By Heather Lewis,
Seneca Valley Athletics & Activities Director

FALL SPORTS UPDATES

CROSS-COUNTRY – Boys and Girls (Head Coach Steve Strelick)

Raider cross-country opened their season at the annual Red, White & Blue invitational on Sept. 7. In the boys varsity race, senior Max Smith finished 8th out of 277 runners and the Raider boys team finished seventh out of 37 teams. In the opening three section meets, the boys are undefeated with wins over Pine-Richland (18-43), Butler (27-30) and Shaler.



In the girls varsity race at the Red, White & Blue Invitational, sophomore Paige D'Amico paced SV with a 22nd place finish out of 247 runners and senior Sydney Heltzell was right behind her in 24th position helping the Raiders to an eighth-place finish out of 33 teams. In section meets, the girls team is also undefeated with wins over Pine-Richland (15-50), Butler (20-36) and Shaler. To finish out the month of September, both teams competed at the PIAA Foundation meet in Hershey on Sept. 21, followed by a key section matchup at North Allegheny on Sept. 24. Finally, the Raiders competed at the Youthtowne Clash Invite on Sept. 28.



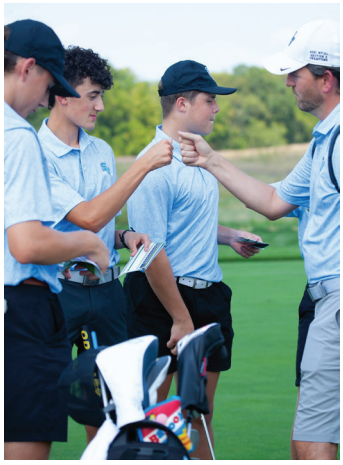
FOOTBALL (Head Coach Ron Butschle)

Raider football picked up a key 6A conference win on the road beating the Norwin Knights 26-6. A strong ground game and a few huge special teams' plays were the difference. Josiah Edwards' 55-yard scoop and score off a Norwin fumble, a ground game good for 224 rushing yards, Max Eisenhut's 46-yard and 42-yard field goals, and a stifling defense were the ingredients in this decisive win. This team has learned from two tough opening



games, and you can see the chemistry starting to gel and the confidence starting to grow. To close out the month of Sept., the Raiders hosted Moon on Homecoming night and traveled to Mt. Lebanon for another key 6A conference game that will go a long way in determining playoff fates.

GOLF – Boys (Head Coach Dean Leventopoulos)



At the time of this writing, Raider boys golf has had a very successful past few weeks. First off, the team has finished section play in second place, thereby qualifying for the WPIAL Team Golf Championships which begin play on Oct. 7. Their current overall record is 9-4 with a section mark of 8-4. They rounded out the month with a final match against Quaker Valley on Sept. 24. In individual section qualifiers, our boys advanced four to the WPIAL Individual First Round championships the week of Sept. 23. Marcos Lopez tied for third place shooting a 75 and he will be joined by Anthony Cardosi (76), Brody Pirt (79) and Tyler Garvin (80). Good luck, Raiders, in your post-season play!

GOLF – Girls (Head Coach Brian Pesavento)



Under second-year head coach Brian Pesavento, Raider girls varsity golf is rebuilding following their run to the PIAA championships in 2023. Top scorers for matches have rotated with senior Elana Khilji and juniors Rylin Barbe and Regan Gallagher leading the way. In WPIAL individual qualifiers, Strawberry Ridge played tough on Sept. 17, with only four players advancing to the WPIAL Individual Championships. For the Raiders, their season came to end on Sept. 19, following their match with Mars. We thank our graduating seniors Addison Booth, Elana Khilji, Lena Rothrock and Alissa Wilson, and wish them all the best in future endeavors.

ICE HOCKEY (Head Coach Tyler Mesisca)

Raider Ice Hockey is off to a great start as they captured the 2024 St. Margaret's Fall Face-Off championship, defeating Mt. Lebanon 4-2 in the finals. For the tournament, SV went undefeated at 5–0. Juniors Marshall Hewitt (6g, 2a) and John Sroka (4g, 4a) paced the Raiders who scored 30 goals while giving up only five goals in five tournament games. Matthew Gilchrist manned the net in all five games for 1.0 GAA. Congrats, boys, on a great start under first-year head coach Tyler Mesisca.



