By Heather Lewis,
Seneca Valley Athletics & Activities Director



## GRATITUDE

With fall sports having ended and the winter season officially starting, this transition allows for a moment of reflection to the start of our school year. As always, our student-athletes and student-performers did not disappoint. #SVRaiderNation was privileged to witness championship-level results and award-winning performances throughout the fall. But, as sport is accustomed to do, there were also valuable lessons taught through heartbreaking defeat. Through it all, our students have comported themselves with class, integrity, loyalty and grit. They have exhibited the true character of what it means to "Wear the SV" - they have been good people, great competitors and even better teammates. They have extended their hands to the worthy victor and have celebrated their own excellence with an uncommon humility and deserving exuberance. I am proud of the start to the 2024-25 school year and embrace the winter season with similar enthusiasm and anticipation. As we enter the holiday season, it is my hope we do so with appreciation for the joy our students bring us in their artistic performances, school spirit and gifted athleticism. In the season of giving thanks, I am grateful for the privilege of spending many days and nights surrounded by our students whose energy, effort, grit and grace fill me with gratitude for the opportunity this District has afforded me.

Help SV WIN against hunger in the WPIAL Food & Fund drive challenge! For every $1 donated, the Food Bank can provide up to three meals for families, children and seniors, so DONATE TODAY and make SV the most giving district for the THIRD year in a row!

FOR THE WIN AGAINST HUNGER

Thanks for your support

## FALL SPORT POSTSEASON RECAPS

### Cross-Country

As reported in our October issue, senior Max Smith represented Raider Athletics at the Pennsylvania Interscholastic Athletic Association (PIAA) 3A Boys Cross-Country State Championships and recorded his best-ever performance in three appearances at the state meet. Max finished 43rd overall (out of 250 finishers) with a time of 16:47. His time improved by 1:21 from a year ago and his placement improved by 133 spots! No better way to close out a career than doing your best at the state championships! Congratulations, Max!

### Football



Raider football concluded the 2024 season facing off in the WPIAL semifinals against eventual 6A champion Central Catholic. On an evening when effort could not be questioned, the Raiders simply came up short against a more talented squad. We congratulate the team on their return to WPIAL playoffs. Closing out the season, we offer our appreciation to Head Coach Ron Butschle who has announced his resignation following eight seasons at the helm of our program. We thank Coach Butschle for his undeniable commitment to our program and its student-athletes.

### Girls Soccer



Last month, we shared that Raider girls soccer was about to face off against Canon-McMillan in the WPIAL semifinals with the winner advancing to Highmark Stadium to compete for a WPIAL title. The girls did not disappoint, bringing home a convincing 4-1 victory over the Big Macs. Junior midfielder Maddie Marcotte had herself quite a night with a hat trick and classmate Ashlee Libby contributed the fourth goal. At Highmark, Seneca Valley faced top-seeded Peters Township and fell in penalty kicks 5-4 to finish the season as WPIAL Girls 4A Soccer runner-up. Their next game was a PIAA bracket first-round contest at Altoona and the Raiders quickly regained their form with a 6-1 win. In the PIAA quarterfinals, it was SV versus Conestoga out of PIAA District I. On this day, finding the back of the net proved to be a difficult task against a formidable opponent – one that would finish as the state runner-up. At the end of the afternoon, Conestoga would advance in championship play with a 2-1 defeat of our Raiders. We congratulate this squad on their section title, appearance at Highmark Stadium and win of their first-round state playoff game. That is a great season, girls!

## ALL-CONFERENCE SELECTIONS ANNOUNCED IN FALL SPORTS

The Big 56 Conference recently announced its fall sport honorees in football, boys and girls soccer and girls volleyball, and the Raiders were well represented. The following Seneca Valley student-athletes were recognized for their excellence on the field and court.

