By Heather Lewis,
Seneca Valley Athletics & Activities Director

WINTER SPORTS SEASON UNDERWAY

The PIAA winter sports season officially began on Friday, Nov 29, 2024. The following is a brief recap on the start of the respective seasons.

Boys Basketball (Head Coach Kevin Trost): Boys basketball opened their season at Franklin Regional, participating in the 21st Annual Mike Rettger Memorial Tournament. The Raiders fell to host Franklin Regional, 43-37, but picked up their first win of the season in double overtime versus Avonworth, 72-61.



Next up was the North Catholic Tip-Off tournament where the Raiders dropped two contests to Archbishop Spalding and Cuyahoga Valley Christian. The Raiders finally returned home to face a tough Peters Township squad. SV, with a depleted roster, fought valiantly but came away on the short end of a 63-47 game. At the time of this writing, the Raiders had four players averaging double figures points per game (ppg) – all underclassmen: Andrew Omasits (12.0 ppg), Nico Santapau (10.8 ppg), Owen Congdon (10.5 ppg) and Jaxon Householder (10.0 ppg).

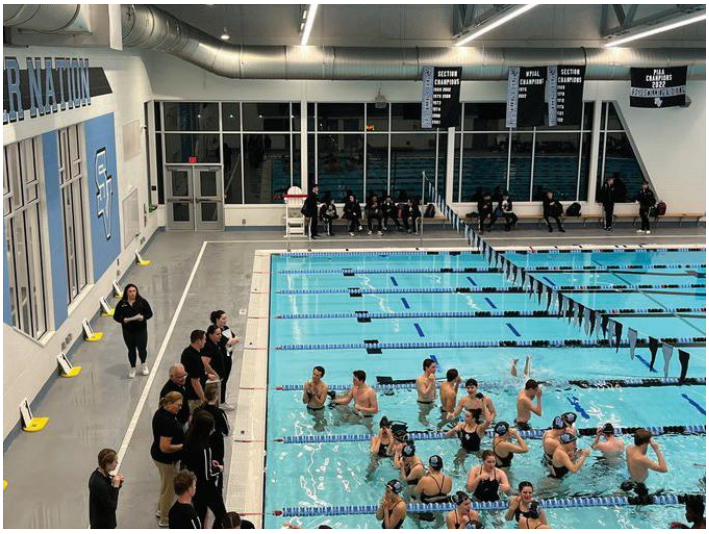
To finish out the month, the Raiders travel to South Fayette for a nonsection contest, and then open section play at Fox Chapel, North Allegheny, and at home versus North Hills. Over the holidays, the Raiders will face Shaler and Plum at the Plum Holiday Tournament.

Girls Basketball (Head Coach Dorothea Epps): Raider girls basketball opened the season at the Woodland Hills Play 4 Mae Tournament with a split, falling to Penn-Trafford (56-40) and beating Imhotep Charter (53-39.) Their nonsection slate continued with two tough road contests at Upper St. Clair and Shadyside Academy. The team played hard but were unable to secure wins in either contest. At the time of this writing, the girls were getting ready for their first home game against Neshannock and will then hit the road, traveling to the Washington, D.C., area for the annual She Got Game Classic. SV is scheduled to compete against Freedom (Virginia) and Conwell-Egan Catholic (New York). To close out the month, the girls return home to open section play, hosting North Allegheny on Dec. 19, and will finish the year at the Shadyside Academy Holiday Tournament with games against Mt. Lebanon and Plum.



Ice Hockey (Head Coach Tyler Mesisca): At the time of this writing, Raider Ice Hockey is off to another great start, currently in second place PIHL AAA standings with 19 points. The Raiders opened the season winning the St. Margaret Fall Face-Off tournament with a 4-2 win over Mt. Lebanon. Following that title, the Raiders rolled off seven straight wins to open the PIHL schedule, including two in overtime. Following a tough 4-3 loss to South Fayette, SV will face Pine-Richland before a break in their schedule over the holidays.

Swimming & Diving (Head Coach Brian Blackwell): At the time of this writing, Swimming & Diving hosted Riverside and came away with decisive wins for both the boys and girls teams. The Raiders will close out 2024 hosting Northgate prior to Winter Break.



Boys Wrestling (Head Coach Kevin Wildrick): Raider boys wrestling opened the season with a nonsection loss on the road at West Allegheny and followed that with three dual match wins at the JMI Invitational at John Marshall High School. To close out the month of December, the boys will go on the road to Pine-Richland for their opening section match and to Mt. Lebanon for a nonsection match. Between the two away games, SV will compete at the Panther Classic at Mount Aloysius.