SOCCER – Boys (Head Coach George Williams)

When you graduate a senior class of eleven with two PIAA and two WPIAL titles to their name, there is bound to be a learning curve for those stepping into newly minted starting roles. Such is the case in this 2024 season as Raider boys soccer finds themselves in a section battle for postseason qualification. Currently, the boys are 6-4 overall with a section mark of 2-3. Scheduling challenges forced the Raiders on the road for four of their first five section contests. As they approach the second half of section play, the tables turn and SV will host four of five section contests – certainly a plus for this talented, yet inexperienced squad. What we have come to learn with the tradition of Raider boys soccer – you can never count them out. We look forward to the next few weeks and plenty of home section contests. Good luck, boys!



SOCCER – Girls (Head Coach Mark Perry)



Raider girls soccer is off to a fantastic start with a 7-2-1 overall record and 5-0 in section play – sitting atop the WPIAL 4A, Section 3 standings. The girls have scored 41 goals on the season while giving up only 10. At the time of this writing, TribLIVE High School Sports Network had our Raiders ranked #1 in WPIAL 4A girls soccer. Midfield play by Maddie Marcotte and Karly Majeski and scoring threats Cassie Leonard and Ashlee Libby pace the team offensively while goalkeeper Sydney Postler controls the defensive end along with defenders Cassidy Stopchick, Gia DiTullio, Kailee George and Gianna Donatucci.

SLOW PITCH SOFTBALL (Head Coach Steve Rape)

Raider girls slow pitch softball is an even .500 following doubleheaders with Shaler, Hempfield and Baldwin. SV split



with Shaler, swept Baldwin and lost both to Hempfield. To close out the month the team played doubleheaders against West Allegheny on Sept. 22, and North Allegheny on Sept. 29.

TENNIS (Head Coach Eric Grove)



Raider girls varsity tennis is currently 5-6 overall and 3-3 in section play, holding on to third place in Section II standings. At the time of this writing, the Raiders were tied for third place and the top four teams will qualify for WPIAL team championships. Seniors Alaina Brody, Sydney Blucher and Cady Shea hold the top three spots on the team's midseason ladder and doubles play is a combination of Anna Coon, Gianna Guandolo, Emily Merola, Jenna Muenck, Olivia Hein, Gianna Medici, Maddy Straw, Autumn Zacherl and Hannah Kenyon. To close out the month, the Raiders have key section matches with Moon and Montour - both results will factor heavily in determining the team's fate for WPIAL team championships in October.

VOLLEYBALL (Head Coach Brett Poirier)

Raider girls volleyball finds themselves in the thick of a playoff race as only three teams will qualify out of WPIAL 4A Section II. Currently, the team is 5-4 overall and 1-3 in section play. Earlier in the season, the team brought home the championship trophy from the Butler Spike Fest going 11-1 on the day. Following a short break over Homecoming weekend, SV closed out the month with a key section match at home against North Hills on Sept. 25, and followed that with a home non-section contest against 3A section-leading Mars on Sept. 26. Good luck Raiders – keep working hard!



UPCOMING SPECIAL EVENT DATES FOR RAIDER ATHLETICS

Special Events

- Oct. 3: Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony, 5:30 p.m. Dinner & 7 p.m. Ceremony
- Oct. 4: Hall of Fame Game vs Canon-McMillan, 7 p.m. NexTier Stadium
- Oct. 11: Annual Pink Game vs Hempfield, 7 p.m. NexTier Stadium

Winter Sport Information

- Oct. 23: Drug & Concussion Testing for Winter Sports in Senior High School
    - NO physicals offered
- Nov. 6: Final Drug & Concussion Testing and Athletic Physicals for Winter Sports in Senior High School
    - 30 physicals offered 2:45-5:15 p.m.
- Nov. 7: **Deadline** for winter sport paperwork; all papers due in athletic office.
- Nov. 15: 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 under **Participation Information** tab.

Reminders for 2024-25:

- **ALL** paperwork for winter sports due in the athletic office no later than **Thursday, November 7, 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 2024-25 athletic participation is available on **Parent Portal** or Athletics website. Paperwork includes PIAA CIPPE Sections 1, 2, 5 & 6 and Drug Test Consent Form.
- IF a student played in a fall sport, the only paperwork needed is PIAA CIPPE Section 7 and, if applicable, PIAA CIPPE Section 8 – these forms can be dated no earlier than Oct. 4.
- All student-athletes must register in the **Parent Portal** under "Sports Registration" before the start of each season.
- Tryouts are mandatory. Student-athletes are expected to attend every tryout session.