### FOOTBALL

**1st Team**
Brooks Beres, DE; Jayden Price, DB

**2nd Team**
Jackson Matthews, H-Back; Chase Mazanek, RB; Cayden Parker, DL; Tom Wuycheck, OT

### BOYS SOCCER

**1st Team**
Brady Eubanks, Mid; Zach Garma, For; Tyler Prex, Mid

**2nd Team**
Tyler Kuhar, Def
Sami Malkamaki, Mid

***Additional Honors – Boys Soccer***
2024 High School All-American Game – Tyler Prex
PSCA All-State – Tyler Prex
WPSCA Player of the Year – Tyler Prex
WPSCA All-WPIAL – Brady Eubanks, Zach Garma, Tyler Prex
WPSCA All-Section – Brady Eubanks, Zach Garma, Sami Malkamaki, Tyler Prex

### GIRLS SOCCER

**1st Team**
Bella Gianfrancesco, Mid; Karly Majeski, Mid; Cassidy Stopchick, Def

**2nd Team**
Ashlee Libby, For; Cassie Leonard, Mid; Madeline Marcotte, Mid

**Player of the Year**
Karly Majeski

**Coach of the Year**
Mark Perry

***Additional Honors – Girls Soccer***
WPHSGSCA All-WPIAL – Ashlee Libby, Karly Majeski

WPHSGSCA All-Section – Bella Gianfrancesco, Cassie Leonard, Ashlee Libby, Karly Majeski, Maddie Marcotte, Sydney Postler, Cassidy Stopchick

### GIRLS VOLLEYBALL

**1st Team**
Sadie Reese, S

**2nd Team**
Addison Fowler, Lib; Kennedy Peffer, OH

## COLLEGE COMMITMENTS – CLASS OF 2025

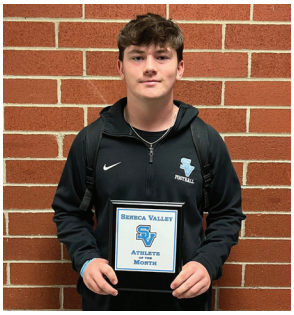
Many Raider student-athletes made their college commitment official with the early signing period starting in mid-November. We congratulate these seniors for achieving their goals of continuing their athletic and academic careers at the next level. Each of you are tremendous representatives of Raider Athletics and we are immensely proud of your efforts in the classroom, in competition, and in the community.

| Name | Sport | College/University | Major |
|---|---|---|---|
| Lexie Hames | Softball | Clemson University | Business & Finance |
| Sydney Heltzell | Cross-Country and Track and Field | Slippery Rock University | Exercise Science |

## ATHLETES OF THE MONTH, OCTOBER 2024



The Female Athlete of the Month for October was girls cross-country runner Paige D'Amico. The sophomore has been a key contributor to the team, helping them finish section meets in second place along with a few top-five team finishes at invitationals. In section meets over the last month, she had two first-place finishes with a personal best course time of 19:58 coming against Butler and Pine Richland. Paige followed those performances with top-five finishes at the Grove City invite with a time of 19:56 and the Youthtowne Clash with a time of 19:12. Her standout race came at the PIAA Foundations meet where she placed 35th out of 245 girls with a time of 20:50. Paige was also named to the Pennsylvania MileSplit Top 50 Sophomore Girl Runners of 2024. For a stellar month, we recognized Paige as the October Female Athlete of the Month. Congratulations, Paige!



The Male Athlete of the Month for October was junior football kicker Max Eisenhut. Max has been a consistent producer of points for the football team helping them to a 3-3 record and a 3-2 record in section play. He has scored at least one point in five of the last six games including an eight-point performance (two field goals and two extra points) against Norwin and a nine-point performance (two field goals and three extra points) against Hempfield. His stand out game came against Norwin where he hit 46- and 42-yard field goals and was two for three in extra points. Max has also been perfect the last three games, tallying three field goals and eight extra points. We recognized Max as the October Male Athlete of the Month. Congratulations. Max!