled off consecutive three-set wins over section foes Fox Chapel and North Hills. Seneca Valley, led by senior Sarah White (pictured left), is currently in third place in WPIAL Section 1 play and will square off with Butler on Senior Night at the William Paul Gymnasium on Sept. 28. The month of October has SV playing eight matches in a three week span and results will determine the Raiders' post-season fate.



WINTER SPORT INFORMATION

At the time of this writing, the start of winter sports remains on schedule. Should the PIAA make any changes, the Athletics Department will provide timely updates.

- **TBD:** There will be one day after school for athletic physicals
 - the date is still to be determined. Physicals will be on a reservation-only basis.
 - Parents are reminded the PIAA CIPPE Section 6 (physical form) may be completed by a family physician or at any urgent care facility. You do not need your child's physical form (CIPPE 6) completed here on campus.
- **Nov. 10, 2020:** Deadline for winter sport paperwork; all papers due in athletic office.
- **Nov. 20, 2020:** First official day of winter sports – mandatory tryouts begin this day.
 - For tryout schedule, please contact the coach directly. Coaches contact information is located on athletics website.

REMINDERS for 2020-21:

- ALL paperwork for winter sports due in the athletic office no later than Tuesday, November 10, 2020 by 3:00pm. 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 2020-21 athletic participation is available on [SV Portal](#) or Athletics website. Paperwork includes: PIAA CIPPE Sections 1, 2, 5 & 6; Drug Test Consent Form; COVID-19 Release.
- IF a student played in a fall sport, the only paperwork needed is PIAA CIPPE Section 7 and, if applicable, PIAA CIPPE Section 8.
- All student-athletes must register in the [SV Portal](#) under "Sports Registration" before the start of each season.
- Tryouts are mandatory. Student-athletes are expected to attend every tryout session. ■