Girls Wrestling (Head Coach Jess Leighty): At the time of this writing, Raider girls wrestling had not yet opened their season. Upcoming dual matches on the road include Pine-Richland, Canon-Mac and Mt. Lebanon. Over the winter break, the girls will compete in the prestigious Powerade Tournament at Canon-Mac. This tournament annually hosts some of the top wrestlers in the country.



In addition, all sub-varsity teams have started their seasons and are off to great starts. As always, I am so appreciative of our coaches and grateful for all they do for our student-athletes. As we pause for the winter holidays, may we cherish the time with family and friends. The Seneca Valley Athletics Department wishes all #SVRaiderNation a Happy Holiday Season.

ADDITIONAL HONORS ANNOUNCED FOR FALL SPORT RAIDER STUDENT-ATHLETES

While the fall season is in the books, the awards continue to arrive for Raider student-athletes and coaches.

We congratulate boys soccer players on the following honors:



Nathan Prex – Senior Midfielder

- 2024 United Soccer Coaches Association High School All-American
- 2024 United Soccer Coaches Association High School Regional All-American
- 2024 Butler Eagle Boys Soccer Player of the Year
- 2024 Post-Gazette Boys Soccer Player of the Year
- 2024 Trib-Live Boys Fab 15 Soccer Team
- 2024 WPSCA Boys Soccer All-Star Game

Zach Garma – Senior Forward

- 2024 WPSCA Boys Soccer All-Star Game

We congratulate girls soccer players on the following honors:



Karly Majeski – Junior Midfielder

- 2024 PA Soccer Coaches Association All-State Team
- 2024 Post-Gazette Girls Soccer All-Area Team
- 2024 Trib-Live Girls Fab 15 Soccer Team
- 2024 Butler Eagle All-Butler County Girls Soccer Team

Bella Gianfrancesco – Junior Midfielder

- 2024 Butler Eagle All-Butler County Girls Soccer Team

Cassidy Stopchick – Senior Defender

- 2024 Butler Eagle All-Butler County Girls Soccer Team

ATHLETES OF THE MONTH, NOVEMBER 2024



The Female Athlete of the Month for November was girls soccer midfielder Karly Majeski. The junior was a key contributor to the Raider team that won their first section title since 2018, finished runners-up in the Western Pennsylvania Interscholastic Athletic League (WPIAL) 4A Girls Soccer Championships, and made a quarterfinal run in the Pennsylvania Interscholastic Athletic Association (PIAA) playoffs. She had 10 goals and six assists along with countless defensive actions in the midfield to break opposing attacks. Karly's efforts on the season were recognized by area and state coaches as she was named to the All-Section, All-WPIAL, and All-Big 56 first teams along with being named Big 56 Section Player of the Year and tabbed to the Pennsylvania Soccer Coaches Association (PSCA) All-State team. We recognized Karly as the November Female Athlete of the Month. Congratulations, Karly!



The Male Athlete of the Month for November was senior boys soccer midfielder Tyler Prex. A captain, Tyler led the team in points with 20 goals and 12 assists and several multi-goal performances including four each in key section wins against Fox Chapel and North Hills. His all-around play led to recognition in not only western Pennsylvania and across the state, but also nationally. Tyler was named to the All-Section, All-WPIAL, All-Big 56 and PSCA All-State first teams along with being selected Western Pennsylvania Soccer Coaches Association (WPSCA) 4A Player of the Year. Lastly, Tyler was one of 40 senior boys soccer players named a Prep Soccer All-American and will represent Seneca Valley on the East Team in the All-American game in December. We recognized Tyler as the November Male Athlete of the Month. Congratulations, Tyler!

COLLEGE COMMITMENTS – CLASS OF 2025

Many Raider student-athletes made their college commitment official with the early signing period starting in mid-November. We congratulate these seniors for 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 immensely proud of your efforts in the classroom, in competition, and in the community.

Name	Sport	College/University	Major
Wes Conville	Baseball	Pitt-Johnstown	Business & Enterprise
Lauren Folino	Softball	Allegheny College	Biology
Aedan Fowler	Baseball	Gannon University	Psychology
Nathan Lemke	Baseball	Westminster College	Finance
Sadie Reese	Volleyball	Pitt-Johnstown	Psychology